# HAVE WE CREATED A SOCIETY OF BEGGARS?

Islam encourages charity & generosity, but at the same time strongly discourages begging. Nabi ﷺ said, *"Whoever is afflicted by poverty and turns to people, his poverty will never end, but whoever is afflicted by poverty and turns to Allah, Allah will provide for him immediately or after some time."* (Abu Dawud)

Many communities across South Africa are facing an increasing epidemic of beggars. Hardly do you pass an intersection except with more & more individuals begging. While some beggars turn away with a shake of the head, others will persist to the point of harassment. There are instances of individuals being robbed of their valuables when opening their window to give charity.

Nabi ﷺ said, *"Begging is not permitted for those able to earn. It is only permitted for those in extreme poverty."* (Sunan Tirmidhi)

Islam as a religion is about uplifting and empowering people. There are numerous organizations which discharge charity to people who are in real need and also empower individuals to become self sufficient. We need to consider the manner in which we discharge our charity and whether it is helping to empower people or increasing beggars in our society.