



ifg

# Zakat Impact Fund

Strategic donations with leveraged  
long term returns for the community

**We are pleased to share with you IFG's Zakat Impact Fund.  
We do not charge any fees managing this fund.  
These are our guiding principles:**

## 1 **Zakat Eligible**

The Fund is a discretionary zakat fund verified by Sh Akram Nadwi as zakat-eligible <sup>1</sup>.

## 2 **Core Poverty Relief**

At least 15% of the Fund will be focused on traditional poverty relief in the UK and abroad. But we want to go further than giving hand-outs wherever possible (necessary though they are), and donate to projects that rise people out of poverty in a sustainable, permanent fashion.

## 3 **High Impact Strategic Donations**

85% of the Fund will be deployed into high-impact strategic donations. The recipients of these donations will change from time to time but they will be chosen based on the following principles:

- Is this a donation that will create a leveraged return? (e.g. a think tank that can unlock significantly greater returns based on what is successfully lobbied for, or a “catalyst role” that unlocks potential from hundreds of others)
- Is this an area that IFG can add specific expertise and guidance to?
- Is this an area that is otherwise neglected by other donors?

<sup>1</sup> Please note that if you follow certain narrower readings of zakat eligibility, you would regard only 15% of this Fund to be zakat eligible, so please adjust your donations accordingly.

**We want to build a better world with your support. We have three goals:**

## **1 Economic Empowerment**

We help zakat-eligible individuals attend training and upskilling to get them started on a career or help them set up their own businesses to permanently climb out of poverty.

## **2 Ummah Strength**

Global events have shown us starkly the Muslim weakness today. But it does not have to be this way. With the right legal, political, and intellectual moves, God's cause can be strengthened so that the Muslim position holds weight for everyone.

## **3 Affinity to Islam and Muslims**

We will help usher in a day when Islam is honoured how it should be, and Muslims are looked up to with respect. When non-Muslims are warm to the promise of our great faith. When everyday folk find the light of Islam in their thousands.

## Key results from the fund's previous year:

1

### Economic Empowerment

- NZF: Funds have been deployed to support 140 individuals into approved training and development pathways, including vocational courses and skills-based learning aligned with realistic employment opportunities and financial stability.
- FIG: Increased funding from 4 to 16 social ventures, allowing them to scale their operations and impact. Grew total funding from £386k to £1.2m.
- Powell House: Supported housing costs of high potential poor founders looking to start a business in Silicon Valley.

2

### Ummah Strength

- Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU): Assisted 400+ victims of Islamophobia with legal aid, securing key settlements (£25k+ and advancing policy discussions with the Policy, NHS, Barnardos and more).
- The Muslim Vote (TMV): Secured access to the marked register across 17 key target seats, giving TMV data on turnout for over 500,000 muslim voters nationwide. Active local council preparations. Mentioned multiple times in Parliament. Strengthened ties publicly and privately with values-aligned political parties.
- Muslim Council for Britain: Ran a Town Hall programme supporting Vision 2050, engaging communities representing 4m people (6% of the UK).
- Funded research report on the BBC bias over coverage of Palestine genocide.

3

### Affinity to Islam and Muslims

- Equi: Delivered 10 solutions-focused research reports since their foundation. This data is used to inform senior decision-makers and strengthen national debate with clear evidence on public value. They are leading vital research which serves to rebalance the public narrative around British Muslims' often overlooked contributions.

These are the unprecedented results that impactful **strategic giving** can achieve in 1 year with £594,000 (including Gift Aid).

**You** - our donors did this.

£594,000 is just ~ 0.03% of total UK Muslim donations in 2025.

Help us now **accelerate** these results this year.

## Reflections From Last Year

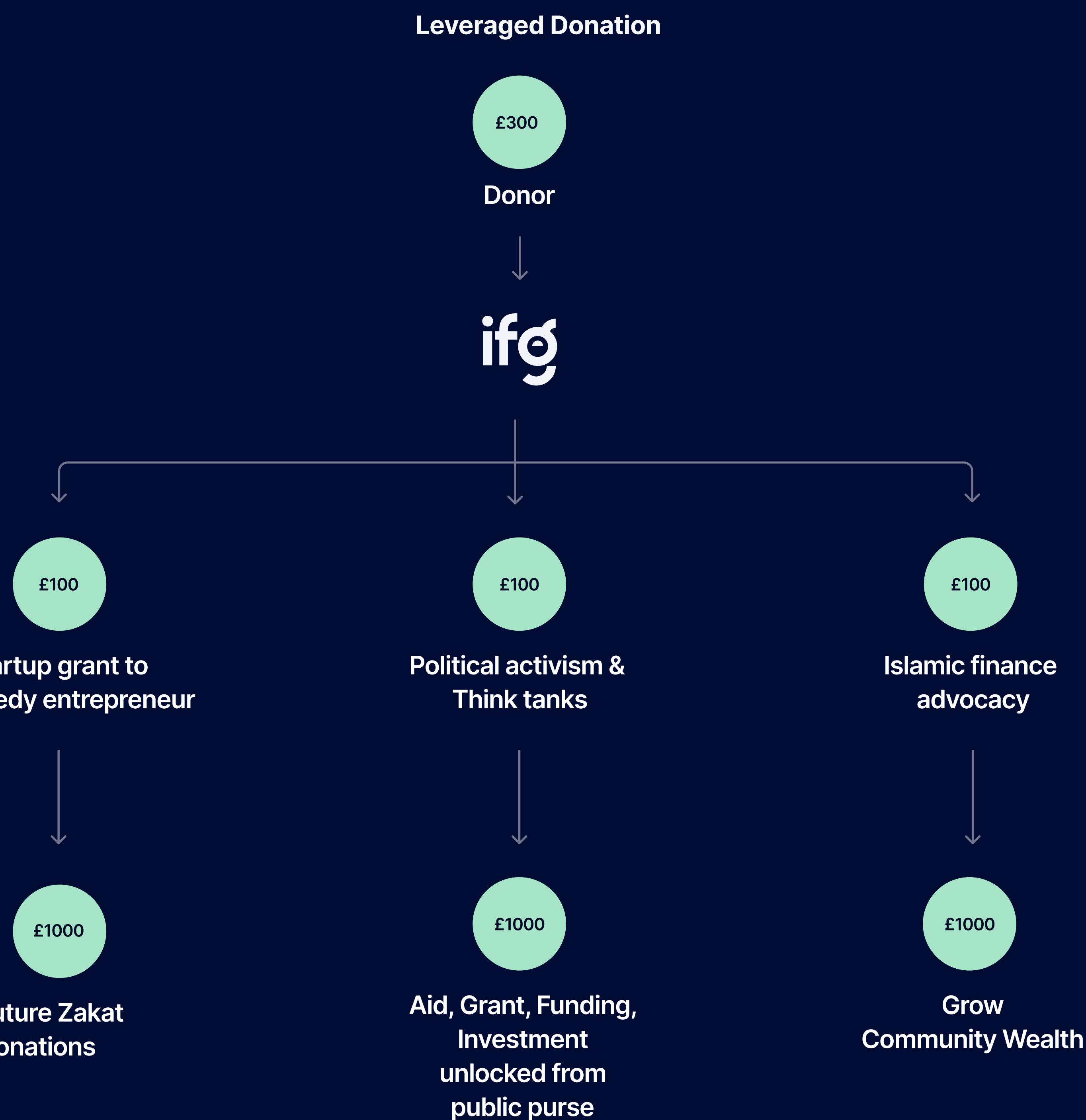
- Equi continued to build strong momentum, maturing into a more established, credible platform with clearer positioning and stronger execution.
- Islamophobia Response Unit became noticeably more robust and stable, with improved operational resilience, consistent grant-winning, and establishing an in-house employment law team.
- Funders in Good maintained its positive trajectory and made steady progress across its initiatives; with its influence and standard-setting felt across the UK charitable sector.
- Riba Free Foundation matured nicely and made significant contributions uniting the Islamic Finance industry and chaired the APPG for Islamic Finance securing ministerial meetings.

