

Giving to help in Ukraine? Get your money where you mean it to go

When there is a crisis in the world, scammers are always there to take advantage. Scammers set up fake charities that look and sound like real ones to try to get your money. It's true that millions of people want to support the Ukrainian people, but take a moment to make sure your donations are benefiting the people and groups you intended.

Here are some places to start.

- **Check out the organization.** Search online for the name of the group, plus words like "review," "scam," or "complaint." See if others have had good or bad experiences with the charity. Check what charity watchdog groups say about that organization.
- **Slow down.** You don't have to give immediately. Do some research first to make sure your donation goes where you want it go.
- **Find out how your money will be spent.** Ask how much of your donation will go to the program you want to help? If someone calls to ask to donate, they should be able to answer those critical questions.
- **Know who's asking.** Don't assume a request to donate is legitimate because it is posted or shared on social media. Research the charity and find out how it spends money.
- **Look at fees and timing.** This is especially true if you're donating through social media. Be sure to make sure what organization your donation goes to, check whether there are fees, and how quickly your money gets to them. If you do not find the answers quickly, consider donating in other ways.

Your generosity can make a difference any time you give — especially if you take a few minutes to make sure your donation goes where you mean it to. **Learn more at [ftc.gov/charity](https://www.ftc.gov/charity).**