

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**BRIGHTEN THE FUTURE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

**REMEMBER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
IN YOUR WILL**



Kate Allen

Director of Amnesty
International UK

If Amnesty International's history proves anything, it is the power of ordinary people around the world standing up to torture, oppression and the abuse of human rights. Where the voice of one person could be ignored or extinguished, we are heard because we speak up together.

As Director of Amnesty International UK, I get to see on a daily basis just what our supporters can do to change people's lives. By leaving a gift to Amnesty International in your Will, you can continue to empower human rights change long into the future. Any gift, whatever its size, will make a priceless difference to so many people's lives.

Thank you for fighting for justice and freedom.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Allen".

This booklet explains how a gift in your Will to Amnesty International can leave a lasting impression on the world. It explains the process; giving details of the different types of gifts, suggested wording for your Will, a Codicil form to amend an existing Will, and information about Inheritance Tax.

COVER: A young refugee on the Greek island of Kos.

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WHO WE ARE

Amnesty International's vision is a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. **Our mission** is to conduct research and take action to prevent and end grave abuses of all human rights: civil, political, social, cultural and economic. **Our purpose** - to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

With these values at our heart, we have stopped torture, freed prisoners, prevented executions and saved lives.

“Those who today still feel a sense of impotence can do something: they can support Amnesty International.”

Peter Benenson,
founder of Amnesty International, 1961

OUR PRIORITIES

Protecting individuals at risk, and securing justice for those whose rights have been abused or denied, remains at the heart of our work.

Responding to human rights crises, helping to protect civilians and ensuring that perpetrators of mass human rights violations are held to account.

Supporting human rights defenders around the world, to make sure that they can continue to challenge sexism and racism, campaign for justice, condemn human rights violations and hold leaders to account.

Protecting the rights of refugees, working with the Amnesty movement in a global campaign to ensure that people fleeing conflict and persecution receive the protection they need.

Ensuring that human rights are protected and promoted in the UK, creating a more positive understanding of human rights and defending the Human Rights Act.

Ensuring that human rights education in the UK is available to all children, young people and adults, so that everyone knows, values and can claim their rights.

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

Making a Will and leaving a gift in your Will is easier than you may think and is one of the best ways you can help us to change the future for the better. **Any gift, whatever its size, really is priceless to us** – gifts left in Wills by our supporters now pay for around one in ten of our campaigns.

Making a Will is one of the most important things you can do to ensure your wishes are respected. Without a Will, it's the legal system which decides who gets what from your estate.

The money and assets that make up your estate may be subject to Inheritance Tax. Gifts to charity are exempt from this tax, and could reduce the amount your family would have to pay. Please see the loose sheet on Inheritance Tax at the back of this booklet, which also includes a handy guide to working out the value of your estate.

We always advise you to consult a solicitor when making your Will.

IN MEMORIAM GIVING

Giving a gift in memory of a family member or friend is a very special way to remember them, whilst also helping us to keep fighting for justice, fairness and freedom for everyone. Find out more at [amnesty.org.uk/inmemory](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/inmemory)

DIFFERENT WAYS TO LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE (residuary gift)

Once you have taken care of your loved ones, the remainder of your estate is known as the residue, which you can choose to leave a share of to charity. Even a small percentage could make a huge difference to Amnesty in the future as it will not devalue over time.

A CASH GIFT (pecuniary gift)

This is when you leave an exact amount of money to us. Inflation will reduce the value of a pecuniary gift, so you can revise them from time to time according to your wishes.

A SPECIFIC GIFT

This is a named item rather than money, for example, a piece of art or shares. You must describe these items exactly and clearly state to whom you are leaving them.

A REVERSIONARY GIFT

A gift to someone for their lifetime, which after their death, goes to someone else. For example, you could leave a property to a relative, which after their death would be passed on to Amnesty International. Reversionary gifts can be quite complex, so it's best to consult your solicitor about them.

“Amnesty’s most important achievements can be measured in human lives – lives saved, prisoners released, threats averted. This is the constant thread which runs through its history.”