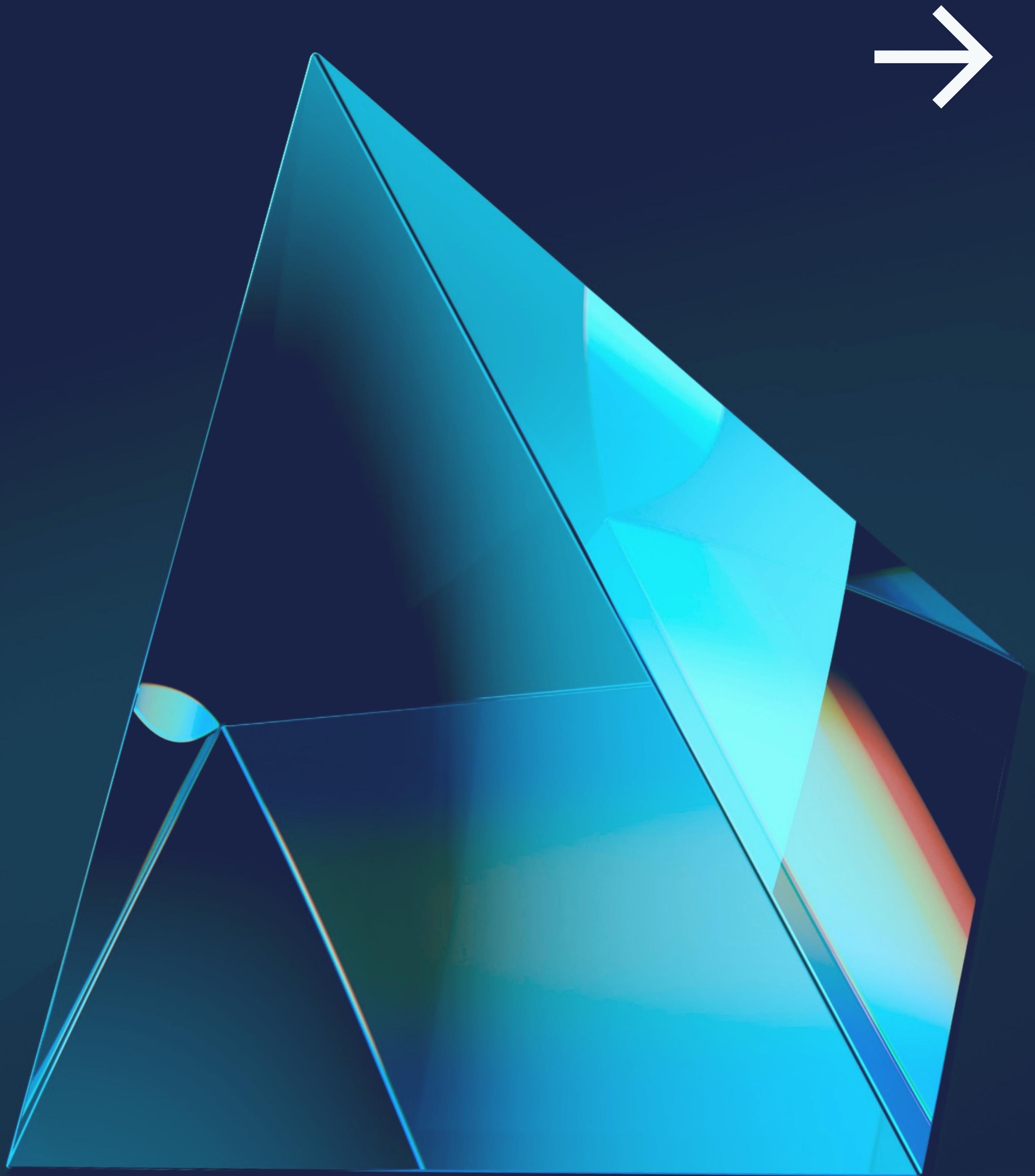
## Self-Critical Reflections & Plan Going Forward

- We were uncomfortable that a lot of economic empowerment ended up happening with asylum seekers. A portion is fine, but not all. We have accordingly specified that tightly with the new NZF funding agreement.
- We were also keen to stress to our partners that we would like regular quarterly updates, **in a format that we have pre-agreed prior to deployment**. This is a condition of funding going forward.
- The Muslim Vote continued to do excellent work on the ground. However, we have focused our renewed mandate with them around data capture and hiring strategic advisors and/or leadership with additional experience in the field as this was where there was weakness.
- As we have scaled, we noted the importance of improved governance and radical transparency. Accordingly you will see a substantially beefed up governance section later on in this deck, and a radical transparency page at the end.

# Leveraged donations go further

We think zakat on poverty alleviation is incredibly important - but we need to go beyond that as well. When we do this well, we get leveraged returns as a community.





