COUNTRY GUIDE



EUROPE

Norway.

The Norwegian Penal Code of 2005 makes it an offense to fail to help a person in obvious danger of losing their life or suffering serious injury, up to the limit of one's ability and without exposing oneself or others to special danger. The state also gives a tax deduction for gifts to voluntary organizations, pays VAT compensation to them, and routes a share of a state-licensed betting stake to local voluntary groups chosen by players.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER

Yes

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS

Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE

5 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

YES

Straffeloven section 287 ("Forsømmelse av hjelpeplikt", Neglect of duty to assist) punishes with a fine or up to 6 months in prison anyone who fails, according to ability, to help a person in obvious danger of losing their life or suffering considerable bodily or health harm, or to avert a fire, flood, explosion or similar accident endangering human life. The text says breach is not punished when the duty could not be met without exposing oneself or others to particular danger or sacrifice; the wording was amended in 2025.

Lov om straff (straffeloven) § 287 Forsømmelse av hjelpeplikt (Lovdata) The Penal Code (English translation, table of contents lists Section 287. Neglect of duty to assist) (Lovdata)

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

Straffeloven section 17 (necessity) says an act that would otherwise be punishable is lawful when it is done to save life, health, property or another interest from a danger of harm that cannot be averted in another reasonable way, and the risk of harm is far greater than the risk of harm from the act. No separate Good Samaritan liability statute was located in the texts reviewed.

Lov om straff (straffeloven) § 17 Nødrett (Lovdata)

How the government promotes giving and service

Tax deduction for gifts to voluntary organizations

The Tax Administration says a money gift of at least NOK 500 to a voluntary organization or religious or belief-based community can be deducted, with a maximum deduction of NOK 25,000 per year for income year 2025. Gifts reported electronically are pre-filled in the tax return.

SKATTEETATEN (NORWEGIAN TAX ADMINISTRATION)

VAT compensation for voluntary organizations

The Lotteries and Foundations Authority says the scheme is meant to promote voluntary activity by compensating voluntary organizations for VAT costs on purchases. It reports paying 2.87 billion kroner to nearly 25,000 organizations for 2025.

LOTTERI- OG STIFTELSESTILSYNET

Grasrotandelen (grassroots share)

Players at Norsk Tipping can direct part of their stake to a voluntary organization approved as a grassroots recipient in the Voluntary Organisations Register. The supervisory authority says the purpose is to promote voluntary activity at local or regional level; Norsk Tipping says up to 7 percent of the amount played goes to the chosen recipient.

LOTTERI- OG STIFTELSESTILSYNET

Grasrotandelen payouts

Norsk Tipping reports that 2024 payouts to clubs and associations through the scheme were the highest yet, at about 858 million kroner, with over 30,000 possible recipients.

NORSK TIPPING

Frivillighet Norge (Civil Society Norway)

This umbrella network, which is not a government body, describes itself as the main political network for civil society in Norway, founded in 2005, and as the most important dialogue partner for national authorities on civil society policy.

FRIVILLIGHET NORGE

Ways to give and volunteer

Norway has a strong volunteer culture centered on local volunteer centers and large national groups. Fundraisers can choose an approved charity through the national control body.

Check a charity before you give

A control body that reviews fundraising organizations and lists those it has approved.

Innsamlingskontrollen (Norwegian Fundraising Control)

Give your time

Frivillig.no
A national site that helps people find volunteer roles across Norway.

Norges Rode Kors
The Norwegian Red Cross, with volunteer opportunities in first aid, visits and emergency help.

Frivilligsentral.no
The network of local volunteer centers that connect residents with community tasks.

Give money, blood or a donation

Matsentralen Norge
A food rescue network that passes surplus food to groups helping people in need.

Helsenorge, organ donation
The government health portal with information on organ donation and the donor card.

Fundraising Norge
The industry association for fundraising, with ethical guidelines for members.

In an emergency or a crisis

Mental Helse, helpline 116 123
A national mental health organization that runs a free, always open helpline.

Before you act

- Street and door-to-door collectors should carry ID, and you can ask which organization they represent. Look up a group in Innsamlingskontrollen's list or the national volunteer register before giving. Visitors from outside the EU or EEA may need a permit for unpaid work, so check with the host group.

This list does not cover local clubs, church groups or blood donation details. 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

Straffeloven section 288 separately punishes failing to help a person in a helpless state whom one has a duty to care for, so Norwegian law pairs a general duty to help with a specific duty of care.

What this does not mean

The statute text quoted is the Norwegian original on Lovdata, paraphrased by this guide; the English translation was not available as full text in the pages retrieved, and its wording may differ. Norwegian People's Aid and the Red Cross are not covered because no state-support source was verified, and the government's volunteer policy white paper could not be retrieved. This is not legal advice. 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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