

Stand for Peace

counter-extremism | social cohesion | counter-terrorism

Islamic Relief Worldwide

Islamic Relief Worldwide (IRW) – an enormous charity headquartered in the UK, which receives tens of millions of dollars from Western Governments, the United Nations and the European Union -- is the poster-child of an exemplary Islamic charity. IRW consists of a “family of fifteen aid agencies” which “aim to alleviate the suffering of the world’s poorest people.”

In light of the new information uncovered by this report, however, Stand for Peace believes that IRW is an extremist organization with a pro-terror agenda.

First, IRW’s accounts reveal that it has partnered with a significant number of organizations that are linked to terrorism. Second, IRW’s trustees are personally connected to extreme Islamist groups with connections to terror. Finally, IRW and some of its subsidiary branches have run events with extremist, anti-Semitic and pro-terror speakers.

Links to Terror

In 2006, the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs designated IRW itself a terrorist front, and [claimed](#) that:

“The IRW provides support and assistance to Hamas’s infrastructure. The IRW’s activities in Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip are carried out by social welfare organizations controlled and staffed by Hamas operatives. The intensive activities of these associations are designed to further Hamas’s ideology among the Palestinian population.”

In May of 2006, Israeli police arrested IRW’s Gaza coordinator, Ayaz Ali. The Israeli Government stated Ali had assisted Hamas-related institutions and groups such as *Al Wafa* and *Al Tzalah*, both of which are designated terror organizations in Israel. [According to](#) the Israeli Government, Ali also said that he had cooperated with local Hamas operatives in Jordan:

“Incriminating files were found on Ali’s computer, including documents that attested to the organization’s ties with illegal Hamas funds abroad (in the UK and in Saudi Arabia) and in Nablus. Also found were photographs of swastikas superimposed on IDF symbols, of senior Nazi German officials, of Osama Bin Laden and Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, as well as many photographs of Hamas military activities ... **Ali admitted that he was aware that several of the organizations supported by the IRW in Judea, Samaria and Gaza were indeed identified with Hamas.**” [Author’s emphasis]

For several years, IRW has [supported](#) the *Islamic University of Gaza*, where, during 2008, rockets and explosives [were produced](#) for use by Hamas. One of the most senior Hamas leaders, Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, [founded the University](#) in 1978, and sixteen of the University’s lecturers and teachers are [elected](#) Hamas members of the Palestinian legislature.

Islamic Relief has denied the charges against them. These denials would be more convincing, however, were it not that IRW appears to be a hub for donations from charities accused of links to Al Qaeda and other terror groups.

In [2004](#), [2007](#) and [2009](#), IRW accounts revealed donations of tens of thousands of pounds from the *Charitable Society for Social Welfare* [CSSW], [a charity founded by Al Qaeda terrorist](#) and “Bin Laden loyalist” Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani. In 1998, the Al Qaeda terrorist Anwar Al-Awlaki, eventually killed by a U.S. drone strike, served as Vice President for CSSW’s San Diego branch.

During a terrorism trial in 2004 in the U.S, Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Brian Murphy [testified that CSSW](#) was a “front organization to funnel money to terrorists.”

In 1999, *Human Concern International*, a charity that Osama bin Laden told an Egyptian interviewer in 1995 was funding an al-Qaeda charitable front called *Blessed Relief*, [gave IRW](#) a \$50,000 donation. IRW [continues to refer](#) to *Human Concern* as a partner. In [2008](#), *Human Concern* granted IRW a further £25,000.

Human Concern has also [funded](#) the *Global Relief Foundation* -- an organization shut down by the American Government -- which [stated](#) it had been laundering money for al-Qaeda and was linked to the Taliban. Similarly, in 2009 another funder of the *Global Relief Foundation*, the *International Development and Relief Foundation*, [gave](#) IRW just under £200,000.

Further, in 2008, [IRW’s accounts](#) revealed a donation of £13,437 from the Yemeni *Al-Eslah* organization -- a branch of the Muslim Brotherhood whose leaders include Sheikh al-Zindani, whom the US Government has [designated](#) a “Global Terrorist.”

The same year, the UK-based charity *Human Appeal International* [gave](#) IRW £34,081. A [1996 CIA report](#) claimed *Human Appeal International* was one of a number of Islamic charities used as conduits for funds to terrorist organizations, and tied it to the Saudi-based *Muwafaq*, an Al-Qaeda front group. The FBI, in

2003, [claimed there was](#) a “close relationship between *Human Appeal International* and Hamas.” In February 2005, Hamas’s website had already openly [announced](#) the receipt of funds from HAI.

