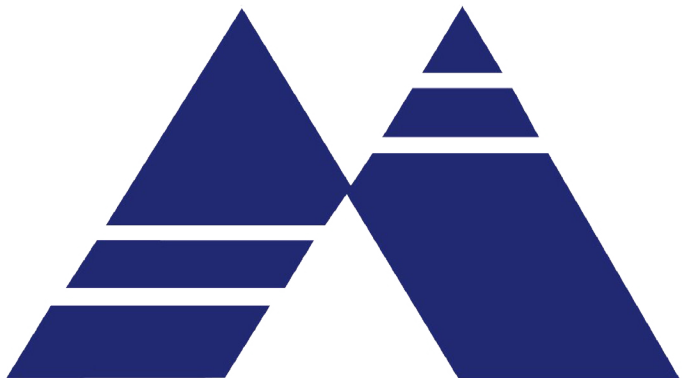


# Islamic Relief



Promoting American Interests

Middle  
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**Islamic Relief** (IR) is a prominent worldwide Muslim charity with dozens of branches, lauded in the United States for its charitable efforts and disaster relief work. However, IR was founded by prominent members of the Muslim Brotherhood, regularly provides platforms to some of the West's most extreme hate preachers, and both the Egyptian and Emirati governments have accused the charity of funding extremism and terror.

### Extremist Links

Across the globe, Islamic Relief branches are led by Islamists with close ties to the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist causes. IR cofounder Essam El Haddad revealed his loyalties openly when he returned to his native Egypt to become senior foreign policy advisor to President Mohamed Morsi, who led Egypt's first Muslim Brotherhood government. Following Morsi's ouster, Egyptian police raided Haddad's apartment and confiscated documents from Islamic Relief Cairo that showed Haddad was managing Islamic Relief's Cairo branch while working for Morsi. Prosecutors alleged that Morsi had used the charity to [launder funds for the Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood](#).

IR-USA was founded by Ahmed Esmat El Bendary, who was [identified](#) by the Egyptian newspaper *El-Watan* as a prominent Brotherhood member, and was previously on the board of trustees of the Muslim American Society (MAS), a Brotherhood front group. Other IR-USA staff have included Omar Shahin, who [preached](#) in 2002: "You will keep on fighting with the Jews until the fight reaches the east of Jordan river then the stones and trees will say: oh Muslim, oh (servant) slaves of Allah, there is a Jew behind me; come and kill him."

A longtime director of IR-Canada, Wael Haddara, previously led IRFAN-Canada, which was [shut down](#) by the Canadian government for transferring nearly \$15 million to the terror group Hamas. Haddara also became an aide to President Morsi in 2012. The director of IR-Sweden, meanwhile, [believes](#) that Jews killed JFK, funded Hitler, and caused the 2007 financial crash. In 2004, IR-UK director Ahmed Al-Rawi signed a [declaration](#) in support of *jihad* against British and American forces in Iraq. And in the Far East and South Asia, one of Islamic Relief's best known officials is Fadlullah Wilmot, who has [served](#) in leadership roles at Islamic Relief branches in Pakistan and Afghanistan and is [now](#) a senior official at Islamic Relief Australia. A [report](#) published by the United States Military Academy identified a book written by Wilmot, titled *Islamic Movement Now*, as a key Islamist text behind the growth of radical Islam in Malaysia. These are just a few examples.

### Terror Financing

Both Israel and the United Arab Emirates have banned Islamic Relief as a terror-financing organization. Despite its links to extremism, Islamic Relief was [appointed](#) by the United Nations to provide \$6 million worth of emergency services in the Gaza Strip and has received tens of millions more from the UK, U.S., Germany, Sweden and the EU. Some of IR's taxpayer-subsidized spending was devoted to programs that support terror. In Gaza, IR has given money to the Al Falah Benevolent Society, which is run by a [senior Hamas official](#); as well as to the Unlimited Friends Association (UFA), which hands out cash to the families of Hamas terrorists.

