

CHARITY

Eligible Recipients Of Charity

In what particular order of superiority should charity be distributed among people?

In descending order of superiority, it is recommended to give to one's disaffected relatives, one's friendly relatives, and the pious; this is in addition to what is spent of one's wealth in supporting one's family and dependents, which is already regarded by God as a form of charity; generally, it is permissible to give charity to non-Muslims who are not enemies of Islam.

Accepting Charity From One Eliminating Unlawful Earnings From Wealth

Would it be permissible to accept charity from an individual who by giving charity is trying to eliminate unlawful earnings from his wealth?

It is permissible to accept charity from an individual who is eliminating unlawful earnings from his wealth; the sin related to the earnings devolves to the one engaged in the original unlawful act, and accordingly the unlawfulness is attached to the original transaction, not to the money earned thereby.

Ruling On Undistributed Charity

When the one distributing charity is unable to distribute the entire amount, what happens to the remaining charity?

When an individual or institution assigned with the task of distributing charity is unable to distribute the entire amount, the remaining charity should be returned to the donor or, with the permission of the donor, be given according to the payer's instructions; if contacting the original donor is not possible, the money should be given as charity to a similar cause.

Giving Away Excess Wealth In Charity

May I give all my excess wealth in charity?

It is recommended to give away the excess of one's wealth, meaning wealth additional to what is necessary to earn one's livelihood, support one's dependents, and to reasonably support oneself, assuming that one is able to bear the hardship this austerity imposes, though if one's dependents or

oneself are unable to withstand it then it is offensive. It is also recommended to give the highest quality charity, whether monetarily (i.e. money from reliable sources rather than doubtful ones, which is offensive) or in-kind (i.e. goods from the superior of one's food, clothing, livestock, and so on, rather than from the inferior, which is offensive).

Fulfillment Of Financial Obligations Versus Giving Charity

May I give charity with money that would have otherwise lifted a financial obligation?

It is forbidden to give away money that would have otherwise fulfilled a financial obligation, such as a debt owed to a creditor or maintenance obligations owed to a dependent.

Charity As Time And Effort

If a person would like to contribute to a charitable cause but he has an outstanding debt obligation, what should he do?

If one is unable to donate money to a charitable cause because of an outstanding debt, one should instead donate one's time and effort.