

## HCI's ZAKAT POLICY

*"Take alms out of their property, you would cleanse them and purify them thereby, and pray for them; surely your prayer is a relief to them; and Allah is Hearing, Knowing."*  
[Quran 9:103]

Zakat is a religious obligation upon every Muslim who has reached the age of puberty, is sane, and has above the minimum required amount of wealth (nisab).

Zakat is not only a means to purify one's wealth but it is also a spiritual purification that serves as a means to draw an individual closer to their Creator, Allah (SWT).

Zakat helps build societies by ensuring everyone is taken care of, and allows for a fair circulation of money in the economy.

### **HCI's COMMITMENT**

**Human Concern International has been implementing Zakat projects for the last 40 years.** Thousands of Muslims across Canada trust us to distribute their Zakat in the most accountable and transparent manner. We implement projects that are Zakat eligible and have the most impact on those in need. This includes income assistance, emergency and disaster relief, food aid and refugee support.

This is our commitment to you:

- Zakat funds are marked separately in our system. We ensure that these funds do not mix with any other funds.
- The beneficiaries of our Zakat projects are only those who qualify to be Zakat recipients.
- All Zakat funds are only spent on people who fall within the Zakat recipient categories (see page 3 for the list).
- We disburse unrestricted Zakat funds to the recipients within a timeframe of 1-3 months or earlier after receiving them.

We have a Zakat Compliance Committee that approves all our Zakat projects and guides us on Zakat related matters.

## ZAKAT FAQ

### Do I have to pay Zakat?

You have to give Zakat if:

1. You are Muslim, adult (above age of puberty), sane, and free (not a slave);
2. You possess a certain minimum amount of extra wealth (called Nisab), fully owned by you, in excess of items of personal use (such as clothing, food, shelter, furniture, utensils, car, etc.);
3. You have had this minimum amount in possession for a complete lunar year (hawl);
4. Your wealth is of a productive nature, from which you can derive profit or benefit such as merchandise for business, gold, silver, livestock, etc;
5. Your zakatable assets are free from debt.

### What items are subject to Zakat?

Zakat should be calculated and paid on any surplus wealth that you have owned for at least one lunar year. This includes:

- Gold, silver, precious metal, including ornaments/jewellery containing gold/silver
- Stocks and shares
- The money you have lent to others
- Cash in bank accounts, committees or at home
- Any business stock
- Agricultural produce and livestock (cows, chickens, goats etc)
- Pensions
- The property you own for investment purposes

The easiest way to calculate your Zakat is to find out the monetary value of each type of wealth and then work out 2.5% of the total sum.

### **What things do not require giving Zakat on them?**

Money that does not reach the amount of Nisab, any property that is not used for business purposes, liabilities which one must pay back, any possessions that are not of productive nature, even if they exceed one's needs (car, utensils, furniture, etc.), provided they are not intended for trade and deposits.

### **How much should I give as Zakat?**

Our calculator will assist you in calculating your Zakat to ensure you are fulfilling your obligation in an accurate manner.

<https://www.humanconcern.org/zakat-calculator/>

### **Who are the recipients of Zakat?**

The recipients of Zakat are described in the Quran and Assunah, mainly in Surah 9 (At-Tawbah) verse 60:

*"The alms are only for the Fuqara (the poor), and Al-Masakin (the needy) and those employed to collect (the funds); and to attract the hearts of those who have been inclined (towards Islam); and to free captives; and for those in debt; and for Allah's cause, and for the wayfarer (a traveler who is cut off from everything); a duty imposed by Allah. And Allah is All-Knower, All-Wise." (9:60)*

Based on this verse, the recipients are:

- The poor (al-fuqarâ'), meaning low or no income;
- The needy (al-masâkîn), meaning someone who is in financial difficulty;
- Distributors of Zakat, meaning those who identify the destitute, collect, and distribute Zakat

- Those whose hearts are to be reconciled, meaning new Muslims and the larger community;
- Those in bondage (slaves and captives);
- Those unable to pay off a debt;
- Those struggling in for the sake of Allah;
- The wayfarer, meaning those who are stranded or traveling with few resources.

### Who can I give my Zakat to?

The default is that the person owing Zakat distributes it personally and that it be distributed to eligible recipients in the locality. It is permissible to distribute it through an intermediary, a temporary trustee (wakīl), and it is permitted to send the Zakat to another region – especially when that other region has greater need.

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To donate: [www.humanconcern.org](http://www.humanconcern.org)

For more information: [info@humanconcern.org](mailto:info@humanconcern.org) / 1-800-587-6424