One of Human Appeal’s trustees is Dr. Nooh al Kaddo, who [also serves](#) as executive director of the *Islamic Cultural Centre of Ireland*. In [2009](#), this Cultural Centre gave £2,707 to IRW.

The *Islamic Cultural Centre* is part of the Muslim Brotherhood’s European network and [hosts](#) the *European Council for Fatwa and Research*, of which former IRW director Issam Al-Bashir is a leading member. The head of the council is Yusuf Qaradawi, the spiritual leader of the Muslim Brotherhood, who [believes](#) Hitler was “divine punishment” for the Jews and is a [supporter](#) of suicide bombings.

In 2010 and 2011, the Kuwait-based *International Islamic Charitable Organisation* [provided](#) IRW with hundreds of thousands of pounds. According to counter-terrorism expert Matthew Levitt, a [leaked CIA report](#) identified this Kuwaiti charity as a key supporter of terrorism.

IRW Officials

It is possible, of course, to dismiss the claims about IRW's links to terror as wrongdoing in which IRW was not institutionally complicit; after all, none of the evidence demonstrates that trustees have deliberately funneled money to terror groups. It is not just the charity, however, that has partnered with extremist groups. A number of IRW trustees and officials are also personally associated with state sponsors of terror, extremist groups and pro-terror organizations.

Essam El-Haddad

Dr Essam El-Haddad, a trustee of both Islamic Relief Worldwide and Islamic Relief UK, is presently the [national security advisor](#) to Egypt's President Morsi.

In January 2013, media reports [claimed](#) that Essam El-Haddad met with Major General Qassem Suleimani of the Iranian state terror group, the IRGC's Quds Force. *The Times* reported:

*The spy chief met Essam al-Haddad, foreign affairs adviser to President Morsi, and officials from the Muslim Brotherhood, **to advise the Government on building its own security and intelligence apparatus, independent of the national intelligence services, which are controlled by Egypt's military.***

*The move will **confirm fears among opposition groups that the Muslim Brotherhood plans to enslave the country under a theocracy, while the prospect of Iran gaining influence in Cairo will make Egypt's neighbours and allies fearful.***

*Two members of the Muslim Brotherhood's Guidance Council, the Maktab al-Ershad, confirmed details of Mr Suleimani's visit. "The Government **requested a high-level meeting with Iranian officials.** Iran sent Suleimani," said one official. "The meeting was intended to send a message*

to America, which is putting pressure on the Egyptian Government, that we should be allowed to have other alliances with anyone we please.” [Author’s emphases.]

In April 2013, Haddad [met with Iranian President Ahmadinejad](#), who hailed the talks as “strategic” and promised greater collaboration between Egypt and Iran. Haddad pledged to help Iran “prevent intervention of foreign countries in Syria by taking new initiatives.”

Ahmed Al-Rawi

Dr. Ahmed Al-Rawi, a director of Islamic Relief, is the former head of the *Federation of Islamic Organizations in Europe* and President of the *Muslim Association of Britain*. Both groups are [considered](#) to be part of the European Muslim Brotherhood.

In 2004, Al-Rawi signed a declaration which [supported jihad](#) against British and American forces in Iraq.

Hani El-Banna

Dr. Hani El-Banna, the co-founder of Islamic Relief, was formerly a trustee of *Muslim Aid*, a London-based charity which was previously a “partner organization” of the *Al-Salah Islamic Association*. The U.S. Government has officially designated *Al Salah* a terrorist entity. A number of Bangladeshi commentators [have accused](#) *Muslim Aid* of funding the violent Islamist group *Jamaat-e-Islami*, while El-Banna was involved.

In an [interview with](#) *Emel* magazine, El-Banna expressed his admiration for Islamist figures Hassan al-Banna (no relation) and Sayed Qutb, the ideological founders of the Muslim Brotherhood. Qutb famously authored a pamphlet entitled ‘Our Struggle with the Jews’ – an anti-Semitic tract [described](#) by the New York Review of Books “as extreme as Hitler's.”

Hasan al-Banna was an [advocate of violent jihad](#) against non-Muslims and, during the Second World War, [successfully appealed](#) to Hitler for money to create a terror network in Egypt.

In addition, Hani El-Banna [founded](#), and runs, with the [support](#) of IRW, another charity called the *Humanitarian Forum*. Banna's fellow trustee at IRW, Abdul Wahab Noorwali, is also a trustee of the Forum.

