



CANADIAN COUNCIL OF IMAMS

In the Name of Allah, the Most Compassionate, Most Merciful

Canadian Council of Imams Letter of Endorsement for the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund

The Canadian Council of Imams is a collective leadership of Imams in Canada that was established in 1990. The Council has been serving Canadian Muslim communities throughout the nation in different capacities as well as acting as a unifying platform for Canadian Imams and chaplains. In addition to being an important reference and resource centre for Canadian Muslims, the Canadian government and media, the council has been playing a leadership role to address and provide guidance related to ongoing issues, including the current COVID-19 pandemic, Islamophobia and its impact on Muslim minorities in Canada and around the world, and other pressing issues affecting Muslim communities in Canada and beyond.

After reviewing the relevant documents provided by the UNHCR containing information regarding its Refugee Zakat Fund, including the fatwas issued from various leading scholars and institutions within the Muslim world, the Canadian Council of Imams hereby affirms and endorses the view of the UNHCR as being an eligible organization for receiving Zakat funds from Muslims in Canada and distributing it to refugees. This endorsement remains in place so long as the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund is in fulfilment of its primary pillars of governance which are stated as follows:



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- 1) Being fully Shari'ah compliant based on the Islamic rules and laws pertaining to Zakat collection and distribution, whereby 100% of its funds are given to eligible recipients amongst the specified refugee populations within the global Muslim community;
- 2) Having transparent financial management and accountability, whereby funds are deposited in a dedicated interest-free bank account and the disbursement of the funds is fully traceable; such management and accountability also includes providing customized Zakat fund reports on a regular basis to its partners and contributors, alongside those interested from within the general Muslim community;
- 3) Having the means for consistent assessment and monitoring of the aforementioned in place to ensure continuous compliance of the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund with Islamic principles of Zakat collection and distribution.

This letter of endorsement has been provided at the request of the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund's governing committee.

And our success comes only through Allah; in Him we trust and to Him we turn.

Respectfully,

Imam Refaat Mohamed
President, Canadian Council of Imams

Friday, 12 Sha'ban, 1442 AH
26 March, 2021 CE