# Fund Methodology

# Rigorous fund delegation and oversight

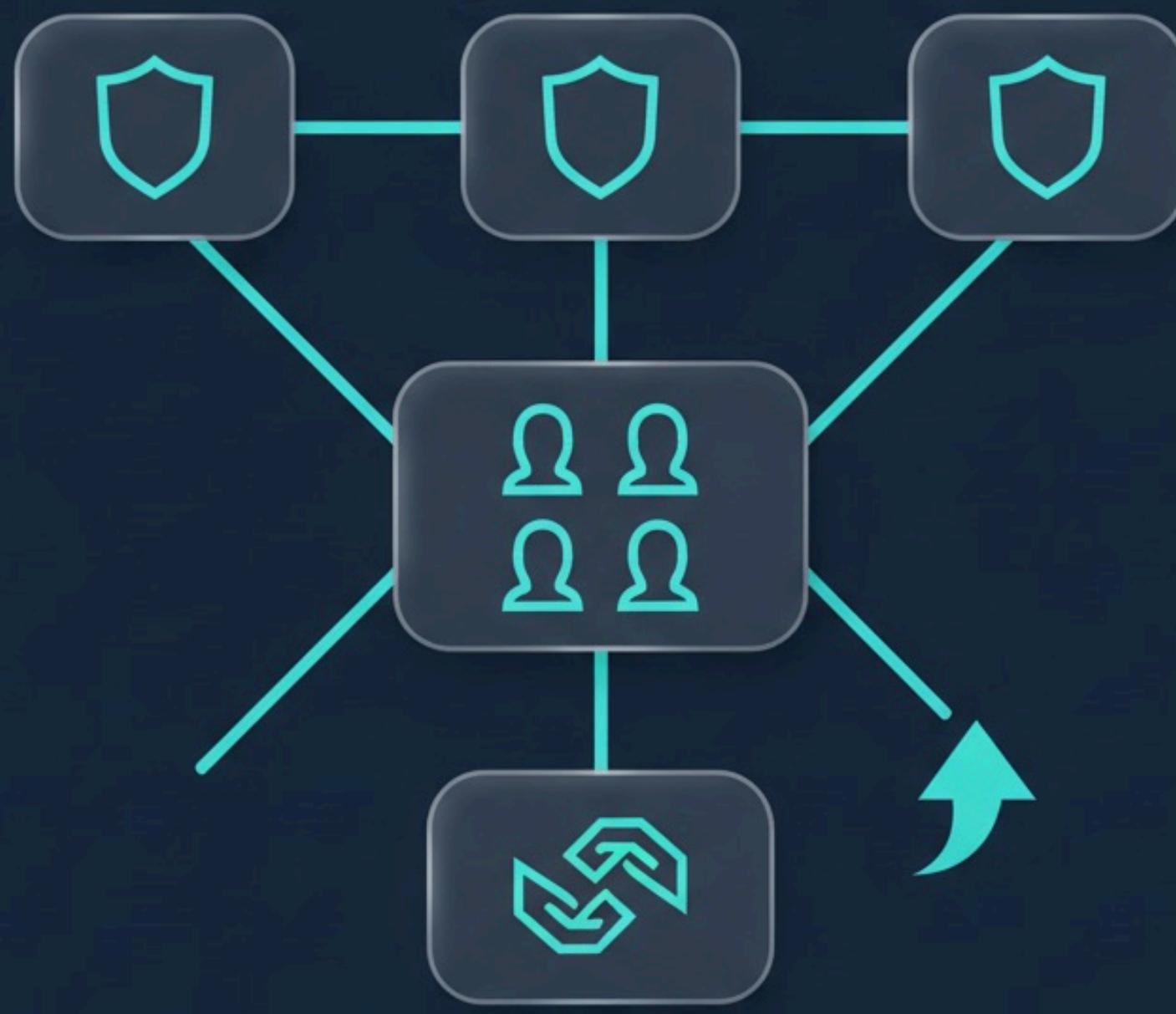
## Grant-Making Committee

Kashif Shabir (Chair) - ex-CEO of Muslim Aid + Charitable Foundation Consultant

Ibrahim Khan - CEO of IFG and Cur8 Capital

Sumayyah Mian\* - Doctor, Public Health Policy expert

Nabeel Vania\* - Legal counsel



# Kashif Shabir



## Overview

Kashif Shabir is a strategic advisor and former CEO with over 20 years of senior leadership experience across international charitable and philanthropic institutions. As former CEO of Muslim Aid and Founder of Ethical Consulting Group, he has advised global organisations on governance, institutional strategy, and large-scale grant-making, helping design operating models that deliver measurable, long-term impact.

Kashif also serves as Strategic Advisor on Islamic Philanthropy to the UNHCR and has held senior leadership and advisory roles across Mercy Mission, the British Red Cross, and Oxfam.

## Role with us and Rationale

- Chairs the Grant-Making Committee of the Zakat Impact Fund, overseeing funding decisions and ensuring alignment with its mandate
- Led the development of the Fund's governance framework and grant-making systems, establishing robust, compliant, and scalable processes
- Provides independent oversight and strategic challenge, strengthening the quality, discipline, and neutrality of decision-making
- Helped shape the Fund's funding strategy and operational model, ensuring grants deliver measurable and long-term impact

Kashif was appointed to bring an experienced, independent perspective to the Fund. Having led and advised major charitable institutions, he brings deep expertise in governance, zakat compliance, and institutional strategy.

# How funds are delegated and managed

**01**

## Call for Applications

The Fund invites applications from eligible organisations aligned with its mandate and zakat policy. Applicants submit proposals outlining their activities, outcomes, and zakat eligibility.

**02**

## Screening & Assessment

Applications are screened for eligibility, alignment, governance strength, and delivery capability. Due diligence ensures organisations are able to deliver measurable impact.

**03**

## Board Assessment

Committee reviews applications and makes recommendations based on impact and strategic fit. Final approval is provided by the Board of Trustees, ensuring oversight and accountability.

**04**

## MoU Execution

Approved organisations enter into a formal agreement setting out funding terms and reporting requirements. Funds are released in stages, linked to agreed milestones and ongoing monitoring.

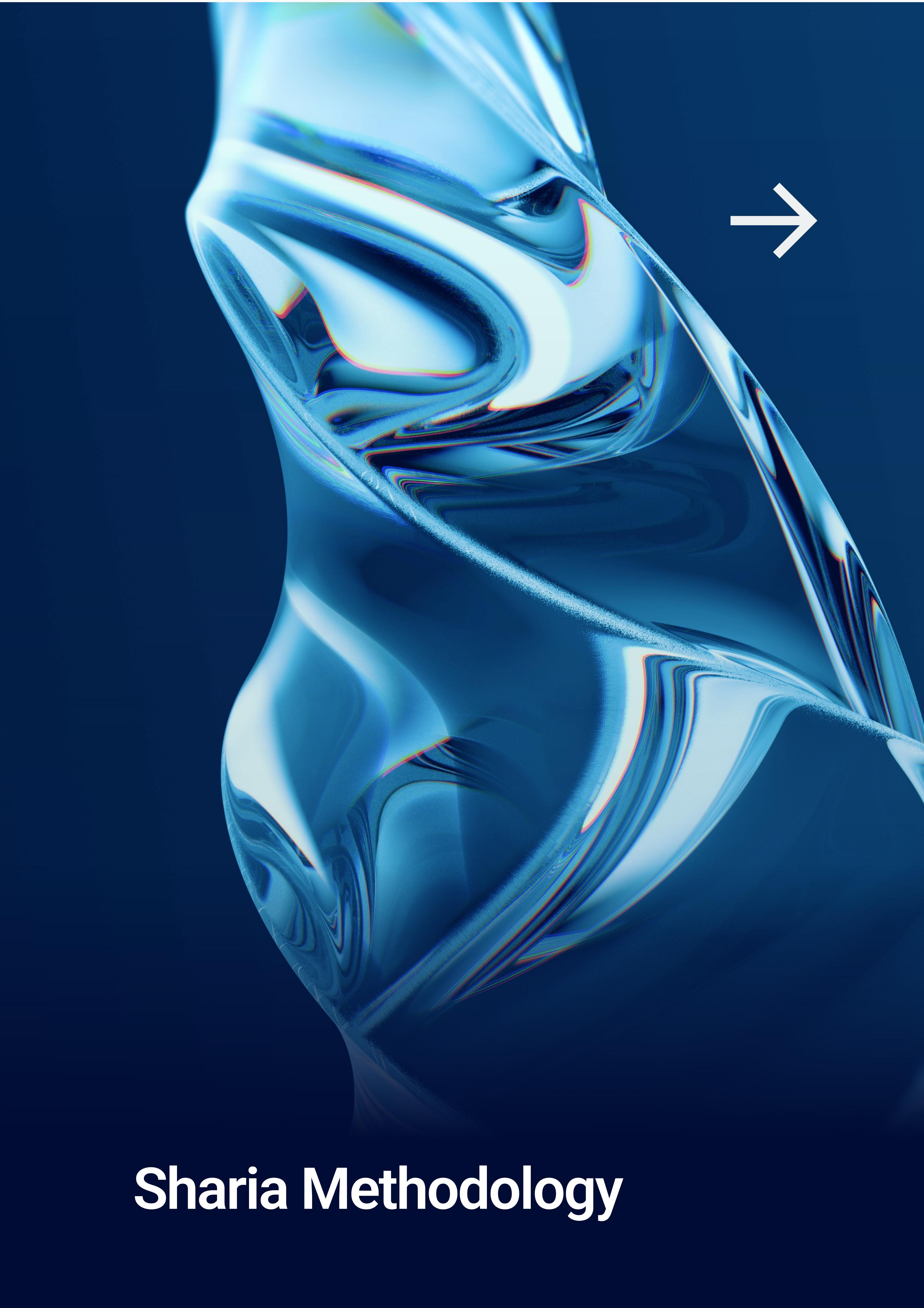


## Fund Principles

- The Fund will look to back initiatives for the long term. We will try to follow our money over a multi-year timeframe.
- The Fund will look to take advisory positions wherever possible to help provide steer and oversight to the project. It is the intention of the Fund to be an active supporter rather than a passive donor.
- The Fund will initially take no administration fee but anticipates that as the Fund grows over time, it will eventually need to take a small administration fee. We will always be completely transparent about this.
- The Fund will always allocate a portion of its pot towards simple poverty alleviation, and once the Fund grows to over £20m per annum, 25% of the allocation will be to poverty alleviation.

