

CIRCULAR

**concerning the prevention of financial crimes connected to
the emergence of COVID-19**

This difficult state of emergency has reminded all of us of the principles of solidarity and mutual collaboration. The urge to look out for one another and the firm conviction that one must extend a helping hand have spurred many entities, associations and foundations to act, to carry out commendable projects and initiatives in support of the individuals and populations affected by the emergency caused by COVID 19.

The projects, initiatives and all related activities in support of the most vulnerable invite us to pay special attention to the manner in which they are implemented, so as to not frustrate the spirit and actual effects of their benevolent purposes. Therefore, particular attention must be paid to fundraising activities, including through online crowdfunding platforms, to counter the risk of fraudulent schemes.

The Financial Information Authority, as the institution of the Holy See and Vatican City State tasked with countering money laundering and terrorism financing, asks that fundraising activities be carefully monitored, and that the origin and use of the funds be analyzed, to avoid that the assistance offered is nullified.

In this regard, the personnel that evaluate suspicious activities and those that coordinate initiatives and manage funds must be made aware of their monitoring responsibilities, including through specific instructions aimed at ensuring effective application of the anti-money laundering and terrorist financing regulations, with particular attention to the detection and prompt reporting of suspicious activities to the Financial Intelligence Authority.

It is necessary and right to operate cohesively so that the entities that professionally carry out financial activities, the entities of the Holy See and Vatican City State, the non-profit entities and the legal persons registered with the Vatican City State act in concert to prevent, in pursuit of the set objectives, all possible distorting effects, thus preserving the integrity of the mission and the institutional purposes.

Vatican, 8 May 2020

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Visto

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