

The Latest News

UK Authorities Clamp Down On Charity Muggers



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By Alexander Baron

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Whenever there is a natural disaster or perhaps people fleeing from war, we see appeals in the media, often from celebrities. We may not want to be invaded by *asylum seekers* or **migrants of any kind**, but there is a natural instinct to put our hands in our pockets to help these people. With appeals of this kind it is probably safe to say that our money is well spent; governments too donate money and assistance to provide things like tents and medical supplies. But what of the ongoing appeals from charities in the media, on our streets, and sometimes even by telephone?

Two months ago, Olive Cooke committed suicide at the age of 92. Mrs Cooke was Britain's longest serving poppy seller, and was clearly a soft touch because she had set up no fewer than 27 direct debits to donate to various charities. It remains to be seen what part if any the sort of pressure she was under played in her death, but the resulting widespread publicity has led to calls for a **change in the law** on how charity fundraisers operate.

Solicitations from call centres, often using high pressure sales techniques, sometimes directed at the elderly or vulnerable, are just one source of annoyance, chugging is something that has been going on in many of our major cities for some time. In case you have not heard the term before, it means charity mugging. Chuggers are people who are almost invariably young and attractive – guys as well as girls – who stop people in the street badgering them into donating regularly to one major charity or other.

A chugger may wear a vest identifying the charity for which funds are being raised, but these people are not volunteers, so if for whatever reason you are taken in by a hard luck story, remember that before one penny of your hard earned money goes to starving kids in Africa or whatever, the chugger will be paid, so will the fundraising company, and let's not mention the telephone number salaries paid to the CEOs and other top staff at many of the big charities. Here is a [short report](#) from 3 years ago that shows the concerns some people have over the way chuggers operate. More recently, Gloucester City Council decided to [take action](#) over chuggers pestering shoppers; to date over a hundred towns have taken similar action.

While charities need and are entitled to raise money, it should never be forgotten that this is big business. Below is part of an advertisement for a face-to-face fundraiser from the *Guardian* newspaper. In February last year, the *Daily Mail* reported that the CEO of Save The Children was on a salary of £2340,00 a year. Charity certainly does begin at home!

Something else you might like to consider, many charities receive substantial funding from the Government. This means they are not really charities at all because charity is voluntary; the money the Government spends comes out of your pocket one way or another, and there is nothing voluntary about that. Some have even been called sock puppets, a view expounded at length in this [June 2012 report](#) by the Institute of Economic Affairs.

How does this opening paragraph grab you?

“In the last fifteen years, state funding of charities in Britain has increased significantly while restrictions on political lobbying by charities have been relaxed. 27,000 charities are now dependent on the government for more than 75 per cent of their income and the ‘voluntary sector’ receives more money from the state than it receives in voluntary donations.”

It remains to be seen if George Osborne will be quite so keen to cut off any of this funding in his austerity drive because he who pays the piper calls the tune, so these various bodies are clearly reflecting Government policy to some extent.

So where does this leave you? Unless you are a multimillionaire, you are best not donating to any of the big charities at all. It is much better to volunteer at a local or community level, that way you will make a real difference to a worthy cause rather than line the pockets of rogue fundraisers or charity executives.

Area Manager Face-to-Face Fundraising

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Recruiter	WORLD VISION UK
Location	London, SW1
Salary	£33,361 (including London Weighting) + good range of benefits
Posted	10 Jul 2015
Closes	26 Jul 2015
Industry	Charities, Faith-based, Fundraising, General
Job Function	Sales
Job Level	Management
Hours	Full Time
Contract	Contract
Listing Type	Job vacancy

At World Vision, your Fundraising background could take you a great deal further

World Vision is the world's largest international children's charity. Every day we bring real hope to millions of children in the world's hardest places as a sign of God's unconditional love. At World Vision, our aim is simple - to keep every child free from fear. We are also proud to be voted one of the Top 100 'Best Not-For-Profit Organisations to Work For 2015'.

We are currently looking for an experienced Face-to-Face professional to operate from our London office in Victoria, SW1. This is a new role and a new project, initially on a 12 month contract but it could lead to a permanent position. This team is set to expand over the next 3 years which means this is a great time to join us as you will be able to influence a team that is looking to break new ground in the charity sector.

As a Christian, this rewarding role offers you the opportunity to integrate your Christian faith and coach and lead by example, reflecting the love of Christ as you manage people and processes.

The main aspects to this job include:

- Sitting as part of the leadership team for the Face-to-Face Fundraising Team, this will involve working with the Face-to-Face Channel Manager on Channel strategy, delivery and implementation. Influencing and working closely with the Operations team, you will nurture and garner new relationships with external

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