COUNTRY GUIDE



ASIA

Vietnam.

Vietnam's Criminal Code creates a specific offense for failing to assist a person in peril when the failure results in that person's death. Statute texts reviewed also set out state policies on youth volunteering, state encouragement of Red Cross humanitarian activities, and rules for raising voluntary contributions for people affected by disasters and serious illness. The English texts used are translations from legal databases and WIPO Lex.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER

Limited

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS

Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE

4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

LIMITED

Article 132 of the Criminal Code (Law No. 100/2015/QH13), titled "Failure to assist a person in peril" in the English text, applies to a person who is capable of assisting but fails to do so, where that failure results in the death of the person in peril. The listed penalties are up to 2 years of community sentence or 3 to 24 months of imprisonment, with higher penalties where the offender caused the peril or has a legal or professional-ethics duty to rescue, or where two or more people die. The text reviewed does not define "capable"; this guide did not check later amendments or court practice.

Criminal Code No. 100/2015/QH13 of November 27, 2015, Viet Nam (English text) (WIPO Lex (World Intellectual Property Organization)) Criminal Code No. 100/2015/QH13 of November 27, 2015, Viet Nam, WIPO Lex (WIPO Lex (World Intellectual Property Organization))

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

No general good-faith protection statute for bystanders was found in the texts reviewed. The Law on Red Cross Activities (No. 11/2008/QH12), Article 4, states that organizations or individuals who suffer material damage while participating in Red Cross activities will be compensated according to law, and individuals who suffer health damage or loss of life are entitled to regimes and policies prescribed by law. This concerns harm to participants, not legal immunity for rescuers.

Law on Red-cross Activities, No.11/2008/QH12 (LuatVietnam (English translation, commercial legal database))

How the government promotes giving and service

Youth Law 2020, Article 23: policies for youth volunteers

The text defines youth volunteers as young people voluntarily taking part in activities for the community and society, and says State policies for them are to focus on matters such as information channels for joining volunteer activities and programs enabling volunteers to work in areas of extreme socio-economic difficulty, border areas and islands.

DULIEUPHAPLUAT.VN (ENGLISH TRANSLATION, LEGAL DATABASE)

Youth Law 2020, Article 9: Youth Month

The text designates March each year as Youth Month, aimed in part at enhancing the volunteer spirit of the youth for the interest of the community and society, with the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in charge of organizing it.

DULIEUPHAPLUAT.VN (ENGLISH TRANSLATION, LEGAL DATABASE)

Law on Red Cross Activities (2008), Articles 3 and 4

The text lists voluntary, selfless activity as a principle of Red Cross activities and states that the State adopts policies to encourage, support and create favorable conditions for organizations and individuals to participate in them.

LUATVIETNAM (ENGLISH TRANSLATION, COMMERCIAL LEGAL DATABASE)

Decree 93/2021/ND-CP on voluntary contributions

The decree's stated purposes, as excerpted in the English translation, include encouraging organizations and individuals to make voluntary contributions and promoting solidarity and mutual support for people affected by natural disasters, epidemics, incidents or critical illness; it also requires receipt, distribution and use to be public and transparent.

LUATVIETNAM (ENGLISH TRANSLATION, SUMMARY AND EXCERPT ONLY; FULL TEXT REQUIRES LOGIN)

Ways to give and volunteer

Giving and volunteering in Vietnam run mostly through state-recognized bodies such as the Vietnam Red Cross, and foreign groups are tightly regulated. Use official channels and check the rules before any help.

Check a charity before you give

Vietnam has no public charity register that we could verify, so the closest official body is the Ministry of Home Affairs, which oversees associations and social funds.

Ministry of Home Affairs (Bộ Nội vụ)

Give your time

Vietnam Red Cross Society
The national Red Cross society, with local chapters that organize volunteers and relief.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
The UN volunteer program, which places volunteers with UN agencies in Vietnam and online.

Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO)
The government-linked body that coordinates international NGOs and foreign cooperation in Vietnam.

Give money, blood or a donation

Vietnam Red Cross Society
A recognized national channel for giving to relief and humanitarian work.

UNICEF Viet Nam
The UN children's agency country office, working in Vietnam with the government.

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.

UNICEF Viet Nam: child protection
Says to call 111, the national child protection hotline, for children in danger.

Before you act

- **Vietnam regulates foreign aid, foreign NGOs and unregistered groups, so give and volunteer only through licensed or state-recognized organizations, and ask a group for its registration before helping. Foreign visitors should not run fundraising or volunteer programs on their own, and should check visa and permit rules first. Be wary of street begging, orphanage tourism and unofficial appeals.**

This list does not cover local groups, religious bodies or every international NGO. 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

Article 132 is written as a result-based omission offense: the English text ties liability to the death of the person in peril, and raises the penalty where the offender created the peril or had a legal or professional-ethics duty to rescue.

What this does not mean

This guide relies on English translations (WIPO Lex and commercial legal databases), not the Vietnamese originals, and did not verify amendments or how Article 132 is applied in courts. The Youth Volunteer Movement named in the research brief was not verified from a primary source and is not described. Nothing here is 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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