COUNTRY GUIDE



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Turkey.

The Turkish Penal Code (Law No. 5237) contains a general offense of failing to help or report a person unable to care for themselves (art. 98). Charitable associations are governed by the Law on Associations (No. 5253), which includes a public-benefit status, and public fundraising by the Law on Aid Collection (No. 2860). The Ministry of Youth and Sports runs a volunteering platform called GönüllüyüzBİZ.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Yes

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
None found

GIVING AND SERVICE
4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

YES

Article 98(1) of the Turkish Penal Code provides that a person who does not help, to the extent circumstances allow, someone unable to manage themselves because of age, illness, injury or any other reason, or who does not promptly notify the authorities, faces up to one year in prison or a judicial fine. Article 98(2) provides one to three years in prison if the person dies because help or notice was not given (this guide's translation of the Turkish text).

Türk Ceza Kanunu (Kanun No. 5237), Madde 98: Yardım veya bildirim yükümlülüğünün yerine getirilmemesi (Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye, Legislation Information System (mevzuat.gov.tr))

Are people who help protected?

NONE FOUND

No statute giving a general legal protection to people who help strangers in good faith was found in the sources reviewed. This does not mean none exists; it was not verified.

How the government promotes giving and service

Law on Associations (No. 5253), art. 27: public-benefit associations

The text provides that associations working for the public benefit are designated by Presidential decision after meeting conditions, and are audited at least every two years.

PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKIYE, LEGISLATION INFORMATION SYSTEM

Law on Aid Collection (No. 2860)

An English translation on file with ICNL sets out who may collect aid, for what purposes, and under what permit and inspection rules; it describes administrative fines for unauthorized collection. The translation predates later amendments.

ICNL (NONPROFIT LAW RESEARCH CENTER; UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION)

GönüllüyüzBİZ volunteering platform and Volunteering Strategy Document

A wire report of October 2025 says the Minister of Youth and Sports presented a Volunteering Strategy Document and a project support call, and reported 494,797 volunteers registered on the platform.

DEMIRÖREN NEWS AGENCY (DHA); THE OFFICIAL SITE COULD NOT BE READ BECAUSE IT REQUIRED JAVASCRIPT

Ministry cooperation protocol on volunteering

The Ministry of Family and Social Services published a news item on signing a volunteering cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.

MINISTRY OF FAMILY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Ways to give and volunteer

Giving in Turkey is strong and personal, with large networks around the Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay), foundations (vakıf) and religious charity traditions. Know first that public collection of aid needs official permission.

Check a charity before you give

Turkey has no public charity register that we could verify, so the closest official body is the Ministry of Interior, which oversees associations and the permits required to collect aid from the public.

Ministry of Interior (İçişleri Bakanlığı)

Give your time

Türk Kızılay (Turkish Red Crescent)
The national Red Crescent society, with volunteer branches across the country; the site is mostly in Turkish.

Toplum Gönüllüleri Vakfı (Community Volunteers Foundation)
A well-known Turkish foundation that supports youth volunteering and community projects, with an English page.

AFAD (Disaster and Emergency Management Authority)
The government disaster agency; check its site and local branch for the current volunteer program.

Give money, blood or a donation

Kızılay blood service (Kan Hizmetleri)

The Red Crescent's blood service site for finding a donation point and booking.

Kızılay donations (Bağış)
The Red Crescent's page for giving money or in-kind help, in Turkish.

Ministry of Health organ and tissue transplant department
The health ministry unit responsible for organ and tissue transplant services and donation information, in Turkish.

In an emergency or a crisis

Find A Helpline: crisis and emotional support lines in this country
A directory of free crisis and emotional support lines, run by ThroughLine. No single national line could be confirmed for this guide, so check the line you choose before you rely on it.

112 Emergency Call Center
Turkey's single emergency number (112) for police, ambulance and fire.

Before you act

- **Under Turkey's aid collection law, groups need permission before collecting money or goods from the public, and unlicensed online drives can be blocked and fined. Ask any group for its permit or registration and check the account name before sending money, especially after disasters when fake appeals spread. Foreign visitors should keep volunteer work informal and legal, and check residence and work rules first.**

This list does not cover local foundations, neighborhood groups or religious charities. 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

Turkey has a general criminal offense of failing to help or report a person unable to care for themselves, with a higher penalty if the person dies.

What this does not mean

Texts are Turkish originals translated by this guide, except Law 2860 (unofficial English translation, pre-amendment). A 2024 Constitutional Court decision annulled certain articles of Laws 5253 and 2860, and later amendments exist, so current wording should be checked on mevzuat.gov.tr. 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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