



Certificate of Zakat Eligibility & Compliance Issued: May 25, 2017

Executive Summary

The Islamic Institute of Boston was asked by Poligon Educational Fund (Poligon) to review the latter's status for Zakat eligibility in compliance with the principles and norms of the Islamic ethical-legal system ("Sharī'a"). In response to this request, we formed an ethical review board ("Sharī'ah Board" or "Board") and reviewed the Organization in detail. Poligon Education Fund (Poligon) is a national, non-partisan 501(c)3 organization dedicated to increasing American Muslim participation on Capitol Hill. Guided by values of peace, justice, and pluralism, they seek to unite Muslim and progressive voices to educate policymakers and make meaningful progress on pressing matters such as civil rights, Islamophobia, and the economy. Poligon is an organization guided by Islamic values for the sustainable betterment of the Muslim community. Thus, we opine that is not only permissible to give zakat to Poligon but we recommend and insist we must support these institutions to the best of our ability and be their greatest advocates.

Methodology

The categories of recipients of zakat are stated in the following verse: "Charities are (meant) only for the poor and the needy, and those who are charged with collecting them, and those whose hearts are to be won over, and for the freeing of human beings from bondage, and (for) those who are overburdened with debts, **and (for those who strive) in Allah's cause (fi sabilillah)**, and (for) the way-farer: (this is) an ordinance from Allah—and Allah is All-Knowing and All-Wise" (At-Tawbah: 60).

We confirm just as other notable Muslim scholars have stated, that Zakat is payable to organizations that exist to serve the Muslim community by protecting their rights. This is because the work done by Poligon (and other such organizations) can be classified as **fi-sabilillah**, which is one of the eight categories of Zakat recipients detailed in the Quran (Chapter 9, Verse 60). Supporting such institutions clearly falls under the legitimate objectives of zakat as expounded by authentic scholars and jurists of Islam, both of the past and the present.

A principle of jurisprudence states: if a thing which has been considered as obligatory cannot be fulfilled without fulfilling another, then fulfilling the latter also becomes obligatory. Thus since protecting the rights of Muslims and empowering Muslims cannot be achieved without such institutions, it is imperative that Muslims support and maintain such institutions.



Findings and Conclusions

Based on our review, we opine that it is permissible (halāl) to give Zakat to Poligon. We look forward to working with Poligon to periodically review and audit the implementation of Zakat Eligibility and assist with its efforts to continuously maintain its Shari`a compliance. May Allah be pleased with their efforts and guide Muslims across the country to give generously towards a common goal and expand their hearts to embrace the vision of Poligon and give unwavering support to this institution.

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Imam Safwan Eid

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