



Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research Zakat Policy

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research zakat policy. It will stipulate whether it will consider using zakat money to further its charitable objects. It will elucidate how it will be administrated and its *Shariah* compliance procedure and assurance.

Definition of Zakat

Zakat literally means purify and it also can mean growth and increase. The precise legal-technical-wordings differ from legal School to legal Schools but it all reflects on a 'payment under Islamic law rendered from the rich annually on certain kinds of property and used for charitable and religious purposes.' Zakat is the third pillar of Islam.

Who has to pay zakat?

It is a religious obligation on every individual Muslim who owns the zakat threshold known as the *nisab* for a year is obligated to render 2.5% of their wealth with the exclusion of property for personal use such as houses, cars and the like.

Gold and silver are the two values used to calculate the *nisab* threshold. The values are:

- 1) 87.48 grams of gold.
- 2) 612.36 grams of silver.

The Eligible Recipients of Zakat

The Qur'an has mentioned eight categories of people who are eligible to receive zakat contributions. These include:

- 1- The poor, meaning low-income or indigent.
- 2- The needy, meaning someone who is in difficulty.
- 3- Zakat administrators.
- 4- Those whose hearts are to be reconciled, meaning new Muslims and friends of the Muslim community.
- 5- Those in bondage (slaves and captives).
- 6- The debt-ridden.

7- Those in the cause of God.

8- The wayfarer, meaning those who are stranded or traveling with few resources.

(Qur'an 9:60)

Using Zakat Money for Research: Ensuring *Shariah* Compliance

The Board of Trustees are aware of valid Islamic scholarly opinions on the permissibility of allocating zakat funds to *dawah* of which the propagation of Islamic knowledge is a part of. This opinion is justified under the precept “those in the cause of God”, which is interpreted, in our contemporary context, as upholding and strengthening Islam through outreach.

Although the above scholarly opinion has classical and modern advocates adhering to various schools of thoughts, **the Board of Trustees has decided not to use zakat funds for funding research.**

Will Zakat Money be Taken by Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research?

The Board of Trustees have decided that the Organisation will take zakat money.

Administration of Zakat Money

The Board of Trustees deem that zakat money will be applied by looking at current members of staff who qualify as ‘Eligible Recipients’ and using a legal stratagem (known in the language of the law as *hila shariyyah*) to give them the zakat money. The legal stratagem will conform to the dictums of the great Hanafi jurist Hasan ibn ‘Ammar ibn ‘Ali al-Sharunbulali as articulated in his magnum opus *Nur al-Idah wa Najat al-Arwah*. In essence, the Board of Trustees will act as plenipotentiary of zakat and appropriate the funds to the eligible recipients who qualify as one of the following members of the category:

- 1- The poor, meaning low-income or indigent.
- 2- The needy, meaning someone who is in difficulty.
- 3- The debt-ridden.

The stratagem will work by the zakat being rendered to the ‘eligible recipient’ and the recipient, after taking possession of the zakat money and thus fulfilling the legal requirement of zakat payment, will return the zakat money to the Organisation as a ‘gift’ and the Organisation will render the money back to him/her as salary payment. This is a lawful stratagem according to the Hanafi School of Islamic Jurisprudence.

No application for zakat money will be made unless prior vetting has been carried out to establish eligibility.

If zakat is received online and there are no eligible recipients of zakat the Organisation will transfer funds to another organisation for *Shariah* compliant distribution.

100% of zakat money will go to the recipient. No part of the monies will be deducted for administration or any other purposes.

Zakat donations collected are spent within the annual spend. Gift aid can also be claimed on zakat payments, if the zakat donor is eligible and willing to complete a gift aid declaration. This element will be treated as a general donation and allocated to any area of Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research's work.

Zakat Donations Payments to Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research

Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research will accept zakat payments in the following way:

Single one-off donations: When a donor wants to donate with a one-off donation they can do so by payment via: Paypal.(<https://www.ibnrushdcentre.org/donate/>) They must clearly make reference to it as zakat money unless they mention it to the 'Designated Zakat Officer'.

Cheque and bank transfer: When a donor seeks to transfer money to Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research's bank account or send a cheque, they have to clearly specify if the entire amount or a portion of it is zakat. Bank details and details of postal address can be found on the website:

Postal Address:

Greencoat House
259 Stratford Road
Sparkhil
B11 1QS

Account name: Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research

Bank: Al-Rayan Bank

Account No. 01383001

Sort code: 30-00-83

Cash: Cash can be donated by coming into the Centre. When a donor hands in cash

the donor will specify how much is for zakat.

*** Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research do NOT accept zakat as a regular donation under any circumstances.**

Recording donations:

Zakat donations are recorded in the following way:

Every month the ICT manager will download the CSV file that lists the online donation details and whether they are zakat funds. Any funds that are zakat will be recorded in the finance team's zakat spreadsheet and money will be allocated and applied in the aforementioned manner. The funds will be separated and at the new financial year the funds will be distributed in the aforementioned manner. Once cheques are received and have a stipulation that part or all of the amount is zakat, the finance team will record the zakat amount on the zakat spreadsheet.

Once an email or call is received requesting Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research's bank details, the amount that is stipulated as zakat will be recorded on the zakat spreadsheet. An email is sent to the donor with a unique reference number. Once the payment is received this is matched to the reference number.

Cash donations are recorded in Ibn Rushd Centre of Excellence for Islamic Research's cash log book. Any monies stipulated as zakat will be recorded in the zakat spreadsheet. This will be followed by a confirmation email sent to the donor.

Designated Zakat Officer

The Board of Trustees will monitor the overall spending of zakat funds to ensure Shariah compliance and funds have been distributed to the lawful recipient(s). The 'Designated Zakat Officer' (DZO) will be appointed by the Trustees to over-see the collection, application for funds and distribution of funds. This task is currently the responsibility of the Director of the Organisation:

Director's details:

Dr Shahrul Hussain

Email: s.hussain@Ibnrushdcentre.org

Chair of Trustee:

Muhammad Taj Ullah

T_ullah@hotmail.com

Advisory Board

1- Shaykh Morshed Alom

Qualifications:

BA Islamic and Arabic Studies, University of Al-Azhar

MA Islamic Banking and Finance, Newman University Birmingham

Current Post:

Waqf Programme Manager at International Waqf Fund

2- Moulana Mohammed Waliur Islam

Qualifications:

Alimiyyah at Darul Uloom al-Islamiyyah al-Arabiyyah

BA Islamic Studies, Newman University Birmingham

Current Post:

Deputy School co-ordinator, Exam Officer and humanities teacher

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