

Organisations that defend human rights – for example the rights to education, free speech, and freedom from unlawful imprisonment, freedom from torture, execution, genocide – for people who are discriminated against based on things such as ethnicity, gender, age or sexuality.

Also organisations working to resolve international conflict and relieve the suffering, poverty and distress arising through conflict on a regional, national or international scale. For example: Amnesty International, Liberty, Refugees International, Human Rights Watch.

Organisations that advance the education of children, young people and adults through pre-schools, playgroups, homework clubs, colleges and universities, vocational training, teacher training, life-skills training, as well as museums, galleries, libraries, examination boards and research institutions.

Organisations supporting people who do not have the financial resources to provide for themselves or their families, either on the short or long-term basis, with the normal things in life – for example housing, food, clothing, household supplies and appliances, outings and entertainment. Also organisations that provide education or vocational training that help people earn a living.

Organisations working to increase understanding, dialogue and peaceful co-operation between groups of people who differ in things such as ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality and physical or mental ability.

Organisations that prevent or relieve physical sickness, disease, human suffering, or that promote good health. For example: hospitals, hospices, medical research, organisations set up to assist victims of natural disaster or war, promote lifesaving skills such as delivery of CPR and First Aid training, and professional nursing and medical associations and facilities.

Organisations supporting social and community infrastructure and cohesion for the benefit of communities, including rural and urban regeneration, good citizenship programmes and citizens advice. Also organisations acting to resolve conflict between differing community groups, and organisations promoting the development, protection, delivery of community resources, such as parks, gardens, sea- and lakefronts, playgrounds, community entertainment facilities, and care homes for young and old.

Organisations that prevent people from developing mental health problems, or provide relief for those suffering from mental health problems. For example, community-based counselling groups and drop-in centres, organisations such as The Samaritans, Mental Health America, Mind, the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Organisations promoting the efficacy of fire, rescue or ambulance services, including air and sea rescue services, or that support retired members of these services.

Organisations concerned with the conservation of flora, fauna or the environment generally (e.g. clean air, clean water). Also organisations concerned with the conservation of a particular geographic area or species, or that promote sustainable development and biodiversity, recycling and sustainable waste management, zoos, arboretums, community gardens, and research into the use of renewable energy.

Community organisations that promote good health, physical and mental skills through sports and undertaken on an amateur basis, including officiating at/refereeing school and community sports events.

Organisations that promote research and advancement of science at the national/professional and local/amateur level, whether in schools and colleges, community groups, or learned societies and institutions.

Organisations concerned with the care of people living with disability, including relief of suffering, provision of specialist advice, care and equipment, accommodation, and right of access.