COUNTRY GUIDE



MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

United Arab Emirates.

The UAE federal government has a Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence that oversees the Cabinet-endorsed National Tolerance Program, a federal law on volunteering (Federal Law No. 13 of 2018), and a national volunteering platform, Volunteers.ae. The government also declared 2017 the Year of Giving.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Varies by region

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
Not verified

GIVING AND SERVICE
5 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

VARIES BY REGION

It was not possible to retrieve the official text of the current Penal Code (Federal Decree-Law No. 31 of 2021) and so could not confirm whether it contains a general duty to help a stranger in danger. Secondary search results pointed only to duties to report crimes and to endangerment offenses, which are not the same thing.

Are people who help protected?

NOT VERIFIED

No official source that could be opened confirms a specific good-faith helper protection. One secondary legal commentary mentions a provision on good-faith first aid in the older 1987 Penal Code, but It was not possible to verify it against the statute, so it is not relied on here.

How the government promotes giving and service

Ministry of Tolerance and Coexistence and the National Tolerance Program

The ministry's own page says it oversees and implements the pillars of the National Tolerance Program, which the Federal Cabinet endorsed. The u.ae portal says the Cabinet created a Minister of State for Tolerance post in 2016, renamed the Ministry of Tolerance and Co-existence on July 5, 2020.

MINISTRY OF TOLERANCE AND COEXISTENCE

Year of Giving 2017

A UAE government page dated January 29, 2017 describes the declaration of 2017 as the Year of Giving and lists ways of giving, including volunteering, helping the poor, supporting orphans and showing cooperation and solidarity.

UAE GOVERNMENT (ICP.GOV.AE)

Federal Law No. (13) of 2018 on Volunteering

The Ministry of Community Empowerment says this law sets the conditions for volunteer work, raises awareness of it, and organizes and develops it. The ministry describes it as an early law of its kind; that is the ministry's own characterization.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

Volunteers.ae, the National Volunteer Platform

The ministry says the platform was launched with the Emirates Foundation to match volunteers with opportunities and to issue certified records of completed volunteer hours. The platform lists a toll-free number and offers sign-up for individuals, organizations and teams.

VOLUNTEERS.AE (UAE GOVERNMENT PLATFORM)

Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum Global Initiatives

A publication of the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Knowledge Foundation reports that this foundation was launched on October 4, 2015 and consolidated the work of 28 organizations focused on poverty, illness, knowledge, community empowerment and innovation. This is a Dubai ruler-led foundation, so it is not strictly a federal ministry program.

MOHAMMED BIN RASHID AL MAKTOUM KNOWLEDGE FOUNDATION

Ways to give and volunteer

Charity in the UAE is closely regulated: fundraising is allowed only through licensed charities and official channels. Give and volunteer only through those, and use the official government portal as your starting point.

Check a charity before you give

The federal ministry that issues fundraising permits and requires fundraising to run through licensed, authorized charities; use it to confirm a group's status.

Ministry of Community Empowerment

Give your time

Volunteers.ae (national volunteering platform)

The UAE's national portal for finding and registering for volunteer opportunities, mainly in Arabic.

Emirates Red Crescent

The national Red Crescent society, which takes volunteer registrations through its site and app.

Dubai Cares volunteering
The volunteer page of a Dubai-based education charity that lists current opportunities.

Give money, blood or a donation

Emirates Red Crescent
The national humanitarian society, a licensed channel for giving at home and abroad.

Dubai Blood Donation Centre
Dubai's main blood donation center, run by the Dubai Health Authority.

UAE Government portal: charity and humanitarian work
The official portal page listing charity and humanitarian services and approved channels.

In an emergency or a crisis

Estijaba (Istijaba) mental health support line: 8001717
A toll-free mental health support line for Abu Dhabi, run with the Department of Health, with services in Arabic and English (the article also mentions other languages).

Before you act

- Collecting donations without a license is illegal in the UAE and can bring heavy fines, so never give to or help with street, social media or messaging-app appeals from unlicensed people. Donate only through the licensed charities and official platforms above, and do not start a fundraiser yourself without a permit. Visitors should also check that any volunteering fits their visa.

This list does not cover every licensed charity or each emirate's own rules. 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 government pairs a tolerance ministry with a volunteering law and a single national volunteering platform, so promotion of giving and volunteering is organized through named federal bodies.

What this does not mean

This guide describes what official pages say these programs are for, not how they work in practice. The federal anti-discrimination law of 2015 was replaced by Federal Law by Decree No. 34 of 2023 (per u.ae); it is about discrimination, hatred and extremism, not about helping strangers. 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.