# Legal Framework for Homeless Children in Saudi Arabia

## Ibrahim Wanni Tohyala, Hayat Mohilan A AlAnazi, Abdelrahman Abdelhamid Mohammed Hassanein

Department of Fiqh, Faculty of Islamic Sciences, Al-Madinah International University, Pusat Perdagangan Salak, Taman Desa Petaling, 57100, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Corresponding Author Email: ibrahim.tohyala@mediu.edu.my

**Abstract**
This study provides a comprehensive analysis of the legal framework governing homeless children in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It explores the laws and regulations designed to safeguard this vulnerable demographic, evaluates preventive measures against child homelessness, and assesses the legal consequences for violations of children's rights. Employing a multidisciplinary methodology—including descriptive-analytical, legal, and comparative approaches—the research highlights the necessity of collaborative efforts between governmental and non-governmental institutions. Findings indicate that existing initiatives have significantly reduced the prevalence of child homelessness. The study concludes with actionable recommendations to strengthen child protection policies, enhance support programs, and ensure a secure environment that upholds the fundamental rights of homeless children in Saudi Arabia. Additionally, the researcher proposes the Saudi model as a potential benchmark for other nations grappling with similar challenges.
**Keywords**: Children, Homelessness, Legal System, Child Protection, Children's Rights

**Introduction**
Homelessness is a global concern that affects vulnerable populations across both developed and developing nations. Among the most at-risk groups are children, who often lack adequate shelter, access to education, and basic healthcare. The consequences of child homelessness extend beyond physical deprivation, encompassing psychological trauma, social marginalization, and long-term challenges in human capital development (UNICEF, 2021). In the context of the Middle East, and specifically Saudi Arabia, homelessness among children raises significant legal, social, and policy questions that necessitate critical examination.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undergone rapid economic and social transformation over the past few decades. Despite these advancements, child welfare remains a key area of legal and policy debate. Homeless children in Saudi Arabia face multifaceted challenges, including

limited access to social services, vulnerability to exploitation, and marginalization within a society deeply rooted in cultural and religious norms (Al-Qahtani, 2019). Addressing these issues requires a robust legal framework that aligns with both international human rights obligations and local sociocultural dynamics.

International conventions such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) emphasize the right of every child to adequate shelter, protection, and care (United Nations, 1989). Saudi Arabia, as a signatory to the CRC, has made legal commitments to safeguard these rights. However, gaps remain in translating these commitments into effective domestic policies and laws that directly address the phenomenon of child homelessness (Al-Harbi, 2020). This raises important questions about the extent to which international standards have been localized within the Saudi legal system.

The legal framework for homeless children in Saudi Arabia is shaped by a blend of Islamic law (Sharia), statutory legislation, and public policy initiatives. Sharia provides the moral and legal foundation for protecting vulnerable groups, including orphans and children without guardianship (Ibn Manzur, 2017). Nevertheless, modern challenges such as urbanization, migration, and family disintegration have complicated the traditional mechanisms of child welfare. Consequently, there is a pressing need to examine how the Saudi legal system addresses these new realities in a rapidly changing society.

Moreover, the issue of homeless children intersects with broader social determinants, such as poverty, unemployment, and family breakdown. These factors often contribute to children becoming displaced or abandoned, making legal intervention a necessity rather than an option (Al-Zahrani, 2018). Without adequate legislative protection, homeless children may face heightened risks of exploitation, including child labor and human trafficking. Thus, the legal framework must not only provide immediate shelter and care but also offer long-term safeguards against systemic vulnerabilities.

Existing studies on homelessness in Saudi Arabia remain limited, with most research focusing on poverty, education, or social welfare at a general level rather than on homeless children as a distinct category (Khan, 2020). This gap highlights the importance of targeted academic inquiry into how legal systems can address the unique challenges faced by this group. Examining the legal dimensions of homelessness among children provides insight into both the strengths and limitations of current policies, as well as opportunities for reform.

Another dimension to consider is the role of governmental and non-governmental institutions in supporting homeless children. The Saudi Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, alongside charitable organizations, plays a central role in providing shelter and rehabilitation services (Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, 2022). However, questions persist regarding the adequacy, accessibility, and sustainability of these services. An effective legal framework must therefore integrate institutional capacities with legal mandates to ensure a holistic approach to child welfare.

Thus, this study aims to explore the legal framework for homeless children in Saudi Arabia by analyzing statutory provisions, Sharia-based principles, and international obligations. It will assess the extent to which existing legal mechanisms protect homeless

children, identify gaps in policy and practice, and propose recommendations for strengthening child welfare protections. By situating Saudi Arabia within the global discourse on children's rights, this research contributes to both national policy development and international legal scholarship on child protection.

**Literature Review**

The issue of child homelessness has received considerable scholarly attention across various disciplines, ranging from sociology to law and Islamic jurisprudence. A recurring theme in this body of research is the interaction between family dynamics, social structures, and legal frameworks in shaping the lived realities of homeless children. Studies conducted in different Arab contexts shed light on the multifaceted nature of the phenomenon, offering insights into its causes, consequences, and potential solutions. This section critically reviews relevant literature with a view to situating the present study on the legal framework for homeless children in Saudi Arabia.

A 2014 study by Dr. Ibn Issa Al-Hawari from the University of Oran, *Family Conflict and Its Relationship to Child Homelessness*, examined the extent to which family environments contribute to child homelessness (Al-Hawari, 2014). The research utilized a 30-item questionnaire, structured into five sub-dimensions, to measure family conflict. This methodological approach enabled a nuanced exploration of the ways in which disputes within the household, particularly those relating to cohesion and communication, exacerbate children's vulnerability to homelessness. The study's reliance on empirical data distinguishes it from jurisprudential analyses, as it prioritizes the psychosocial dimensions of family instability.

One of the critical findings in Al-Hawari's research is the discrepancy between parents' and children's perceptions of family conflict. While parents often minimized or failed to acknowledge dysfunction, children reported significant distress and lack of cohesion within the family unit (Al-Hawari, 2014). This perception gap underscores the need for interventions that address not only the structural causes of homelessness but also the subjective experiences of affected children. By highlighting these discrepancies, the study contributes to understanding how misaligned family perceptions contribute to the persistence of child homelessness.

To address these challenges, Al-Hawari (2014) recommended enhancing public awareness of family cohesion and conflict management through media campaigns. Such recommendations emphasize the role of preventive strategies in mitigating the risk of homelessness. This contrasts with studies that prioritize legal remedies, highlighting instead the value of social interventions and awareness-raising as proactive measures. While Al-Hawari's work does not delve into Sharia or statutory frameworks, its emphasis on familial dynamics offers a complementary perspective to legal studies that focus primarily on rights and protections.

In a different but related context, Dr. Ghada Mohamed Abdel Rahim Mohamed (2013) from Misr University authored *Child Provisions: A Jurisprudential Study Comparing the Child Law in the Arab Republic of Egypt*. This work examines children's rights through the lens of Islamic jurisprudence and Egyptian legislation. It covers a range of issues, including

breastfeeding, custody, and testimony, while also analyzing juristic debates concerning the age of discernment and breastfeeding duration (Mohamed, 2013). By situating these provisions within a comparative framework, the study illuminates both the consistencies and divergences between Sharia rulings and modern child law in Egypt.

Although Dr. Ghada's study does not specifically target homeless children, it provides important insights into the broader jurisprudential principles underpinning child welfare in Muslim societies. For example, the analysis of custody laws reveals how Sharia prioritizes the best interests of the child, a principle that resonates with international human rights standards (Mohamed, 2013). The research also underscores how contemporary legal systems adapt classical rulings to address modern realities, reflecting the dynamic interplay between tradition and legislation.

The significance of Ghada's research for the present study lies in its methodological framework. Both her study and this research adopt a comparative approach, juxtaposing Islamic jurisprudence with national legal systems. However, while Ghada focuses on Egyptian legislation and a broad range of children's rights, the current study narrows its scope to homeless children and their legal protections in Saudi Arabia. This narrower focus allows for a more detailed examination of how Sharia and statutory frameworks converge or diverge in safeguarding a particularly vulnerable group.

Similarly, Dr. Madani Hajira Nashida from the University of Algiers completed a doctoral dissertation in 2012 titled *Children's Rights between Sharia and Law*. This work provides a wide-ranging analysis of children's rights from multiple perspectives, including financial entitlements, nationality, identity, and personal freedoms (Nashida, 2012). Drawing upon both Roman law and Anglo-Saxon traditions, the study situates Islamic jurisprudence within a broader comparative legal discourse. This eclectic framework underscores the universality of child rights while acknowledging contextual differences in implementation.

Nashida (2012) also explores complex juristic debates such as the moment when the soul enters the fetus, fetal property rights, and guardianship after birth. These discussions reveal the depth of Islamic jurisprudence in addressing even the earliest stages of human life. The dissertation further examines how Algerian law codifies children's rights to care, maintenance, inheritance, and identity, demonstrating the interaction between Sharia and positive law in shaping national child welfare policies.

While Nashida's study is broader in scope, covering multiple life stages and aspects of children's rights, it provides an essential backdrop for understanding the specific legal protections afforded to homeless children. By highlighting how Sharia has historically safeguarded vulnerable groups, the dissertation reinforces the argument that Islamic jurisprudence contains the foundations for comprehensive child protection frameworks (Nashida, 2012). However, unlike the present research, Nashida does not focus exclusively on homeless children or Saudi Arabia's legal system, making her findings complementary rather *The Phenomenon of Street Children and Its Impact on Society*, examines the sociological dimensions of child homelessness. This study emphasizes that many street children lack the maturity and support systems necessary to navigate life independently, leaving them exposed to constant dangers such as exploitation, abuse, and delinquency (Mokhtaria, 2012). Unlike

jurisprudential studies, this research situates homelessness within broader societal and psychological frameworks.

Mokhtaria (2012) identifies early family abandonment and the absence of emotional care as critical drivers of child homelessness. These findings resonate with Al-Hawari's (2014) observations on family conflict, suggesting that the roots of child homelessness often lie in familial breakdown. However, Mokhtaria extends the discussion by linking these personal experiences to broader social consequences, such as increased crime rates and the weakening of social cohesion. Her study, therefore, highlights the dual impact of child homelessness on both individuals and society.

The distinction between Mokhtaria's work and the present research lies primarily in disciplinary focus. Whereas Mokhtaria emphasizes social causes and behavioral consequences, the current study addresses legal and Sharia provisions specific to homeless children in Saudi Arabia. Nevertheless, the two perspectives are complementary: a robust legal framework must consider not only statutory rights but also the social realities that shape children's experiences. By integrating legal, religious, and sociological perspectives, scholars can arrive at a more holistic understanding of the issue.

Taken together, these studies underscore the complexity of child homelessness as both a legal and social phenomenon. Al-Hawari (2014) highlights family conflict as a driver of homelessness, while Ghada (2013) and Nashida (2012) provide insights into the jurisprudential underpinnings of children's rights across different Arab contexts. Mokhtaria (2012), on the other hand, situates homelessness within a sociological framework, emphasizing its impact on both children and society. Each of these contributions enriches the discourse by offering distinct yet interconnected perspectives.

The present study builds upon this body of literature by focusing specifically on Saudi Arabia and examining how Islamic jurisprudence and national legislation intersect in protecting homeless children. By narrowing the scope to this particular group, the study seeks to address a gap in the literature, which has tended to either generalize about children's rights or emphasize sociological aspects without fully engaging with legal frameworks. In doing so, it contributes to both the academic debate and practical policy discussions on child welfare in the region.

**Methodology**
- The inductive approach: This involves tracing all aspects of the literature on the subject, until the researcher arrives at a comprehensive understanding of the topic and traces the roots of the phenomenon of homelessness, both locally and internationally.
- The analytical approach: This approach relies on collecting and analyzing legal data on homeless children in the Saudi system, along with a study of legal texts and practices.

*Legal Provisions for Protecting Children from Homelessness*
Homelessness is a serious social issue that endangers children, jeopardizing their safety and hindering their psychological and social development. In the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the government prioritizes safeguarding children from homelessness through a comprehensive legal framework and the dedicated efforts of specialized institutions. This section examines

the legal provisions for child protection, focusing on Saudi Arabia's legislative measures and the role of relevant authorities in preventing homelessness and ensuring children's rights. It also reviews the laws, regulations, and initiatives undertaken by governmental and non-governmental organizations to combat this issue. (Al sheikh, 2011, p.123)

*The Legal Framework for Protecting Children from Homelessness in Saudi Arabia*
The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has established a robust legal framework to protect children from homelessness, ensuring their rights through a series of laws and regulations. Key among these is the Child Protection Law, issued under Royal Decree No. M/14 (3/2/1436 AH), along with its implementing regulations and the roles of various government and civil entities.

*The Child Protection Law*
The Child Protection Law is a cornerstone of child welfare in Saudi Arabia, defining children's rights and outlining protective measures against homelessness and abuse. Key provisions include:
Article 1: Defines a child and their fundamental rights.
Article 3: Specifies procedures for protecting children from homelessness.
Article 5: Outlines the responsibilities of relevant authorities in child protection.

*Implementing Regulations of the Child Protection Law*
The law's executive regulations further detail protective measures, particularly concerning shelter and care. Notable articles include:
Article 10: Procedures for providing shelter to at-risk children.
Article 12: Roles of competent authorities in ensuring child welfare.

-The Role of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development
The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development plays a pivotal role in child protection by:
Offering social and psychological support to vulnerable children.
Providing temporary or permanent shelter for homeless children.
Facilitating the reintegration of children into their families when possible.

*The Role of Other Key Entities*
Several other institutions contribute to safeguarding children from homelessness, including:
- Ministry of Interior: Enforces laws against child abuse and neglect.
- Ministry of Education: Ensures access to education and raises awareness about children's rights.
- Charitable Organizations: Provide additional support, care, and rehabilitation services.

This multi-faceted approach reflects Saudi Arabia's commitment to protecting children from homelessness through legal, social, and institutional measures.

*The Role of Authorities in Child Protection and Homelessness Prevention*
Safeguarding children from homelessness is a shared responsibility that demands coordinated efforts among multiple government and non-governmental entities. This section examines the operational mechanisms of key authorities in implementing protective measures, offering support, and preventing child homelessness. (Al-Sudhan & Al Nasiir, 2019 )
- Operational Framework of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development

The Ministry plays a central role in child protection through:
- Interagency Coordination: Collaborating with entities like the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Education to implement comprehensive child protection strategies.
- Financial Assistance Programs: Providing targeted financial aid to vulnerable families to ensure children's basic needs are met and prevent family disintegration.

- Contributions of Charitable Organizations
Non-profit organizations complement government efforts by delivering critical support services:
- Material Support: Distributing essential provisions such as food, clothing, and shelter to at-risk children.
- Psychosocial Services: Offering counseling and rehabilitation programs to address the emotional and social needs of affected children.

- Rapid Response Systems Through Child Protection Committees
Specialized subcommittees enhance protection through immediate intervention:
- Emergency Case Management: Promptly addressing reports of endangered children through verified protection protocols.
- Multi-Agency Collaboration: Working with law enforcement (Ministry of Interior) and social services (Ministry of Human Resources) to secure children's safety and long-term welfare.

*Reporting and Monitoring Mechanisms to Monitor Cases of Children at Risk of Homelessness*
These systems act as the frontline for early intervention, helping to address vulnerable situations before they worsen. By coordinating efforts among various authorities, these mechanisms track early signs of homelessness and ensure timely support reaches children and their families. This approach is part of the Kingdom's broader commitment to creating a safe, stable environment that safeguards childhood and upholds children's rights throughout their development. The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, along with other relevant bodies, has worked to establish an integrated reporting and monitoring network. Its goal is to identify children who may be at risk of homelessness and respond quickly with specialized protection teams and regional subcommittees. These teams collaborate closely with schools, healthcare centers, security agencies, and charitable organizations across the country.

Key elements of this system include (Al-Sheikh & Al-Zahrani, 2019)
- A unified hotline, 1919, dedicated to receiving reports of child abuse or neglect .
- Empowering schools, health facilities, and charities to report any suspicious cases .
- Regional child protection subcommittees that follow up on reports and monitor situations on the ground.   These committees investigate cases thoroughly, conduct home visits when needed, and coordinate with authorities in security, education, and health sectors. They also prepare regular reports to ensure ongoing care and support for the children involved. Through these reporting and monitoring tools, Saudi Arabia aims to provide a responsive safety net that protects vulnerable children and helps prevent homelessness.

*Preventive Measures Against Child Homelessness in Saudi Arabia*
Child homelessness represents one of the most pressing social challenges of our time, threatening family cohesion, societal stability, and individual well-being. The phenomenon carries profound psychological, behavioral, and economic consequences, particularly for vulnerable children at risk of exploitation. Recognizing these dangers, Saudi Arabia has implemented a robust preventive framework combining legal safeguards, early intervention strategies, and continuous monitoring systems to ensure children's right to safe development. The Kingdom's comprehensive approach integrates Islamic principles with international standards, establishing protective measures at both familial and societal levels. This section examines Saudi Arabia's pioneering preventive strategies, focusing on early intervention programs and monitoring mechanisms designed to address root causes of homelessness - whether economic, familial, educational, or psychological.

*Early Prevention Programs*
Early prevention programs are vital in shielding children from the risk of homelessness. (Al-Sheikh, 2011, p.150) They offer crucial support to families and children, making sure basic needs are met while also educating communities about children's rights and the dangers of homelessness. By focusing on prevention, these initiatives help create a safe and stable environment where children can thrive. These programs work to stop homelessness before it starts, protecting children from the challenges and vulnerabilities that come with it. They also provide families facing difficulties with financial and social assistance, helping to secure the essentials children need.

Types of Early Prevention Effort
 - Awareness Programs: Designed to educate families and communities about children's rights and homelessness, these programs offer practical information on how to prevent children from becoming homeless .
 - Family Support Programs: These initiatives deliver direct financial and social aid to families in need, ensuring children's basic needs are consistently met.

*Monitoring and Follow-up Mechanisms*
Monitoring and follow-up mechanisms play an important role in identifying cases at risk of homelessness and quickly intervening to address them before they escalate. (Al-Otaibi, 2017, p.220) These mechanisms aim to provide support and assistance to families and children, ensuring that children's basic needs are met and raising awareness about children's rights and homelessness. Through these mechanisms, we can work to protect children from the risks they may be exposed to and ensure a safe and stable environment for them.

The Importance of Monitoring and Follow-up Mechanisms
• Monitoring and follow-up mechanisms aim to identify cases at risk of homelessness and quickly intervene to address them before they escalate.
• These mechanisms work to provide support and assistance to ensure that children's basic needs are met.

Types of Monitoring and Follow-up Mechanisms
- Monitoring System: The monitoring system collects data on cases of children at risk, enabling the necessary action to be taken.

- Follow-up Mechanism: Child Protection Subcommittees monitor cases of children at risk and ensure the implementation of necessary preventive and remedial measures.

*The Role of Community and Family Awareness in Preventing Child Homelessness*
Community and family awareness serve as critical pillars in preventing child homelessness by fostering protective environments and early intervention systems. (Al-Qahtani, 2020, p.110) The family unit functions as the primary foundation for a child's social and psychological development, while community initiatives amplify protective measures through education and institutional support.

- The Role of the Family in Prevention

The family serves as the fundamental source of social and psychological stability for a child, offering a secure environment conducive to healthy growth. (Al-Sheikh,2011, p.130) Through attentive care and nurturing, the family supports the development of the child's personality and helps shield them from harmful behaviors. When families face economic or social challenges, it becomes essential for relevant authorities to step in and provide necessary support and assistance.

- The Role of Community Awareness

Community awareness aims to disseminate knowledge about children's rights and educate the public on recognizing risks that could threaten children's wellbeing or lead to homelessness. Government bodies, such as the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development, play a vital role in implementing awareness programs designed to reduce homelessness. Additionally, the media significantly contributes by launching educational campaigns that inform families and communities about ways to protect children.

- Community and Educational Programs

Numerous programs are actively carried out within schools, mosques, and charitable organizations to inform and educate the community about preventing homelessness. Equally important are family-centered initiatives that focus on training parents in effective parenting skills, enabling them to better protect their children from risks associated with homelessness.

- Cooperation Between Government and Civil Society

Efforts are increasingly collaborative, with government agencies partnering with charitable organizations and educational institutions to create a safe environment for children. This cooperation should prioritize initiatives aimed at supporting underserved and vulnerable families, including providing psychological and educational assistance to both children and their families.

- The Significance of Early Response

Timely intervention is critical in preventing homelessness. This involves establishing reporting and monitoring systems that enable rapid action to address potential issues before they escalate. Raising awareness about children's rights within the community is a crucial component in this effort, as it helps reduce neglect and exposure to violence, ultimately protecting children from falling into homelessness.

*Penalties for Violators of Children's Rights*
Safeguarding children's welfare stands as a fundamental societal obligation. This section examines the enforcement mechanisms within Saudi Arabia's legal system designed to penalize violations of children's rights, detailing the spectrum of penalties and the institutions authorized to administer them (Al Sudhan, 2014, p. 150)

*Categories of Legal Penalties*
The Saudi legal framework imposes graduated sanctions based on violation severity:
- Monetary Penalties
• Fines: Compulsory payments for regulatory non-compliance
• Compensation Orders: Court-mandated restitution to victims
- Administrative Measures
• Service Suspension: Temporary halting of operations for non-compliant entities
• License Revocation: Permanent withdrawal of business authorizations
• Employment Termination: Dismissal of offenders from professional positions.

- Criminal Prosecution
• Incarceration: Prison sentences for severe violations
• Judicial Fines: Additional monetary penalties imposed by courts.

*Enforcement Institutions*
Primary Oversight Bodies:

| Institution | Enforcement Authority | Typical Sanctions |
|---|---|---|
| *Ministry of Human Resources & Social Development* | *Regulatory compliance monitoring* | *License suspensions, service restrictions* |
| *Judicial System* | *Adjudication of criminal cases* | *Imprisonment, court-ordered fines* |
| *Public Prosecution* | *Criminal investigations* | *Case preparation for trial proceedings* |

This structured penalty system demonstrates Saudi Arabia's multi-tiered approach to child protection, (Al Sudhan, 2014, p. 200) combining deterrent penalties with rehabilitative measures. The graduated sanction model allows for proportional responses to violations while maintaining flexibility for corrective interventions.

**Conclusion**
The issue of homeless children strikes at the heart of society, touching on both social and religious values. Islamic teachings strongly stress the importance of caring for and protecting children. They set clear obligations for Muslims to offer both emotional and material support to homeless kids and shield them from harm. The Quran and the Prophet's teachings highlight the duty to care for orphans and the vulnerable, and I believe that supporting orphans and homeless street children ranks among the highest forms of worship.

In Saudi Arabia, this concern is reflected in the legal system and social programs dedicated to securing the basic rights of homeless children. The Kingdom has established numerous centers and government initiatives aimed at providing care, protection, and opportunities for a brighter future for these children. The alignment between Islamic law and Saudi legislation shows a shared foundation rooted in human and Islamic values. It reveals how Sharia and state law can work hand in hand to promote social justice and uphold children's rights. This partnership between religious rulings and modern legal frameworks offers a valuable example for other countries striving to protect children and secure their wellbeing. Still, many challenges persist. Providing shelter, healthcare, and education to homeless children requires stronger efforts. Better cooperation among government bodies, the private sector, and charitable groups can help eliminate homelessness and poverty among children, opening doors to a better life. Supporting homeless children isn't just a matter of religion or law—it's a social responsibility. We all share the duty to care for and protect this vulnerable group, ensuring they live with dignity and have the chance to build a bright future. In doing so, they can grow into contributors to the progress and development of society as a whole.

**Contribution of the Paper**
We hope that this paper will contribute to shedding light on a valuable segment of society: homeless children. In many countries, they have become marginalized due to the absence of effective laws for their protection and the lack of community awareness about protecting these children and caring for their interests.

Moreover, to demonstrate that the existence of law alone is not sufficient to protect the interests of homeless children unless those laws are effectively implemented. In addition, this paper will contribute to raising community awareness of the rights of this group. The importance of this paper lies in highlighting the law in place in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the protection of homeless children and making them a model for other countries to emulate, particularly in terms of the cooperation between public and private institutions.

**Findings**
1. Highlighting the Importance of Children in Islam:
Islamic law clearly stresses the need to care for and protect children, especially those who are homeless, ensuring their rights are safeguarded from any harm or danger. Children are seen as a trust given to society, which must provide them with a decent life and all necessary support.
2. Sharia's Comprehensive Care Framework for Orphans and Homeless Children:
Islamic scholars have extensively developed rulings focused on supporting orphans and homeless children. This includes financial aid, protection, psychological support, and education. The well-known hadith about the "guardian of the orphan" underscores the high priority Islam gives to caring for orphans and vulnerable children within society.
3. Saudi Arabia's Legal Measures to Protect Homeless Children:
The Kingdom has enacted specific laws and regulations aimed at protecting homeless children and securing their fundamental rights, including access to education, healthcare, and shelter. This commitment plays a key role in strengthening social cohesion and support networks.
4. Harmony Between Islamic Jurisprudence and Saudi Legal System:

There is strong alignment between Islamic teachings and Saudi laws when it comes to addressing the needs of homeless children. While their sources differ, both share the common goal of protecting children's rights and ensuring they lead dignified lives. This involves financial aid, education, psychological care, shelter, and protection from exploitation.

5. Enhancing the Roles of Government and Private Institutions:

It's clear that government bodies and private organizations need to step up their efforts in raising awareness and delivering care programs for homeless children. Closer cooperation between social centers and charitable groups is essential to safeguard these children and help prevent social issues.

6. Persistent Challenges in Tackling Homelessness:

Despite ongoing efforts by the state and society, homelessness remains a complex problem. Major obstacles include severe poverty, lack of family support, and limited access to social services in some regions. Increasing public awareness on how to support homeless children is also crucial to making lasting progress.

**References**

Al-Harbi, A. Y. (2020/1441 AH). *Child protection from homelessness: Legal and social dimensions* (1st ed.). Riyadh.

Al-Nasir, F. A. (2019/1440 AH). *Protecting children from homelessness* (1st ed.). King Fahd National Library.

Al-Qahtani, S. M. (2020/1441 AH). *Homelessness among children: Its causes and prevention methods*. Riyadh.

Al-Saadān, A. M. (2014/1435 AH). *Child rights protection* (1st ed.). Dar Al-Wafa.

Al-Sheikh, S. A. (2011/1432 AH). *Child protection from homelessness* (1st ed.). King Fahd National Library.

Al-Sudhan, A. M. (2014/1435 AH). *Protecting children's rights* (1st ed.). Dar Al-Wafa.

Al-Utaybi, A. M. (2017/1438 AH). *Child protection from homelessness* (2nd ed.). Dar Al-Khalij li-l-Nashr.

Al-Zahrani, F. A. (2019/1440 AH). *Social protection frameworks for children in Saudi Arabia* (3rd ed.). Riyadh.

Ibn Abidin, M. A. (2001/1422 AH). *Radd al-Muhtar ala al-Durr al-Mukhtar* (A. al-Turki, Ed.; 3rd ed.). Beirut.

Ibn Faris, A. F. (1980/1400 AH). *Mu'jam Maqayis al-Lughah* (A. Harun, Ed.; 2nd ed.). Beirut.

Ibn Manzur, M. M. (1955/1365 AH). *Lisan al-Arab* (1st ed.). Dar Sadir.

Ibn Taymiyyah, A. A. H. (1980/1400 AH). *Majmu al-Fatawa* (A. al-Qasim, Ed.; 10th ed.). Beirut.

Al-Tirmidhi, M. I. (2001/1421 AH). *Al-Jami al-Sahih* (2nd ed.). Beirut.