Stephanie Grant

Amnesty International’s first researcher.

SUGGESTED WORDING FOR YOUR WILL

WORDING TO LEAVE A PERCENTAGE SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE

(residuary gift)

“I give all (or a% share of) the residue of my estate to...
(see wording below)

WORDING TO LEAVE A CASH GIFT

(pecuniary gift)

“I give the sum of £ (words & figures) to...
(see wording below)

WORDING TO LEAVE A SPECIFIC GIFT

“I give my [Describe the gift you wish to leave e.g. my art or book collection or jewellery] to...
(see wording below)

THEN ADD THIS WORDING

...Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA, registered charity number 1051681 to be used for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.”

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR WILL

If you already have a Will, adding a gift to Amnesty International is straightforward. Ask your solicitor to draft an amendment, which is called a ‘Codicil’. This is then kept with your Will and has legal status.

In the back of this booklet you’ll find a Codicil form which can be added to an existing Will.

HOW YOUR LEGACY HAS IMPACT

Leaving a gift to Amnesty in your Will is one of the most valuable ways you can continue to empower human rights change around the world.

- **With your help, just 1% of a £50,000 estate could** help cover the cost of our school speakers programme, teaching young people about human rights and inspiring the next generation of human rights defenders.

- **A legacy from you of £5,000** could pay for media fellowships in developing countries for four journalists, enabling them to report and raise awareness of human rights violations.

- **Leaving a 10% share of a £300,000 estate** could enable us to conduct two human rights investigations in crisis countries with security equipment, satellite imagery and forensic support.

FREE WILLS SERVICE

Making a Will and keeping it up-to-date is the only way you can be sure your wishes will be respected. Without a Will, it's the legal system which decides who gets what from your estate.

To help you complete this important task, we offer a **Free Wills Service** in partnership with the **National Free Wills Network**. The scheme enables you to make or update your Will for free, using a local participating solicitor.

WRITE YOUR WILL FOR FREE IN 3 QUICK & EASY STEPS

STEP 1

Complete and return the form at the back of this booklet, or email legacy@amnesty.org.uk, to request a referral.

STEP 2

We will refer you to the National Free Wills Network, who will send you contact details for the six solicitors nearest to you..

STEP 3

Request an appointment with your chosen solicitor who will draw up your Will for free.

Most people who use the Free Wills Network do kindly choose to leave a gift to Amnesty in their Will. You don't have to but we hope you will consider it.

INHERITANCE TAX

It comes as a surprise to many people to discover they are liable for Inheritance Tax. But the value of your assets can quickly add up, particularly if you own your home.

A properly drawn up Will can reduce your Inheritance Tax liability. For example, leaving a gift to charity such as Amnesty International can lower the amount of Inheritance Tax payable on your estate.

So you can support Amnesty International and reduce the amount of tax your family or other beneficiaries will have to pay.

The current Inheritance Tax threshold is £325,000 and the rate is set at 40%.

EXAMPLE

Your estate is worth **£500,000** and your tax-free threshold is **£325,000**.

The Inheritance Tax charged will be **40%** of **£175,000** (**£500,000** minus **£325,000**).

From April 2012, Inheritance Tax legislation changed, meaning in some situations, **anyone leaving 10% or more of their taxable estate to charity may qualify for a reduced rate of Inheritance Tax** – 36% rather than 40%.

The threshold and the rates change from time to time, so we advise checking the current figures on the **www.gov.uk** website.

Your solicitor or financial advisor will be able to help you with these and other relevant issues, including how to keep your Inheritance Tax liability as low as possible.

YOUR ESTATE

CALCULATING THE VALUE OF YOUR ESTATE AND UNDERSTANDING INHERITANCE TAX

Many people put off making a Will, or don't specify a gift to charity, because they feel they don't have a lot to leave. However, it's often a surprise to find out just how much your assets add up to.

You can save time with your solicitor by working out your assets in advance. Simply fill in this checklist then deduct your total liabilities from your total assets to arrive at the approximate value of your estate.

