

Orphans in Need

The obligation to support orphans is central to Islam and includes support for widowed mothers and children.

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Augustus advises charity and social enterprise clients on commercial, contractual, governance and charity law matters. He works with a broad range of not-for-profit clients, particularly Muslim and other faith-based organisations.

Moshiur Rahman from Orphans in Need and Augustus Della-Porta outline the work of the charity

‘The best of homes are those where an orphan is shown kindness’. In Islamic law, an orphan (yatim) is a minor who has lost his or her father or both parents. The Islamic obligation to support orphans is embedded in several Quranic verses and sayings of the Prophet (pbuh). Promotion of their welfare is an act of great goodness in Islam and in choosing an orphan as His Messenger (the Prophet Mohammad (pbuh)) Allah (swt) raised the status of orphans everywhere and made caring for orphans a compulsory part of being a Muslim.

With these Islamic principles at the heart of their work, Orphans In Need is committed towards making the world a better place for orphaned children.

Alongside this work with orphaned children, the charity also provides support to widowed mothers. Islam teaches believers to support widows as it recognises that supporting a widowed mother also means supporting their child’s upbringing. The Prophet (pbuh) equated support of widows to other fundamental pillars of the faith such as fasting and praying.

The Yorkshire-based charity was established in 2005 following a visit by the founding trustees to Mumbai, India. Witnessing first-hand the plight of the street children, they decided that they needed to do something to help orphans, as their struggle without parents appeared to be greater. They soon realised that their handouts were not enough to make a sustainable impact on poverty, especially as the sheer scale of the children on the street was immense. Orphans in Need was soon registered in the UK and received a positive response from the Muslim community, who held a particular affinity to the support of orphans.

Over the years, Orphans in Need has expanded to work in more than 14 countries, focusing on those regions where there is a large concentration of orphans, usually as a result of poverty, war and disease. The charity provides ongoing financial support to orphans who are staying with their extended



relatives for their food, education and healthcare. For those orphans who have no other means of support and shelter, and who would otherwise end up on the streets, the charity has built orphanages to provide a warm and loving environment and lifestyle that helps children integrate into society. The provision of quality care has always been the minimum standard for the trustees, who are actively involved in ensuring that the children the charity supports are receiving the best possible care. The charity currently has orphanages in India and Pakistan.

Orphans in Need is supported solely by voluntary contributions from the public. This support is primarily through sponsorships and monthly contributions from donors for the maintenance of orphans (either with relatives or in an orphanage). There are nearly 20,000 children that are being sponsored through this programme, ensuring that they are provided food, shelter, healthcare and education.

As the organisation has grown, the trustees have worked hard to ensure that the charity adheres to the highest standards of safeguarding and that its funds continue to be spent effectively. Working with Bates Wells, they have revised the charity’s governing documents and developed their policies across the board, particularly forming and maintaining relationships with overseas partners.

Through dedication to its cause, Orphans in Need won the Muslim Charity of the year Award at the British Muslim Awards in 2015 and continues to make a profound impact across the globe. Several members of Bates Wells have fundraised for the charity in the past and Bates Wells is delighted to be acting for the charity.

Find out more
Orphans in Need is at
<https://www.orphansinneed.org.uk/>