

# KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

## CHARITABLE GIVING

The U.S. government has heavily monitored and scrutinized charitable giving for decades now, particularly since 9/11. This resource provides guidance on continuing to give — safely and with intention.

### BEFORE YOU MAKE A DONATION:

#### • ABROAD:

- ✓ Check the Foreign Terror Organization list to make sure the organization is **not** on the list at [www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/](http://www.state.gov/foreign-terrorist-organizations/)
- ✓ Check the U.S. Sanctions list to make sure the organization, bank, or individual you plan to send money to or through is **not** on the list at [www.ofac.treasury.gov](http://www.ofac.treasury.gov)
- ✓ Some organizations operating abroad, including U.S. registered 501(c)(3) organizations, have licenses from the U.S. Department of the Treasury to operate in areas that are under sanctions or under the control of Foreign Terrorist Organizations. Consider determining if the charitable organization you're donating to has such a license.
- ✓ Check the Non-SDN Palestinian Legislative Council list (NS-PLC list) to make sure the individual is **not** on the list <https://ofac.treasury.gov/consolidated-sanctions-list/non-sdn-palestinian-legislative-council-ns-plc-list>

#### • DOMESTIC:

- ✓ U.S. registered 501(c)(3) organizations are the safest way to donate
- ✓ Mosques/Masjids are automatically granted 501(c)(3) status if they are incorporated as a religious institution
- ✓ Check to see if the organization has 501(c)(3) status at [www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org) to verify

### WHAT ABOUT ELECTRONIC TRANSFERS?

#### BE MINDFUL:

- Know who you are sending funds to.
- Keep a clear record of the recipient(s) and purpose of the funds.
- There may be limits or barriers to how much money you can transfer.
- Large sums of money may trigger an investigation if sent regularly.

#### IF POSSIBLE:

- Attach a note to your donation specifying what the money is being sent to fund.

#### ALWAYS:

- Make sure that the cause you are donating to is detailed in writing and keep a personal record of the fundraising request and the purpose of your transfer.
- Look for an itemized list of what your donations will help fund.
- Ask for a receipt if you aren't automatically provided one.

### KEEP A RECORD:

- **KEEP ALL** - bank statements, canceled checks, receipts from the organization, fundraising requests, and any written documentation regarding your donation.
- **6 YEARS** - That is the length of time you should keep records for all donations.

### IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT:

- **DO NOT** answer any questions
- **DO** ask for a business card
- **DO** contact CLEAR

### IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT WHERE THE MONEY IS GOING, ASK QUESTIONS:

- **WHO:** Specifically, who is the money going to?
- **WHAT:** Specifically, what will the funds be used for?
- **WHERE:** Specifically, where in the world will the funds be used?



[cunyclear.org](http://cunyclear.org)  
[cunyclear@law.cuny.edu](mailto:cunyclear@law.cuny.edu)  
718-340-4558  
@CUNY\_CLEAR

CLEAR provides free legal support to clients, communities, and movements that are targeted by law enforcement under the guise of national security. Contact CLEAR if you seek free legal representation or advice, if you need support for organizing efforts, or if you wish to host a rights awareness workshop at your masjid, place of worship, organization, community center, or school.