## Decision Making Process

- Our grant decisions are guided by a robust, transparent, and sharia-compliant process overseen by the Trustees of the charity.
- Proposals are carefully assessed for strategic alignment with the Fund's long-term outcomes, clear Zakat eligibility, measurable impact, and strong governance. Applications are reviewed by experienced staff and a Grants Committee, with due diligence conducted to proportionately assess financial, operational, and reputational risk.
- Final funding decisions rest with the Trustees, who consider a consolidated briefing of recommended causes ahead of Ramadan and formally approve allocations in line with the Fund's Zakat Policy and charitable objects.
- Every grant is documented, monitored, and reported on to ensure Zakat is deployed with integrity, accountability, and maximum long-term benefit for the charity's beneficiaries and the Ummah at large.



# Sharia Methodology

# **The fund will always adhere to guidelines set by Shaykh Akram Nadwi on eligible zakat recipients.**

## **Economic Empowerment & Poverty Relief Pot**

25% of the Fund will be focused on economic empowerment and poverty relief for zakat-eligible individuals and as such is accepted by all scholarly traditions as zakat.

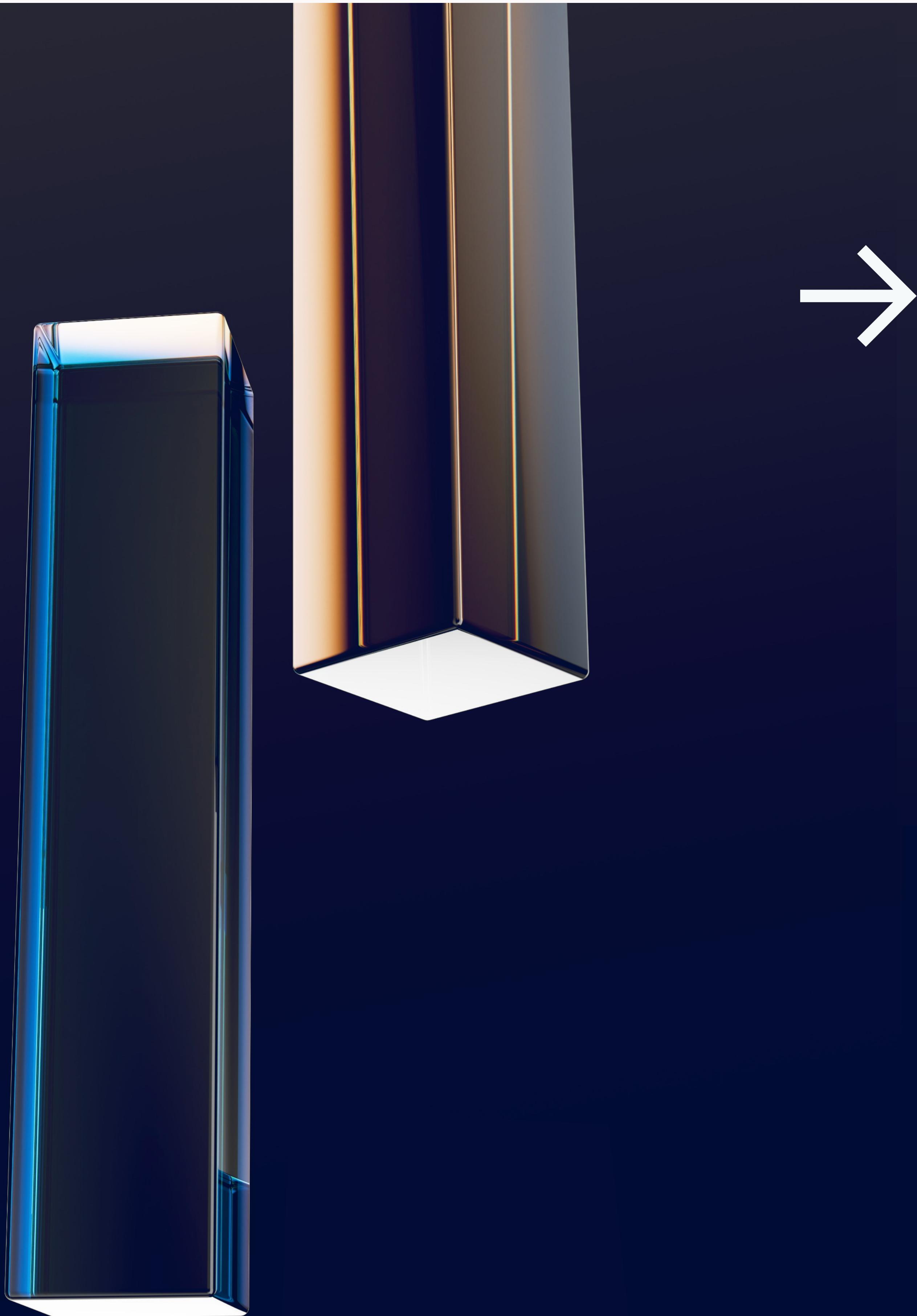
## **Strategic Pot**

75% of the Fund will avail of all zakat categories, particularly “reconciliation of the hearts”, “in the cause of God”, the poor and the needy.

*Whilst we anticipate some of the strategic pot will be allocated to donations to the poor and needy, for prudence where an individual follows a narrower reading of zakat eligibility they should treat only 15% of the Fund as zakat-eligible.*

Note: for those who are interested in learning more about the different categories of zakat and the wide variety of views among Islamic scholarship on this, please see:

1. Sh. Yusuf Al Qardawi's excellent Fiqh of Zakat (Volume 2) accessible here: [https://monzer.kahf.com/books/english/fiqhalzakah\\_vol2.pdf](https://monzer.kahf.com/books/english/fiqhalzakah_vol2.pdf)
2. <https://muslimmatters.org/2021/07/20/zakat-eligibility-of-islamic-organizations/>
3. [https://yaqeeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINAL-Zakat-is-not-just-Charity\\_-Unlocking-the-Transformative-Power-of-Islams-Third-Pillar.pdf](https://yaqeeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/FINAL-Zakat-is-not-just-Charity_-Unlocking-the-Transformative-Power-of-Islams-Third-Pillar.pdf)
4. <https://www.islamicfinanceguru.com/zakat> (access our zakat policy at the bottom of the page)



# Indicative Allocations & Impact

# Fund Allocations

Allocations will be sized up and down based on overall amounts raised by the Fund.



## SMALL INCUBATED DELEGATIONS

£0–£25k for initial incubation.

iERA - 10K  
Divine Nexus - 20K  
MCB - 25K



## MEDIUM DELEGATION

£25k–£75k for growth phases.

