

CHARITABLE PURPOSES

To be a charity an organisation must have purposes (what the organisation is set up for) which are all charitable.

In the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2008 and amended by the Charities Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 12 descriptions of charitable purposes are outlined below.

- The prevention or relief of poverty.
- The advancement of education.
- The advancement of religion.
- The advancement of health or the saving of lives.
- The advancement of citizenship or community development.
- The advancement of the arts, culture, heritage or science.
- The advancement of amateur sport.
- The advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation or the promotion of religious or racial harmony or equality and diversity.
- The advancement of environmental protection or improvement.
- The relief of those in need by reason of youth, age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage.
- The advancement of animal welfare.
- Any other charitable purpose.

All of the purposes of your charity must fit within these descriptions for the organisation to be a charity in Northern Ireland.

The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland has produced supporting guidance for each of the 12 descriptions of charitable purposes. These descriptions can be found on the public benefit page of the Commission's website.

<https://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/manage-your-charity/register-your-charity/the-public-benefit-requirement/>