How do I become a donor?
If you decide you would like to become a donor on your death, you need to join the NHS Organ Donor Register to ensure your wishes are recorded. Discuss your decision with those closest to you so that they are aware of your wishes. Adding your name to the register is simple and quick.

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The medical profession is the proper place to seek medical help, even if this means prolonging life beyond what is acceptable. Mufid Ahmad, M.D.

Islam and organ donation

In Islam there are two schools of thought with regard to organ donation. The human body, whether living or dead, enjoys a special honour and is inviolable, and fundamentally, Islamic law emphasises the preservation of human life. The general rule that ‘neglecting the prohibited’ (al-darurat tubih al-mahzurah) has been used to support human organ donation with regard to saving or significantly enhancing a life of another person, since the benefits of the personal cost that has to be borne. The following are some verses which have been used to support organ donation:

"Whoever saves a life, it would be as if he saved the life of all mankind." Holy Qur'an, chapter 5, vs. 32

"Whoever helps another will be granted help from Allah." Prophet Muhammad (pbuh)

"If you happened to be ill and in need of a transplant, you certainly would wish that someone would help you by providing the needed organ." Sheikh Dr MA Zaki Badawi, Principal, Muslim College, London

An alternative view clearly states that:

"The saving of life is not absolute, but subject to the amount of cost. Scholars, such as the Islamic Fiqh Academy of India, allow live donations only." Multi Mohammed Zubair Butt, Muslim Council of Britain

Therefore it is very clear that in Islam:

"Organ donation is a very personal choice and one should consider seeking the opinion of a scholar of their choosing." Multi Mohammed Zubair Butt, Muslim Council of Britain

That said, one of the fundamental purposes of Islamic law is the preservation of life. Allah gather those who use the life of others. To help in this matter the reader’s attention is drawn to the following life-saving fatwa:

In 1995, the UK-based Muslim Law (Sharia) Council resolved that:

• the medical profession is the proper authority to define signs of death
• current medical knowledge considers brain stem death to be a proper definition of death
• the Council accepts brain stem death as constituting the end of life for the purpose of organ transplantation
• the Council supports organ transplantation as a means of alleviating pain or saving life and is consistent with the rules of the Sharia
• Muslims may carry donor cards
• the next of kin of a dead person, in the absence of a donor card or an expressed wish to donate their organs, may give permission to obtain organs from the body to save other people’s lives
• organ donation must be given freely without reward, trading in organs is prohibited
• this is supported by Muslim scholars from some of the most prestigious academies of the Muslim world who call upon Muslims to donate organs for transplantation. These include:
  • the Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organisation of Islamic Conference representing all Muslim countries
  • the Grand Ulema Council of Saudi Arabia
  • the Iranian Religious Authority
  • the Al-Azhar University of Egypt