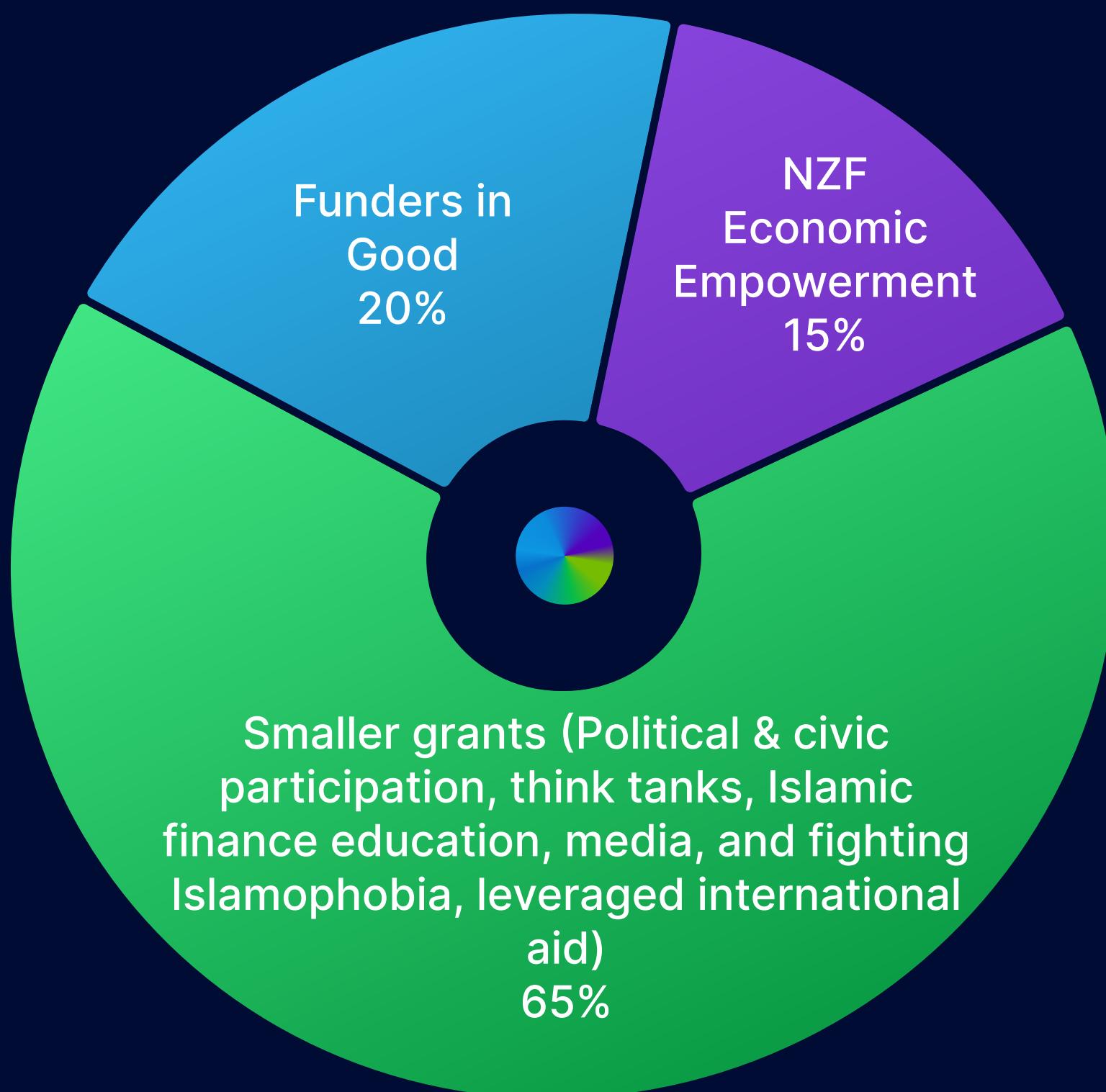
IRU - 30K  
Itkan - 30K  
5 Pillars - 30K  
CFMM - 30K



## LARGE DELEGATION

£75k+ for scaled impact.

NZF - 75K  
TMV - 75K  
Equi - 100K  
FIG - 100K



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- **NZF Economic Empowerment 15%**
- **Funders in Good 20%**

- **Smaller grants; Political & civic participation, think tanks, Islamic finance education, media, and fighting Islamophobia, leveraged international aid 65%. (List including The Muslim Vote, Equilibrium House, MCB, Islamic Response Unit, Centre for Muslim Media Monitoring, Itkan and 5 Pillars) 10% will also be allocated to international aid charities for economic empowerment programmes.**

The above is an indicative example of how the Fund will be deployed, though it is a discretionary fund and the committee may decide to make small tweaks to the above as the situation arises - sticking within the rules of the Fund set out earlier.

Recipient	Desired Impact
<h2 data-bbox="355 792 914 884">Larger Grants</h2>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NZF:</b> A community of newly-employed created who would otherwise not have been employed as gainfully and a small minority of sustainable businesses are created which then flourish and contribute back into the pot.</li> <li>• <b>FIG:</b> have grown from 9 seed funders to 130+, raising £2m+ for muslim-led social ventures in the UK and have supported 30+ social ventures across three themes: Socioeconomic Wellbeing, Spiritual Connection, and Public Perception</li> <li>• <b>Equi:</b> A policy-focused organisation showing how British Muslim faith-based giving already delivers significant social and economic value across the UK. Equi works to remove structural barriers so this impact can better support communities nationwide.</li> <li>• <b>TMV:</b> A grassroots organisation mobilising British Muslim voters to engage strategically in elections. It aims to increase political accountability by supporting candidates to reflect community priorities.</li> </ul>
<h2 data-bbox="355 2918 949 3010">Smaller Grants</h2> <p data-bbox="355 3034 1290 3435">(Political &amp; civic participation, public policy, Islamic finance education, media, and fighting Islamophobia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ITKAN:</b> Institute of Technology is a community-led, tuition-free nonprofit focused on expanding access to STEM education</li> <li>• <b>CFMM:</b> creates an evidence base that shows how Muslims and Islam are reported in national and local media</li> <li>• <b>IRU:</b> Support for victims of Islamophobia through legal aid, counselling, and public advocacy.</li> <li>• <b>IERA:</b> is dedicated to advancing the Prophetic mission; compassionately and intelligently sharing Islam.</li> <li>• <b>5 Pillars:</b> is the largest English language Muslim news site in Europe, Australia and the Americas.</li> <li>• <b>Muslim Council For Britain:</b> is the largest and most diverse representative body for the British Muslim community in the UK.</li> <li>• <b>Divine Nexus:</b> Iqbal Nasim has built out a successful podcast while continuing to deliver core Islamic courses and advising institutions on a more holistic approach to Islam, the Qur'an and impact.</li> </ul>

# Spotlight



**funders  
in good**

**Funders in Good: The natural**

**partner to magnify our donations**

# Who are FIG?

- FIG is a faith-based, venture philanthropy fund. Venture philanthropy is a high-engagement and long-term approach to giving that helps organisations maximise their social impact.
- FIG explain their vision as “*a society in which commitment to God is flourishing, underpinned by highly effective social ventures*”.

# Why are we partnering with them?

- Donations should not be a black box—where money is given and disappears without clarity on its impact. Instead, donations should be more than just money. They should come with support, strategy, and follow-up to ensure they achieve real, lasting results.
- Think of traditional donations like pouring water into a sieve—money flows in, but much of it leaks out due to inefficiencies, lack of oversight, and short-term thinking. Without follow-up and capacity-building, many donations fail to reach their full potential.
- FIG acts as the plugs in the sieve, systematically closing the gaps through:
  - ✓ Strategic funding – ensuring money goes where it has the highest impact.
  - ✓ Capacity-building – supporting organisations beyond just funding, helping them grow.
  - ✓ Ongoing oversight – tracking progress, refining strategies, and making sure donations achieve the intended results.
- With FIG, every pound is maximised, nurtured, and monitored—turning short-term giving into long-term, transformative change.

# Spotlight



**Reviving the Islamic Obligation**

**to Excel in Science & Technology**

## Who are ITKAN?

- ITKAN Institute of Technology is a community-led, tuition-free nonprofit focused on expanding access to STEM education, with a strong emphasis on robotics and engineering. Their work is rooted in serving young people, particularly from underrepresented Muslim communities, by giving them practical technical skills vital for this era.
- At its core, ITKAN exists to make high-quality STEM education accessible outside of traditional school systems, allowing students to learn by building and doing rather than passively consuming content.

