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Charity must not be given to our enemies

If British organisations have been used to promote extremism and anti-Semitism, the Government needs to act

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Labour isn't afraid of being tough on charitable tax breaks when the circumstances suit the party. Last year, the Government dealt a vindictive blow to independent schools by scrapping their mandatory business-rate relief, which remains available to all other charities. Is it prepared to take similarly robust action against charitable organisations found to be promoting extremism?

The FBI has claimed that a British Muslim charity, the Al-Khair Foundation, has been used to bankroll Hamas, the terrorist group responsible for the horrendous attack on Israel on October 7, 2023.

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The charity has received at least £9m in taxpayers' cash in Gift Aid since 2021. The Met is running a wider investigation into potential terrorism funding allegations while the Charity Commission has opened a statutory inquiry. The Al-Khair Foundation has sought to distance itself from its "global director", Mohammad Yousef Hasna, the man the FBI alleges is responsible.

These allegations raise inevitable questions about why the charity was not investigated sooner, and how much of British donors' money might have been funnelled to Hamas. But there is a wider issue than any single charity. In recent months, there have been multiple warnings that British charities have been used to promote extremism and anti-Semitism, and several have been alleged to have links with the Iranian regime.

What is the Government going to do to ensure that British organisations are not giving aid to our enemies?

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