In addition, IR has received large transfers from a number of terror-linked charitable organizations, such as the "Charitable Society for Social Welfare," which was [founded](#) by the "Bin Laden loyalist" and U.S.-designated terrorist Abdul Majeed Al-Zindani.

IR also has a close relationship with the World Association of Muslim Youth (WAMY), whose office in Washington D.C. was previously [headed](#) by Osama Bin Laden's nephew, Abdullah Bin Laden. WAMY is best known for publishing extremist literature – its booklets include [claims](#) that the Jews have conspired to create division within Islam, and that "the Jews are humanity's enemies: they foment immorality in this world." IR has received a number of grants from WAMY, and several IR Directors have worked for both organizations.

### Hate Preachers

At IR-USA's frequent public events, the main speakers have long histories of promoting extremist views, including justification of wife-beating, marital rape, and honor killings, as well as condemnation of homosexuality as a "disease" and a "repugnant shameless sin." Some speakers have even endorsed the killing of homosexuals.

*See next page for more details.*

### ABDULLAH HAKIM QUICK

A Canadian preacher who was featured in several Islamic Relief online fundraisers, including one in [April 2017](#):

On [homosexuality](#): Quick stated on Australian television in 2003 that “AIDS is caused by the filthy practices of homosexuals,” that “homosexuals are dropping dead from AIDS and they want to take us all down with them,” and that the Islamic penalty for homosexuality is death. He further commented in a speech that was [posted to YouTube](#) in 2016 that homosexuality “goes with Zionism,” and that the army of ad-Dajjal (the Islamic version of the antichrist) would be mostly composed of Jews, and partly composed of homosexuals.



### ZAKIR NAIK

An Indian [extremist televangelist](#) who was scheduled to headline a 2010 conference for IR-Canada; the event was cancelled after the Canadian government [denied him entry](#):

On [terrorism](#): “If [Osama bin Laden] is fighting the enemies of Islam, then I am for him.... Every Muslim should be a terrorist.”



### HAITHAM AL-HADDAD

An [extremist British preacher](#) who spoke at a 2010 [fundraiser](#) for IR-UK. Haddad condemns homosexuality as a “scourge” and advocates female genital mutilation (FGM):

On [terrorism](#): Haddad has stated that prosecuting Muslims for murdering Jews is a ‘betrayal,’ and that Muslims are obligated to hate Jews and avoid dealing with them. Furthermore, he states that “the Jihad was established through stages; [the initial stages are defensive,] and then the final stage is to fight everyone until they establish the law of Allah.”

On [spousal abuse](#): Haddad mocks the idea of “so-called rape against your wife,” and comments that “‘by force’ is an elastic word.” He further states that “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.” He suggests instead that battered wives induce their husbands to be merciful by “cry[ing] in front of him and show[ing] your obedience to him.”



### ZAID SHAKIR

An influential lecturer, board chair of the Islamist institution Zaytuna College, and conspiracy theorist who [frequently speaks](#) at IR-USA events:

On [responsibility for terrorism](#): Shakir has argued that “Zionists” and the FBI were responsible for the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing, and [insisted](#) that there were “glaring weaknesses and inconsistencies in the official narrative” of the 9/11 attacks. He has also [claimed](#) that the [jihadist](#) Luqman Ameen Abdullah, who died after attempting to shoot FBI agents, was the victim of a “self-serving racist agenda.”

On [Islamist supremacy](#): “The legal and political system of America [is] sinful and constitutes open rebellion against Allah.... Islam presents an absolutist political agenda, or one which doesn’t lend itself to compromise.”

On [political tyranny](#): Allah sometimes uses oppressive regimes to punish the people for their wickedness, “based on what they themselves have earned.”



### ABDUL NASIR JANGDA

A Deobandi extremist preacher who spoke at 2016 Islamic Relief Fundraisers in [Austin, TX](#) and [New York](#):

On [sexual consent in marriage](#): “The thing to understand is that the husband has his set of divinely given rights, one of which is the right to have his physical desires satisfied.”



