

Key words

Charity: the voluntary giving of help to those in need

Short term aid: Providing emergency aid/support straight after a disaster, such as a tsunami or earthquake

Long term aid: A continuous programme of support, which aims to improve standards of living. E.g. education

How can we help people in need?



- ✓ donating money to charity
- ✓ Providing emotional support
- ✓ Support their cause through campaigns
- ✓ Donating to foodbanks
- ✓ Teaching people basic life skills
- ✓ Providing shelter for the homeless

Why do religious people help those in need?



- ✓ It is their religious duty
- ✓ For a better afterlife
- ✓ To put their faith in to action
- ✓ What an important person in their faith taught them to do

Christian beliefs about charity

Key quotes:

“Love thy neighbour”

“Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead” James 2:17 NIV

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat”

Agape: Selfless, sacrificial and unconditional love



Christian Aid

What do they do?



Provide short term and long term aid to people of all faiths who are in need

Why do they do it?

They believe it is their Christian duty to look after those in need. Jesus also taught the importance of treating others as you wish to be treated.

Sikhism and Charity



Langar: A communal free kitchen/free vegetarian meal

Sewa: Selfless service

Key quotes:

“The Langar - the kitchen of the Guru’s shabad has been opened, and its supplies never run short.” *Guru Granth Sahib*

“One who performs selfless service, without thought of reward, shall attain his Lord and Master.” *Guru Granth Sahib*

“Through selfless service, eternal peace is obtained.” *Guru Granth Sahib*



Why is charity important for Sikhs?

Sikhs believe it is their duty to serve God through helping people in need

They can do this by performing sewa (selfless service)

Sewa can be split in to three sections:

- ✓ Tan – physical service (e.g. cleaning the Gurdwara)
- ✓ Man – mental service (e.g. teaching others)
- ✓ Dhan – material service (e.g. giving money to charity).

Islam and charity



Zakat: A payment made annually under Islamic law. 2.5% of their savings are given to charity.

Khums: Means ‘fifth’. When Shi’a Muslims give 20% of their savings. Half goes to Shi’a religious leaders and the other half is given to charity or the poor.

Sadaqah: Voluntary giving of money and time to charity at any point of the year.



Why is charity important for Muslims?

- ✓ Zakat is one of the Five Pillars of Islam and therefore it is an obligation for Muslim’s to donate 2.5% of their savings to charity if they are able to
- ✓ They see wealth as a loan from Allah and therefore they need to ensure they help those in need
- ✓ Muslims can also perform sadaqah at any point of the year

What is the difference between Zakat and Khums?

Zakat	Khums
Given by both Sunni and Shia Muslims	Given only by Shia Muslims
2.5% of a Muslims savings	20% of a Muslims savings
One of the Five Pillars of Islam	One of the Ten Obligatory Acts for Shia Muslims
Sign of a true Muslim following the Five Pillars of Islam	10% is donated to charity, the other 10% goes to the Imams (religious leaders)