

# Navigating Hostility: The Effect of Nonprofit Transparency and Accountability on Donor Preferences in the Face of Shrinking Civic Space

Suparna Chaudhry  
Lewis and Clark College  
schaudhry@lclark.edu

Marc Dotson  
Utah State University  
marc.dotson@usu.edu

Andrew Heiss  
Georgia State University  
aheiss@gsu.edu

Abstract .....	1
🧠🌤️🚶 : Note on “silent skywalk” project name .....	1
Licenses .....	2
Contributions and Code of Conduct .....	2

---

## ABSTRACT

Governments across the world have increasingly used laws to restrict the work of nonprofits, which has led to a reduction in public or official foreign aid directed towards these groups. Many international nonprofits, in response, have turned to individual donors to offset the loss of traditional funding. What are individual donors’ preferences regarding donating to legally besieged nonprofits abroad? We conducted a conjoint experiment on a nationally representative sample of likely donors in the US and found that learning about host government criticism and legal restrictions on nonprofits decreases individuals’ preferences to donate to them. However, organizational features such as financial transparency and accountability can protect against this dampening effect. Our results have important implications both for understanding private international philanthropy and how nonprofits can better frame their fundraising appeals at a time when they are facing restrictive civic spaces and hostile governments abroad.

## 🧠🌤️🚶 : NOTE ON “SILENT SKYWALK” PROJECT NAME

Because project titles change all the time with revisions, rewriting, and peer review, we used {codename} to generate a NICKA-style internal-to-us project name that won’t change.

```
library(codename)
codename_message()
#> code name generated by {codename} v.0.5.0. R version 4.3.0 (2023-04-21).
```

```
codename(type = "nicka", seed = "why donors donate")  
#> [1] "silent skywalk"
```

## LICENSES

**Text and figures:** All prose and images are licensed under Creative Commons ([CC-BY-4.0](#)).

**Code:** All code is licensed under the [MIT License](#).

## CONTRIBUTIONS AND CODE OF CONDUCT

We welcome contributions from everyone. Before you get started, please see our [contributor guidelines](#). Please note that this project is released with a [Contributor Code of Conduct](#). By contributing to this project, you agree to abide by its terms.