ASSETS

House (present value)	£ _____
Car	£ _____
Stocks and shares	£ _____
Insurance policies	£ _____
Pension benefits	£ _____
Bank/building society accounts	£ _____
Other savings	£ _____
Furniture	£ _____
Household goods	£ _____
Jewellery	£ _____
Clothing	£ _____
Other items of value	£ _____
Total assets	£ _____

LIABILITIES

Mortgage outstanding	£ _____
Bank loans	£ _____
HP agreements	£ _____
Credit card debts	£ _____
Other debts	£ _____
Tax due	£ _____
Total liabilities	£ _____

CODICIL

SUGGESTED WORDING/RETAINABLE CODICIL

I (your name)

of

(your address)

declare this to be a first/second/third **(delete as appropriate)**
Codicil to my Will

dated: / / **2** **0**

I give (delete or complete the following sections as appropriate):

- the whole / portion **(delete as appropriate)** of my real and personal property not hereby or by a Codicil hereto, otherwise specifically disposed of after payments of my debts, pecuniary legacies, funeral and administration expense, and any taxes in respect of my estate **(a gift of the residue)**
- the sum £ free of tax **(a cash gift)**
- my **(a gift of valuable possession)**

to Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust (registered charity number 1051681) of the Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA and I DECLARE that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer of the Fund shall be a good discharge for the gift.

Signed

Date

Continued...

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In all respects I confirm my said Will and any previous Codicils thereto.

I witness thereof I have here unto set my hand this

dated: (day of)

(month)

(year)

Signed by the said:

(your name)

as a first/second/third (**delete as appropriate**) Codicil to (his/her) last Will in our joint presence and then by us in (his/hers)

First witness

(First witness's signature)

(Name)

(Occupation)

(Address)

Second witness

(Second witness's signature)

(Name)

(Occupation)

(Address)

Please note: A witness cannot be anyone who is your executor or a beneficiary of your Will or any Codicil (or anyone married to, or in a civil partnership with, a beneficiary or executor).

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PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE DECIDED TO DO

MY INTENTIONS

I have already included Amnesty International UK in my Will with:

A share of my estate

A cash legacy

A specific gift (e.g. book collection)

I intend to include Amnesty International UK in my Will.

I would like to write my Will for free.

Please pass my details to the National Free Wills Network.

Name:
Address:
Postcode:

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I would like a member of the Legacy team to contact me.

Please call me on:

Please return your completed form to the following address:

**Legacy Team, Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre,
17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.**

We understand that your Will is a private matter. Any information you share with us will be kept in the strictest of confidence and is not legally binding. The information provided will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust (AIUK). If you have asked for more information about writing a free Will, we will need to share your name & address with the National Free Wills Network who will only use your details to contact you about making a Will for free. You can update your preferences at any time by calling our Supporter Communications' Team on **020 7033 1777** or emailing **sct@amnesty.org.uk**. If you have notified us of a gift in your Will using this form, but would prefer us not to contact you about it in future, please let the Supporter Communications Team know. Amnesty International UK will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. To find out more about how we use your information, please see **www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice**

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“Since I’ve been so lucky to be born in a part of the world with freedom of speech, movement and action and where I, as a woman, can do what I want, I wish for others to get the same rights and gain protection from injustice and violence.”

Tatina Semprini

long-term supporter, has pledged a gift to Amnesty in her Will.

SUPPORTER PROMISE

Amnesty International UK is committed to the highest standards in fundraising. Read our promise to you:
www.amnesty.org.uk/promise

CONTACT THE LEGACY TEAM

- Call **020 7033 1657**
- Email legacy@amnesty.org.uk

www.amnesty.org.uk/legacy

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust
The Human Rights Action Centre,
17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA

Telephone 020 7033 1500
Facsimile 020 7033 1503
Textphone 020 7033 1664



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Charity registered in England & Wales no.1051681. Charity registered in Scotland no.SC039534.
Company Limited by guarantee.
Registered in England no. 03139939. Registered office as shown above.