

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK
MAKE A WILL MONTH
(1-31 MARCH 2017)**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**USE YOUR WILL.
CHANGE THE WORLD.**





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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 solicitors across England, Scotland and Wales for the scheme, and this year we have a record breaking number of solicitors on board. 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 take part, 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 2017 is offering supporters the opportunity to have a simple Will written or changed 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.

And while there's no obligation to include a gift to Amnesty in your Will, we hope that people taking part will consider including at least a small gift towards our work. Any gift, whatever its size, really is priceless to us – gifts left in Wills by our supporters now fund around one in ten 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



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out what your estate is worth. At the end of this booklet there is a simple Will planner which you can 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.



YECENIA ARMENTA

Yecenia Armenta was tortured by Mexican state police following her arrest in July 2012. She was beaten, choked and raped during 15 hours of torture until she was forced to 'confess' to involvement in the murder of her husband.

On learning of the case, Amnesty International launched a global campaign, calling for the charges to be dropped against her, an investigation into her torture raised and justice brought to the perpetrators at the police station who had committed the human rights violations. The campaign resulted in 300,000 signatures from supporters around the world. In June 2016, Yecenia was finally freed and reunited with her two young children.

To everyone who has stood by me, I give my heartfelt thanks. Without this support, my freedom would have been almost impossible. I want to thank you and to urge you to continue your efforts, don't stop the beautiful work you are doing for the human rights of others. Sometimes justice is delayed, but it comes.

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

SUPPORTER FEEDBACK

I thought this was an inspired idea. It galvanised me to get a will done - which was free - and as a result I have made sure to leave some money to Amnesty. Thank you very much indeed.

Miranda, supporter from London

This has been a very useful service administered by an excellent solicitor and in aid of a worthy charity. It has helped take the difficulty out of the will-writing process and enabled me to finally get around to making a Will, which is so important. It has been a very easy process, and I would certainly recommend Amnesty's Make a Will scheme to anyone. Thank you.

Rita, supporter from Dorset

MAKE A WILL MONTH (1-31 MARCH 2017)

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. All you need to do is contact your chosen solicitor directly to arrange an appointment between 1 and 31 March 2017, 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 10%
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 unfortunately 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)	<input type="text"/>
Other property and land	<input type="text"/>
Cars and other vehicles	<input type="text"/>
Home contents including furniture and fittings	<input type="text"/>
Items of particular value (eg jewellery/art)	<input type="text"/>
Money in banks and building societies	<input type="text"/>
Shares, investments, national savings, premium bonds	<input type="text"/>
Insurance and pensions	<input type="text"/>
Other savings and assets	<input type="text"/>
A Total assets	<input type="text"/>

What are your major liabilities?

Your mortgage	<input type="text"/>
Loans and overdrafts	<input type="text"/>
Your credit cards	<input type="text"/>
Credit or HP agreements	<input type="text"/>
Other liabilities	<input type="text"/>
B Total liabilities	<input type="text"/>

Total assets – total liabilities = total estate value

<input type="text"/>

Did you know?
In 2010, the Treasury gained £76 million from people who died without a Will*

*Source: BBC magazine

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. If your spouse predeceased you and did not use up their full inheritance-tax-free allowance, this will be added to your own at the rate prevailing at your death.

Probate 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*

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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 Rebecca Elliott on **020 7033 1627**

THANK YOU

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Syrian refugee crisis: Noura is 6 years old. Together with her mother, two brothers and her sister, she was forced to flee from Syria. The family is now trapped in a refugee camp in Greece waiting to be reunited with her father in Germany.

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