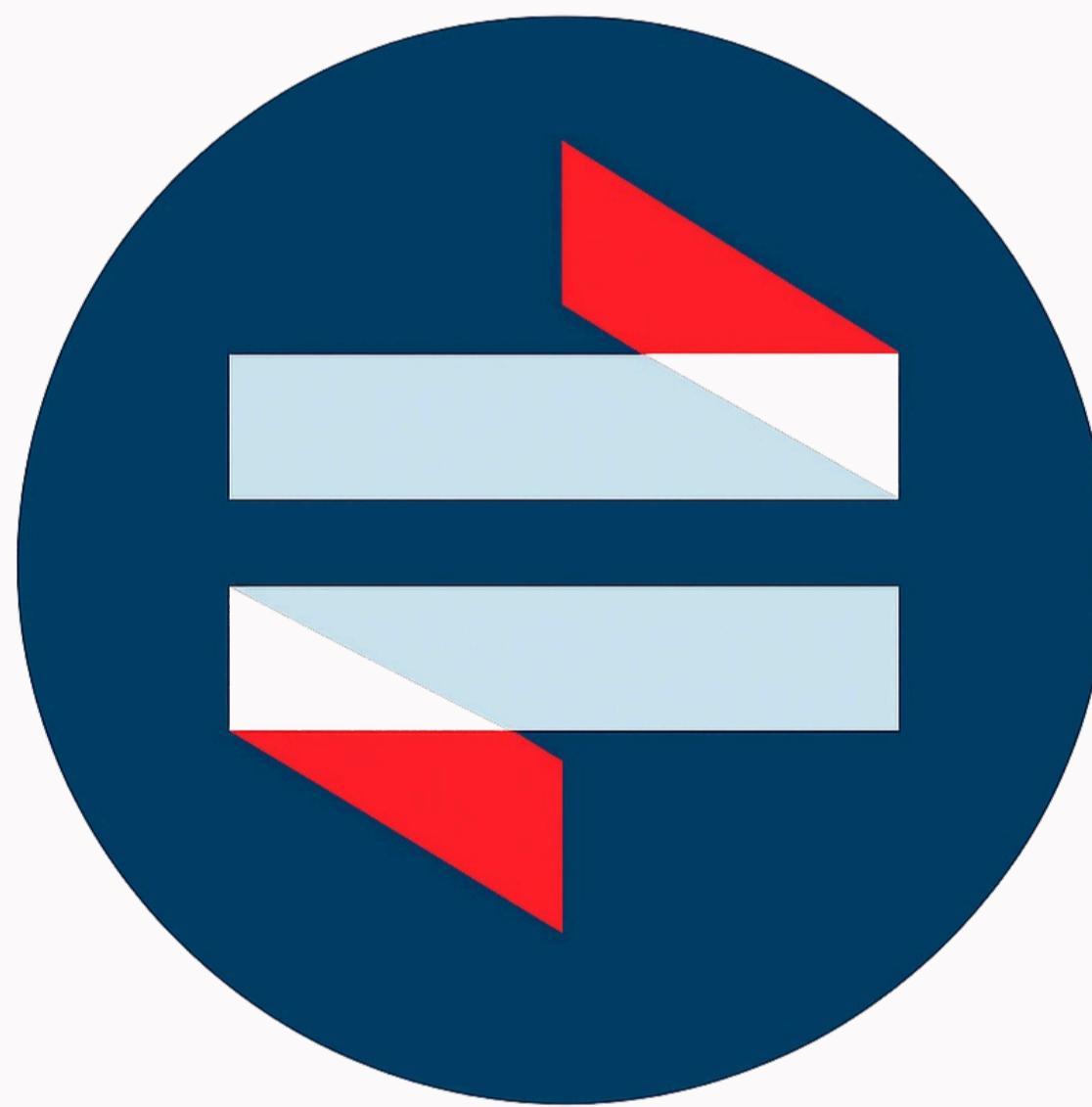
## Why are we partnering with them?

- ITKAN is also deliberately community-powered. Parents are trained and involved as coaches, and volunteers and mentors play an active role in delivery. This model allows programmes to scale sustainably while remaining rooted in the communities they serve.
- The impact of ITKAN's work is visible in both reach and outcomes. What began as a small initiative has grown into multiple chapters across different regions, serving large numbers of students through ongoing STEM programmes. ITKAN teams regularly participate in and succeed at recognised robotics competitions, demonstrating strong technical standards and effective coaching.
- Beyond competitions, ITKAN has built a reputation for developing confident, motivated young people who are better prepared for further education and careers in science and technology. Their students gain early exposure to problem-solving, engineering thinking, and collaborative work, which often translates into long-term academic and personal growth.

# Spotlight



Prof. Javed Khan OBE with former first minister for Scotland, Hamza Yousef



# EQUI



Prof. Javed Khan OBE outside Downing Street presenting EQUI's research to policymakers.

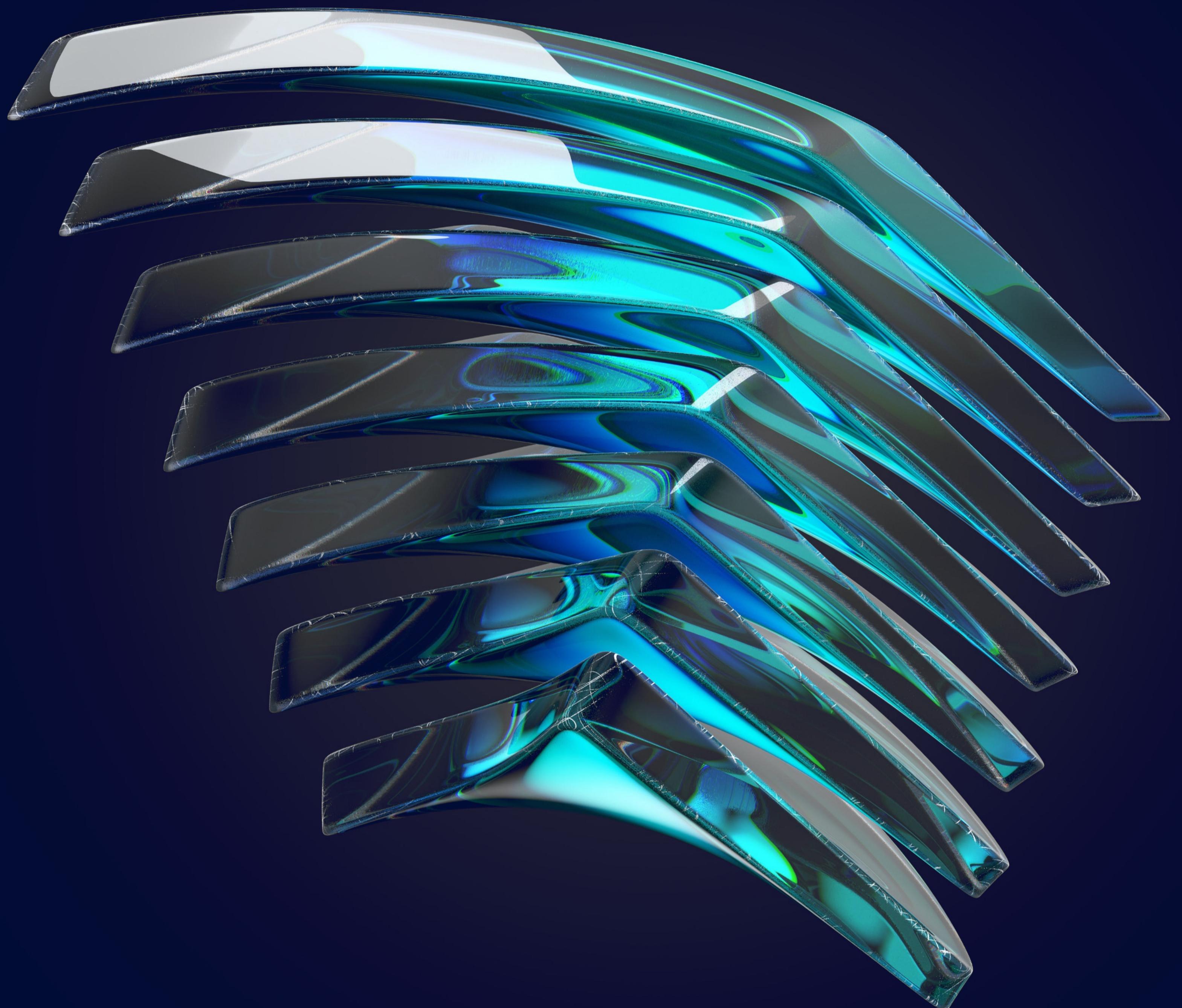
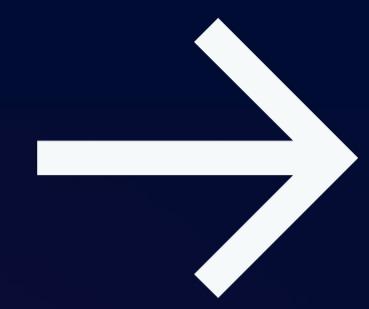
## Unlocking the Potential of Faith-Based Charitable Giving