Another trustee at the Humanitarian Forum is Huseyin Oruc, who is also a representative of the Turkish charity IHH. The IHH helped to [organize](#) the Gaza flotilla and has been [designated](#) a terrorist organization by the Dutch Government. In 2012, Oruc helped to organize a protest movement called the *Global March to Jerusalem*, which was [backed](#) by a number of key Hamas individuals and organizations.

Sulaiman Shamsaldeen and Ibrahim Hassaballa are also trustees of the Humanitarian Forum, and both have been Director Generals of the *International Islamic Charitable Organisation*. As mentioned above, [the US government accuses](#) this Kuwait-based charity of being a key financial supporter of terrorism.

Issam Al-Bashir

Issam Al-Bashir is a [former Director](#) of Islamic Relief. He is also the former Minister of Religious Affairs in the Sudan and a leading Muslim Brotherhood figure.

Bashir was forced out of the Sudanese Muslim Brotherhood after he attempted to [merge the group](#) with the Sudanese Islamist Party, a group created by the Sudanese regime to broaden the support for the Islamist Government. Bashir is a [leading member](#) of the *European Council for Fatwa and Research*, a group of fundamentalist clerics led by Muslim Brotherhood spiritual leader Yusuf Qaradawi, who [has called](#) for the killing of Jews and homosexuals.

Abdul Wahab Noorwali

Abdul Wahab Noorwali, a trustee of Islamic Relief Worldwide, is [the Assistant Secretary General](#) of the *World Assembly of Muslim Youth* (WAMY), a position he has held for the last 12 years. WAMY, founded in 1972, is a Saudi youth organization that US government agencies and officials claim has helped spread Islamic extremism around the world and has sponsored terrorism in places such as Bosnia and Israel.

The Saudi Government funds WAMY. The US Government has accused the organization of having links to Bin Laden. WAMY was named in the lawsuit filed by the survivors of the victims of September 11, who accused the group of supporting al-Qaeda. Further, law enforcement officials in India and the Philippines have also accused WAMY of financing terrorism in their countries. In 2003, Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin [thanked the World Assembly](#) for their continued financial support.

Ali al-Ahmed, a Saudi Arabian commentator who is the executive director of the *Saudi Institute*, said in an interview in March 2004 that WAMY is not only deeply anti-Semitic, but also anti-Shia.

WAMY has a [long history](#) of producing extreme anti-Semitism and anti-Shia publications.

WAMY distributed the booklet *The Difference Between The Shiites and the Majority of Muslim Scholars* in both English and Arabic. The booklet claims that Jews conspired to create division within Islam, and planted the “Jewish ideas” which became Shi’a Islam. The author claims: “The Jewish conspiracy (among others), represented by Abdullah Bin Sabaa, first influenced Muslims who were less knowledgeable about Islam and later on, spread to the rest of the Muslim community.”

Another book: *A Muslim's Relations with Non-Muslims, Enmity or Friendship*, authored in Arabic by Dr. Abdulla Al-Tarekee, is also distributed by WAMY, and claims,

"The unbelievers, idolaters, and others like them must be hated and despised... We must stay away from them and create barriers between us and them." (page 28)

"Qur'an forbade taking Jews and Christians as friends, and that applies to every Jew and Christian, with no consideration as to whether they are at war with Islam or not." (page 37)

Islamic Views is an Arabic language book produced by WAMY and printed by the Saudi Government's Armed Forces Printing Press. Under the heading 'The Prophet asks for Jihad', [Islamic Views states](#):

"The Prophet Mohammad fought against the infidels and the Jews till he triumphed over them and conducted himself about twenty invasions and he sent tens of regiments led by his companions for Jihad...Damn from Allah to the Jews who made graves of their prophets as Masjid."

Noorwali [was involved with the distribution](#) of WAMY's publications.

In an interview with Middle East Newsfile, [Noorwali said](#), "Saudi Arabia's support has been enormous since the establishment of WAMY in 1963. The Kingdom provides us with a supportive environment that allows us to work openly within the society to collect funds and spread activities. It also provides us with protection abroad through Saudi embassies and consulates, in addition to financial support."

Ibrahim El-Zayat

Ibrahim El-Zayat is also listed as a trustee for both Islamic Relief Worldwide and Islamic Relief UK.

Arab journalist Dr. Sami Alrabaa has [claimed](#) that El-Zayat, while head of an extremist Munich-based organization called The Islamic Community of Germany, told a meeting of activists: “It is still premature to strike against the Jews and infidels in this country.”

