COUNTRY GUIDE



ASIA

Philippines.

The Revised Penal Code (Act No. 3815) has an offense for failing to help a person found wounded or in danger of dying in an uninhabited place. Republic Act 9418, the Volunteer Act of 2007, sets a national policy of volunteerism, ties it to the tradition of bayanihan, and gives the PNVSCA agency coordinating duties. Republic Act 10932 penalizes hospitals that demand deposits or refuse emergency care.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Limited

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
None found

GIVING AND SERVICE
4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

LIMITED

Article 275 of the Revised Penal Code punishes (arresto mayor) anyone who fails to render assistance to a person found in an uninhabited place wounded or in danger of dying, when help can be given without detriment to the helper, unless a more serious offense results. It also covers failing to help someone the person accidentally injured and failing to deliver an abandoned child under seven to authorities or family.

Act No. 3815 (The Revised Penal Code), Article 275 (The Lawphil Project, Arellano Law Foundation) Republic Act No. 10932 (The Lawphil Project, Arellano Law Foundation)

Are people who help protected?

NONE FOUND

No Philippine statute giving general good-faith protection to people who help strangers was found in the sources checked. Republic Act 10932, sometimes assumed to be one, amends Batas Pambansa 702 to bar hospitals and clinics from requiring deposits or refusing emergency care; it protects patients and does not shield rescuers.

Republic Act No. 10932 (The Lawphil Project, Arellano Law Foundation)

How the government promotes giving and service

Republic Act 9418, Volunteer Act of 2007: policy and agency

Section 2 states the State's policy to promote volunteerism and to renew the tradition of bayanihan; Section 8 assigns implementation to the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA), whose mandates include policy guidelines, advocacy for recognition of volunteerism and a national network of volunteer organizations.

THE LAWPHIL PROJECT, ARELLANO LAW FOUNDATION

RA 9418 Section 12: special provisions

The Act directs a national volunteer registration and networking system, integration of volunteerism into basic and higher education curricula by DepEd and CHED, and volunteer programs in national agencies and local governments. It also encourages agencies and NGOs to offer volunteers recognition and incentives such as insurance and training.

THE LAWPHIL PROJECT, ARELLANO LAW FOUNDATION

RA 9418 Section 13: recognition of best volunteer practices

The Act creates an institutional mechanism, led by PNVSCA, for research, documentation, recognition and modeling of best volunteer practices.

THE LAWPHIL PROJECT, ARELLANO LAW FOUNDATION

Republic Act 11469, Bayanihan to Heal as One Act (2020)
The COVID-19 emergency law took the name 'bayanihan' as its short title. Among its listed presidential powers is ensuring that certified health-product donations are not unnecessarily delayed. The Act is an emergency-powers law and not a volunteering statute.
THE LAWPHIL PROJECT, ARELLANO LAW FOUNDATION

Ways to give and volunteer

Giving in the Philippines runs through a mix of local barangay and community groups, large foundations and the Philippine Red Cross, and churches run many local services. The one thing to know first: check whether a charity is certified before you donate.

Check a charity before you give

A nonprofit accreditor that certifies NGOs as meeting good-governance standards, so you can confirm an organization is on its list of certified groups.

Philippine Council for NGO Certification (PCNC)

Give your time

Philippine Red Cross
The national Red Cross society recruits volunteers for disaster response, first aid and community health.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
The UN's volunteer program lists international and national volunteer assignments, including some in the Philippines.

Give money, blood or a donation

Philippine Red Cross

The national Red Cross society, a long-established humanitarian organization for disaster relief and health services.

Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)
A long-running business-backed foundation that funds and runs poverty and disaster-resilience programs.

Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD)
The government social welfare agency, which runs relief efforts during disasters and publishes how to help.

In an emergency or a crisis

NCMH Crisis Hotline: 1800-1888-1553
The National Center for Mental Health crisis line for anyone in the Philippines, listed as around the clock with trained counselors.

Before you act

- **Fake disaster-relief appeals spread quickly on social media after typhoons and earthquakes, so give through an organization you can look up, not a personal account. Ask a local group for its registration and PCNC certification before donating. Foreign visitors should check immigration rules before doing paid or long-term volunteer work.**

This list does not cover local barangay groups, faith-based charities or blood banks, which vary by city. 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

The Volunteer Act names bayanihan, the communal-help tradition, in its declaration of policy as the model for volunteerism.

What this does not mean

Article 275 applies only in an 'uninhabited place' and only when help costs the helper nothing, so it is narrow. Lawphil is a private legal-text project, not a government site, and the official gazette site blocked automated access. The PNVSCA site could not be fetched, so current programs and any annual recognition events were not verified. 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.

---

thisisdisclosure.com
A free message about how we treat each other. Nothing to buy, nothing to join. One person’s hypothesis, not advice. Woodcut images were made with AI tools; the words are Keith Adler’s. Share freely.