

**WHO NEXT? LET US HELP OUR BROTHERS
AND SISTERS TO BECOME ZAKAAT GIVERS**

**- ISMAIL AHMED LAMBAT
MANCHESTER (0161) 232 1876**

Ramazaan Mubarak has passed. Whilst all Muslims would like to welcome the next month of Ramazaan should we just allow days, weeks and months to pass by till we welcome the next Ramazaan or should we try to prepare for it in more meaningful ways that would allow us to help our fellow SURTI SUNNI VOHRAS as well as all MUSLIMS to develop socially and economically and help us all to move closer to the expectations of our beliefs? We feel and we believe our readers will agree with us that we should be as SURTI SUNNI VOHRAS and as Muslims to be on the look-out for opportunities to help bring about changes to our people's thinking. We feel this will enable us to know more about our religion and the social and economic conditions of our fellow Muslims. This information we feel will help us help our fellow brothers and sisters to improve their understanding of our religion and hopeful will allow for some economic changes that will help our people.

Most of us during the Ramazaan just gone must have spent a lot of time in Ibadaat as the month of Ramazaan does help us to think more about our religion and the Ibadaat that we should engage in. Ramazaan must have given many of us time to think about ourselves as Muslims and bring to the forefront of our thinking how we spent the months before the arrival of Ramazaan. Many of our economically well-placed brothers and sisters must have given Zakaat to the needy ones and the needy ones must have tried to approach as many persons as they could to seek assistance. We feel by looking at the giving and seeking of Zakaat we could provide opportunities not only for our VOHRA brothers and sisters but for all Muslims to learn of the economic position of our people

and from the information we get together we could help our fellow Muslims to bring about changes to their thinking.

We feel whilst fulfilling or trying to fulfil our FARDH of giving Zakaat to the needy, there is a great need to take a holistic approach towards giving Zakaat and seeking Zakaat. Whilst it is only the ALMIGHTY ALLAH who can give us wealth and enable us to give Zakaat and help our poorer brothers and sisters to move away from the situation of poverty, they find themselves in, we feel some forward thinking and planning by those who give Zakaat or those who are entrusted to distribute it on behalf of the Zakaat givers and those who seek Zakaat is necessary. We feel, if our work gets directed towards both the Zakaat givers and the Zakaat seekers we would have more Zakaat givers, and we will have more of our brothers and sisters who would give more Zakaat. Besides directing our work towards encouraging the better off ones to give Zakaat or more Zakaat our work with the Zakaat seekers would help the Zakaat given by the financially better off by weeding out those who are not eligible to receive Zakaat and thereby allow more of our deserving brothers and sisters to get more Zakaat.

Whilst the complying with the obligation of giving Zakaat will certainly be rewarded by the ALMIGHTY there is a great need to:

1. do awareness work with those who have the financial means to know more about the Fardh of Zakaat
2. encourage the Zakaat givers to learn about and understand how to calculate Zakaat
3. seek those who are eligible for receiving Zakaat.
4. dissuade those from seeking Zakaat if they are

not eligible.

There is need to know more about those who are financially able to give Zakaat and we feel most of these do give Zakaat but do they give what they are supposed to give? We feel most do not. There is a great need we feel to do awareness work to help bring about a better and more appropriate understanding of the Fardh of Zakaat that we Muslims need to fulfil.

Our brothers and sisters must also be made aware about the methods for calculating Zakaat. Giving a few Rupees, a few Pounds, a few Dollars is not good enough. Our own method of calculating will not help. Our calculating must be done according to the rules laid down by our religion. What we need is a very good understanding of Zakaat then only we will be able to fulfil the obligation placed upon us by our religion.

If we observe our Zakaat givers as well as those who seek Zakaat we will very easily notice how little we understand this very important FARDH of both giving and seeking Zakaat. Many who have the economic ability to give Zakaat and must give Zakaat often think that it is not necessary to declare everything they have, be this in the form of cash or incomes they may have from land, buildings, shares etc. Similarly, many of those who seek Zakaat do not take into consideration if they are eligible or not. Their main interest is to add onto what they already have.

Many of us treat the obligation of giving and seeking Zakaat very lightly. To many of us it means giving very small sums of money to the poorer ones will not enable them to fulfil the obligation of giving Zakaat. Those who seek Zakaat are also in most cases interested in getting money from wherever they can. They too like the Zakaat givers do not understand or do not want to understand the religious rules for seeking and accepting Zakaat.

We feel those who are entrusted by the ZAKAAT givers to distribute their Zakaat should besides handing out what they are asked to do should try to learn more about both the Zakaat givers and the Zakaat receivers. Besides this we feel effort must be made to learn more about the Zakaat receivers. Effort, we feel must be made to learn about such persons' social and economic positions as well as their levels of religious and secular education and if they have any experience of trade or if they have any work-related training or skills.

Over the years our observations and information seeking has made it very clear to us that our people are not very good at learning skills which will help their employment chances. Our young persons are not without learning capabilities. Over recent years many have acquired good skills in using mobile phones. Even those with very limited education are now able to read messages on their mobile phones and are able to say their phone numbers in the English language. Similarly, nearly every young man and a growing number of our young women know how to ride a motorcycle, and many have acquired very good motor car driving skills.

The skills our young men and women have acquired are good but what our people need are work related skills which will enable them to seek work and earn a living from it. We feel those who distribute Zakaat to our brothers and sisters will certainly know a lot about our people's economic situation. What they need to learn about are our people's work-related skills or the lack of these. We feel such information could encourage our economically better off brothers and sisters to focus on getting our people to acquire work related skills, seek work and in time to come join the Zakaat givers.