The German government has also [identified](#) El-Zayat in the past as the European representative of the World Assembly of Muslim Youth (WAMY), the Saudi-funded extremist anti-Semitic group investigated by the US for its links to Bin Laden. An [archived WAMY Arabic language](#) web page also makes the same identification.

Meckenheim police [also link](#) Zayat to *Institut Européen des Sciences Humaines*, a French Islamist college. Several radical clerics are lecturers at the school, which a number of European intelligence agencies have accused of being used to spread religious hatred.

In 1996, in cooperation with WAMY, the *Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe* established a youth branch, the *Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organizations*, of which Zayat was President. The NEFA Foundation and other counter-terrorism organizations [consider](#) this youth forum to be a leading voice of the European Muslim Brotherhood.

In 2002, German federal police launched an investigation of Zayat. A leaked report claimed Zayat transferred more than \$2 million on behalf of WAMY. Zayat sent some of that money, [according to the report](#), to an Albanian charity called *Taibah*. In 2011, *Taibah's* Bosnian branch was designated a terrorist organization by the US government. The report concluded:

“The constellation of accounts, money flows and persons indicate that the accounts in Germany of Ibrahim El-Zayat and Ayman Sayed Ahmed Aly were used for carrying out fundamentalist Islamic activities in Europe.”

In 2011, El-Zayat [shared a platform](#) with the [Holocaust denier Gilad Atzmon](#).

El-Zayat is also the head of the Islamische Gemeinschaft in Deutschland (IGD), a German member organization of the *Federation of Islamic Organisations in Europe*, and [which is listed](#) by the German domestic intelligence agency as a key representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in Germany.

El-Zayat is linked (through a German business called SLM Liegenschaftsmanagement Gesellschaft für Finanzvermittlung und Consulting mbH) to the Islamische Gemeinschaft Milli Görüs (IGMG), a pan-European organisation which the German domestic intelligence agency [claims](#) is responsible for promoting extremist ideas and propagating anti-Semitic conspiracy theories.

Adnan Saif

Adnan Saif is another trustee of Islamic Relief Worldwide. He has been an outspoken supporter of the late Sheikh Abdullah al-Ahmar, who was leader of the Islamist Yemeni *Islah* party. Al-Ahmar was a [vocal supporter](#) of the Lebanese terror group Hezbollah and praised its acts of terror against Israel. Saif claims that Abdulla al-Ahmar was to Yemen what, “Ghandi and Mandela were to their respective countries.”

Ahmar's confidante was Abd al-Majid al-Zindani, the Bin Laden loyalist who, [in 2004, was deemed](#) a Specially Designated Global Terrorist by the United States Government.

Saif was previously the head teacher of the *Scientific Institute* in Birmingham, which, [according to Yemeni writer](#) Nu'man Abd al-Wahid, was one of a large number of Yemeni institutions designed to instill Islamist values. Al-Wahid notes that Al Zindani was the first “guardian” of these Scientific Institute schools.

Promoting Extremism

IRW has, for many years, provided grants to organizations that promote extremism. In 2010, for example, IRW gave tens of thousands of pounds to groups such as the Muslim Welfare House, whose founder Kamal Helbawy is an [outspoken supporter](#) of Bin Laden. Further, IRW has [funded](#) institutions such as the *London Muslim Centre* and the *Islamic Forum of Europe*, both of which regularly [provide a platform](#) for pro-jihadi speakers.

In 2002, an Islamic Relief magazine [boasted of the charity's meeting](#) with Abdul Razak Al-Hashimi, of the *Organization of Friendship, Peace, and Solidarity*. Al-Hashimi was previously Saddam Hussein's spokesman during the first Gulf War. Up until the 2003 invasion, he was a leading Ba'athist official. Iraq under the Ba'ath was a key state supporter of terror. Al-Hashimi and his *Organization of Friendship, Peace and Solidarity* organized and executed a plan to bring hundreds of Western 'human rights activists' to act as human shields at key Iraqi infrastructure (but not at hospitals, schools or other civilian institutions) before the 2003 invasion by coalition troops.

These extremist connections are not just, however, examples of guilt by association; IRW itself regularly provides a platform for hate preachers.

Qadhi and Haddad

In 2010, an Islamic Relief [fundraising event](#) included Yasir Qadhi and Haitham Al-Haddad.