## Who are EQUI?

- EQUI is a UK-based public policy think tank focused on producing ethical research, analysis, and policy recommendations on issues affecting British society. Their work draws on insight from Muslim communities and broader civic experience to inform debates on social, economic and cultural challenges facing the country.
- Strengthening UK public policy through ethically-driven research and strategic engagement that builds on British Muslim lived experiences and contributions, to help build a more prosperous and socially cohesive nation for all its citizens.

## Why are we partnering with them?

- EQUI's impact lies in how they operate upstream of change. Rather than delivering services directly, they focus on shaping the environment in which decisions are made by policymakers, regulators, and opinion-formers.
- EQUI provides credible, data-driven research that helps policymakers and institutions understand the scale and value of faith-motivated civic contribution, ensuring these efforts are not overlooked or undervalued in public decision-making.
- Established themselves as a reputable outfit for data concerning the British Muslim community. They have convened high-level political & stakeholder engagement to put findings directly in front of decision-makers, including the launch of their Youth Violence report being attended by the Home Secretary and Health Secretary.
- Their work has received recognition by the Prime Minister's offices, citations by MPs, and strengthened relationships with officials across DfE, DCMS and MHCLG; with the MD contributing to the Deputy PM Working Group on defining Islamophobia and serving on the Independent Commission on Community and Cohesion.



# **Gift Aid Status**

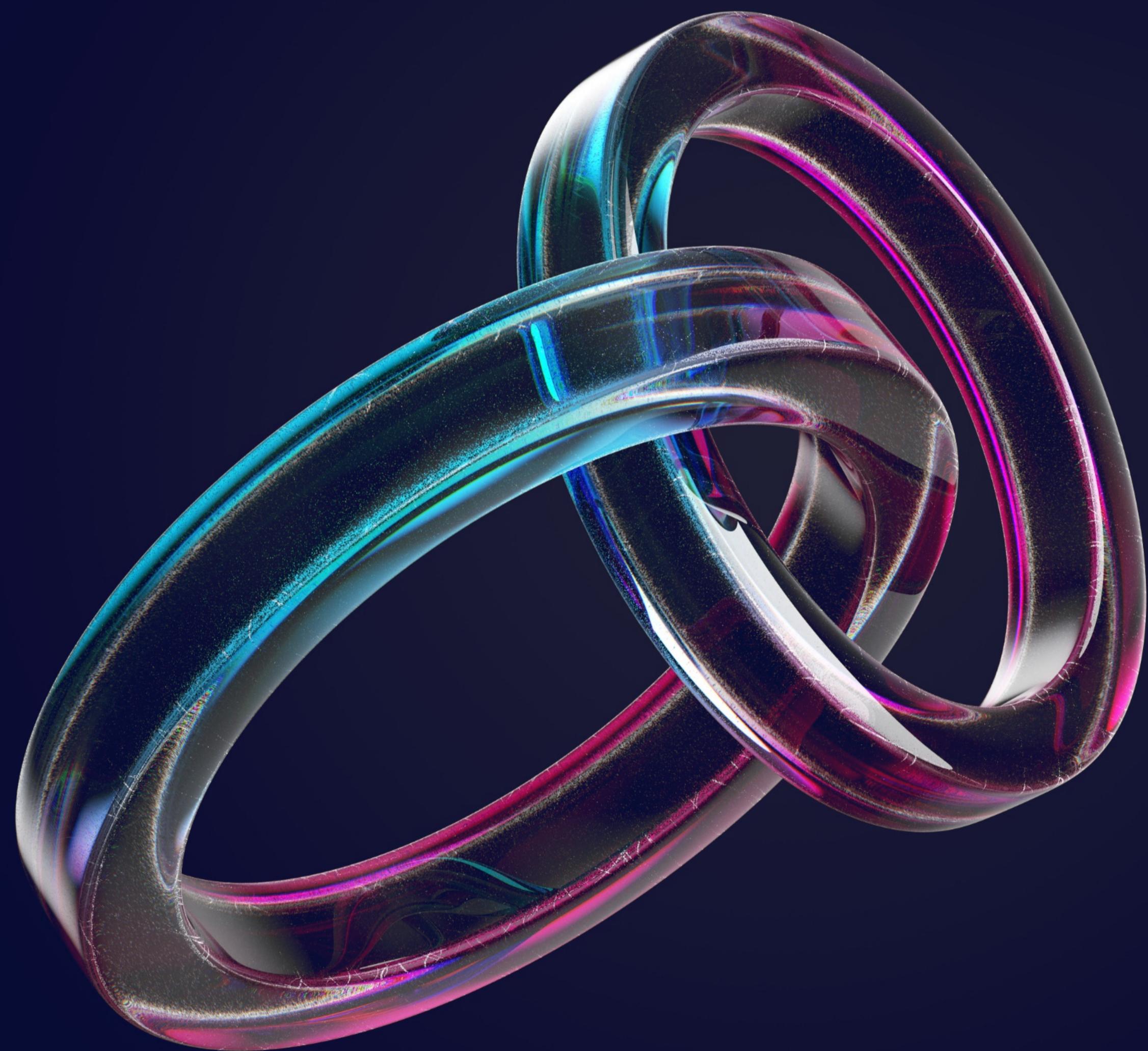
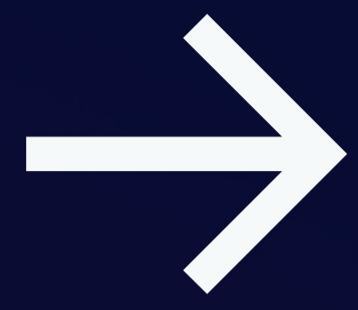
We are now **fully gift aid eligible\*** as each of the charities we will be donating to are registered charities.

This means more funding for:

- Scaling high-impact initiatives
- Expanding legal, political, and social advocacy work
- Strengthening financial resilience within the community

This is a **game-changer**—your donations now go further than ever before.

\*Gift Aid is available for individual UK taxpayers only (not companies or institutions). If eligible, your donation could be worth 25% more at no extra cost. We can claim an extra 25p for every £1 donated. You must pay at least as much UK Income or Capital Gains Tax in the tax year as the total Gift Aid claimed on your donations. Please let us know if your tax status changes.



