

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

MAKE A WILL MONTH

MARCH 2019

USE YOUR WILL.

CHANGE THE WORLD.

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**





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**KATE ALLEN, DIRECTOR OF
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK**

Dear Amnesty Supporter

Amnesty International UK's Make a Will Month is a great opportunity for you to get the important task of making or updating your Will out of the way.

To help you, we've recruited partner solicitors across the UK for the scheme who have offered to provide free Will-writing services to individuals like you. We've also put together this guide, with advice to help make the process of making or changing your Will as simple and convenient as possible.

If you do use the scheme, it would be wonderful if you could consider leaving a gift in your Will towards our work. 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 and by leaving a legacy, you can help that great work continue long into the future. Any gift, whatever its size, will make a priceless difference to so many people's lives.

If you have any queries about Amnesty's Make a Will Month, please give us a call – or if you're ready now, please get in touch with your local participating solicitor directly.

Thank you, for being Amnesty

Kate Allen

MAKING A WILL

Amnesty's Make a Will Month in March 2019 is offering supporters the opportunity to have a **simple Will** written or updated for free by a local solicitor.

Having a Will isn't a legal requirement, but it's the only way to ensure that your estate is passed on to the people and charities that you want it to go to. Without a Will, it's the legal system that will decide who receives what from your estate.

Most people who use the Make a Will Month scheme do kindly choose to leave a gift to Amnesty in their Will. You don't have to but we hope you will consider it. Any gift, whatever its size, really is priceless to us – gifts left in Wills by our supporters now fund around 16% of our campaigns.

Before you visit a solicitor, it's worth putting together a list of your assets (what you own) and liabilities (what you owe), so you can work out

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what your estate is worth. Included in this booklet is a **simple Will planner which we advise that you fill out** in preparation for your appointment.

CHANGING YOUR WILL

You can change your current Will during Make a Will Month too. It's important to regularly review your Will, to take into account any changes in your life and to Inheritance Tax rules. If the change is simple, your solicitor may be able to add a codicil – a small addition to your Will that has legal status. If the change is more complex, the best thing may be to write a new Will.



TEODORA DEL CARMEN VÁSQUEZ

In July 2007, Teodora suffered a stillbirth while at work. Rather than receiving immediate medical help, she was arrested by police and later sentenced to 30 years in prison for 'aggravated homicide'.

In El Salvador, women who suffer miscarriages or stillbirths are routinely suspected of having an abortion and the penalty can be up to 50 years in prison.

After ten years in prison, Teodora was finally released in February 2018 and reunited with her family. Amnesty International supporters had campaigned for her release throughout the time she was behind bars.

“The support I got from all those people around the world planted a seed of hope in my heart. It created a little light, that will always keep burning...”

”
By choosing to leave a legacy to Amnesty in your Will, you could help secure the release of someone like Teodora in the future.

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

**I can't believe how easy it was!
I'm not sure I would have made
a Will yet if Amnesty hadn't
made it sound so easy to do.**

Sophie, supporter from Manchester

**The experience of making wills with this solicitor
was excellent - we could not have a more helpful
solicitor and will recommend him in future.
Amnesty's publicity about Make a Will Month
was very clear and easy to follow. Thank you for
the opportunity**

Mr & Mrs W, supporters from Bolton

**It encouraged me to finally sort
something I'd been meaning to do for
some time. I'm happy knowing that it
is done and that I've been able to leave
something to the charities I care about.**

Kimberley, supporter from London

**Good way of raising funds through an
important service and indeed making
solicitors more aware of the work of the
organisation. Thank you.**

Mr G, supporter from Surrey

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HOW TO TAKE PART

The nearest participating solicitors to you are listed in your letter. If you've misplaced it, don't worry – you can find all the details you'll need online at www.amnesty.org.uk/makeawill. You can also use our online postcode finder at www.amnesty.org.uk/findasolicitor to search for alternative solicitors near to where you live or work.

All you need to do is contact your chosen solicitor directly to arrange an appointment between 1 and 31 March 2019, and they will help you plan your Will and then write it up, so that all your wishes are carried out.

LEAVING A GIFT TO AMNESTY

Leaving a gift to Amnesty in your Will is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can help protect individuals wherever freedom, peace and justice are denied.

It costs nothing during your lifetime but will have

a powerful impact for years to come. Each legacy Amnesty receives translates into action and support for individuals being denied their rights.

WHAT YOUR GIFT COULD DO

- **With your help just 1% of a £50,000 estate** could help cover the cost of our school speakers programme, teaching 27,000 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 Amnesty International UK 10% 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.

