

PRESS STATEMENT

Commissioner of Charities suspends all charitable fund-raising appeals conducted by Crisis Centre (Singapore)

The Commissioner of Charities (COC) has issued an order under Section 39B(1A) of the Charities Act to suspend the conduct of any fund-raising appeals by Crisis Centre (Singapore) (UEN T18SS0008H) (“the Charity”) for charitable, benevolent or philanthropic purposes, for a period of 6 months with effect from 15 August 2019. During the suspension period, the Charity can continue with its daily operations. This order serves to protect the public while investigations into the Charity’s fund-raising activities are ongoing.

2. The Charity was set up as a society on 16 January 2018 and granted charity status on 9 May 2018. The Charity seeks to provide a transitional shelter for men who are homeless or at risk of being homeless.

3. The Commissioner of Charities, Dr Ang Hak Seng, explained that “We have received feedback about the fund-raising appeals conducted by the Charity. Investigations to date have raised serious concerns about the Charity’s governance, record-keeping practices and ability to be accountable to its donors. Therefore, I am satisfied that there are grounds to exercise my powers under the Charities Act to suspend the conduct of fund-raising appeals by the Charity during the stated period, pending further investigations into the concerned appeals, in order to safeguard the public interest.”

Public Advisory

4. When members of the public are approached by fund-raisers, they are advised to be discerning and not to feel pressured into making a donation immediately. While most fund-raising appeals are genuine, it is always good to find out more before deciding to give by practising three simple steps: Ask, Check, Give. First, members of the public should ask questions, such as who the beneficiary is, how the donations will be used, and how much of the donations goes to the beneficiary. Second, check the legitimacy of the fund-raising appeals – verification can be done via the Charity Portal, scanning the Fund-raising Permit’s QR Code or SMS “FR<space><license/certificate number or organisation name>” to 79777. If in doubt, members of the public should contact or find out more about the fund-raising organisation. Finally, give only when assured that the appeal is legitimate and the donation will go to its intended charitable purpose.

5. Members of the public who have concerns regarding any suspicious fund-raising appeals should report the matter to the Commissioner of Charities. If fraud or scams are suspected, a Police report should be lodged immediately.

Issued by:

Commissioner of Charities

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