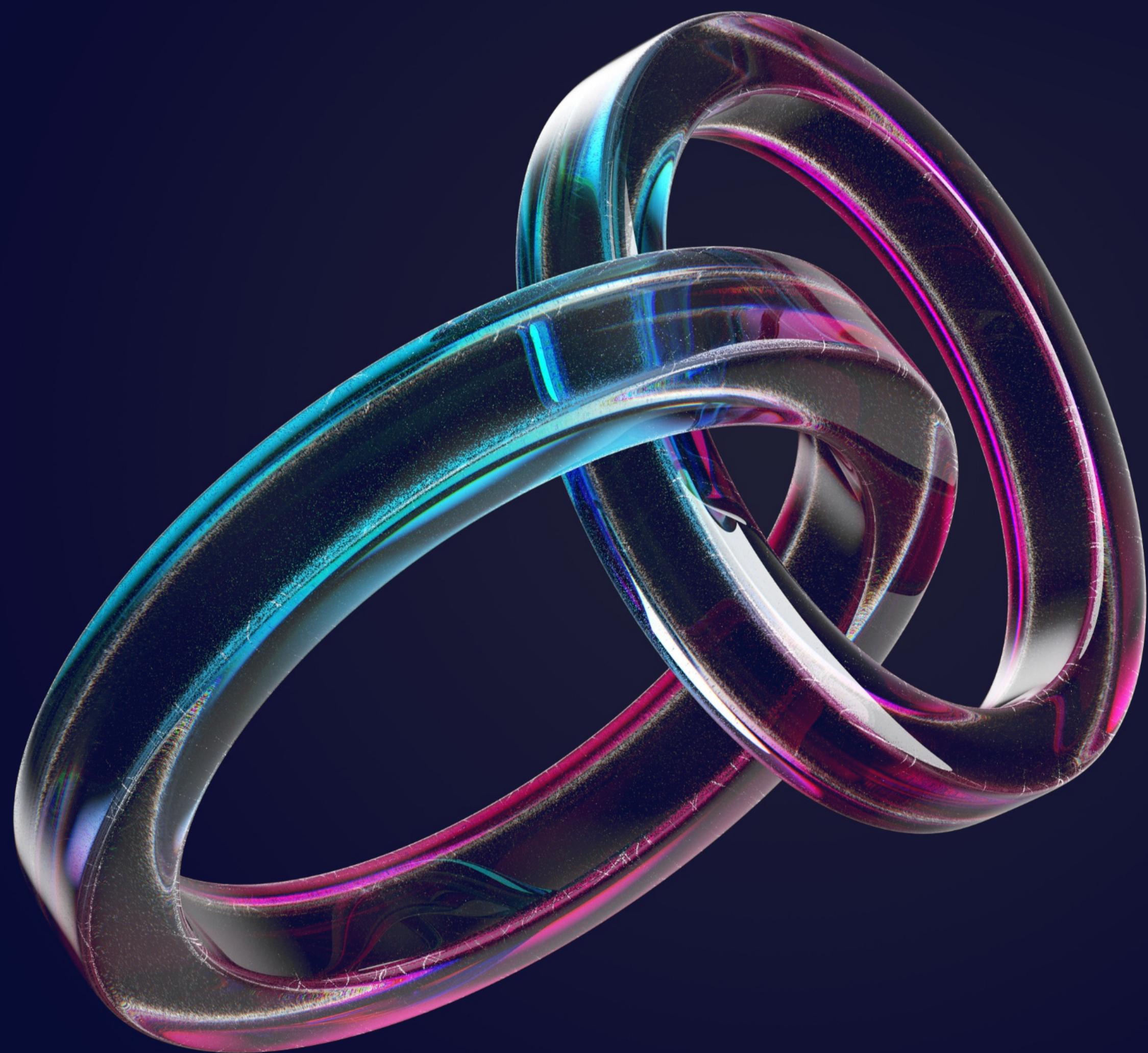
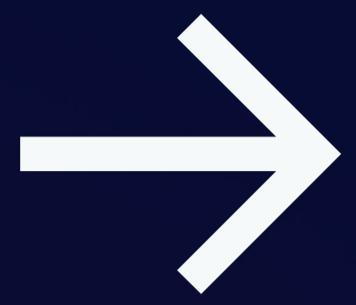
# How to donate

- Investors on the **Cur8 Capital platform** can directly donate there.
- Everyone can donate via **this link**.
- Not sure what your zakat amount is? Calculate and donate it **here**.

Please ensure you fill out all details needed to claim gift aid on your behalf.

You can expect to receive semi-annual reporting for this Fund.

Jazzak  
Allah  
Khayr



# Appendix: Detailed Updates from Existing Portfolio

## Recipient

## Key Developments

National Zakat Foundation  
(NZF)

- **Focus:** Alongside direct Zakat distribution, NZF has utilised Zakat Impact funding to support empowerment and skills-based interventions for eligible individuals, with the aim of moving people from short-term hardship toward sustainable income and stability
- **Impact to Date:** Early outcomes show supported individuals progressing into employment, improved earning capacity, or clearer pathways toward work, demonstrating the role of Zakat not only in relief but in long-term socio-economic uplift.

The Muslim Vote (TMV)

- **Focus:** Building a coordinated, educated and principled voters in Muslim communities across the UK
- **Ongoing Work:** Secured access to the marked register across 17 key target seats, giving TMV data on turnout for over 500,000 Muslim voters nationwide
- Established processes for candidate endorsements across key areas, including Bradford, Birmingham, Kirklees, and priority London boroughs alongside mapping of key institutions in target areas to maximise engagement
- Negotiated agreements with organisations including the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC), Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), and the BPC (British Palestinian Committee) to launch a divestment focused campaign for the next local elections

**Recipient****Key Developments****Funders in Good (FIG)**

- **Focus:** Supporting social ventures tackling social, economic, and cultural challenges in Muslim communities
- **Social Venture Academy:** 15 venture leaders were empowered through a 6-month programme of workshops, mentoring and 1:1 support across eight venture-development areas achieving a 20% increase in knowledge.
- 4 new groups and 34 new sections opened, growing Muslim scouting in the UK with Muslim Scout Fellowship.

**Islamophobia Response Unit (IRU)**

- **Focus:** Support for victims of Islamophobia through legal aid, counselling, and public advocacy.
- **2025 Impact:** 800+ students helped to overcome Islamophobic restrictions on their ability to pray in schools
- £43,000 average settlement per employment case through our new legal team
- National partnerships with BT Muslim Network, Redbridge Council, and other major institutions
- National newsletter launch reaching stakeholders across England and Wales
- Legal seminars during Islamophobia Awareness Month educating communities on their rights

## Recipient

## Key Developments

Muslim Council of Britain  
(MCB)

- **Focus:** MCB provides a representative voice for British Muslims, advocating on issues that affect daily life. They bridge community concerns with public policy debates, helping to shape a more informed and inclusive national discourse about Muslims and their contributions to British society.
- **Impact:** MCB marked a decade of its Visit My Mosque campaign in 2025, facilitating open days at over 250 mosques nationwide and building bridges between Muslim and wider communities.
- They continued to provide timely commentary and policy submissions on pressing national issues, including hate crime legislation and social media policy affecting young people

Centre for Muslim Media  
Monitoring (CfMMM)

- **Focus:** CfMM creates an evidence base that shows how Muslims and Islam are reported in national and local media, providing detailed analyses that can inform journalists, editors, academics, and policymakers.
- **Impact:** In 2025 CfMM continued its evidence-based monitoring and reporting activities, tracking media narratives and corrections to ensure that coverage of Muslims remains accurate, accessible, and fair.
- They provided media awareness resources and training aimed at increasing communities' capacity to interact with media constructively and telling their own stories more effectively.



# Radical Transparency

## Expenses / Small donations

- 3.7K - Powell House (accommodation for muslims in tech start ups)
- 3.1K - Bates Wells (Lawyer fees)
- 2K - Charity Consultant Fees
- 2K - Donation to British Muslim Funders Network