Haddad [describes](#) Jews as "pigs and apes":

“We must reflect on the reality of the conflict between us and the Jews, the enemies of God, and the descendants of apes and pigs. O brothers! The conflict between us and the Jews is religious, historic, civilizational, and infinitely complex; it is not bounded by time or place, and it has more than one dimension. Yes, o brothers, this is the nature of the

conflict ... They are one of the armies of the devil ... Indeed, the devils of mankind are perfectly represented by these Jews.”

Haddad on [domestic violence](#):

“A man should not be questioned why he hit his wife because this is something between them. Leave them alone. They can sort out their matters among themselves. Even the father of the daughter who is married to the man, he should not ask his daughter why you have been beaten or hit by your husband”

Yasir Qadhi is another hate preacher. In 2001, Qadhi [gave a lecture in which he said](#):

"All of these Polish Jews which Hitler was supposedly trying to exterminate, that's another point, by the way, Hitler never intended to mass-destroy the Jews. There are a number of books out on this written by Christians, you should read them. The Hoax of the Holocaust, I advise you to read this book and write this down, the Hoax of the Holocaust, a very good book. All of this is false propaganda and I know it sounds so far-fetched, but read it. The evidences [sic] are very strong. And they're talking about newspaper articles, clippings, everything and look up yourself what Hitler really wanted to do. We're not defending Hitler, by the way, but the Jews, the way that they portray him, also is not correct."

Qadhi has also [denounced](#) Shia Islam as “the most lying sect of Islam” and [said](#) that “the Shias are allowed to lie and it is their religion to lie.”

Yusuf Estes

On 12 September 2009, Islamic Relief [held a](#) fundraising event with Yusuf Estes.

In an article on his website Estes [writes](#): “Scholars of Islam have already made it clear what the position is on those who engage in homosexual activities.”

He linked to a fatwa ruling, which proclaimed:

“In order to maintain the purity of the Muslim society, most Muslim scholars have ruled that the punishment for this act should be the same as for zina (i.e. one hundred whiplashes for the man who has never married, and death by stoning for the married man). Some have even ruled that it should be death for both partners, because the Prophet, sallallahu alayhe wa sallam, said: ‘Kill the doer and the one to whom it was done.’”

Estes further [reprints](#) and endorses an email on his website referring to gay people as “deviants” and “devils”.

When giving a talk about homosexuality and Islam, Estes [stated](#) that homosexuality is “known to be from the Devil”.

Abdur-Raheem Green

In 2012, Islamic Relief held an event with Abdur-Raheem Green, an extremist preacher from the IERA. Green does not attempt to hide his hatred of Jews. In one video, Green [has said](#), “Why don’t you take the Yahudi [Jew] over there, far away, so his stench doesn’t disturb us, okay?”

Green [also claims](#) that Turkish leader Ataturk was “an extremely, thoroughly unpleasant, nasty kafir. He was a Jew, he was a Jew. And not only was he a Jew, he belonged to a sect of the Jews that even the Jews think are far astray.”

He [recommends](#) death to be a “suitable” punishment for adultery and homosexuality:

“Such crimes thus need suitable and effective punishments that act as a sever warning to others. A public crime deserves a public punishment. Adultery is punishable by death, and a slow and painful death by stoning. All of this also goes some way to help understand way acts of homosexuality are similarly treated so harshly.”

According to Green, beating women, in order to “bring them to goodness”, is [permissible](#):

"The husband is allowed, to prevent her from evil, to apply some type of physical force. This is a type of very light beating. In fact, as some scholars mentioned it is to hit with the miswack, but what we know from the prophet is this type of beating is not allowed to leave any type of mark. It is not allowed to break the skin, does not allow to break a bone or even leave a mark on the skin. A beating that is that severe is forbidden and this is a type of assault, and is haram, and a crime in Islam to treat your wife like that. But a type of physical reprimand in order to bring her to goodness is allowed."

Green [has declared](#) that conflict between Islam and the West is "ordered in the Koran", and "dying while fighting jihad is one of the surest ways to paradise and Allah's good pleasure".

He [condemns criticism](#) of the Taliban:

"Supporting the disbelievers against the Muslims is in fact kufr, it is disbelief. This is something that has been clearly stated by Allah (SWT) in the Quran, that to aid the unbelievers against the believers is an act of kufr, of disbelief.

Brothers and sisters you can support the kuffar against the Muslims even by a word...For example, slandering and attacking the Muslims unjustly, such as you find many Muslims have done this about the Taliban. Slandering them and attacking them and reviling them based upon news that has come from the disbelieving media, helping the kuffar against the Muslims."

