

The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem



Unrecognised Orders awareness

The Order of St John (full name: The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem) is a working Order of Chivalry of the British Crown with His Majesty King Charles III as Sovereign Head. The Order was established by Royal Charter of Queen Victoria in 1888. Its historical roots are much longer, going back to the Brothers Hospitallers in the Middle Ages. Today it provides first aid, ambulance, health care and community healthcare needs in 44 countries. At the core are the St John volunteers who give their own time and effort to help others. It operates through its two charitable Foundations: St John Ambulance, and the St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital. The Order can award honours to people, recognising their good work. Those honoured are today's members of the Order of St John.

The Order of St John is one of five recognised Orders of St John, along with the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (full name The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta), the German Johanniter Order (full name Chivalric Order of the Hospital of St John in Jerusalem), and the Dutch and Swedish Johanniter Orders. All have St John in their names, and all use the white, eight-pointed cross, commonly referred to as the Maltese, or Amalfi Cross, as their badge and symbol, which is specifically associated with these five Orders."

There are some organisations who have adopted some aspects of the history, names and marks, emblems, or other symbols of the recognised orders. While some such unrecognised orders do have some charitable function and offer insignia to their members, they are not recognised by any state as an Order of Chivalry.

Such unrecognised orders blur the boundaries of the St John family brand. They pose a threat to The Order of St John by confusing volunteers, donors, and the wider public. As St John strives to be the global lead in first aid and medical response with a gold standard of training and operations, unrecognised orders put that at risk.

Members of the wider St John family should be aware of the existence of unrecognised orders using St John in its name, or a derivative of St John, or using an Emblem that is likely to cause confusion with the Order of St John and the other recognised orders. Should St John personnel become aware of any unrecognised orders impinging on the Order they should report its existence to the Head of Chancery steven.wilson@orderofstjohn.org in the International Office.

Head of Chancery
4 January 2023