



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ وَسَلِّمْ وَبَارِكْ عَلَى سَيِّدِنَا مُحَمَّدٍ وَعَلَى آلِهِ وَصَحْبِهِ أَجْمَعِينَ

*O believers stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even as against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest you swerve, and if you distort (justice) or decline to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that you do. –
Quran 4:135*

Risalah Foundation established Masjid Vaughan in 2018 in collaboration with the community. The Foundation is governed by principles of transparency, inclusion, goodwill, tolerance, positive dialogue, and civic engagement.

Recently, the Directors of the Foundation have received questions regarding misconduct and financial disclosures. In fulfillment of the tremendous trust before Allah, to His house and the believers, we are obliged to answer questions and concerns that impact our communities in a way that is faithful to our Islamic values of fairness, justice and compassion.

Firstly, there has been no misconduct, alleged or otherwise, by our Resident Scholar (Imam Ramzy Ajem), Managing Director (Mubeen Alam), or any of the Foundation's staff, instructors, committees, or volunteers. However, allegations of misconduct occurring overseas have been directed towards a scholar, who has no formal association with Risalah Foundation or Masjid Vaughan.

Risalah Foundation has zero-tolerance for misconduct, intimidation, abuse of any kind or defamation. The Board, Resident Scholar, Managing Director, and advisory committees condemn, in no uncertain terms, any and all illegal activity or actions that are prohibited in Islam, irrespective of the individual. We adhere to the principles of due process in verifying allegations prior to making judgements, thereby ensuring the dignity and respect of all parties.

In our on-going commitment to improving the board's internal oversight, a confidential and anonymous process for reporting misconduct by any personnel, will be made available. Risalah Foundation supports and stands firmly with all victims of abuse.

Victims of abuse and/or individuals seeking therapeutic counseling are encouraged to visit Khalil Centre Canada (www.khalilcenter.ca) or reach out to the Naseeha Hotline (www.naseeha.org) to speak to a registered therapist and/or counsellor.

Secondly, as a registered charity since 2018, Risalah Foundation recently completed its first audited financial statements. The process had commenced in April of this year. These statements are available online in the FAQ section of our website. Any inquiries about the statements can be directed to contact@risalah.ca.

Risalah Foundation values your feedback to learn how to serve you better, and continue making our spaces safe and welcoming. We are deeply grateful for your ongoing confidence and trust.

Sincerely,

Omair Syed

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Risalah Foundation

October 10, 2019