

Charity at a Distance

“Why are they asking for help for people on the other side of the world? Aren’t there any poor people here? There are people sleeping under the bridge just down-town. We have enough needy right here at our doorstep, so let’s look after them first.”

Have you ever noticed this excuse for denial of charitable work?

Oh, yes! That is a difficult argument to refute, because it seems to make so much practical sense on the surface of it, and it implies that helping local charities by the arguer is a foregone conclusion. But have a quick look at what the proponents of that particular argument do next after putting it forward, and you will see that in almost all cases, they do nothing. Seldom do they take any positive action to go out and find a needy charity “right here”, and the initial argument serves only to stave off the first request.

And the people who put it forward actually try to justify their denials by saying, with a straight face, “I told them to help the local needy first”, taking some pride, seemingly, in having contributed this advice to the whole issue, and washing their hands of it by instructing the charities how to prioritize their work.

HYPOCRITES! (Upper case not accidental!!)