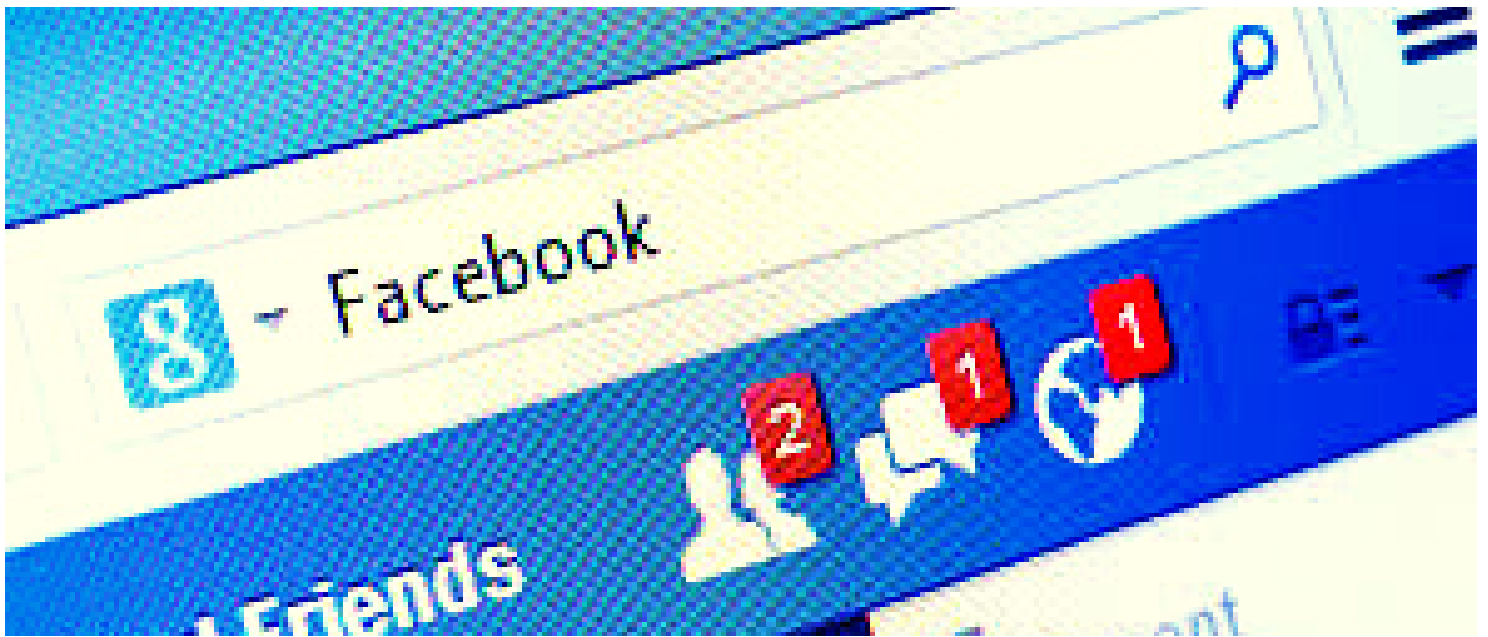


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# SCAM ALERT: BEWARE OF 'FRIENDS' ASKING FOR MONEY ON FACEBOOK



## BACKGROUND INFO

### WHAT DOES THIS LOOK LIKE:

Facebook is one of the most visited websites on the Internet, and with over two billion registered users it's a virtual gold mine for scam artists out to make an easy buck.

Unfortunately during recent times of the Covid-19 pandemic, many scammers are creating a chain type of message that is sent to a western contact list which they add on social media. Often the scammer will appear genuine, however has made up a story of hardship to try and make a person feel sorry for them and send money. The horrible thing is that these stories sound like the truth, and they may seem relatable and realistic. However, these scammers are completely taking advantage of the hardship that many in their country are enduring at the time.

If this ever happens to you, please understand that you aren't a fool. You are a caring, trusting person and your new "friend" has taken advantage of your kindness, plain and simple.

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BRIGHTER  
FUTURE  
ORGANISATION

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# HOW TO AVOID FALLING VICTIM

## LEAVE IT IN THE HANDS OF A CHARITY/NGO

- If you receive a foreign friend request from someone you don't know, but they are already friends with several of your other friends (including charity and NGO connections), we advise that you **do not accept the request**.

- If you receive a message from a foreign person you have never met from another country and this starts with a story of hardship, and ends with a plea for money, **we advise that you do not respond and block this contact immediately to prevent further scams**.

- If you honestly feel the person is telling the truth or you are unsure, we advise you to tell the person that you are not in a position to financially help, and then provide them with the contact information of a local charity/NGO that will be able to provide appropriate support so that they will be able to gain the help they need. **Charities and NGO's have the correct screening and protocols to deal** with scamming issues.

- Lastly, and most importantly, we advise you to **never send money or details about your financial accounts** to someone that you only "know" via the Internet, even if you become extremely emotionally attached to the person or the contents of their message.

*"If you receive a foreign friend request from someone you don't know, but they are already friends with several of your other friends (including charity and NGO connections), we advise that you **do not accept the request**".*



Staying  
Safe  
Online