In 2005, Green gave a speech at UCL, [uncovered by the Daily Telegraph](#), in which he stated that a “permanent state of war exists between the people of Islam and the people who opposed Islam”.

Referring to Bin Laden, he added, “His rational [sic] is ... we are going to keep on

killing your women and children until you stop killing our women and children. How do you argue with that?" Citing the IRA, he added: "The other thing is that it seems that terrorism works. We certainly have precedent." Green initially objected to the Telegraph's report but later withdrew his complaint.

Abdullah Hakim Quick

In 2009, Islamic Relief ran [an event](#) with Abdullah Hakim Quick, an extremist preacher [who has claimed](#) that AIDS is caused by the "filthy practices" of homosexuals and that the Islamic position on homosexuality is "death". Quick has [spoken](#) of the "filth of the Yahood [Jews]"

Al Maghrib Institute

Islamic Relief has run events with the Al Maghrib Institute [on a number of occasions](#). The Al Maghrib Institute is based in Texas but branches in the UK. In [2008](#), the 'underwear' bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attended seminars run in both London and Houston by Al Maghrib.

In June 2013, Islamic Relief, working with Al Maghrib, hosted the [anti-homosexual](#) preacher Omar Suleiman. The US branch of Islamic Relief frequently runs events with Al Maghrib officials, including Hakim Quick and Yasir Qadhi, who express hatred towards Jews and homosexuals (see above).

Islamic Relief has hosted joint fundraisers with Al Maghrib, and IRW chairman Hani El-Banna has [run joint events](#) with Al Maghrib hate preachers such as Yasir Qadhi and Al Maghrib founder Muhammad Alshareef.

Both Qadhi and Alshareef have published CDs of their work. The journalist Adrian Morgan [has noted](#):

These CDs can be found on the web at a site called [Ilmquest](#). Until they were removed, the Ilmquest also sold Audio CDs of notorious

Yemen-based Islamist [Anwar al-Awlaki](#) [the late Al Qaeda terrorist]. In 2007, the site's home page featured 14 "hot specials." Five of these were CD collections by Awlaki. There were eighteen entries on Anwar al-Awlaki's [homepage](#) on the site.

Political Support

Despite being one of the largest and most influential Islamic charities in the World, there has been surprisingly little scrutiny of Islamic Relief Worldwide and its branches. In part, this is due to the legitimacy conferred on IRW by politicians around the World, who are all too eager to endorse such a large charity.

Not only, for example, does the British Government [fund](#) IRW's work, but [cabinet members](#), Deputy Prime Ministers and peers of the realm regularly appear at Islamic Relief fundraising events; all eager to assure the charity of their firm support. Even Britain's Prince Charles, heir to the throne, has [expressed](#) his support and made appearances at IRW events.

In 2009, the British Foreign Office sponsored the charity's 25th Gala dinner. In 2011, Britain's ruling Conservative Party [screened](#) an Islamic Relief fundraising video at its annual conference.

Also in 2011, the Scottish Government provided Islamic Relief with £398,000 of the taxpayers' money, as part of its £9 million International Development Fund. Humza Yousaf, a Scottish National Party member of the Scottish Parliament, is presently the Minister for External Affairs and International Development the International Development Fund. Yousaf was formerly the media spokesperson for Islamic Relief. Further, Alex Salmond, the Scottish leader, attended a ceremony which [honored](#) IRW's head of fundraising.

Between 2007 and 2010, the European Commission [granted](#) Islamic Relief Worldwide a total of €19,507,127.

The current American administration is particularly friendly with Islamic Relief. Islamic Relief USA's [own website notes](#) that:

“In April 2010, Mr. Ayoub was appointed to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA). Along with other leaders in the international development field, Mr. Ayoub provides advice, analysis and recommendations to USAID on the most pressing development issues in the world today. Most recent, Mr. Ayoub was appointed to the U.S. State Department’s Religion and Foreign Policy Working Group, where he will be advising on humanitarian issues.”

In 2011, the website of the White House published an [article](#) which praised the charity’s work and illustrated the close relationship between the Government and Islamic Relief USA. During a speech at the National Prayer Breakfast, President Obama also noted his administration’s support for the charity.

With such widespread and high-level support, it is not surprising that IRW enjoys both the provision of public funds and the political legitimacy that maintains its stellar reputation in the halls of Washington and Westminster.

Stand for Peace believes that the large number of links between IRW and extremist pro-terror groups suggests that under the gloss of a charity with excellent public relations officers lies a structured pro-terror and anti-Western agenda.

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