SAMPLE LEGACY WORDING

We strongly recommend you have your Will drafted by a solicitor to ensure your wishes are properly carried out. Here is some sample wording you may find useful if you choose to leave a legacy to Amnesty

For a percentage of your estate after specific gifts and debts have been paid (a residuary gift)

I give a % share of the residue of my estate to 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 the Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

For a specific sum (a pecuniary gift)

I give the sum of £ (words and figures) to 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 the Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

PREPARING FOR YOUR VISIT

Before you visit a solicitor, fill out the simple Will planner overleaf.

Using the Will planner you can put together a list of your assets (what you own) and liabilities (what you owe), so you can work out what your estate is worth.

Did you know?
Around 16%
of Amnesty's funds
come from gifts
people leave in
their Wills

YOUR WILL PLANNER

Prepare for your meeting with your solicitor by completing this simple checklist.

Your executors

These are the people who will ensure everything happens. You can have up to four executors. They could be friends or family or a solicitor. Make a note of their full names and addresses.

Please note that Amnesty cannot act as an executor of your Will.

Children's full names and addresses (if different from your own)

Guardian's full name and addresses (if you are appointing a guardian for your child)

Remember to discuss your wishes with the people you wish to appoint to make sure they agree. Some people may also have pets they would like someone to take care of.

MAKE A LIST OF YOUR ASSETS

In the first section, make a list of everything you own and make a note of its approximate value. This section will help you work out the value of your estate. In the second section, think about what you owe and make a note of your liabilities.

Deduct total B from total A and the result is the total net value of your estate.

What is the value of your major assets?

Your home (or share in it)

Other property and land

Cars and other vehicles

Home contents including furniture and fittings

Items of particular value (eg jewellery/art)

Money in banks and building societies

Shares, investments, national savings, premium bonds

Insurance and pensions

Other savings and assets

A Total assets

What are your major liabilities?

Your mortgage

Loans and overdrafts

Your credit cards

Credit or high purchase agreements

Other liabilities

B Total liabilities

Total assets – total liabilities = total estate value

£

£

WHO DO YOU WANT TO REMEMBER IN YOUR WILL?

Make a list of the family, friends and charities you would like to benefit in your Will and think about what you would like them to receive. You will need to decide what you would like to give each person and whether it should be a specific item or amount of money or a % share from your estate.

Name	Address	% share	Amount £	Specific item

Any questions?

Now that you have started to think about making your Will you may have additional queries. List any questions you might like to discuss with your solicitor on a separate sheet and keep these together with your Will planner.

LEGAL TERMS

Here is a short glossary of the legal terms you might find useful when making your Will.

An **administrator** is someone who is appointed by law to settle your affairs if you die with no Will.

A **beneficiary** is anyone who receives something from a Will.

A **bequest** (legacy) is a gift left in a Will. It can be:

- **residuary**: a gift of money or assets left when other legacies and expenses have been paid – normally expressed as a part or percentage of the residue of your estate
- **pecuniary**: a gift of a particular sum of money
- **specific**: a definite object or property

A **codicil** is an addition or amendment to an existing Will.

Your **estate** is the total value of everything you own at your death, less any outstanding commitments.

An **executor** is the person or people you choose to make your Will happen. They can be a relative, a friend or your solicitor. Amnesty cannot act as an executor of your Will.

Guardians are the people chosen by parents to look after their children in the event of their death.

Intestacy is the name for the situation that arises when someone dies without making a Will.

Inheritance tax is a 40 per cent tax deducted from estates with a value of more than £325,000. Money left to your spouse or a charity is not taxed. Anyone leaving 10% or more of their taxable estate to charity may qualify for a reduced rate of Inheritance tax – 36% rather than 40%.

Probate (Confirmation in Scotland) is the legal process to establish whether your Will is valid. If not, an administrator is appointed.

A **testator/testatrix** is the person making the Will.

A **trust** is an arrangement you can make in your Will to administer part of your assets after your death.

Did you know?
Almost half of people without a Will say they simply haven't got around to making one*

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK MAKE A WILL MONTH MARCH 2019

To find out more about **Amnesty's Make a Will Month** please get in touch.

- Visit **www.amnesty.org.uk/makeawill**
- Email **legacy@amnesty.org.uk**
- Call Christina Sandberg on **020 7033 1657**

SUPPORTER PROMISE

We are committed to the highest standards in fundraising.
Read our promise to you: **www.amnesty.org.uk/promise**.

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Young refugee from Syria
at Freij informal tented
settlement in Lebanon.

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