

In the Light of Allah, the Most Gracious, the Ever Merciful
Acknowledgment Letter from the North American Imams Fellow for UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund

Established in 2004, the North American Imams Fellow represents a cooperative entity of Islamic leaders serving the multifaceted Muslim communities across North America. The Fellow acts as a unified platform for Imams and chaplains, a pivotal resource, and a point of reference for North American Muslims, governmental bodies, and media channels. The Fellow actively participates in addressing ongoing societal challenges, such as the enduring COVID-19 pandemic, the ramifications of Islamophobia on Muslim minorities worldwide, and a plethora of other critical issues impacting Muslim communities both locally and globally.

Having meticulously reviewed the materials provided by the UNHCR about its Refugee Zakat Fund, including the fatwas issued by a variety of eminent Islamic scholars and institutions, the North American Imams Fellow recognizes and supports the UNHCR as a suitable entity for the collection and distribution of Zakat funds from North American Muslims to refugees. This endorsement is granted based on the condition that the Refugee Zakat Fund continues to uphold its primary governance principles, namely:

- 1) Full compliance with Shari'ah law concerning Zakat collection and distribution, with a commitment that 100% of its funds reach eligible recipients within the specified refugee populations of the global Muslim community;
- 2) Ensuring transparent financial management and accountability, characterized by depositing funds into a dedicated non-interest-bearing bank account and fully traceable fund disbursements. This commitment to transparency extends to the regular provision of customized Zakat fund reports to its partners, contributors, and interested parties within the wider Muslim community.
- 3) The establishment of consistent review and oversight mechanisms to validate the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund's unwavering adherence to Islamic principles of Zakat collection and distribution.

This letter of endorsement is furnished at the request of the governing committee of the UNHCR's Refugee Zakat Fund.

Our success emanates solely from Allah; in Him, we place our trust and seek His guidance.

Signed by:

Dr. Abdulhakim Mohamed, CEO, North American Imams Fellow
June 12, 2023