### YASIR QADHI

An influential U.S. cleric who was featured in the same 2010 IR-UK [event](#) as Haitham Al-Haddad, and in an [April 2017 event](#) in Orlando, FL:

On [the Holocaust](#): “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...” (Stated in 2001. Qadhi [retracted his statement](#) in 2008 and claimed to renounce his anti-Semitism, but nevertheless endorsed notorious Holocaust denier David Irving.)

On [Shia Islam](#): Shia Islam is “the most lying sect of Islam.... Shias are allowed to lie and it is their religion to lie.”



### OMAR SULEIMAN

A prominent preacher hosted by IR-USA, IR-Canada, and IR-UK on [several occasions](#):

On [homosexuality](#): Omar Suleiman has been condemned by moderate Muslim activists for describing homosexuality as a “disease” and a “repugnant shameless sin.” He refers to the Islamic death penalty for the “people that practiced sodomy.”

On [family relations](#): In a talk titled “Fighting Zina,” Suleiman claims that women who are too close with their brothers are likely to commit incest. Women, he declares, should never be alone with a man outside of her family. Further, he warns, without condemnation, that women who commit adultery risk being killed by a family member.



### NOUMAN ALI KHAN

A prominent Texas-based cleric, [named](#) as one of the 500 most influential Muslims worldwide, who is due to speak at an IR [event](#) in Toronto:

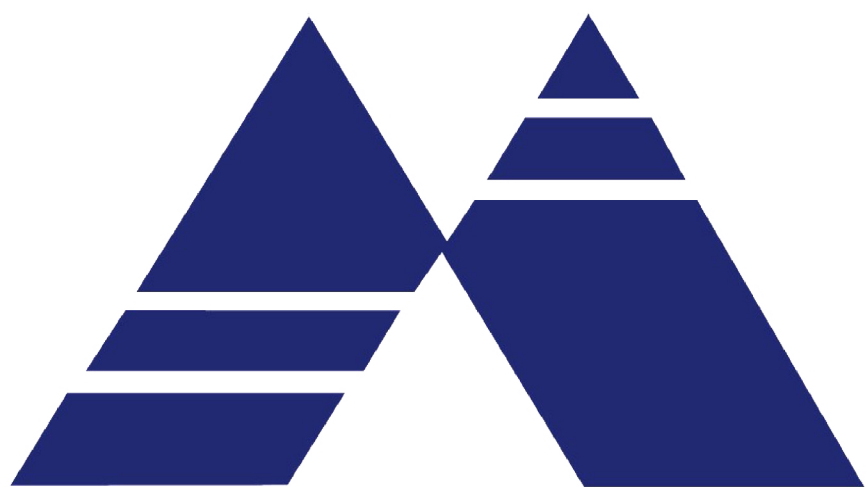
On [spousal abuse](#): “Here are good women and here are women that have an uprising, which means they do the opposite of what good women do. Good women are subservient to Allah. This woman has now started defying Allah. Good women are loyal to their husbands.... He sees her with another man, something crazy. And he sees this and he loses his mind and what does he do? He hits her. By the way let’s take Muslim out of this. Some dude, not even married, with his girlfriend, he sees another man. What’d you do?! Is that a natural reaction? A girl would do it; a guy would do it. You snap.... Allah says, ‘I’m giving you license in that crazy case. I’ll let you get away with that one.’”

On [pornography and sex workers](#): “How many kinds of disgusting crimes are committed in the United States even against children? And violent sexual crimes? How many are reported every other minute? These are things that happen when you get exposed to this kind of filth over and over again, and it becomes normalized. You know? So the Quran steps in and says ‘No, if someone does this in public, then you have to punish them.’ And now let’s talk about this punishment. They’re not killed; they’re whipped. And they’re whipped a hundred times.”

On [homosexuality](#): “What’s happening in the United States is the scariest thing. ... Now counselors are being told that if a young person comes to you and says ‘I think I’m homosexual’ that you’re not supposed to tell them, ‘There may be something wrong with that.’ You’re not allowed.... [Y]ou have to say... ‘You should be able to do what you want.’ I would argue, really? You should be able to do what you want? And people have feelings all the time. I feel like slapping people all the time, you know.”



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