

# FROM SUSPICION TO PROTECTION

## Muslim Americans contest racial profiling

By Anne Ryan | Communications Associate

In some way, your life changed on September 11, 2001. In addition, soon after the terrorist attacks, you saw drastic public policy changes take effect, including increased racial profiling of Muslim Americans. In response, DataCenter has teamed up with a New York community group, Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM), to document racial profiling of South Asians, Arabs and Muslims in New York. Additional project partners include Advancement Project and the City University of New York. Together, by elevating the voices of this community, we can put the unjust practice of racial profiling to an end.

DataCenter helped DRUM develop a survey and curriculum to train community members to conduct a survey of their community, capturing their experiences on their own terms. The survey will document experiences of harassment, surveillance and intimidation at the hands of law enforcement based solely on an individual's physical appearance, beliefs or country of origin. Once the data is collected, DRUM and its project partners will produce a report regarding patterns in profiling and civil rights abuses. At the end of the project, the DRUM community will be experts on the issue of racial profiling, enabling them to raise public awareness of this heinous injustice, and hold law enforcement accountable for its illegal actions.

*Muslim, South Asian, and Arab Americans winning using the power of their experiences to win protection under the law...now that's what we call Research Justice!*



DRUM is gathering knowledge to combat racial profiling in New York City. (Photo Credit: DRUM)

## TOXIC BEAUTY NO MORE!

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DataCenter's online interactive game platform, DataFeud, allowed the workers to craft the campaign slogan "Toxic Beauty No More!" in a fun way, helping the workers claim ownership of the information.

In New York City, DataCenter has partnered with Nepali rights group Adhikaar to conduct a survey of Nepali Nail Salon workers. The survey will assess issues of health and safety, licensing, working hours and pay. The findings will be released in 2012, and will place Adhikaar as the expert in their industry, better equipped to campaign for worker rights and safety.



Nepalese women from Adhikaar are organizing around as nail salon workers in New York. (Photo: Adhikaar)

CHNSC and Adhikaar are working together, sharing information and strategies. Thanks to you, DataCenter can give them support they need.

*Workers, as experts, advocating for the same safety as their clients receive...now that's what we call Research Justice!*

### FAST FACTS

From the *Toxic Beauty No More!* Report

- The Nail Salon Industry employs 375,000 nail technicians in the US
- The industry generates approximately \$6 billion in annual sales revenue
- In California, there are approximately 115,000 nail salon technicians
- Vietnamese refugees and immigrants comprise approximately 60-80% of nail salon workers in California



Find the full report at [www.datacenter.org](http://www.datacenter.org)!

Photo: California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative