COUNTRY GUIDE



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Israel.

Israel's 1998 Law Not to Stand Idly By on the Blood of Your Neighbor sets a general duty to help a person in immediate serious danger when one can do so without endangering oneself or others, backed by a fine. The same law lets a court order reimbursement of a helper's reasonable costs. The National Insurance Institute and the Tax Authority administer volunteer insurance rules and a tax credit for donations to approved institutions.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER

Yes

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS

Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE

4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

YES

Section 1(a) of the law (Hebrew original; the translation here is this guide's own) obliges a person to help someone who is before their eyes, because of a sudden event, in grave and immediate danger to life, bodily integrity or health, when it is within their ability to help without endangering themselves or another. Section 1(b) treats notifying the authorities (Israel Police, Magen David Adom, the fire service) or summoning another person able to help as having given help, and Section 4 provides that violating Section 1 is punishable by a fine.

חוק לא תעמוד על דם רעך, תשנ"ח-1998 (Law Not to Stand Idly By on the Blood of Your Neighbor, 5758-1998), Hebrew text (Nevo legal database (text current as of 2023-09-18 per the page))

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

Section 2 of the same law provides that Section 5 of the Unjust Enrichment Law, 5739-1979 applies even where the helper acted under the Section 1 duty, and allows a court to order whoever caused the danger (including the rescued person if they caused it) to reimburse the helper's reasonable expenses and payments. This guide did not find a separate statutory immunity from liability for helpers in the sources that could be verified.

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How the government promotes giving and service

Tax credit for donations (Section 46, Income Tax Ordinance)

The Israel Tax Authority runs a service for checking whether an institution holds a Section 46 certificate of eligibility for donations; the confirmation is used to receive a tax credit for a donation to a public institution. This guide did not verify the current credit rate or caps on an official page.

ISRAEL TAX AUTHORITY, GOV.IL

Volunteer definition and insurance system

The National Insurance Institute defines a volunteer as a person acting voluntarily and without remuneration for others, referred by an authorized public body, for a national or public benefit purpose, and has pages on volunteer insurance and benefits.

NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF ISRAEL

Listed objectives treated as national or public benefit

The Institute lists the volunteering objectives determined to be of national or public benefit, including adult education, immigrant absorption, and caring for elderly, disabled or sick people and bereaved families.

NATIONAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE OF ISRAEL

National-Civic Service

The State Comptroller's report describes the Israel National-Civic Service as a voluntary service for people aged 18 to 24 who receive an exemption from, or are not called up for, compulsory military service, run by the Israel National-civic Service Authority.

STATE COMPTROLLER OF ISRAEL

Ways to give and volunteer

Israel has a large nonprofit sector with public records on registered amutot, and volunteering is common. This list is limited to humanitarian and neutral channels.

Check a charity before you give

A public database of Israeli nonprofit organizations, including their legal status and reports; the official record is held by the Registrar of Nonprofits.

GuideStar Israel

Give your time

Magen David Adom
Israel's national emergency medical and blood service accepts trained volunteers.

Israel Volunteer Association
A national umbrella for volunteer organizations that also promotes volunteering.

Ministry of Health emergency volunteer list
A government service where Israelis and foreign nationals can join a list of health system volunteers for emergencies.

Give money, blood or a donation

Adi organ donor registry
Adi is the organ donor card system, where you can sign up as a donor.

Leket Israel
A national food rescue organization that collects surplus produce and meals for people in need.

Midot
An independent body that evaluates Israeli nonprofits against standards of management and transparency.

In an emergency or a crisis

ERAN, Emotional First Aid: 1201
A free anonymous emotional first aid hotline run by trained volunteers in Israel, offered in several languages including Arabic, English, Russian, Spanish, Amharic and French.

ERAN
A national emotional first aid hotline staffed by trained volunteers.

Before you act

- Check that a group is a registered amuta before giving, and be wary of fundraisers who push for cash or transfers to private accounts.
- Visitors should confirm current security advisories and use only organized volunteer programs, since access to some areas is restricted.

This list covers only a few national and well-known channels and does not rank charities or cover every local group. Checked 2026-10-28. Listing an organization is not an endorsement, and none of them has endorsed this site. Some official sites block automatic checks, so a link may need a second try.

One thing worth knowing

Israel's duty is general and criminal in form but sanctioned only by a fine, and it counts calling the police, Magen David Adom or the fire service as having fulfilled it.

What this does not mean

This is a plain-language summary, not legal advice. This guide relied on the Hebrew text of the law on Nevo and translated it myself; This guide did not find an official English translation. A fine-only offense and the existence of the duty say nothing about enforcement or about whether the law changes behavior. This is a plain-language summary of public sources, not legal advice, and it does not rank countries. No government named here has endorsed this site. Not reviewed by a lawyer. Statutes were read in public sources and may have changed. Last checked October 26, 2026.

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