

AMNESTY'S MAKE A WILL FORTNIGHT 7-20 MARCH 2016



**SIMPLE
WILL
PLANNER
INSIDE**

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



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

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Dear Amnesty supporter

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 taking part in Make a Will Fortnight, you can help that great work continue long into the future.

Amnesty's Make a Will Fortnight is a great opportunity for you to get the chore of making or changing your Will out of the way – and support Amnesty too.

To help you, we've recruited solicitors across England, Scotland and Wales for the scheme. 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 leave a gift towards our work. However small or large your gift may be, it will make a priceless difference to so many people's lives.

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

Now it's over to you ...

Kate Allen

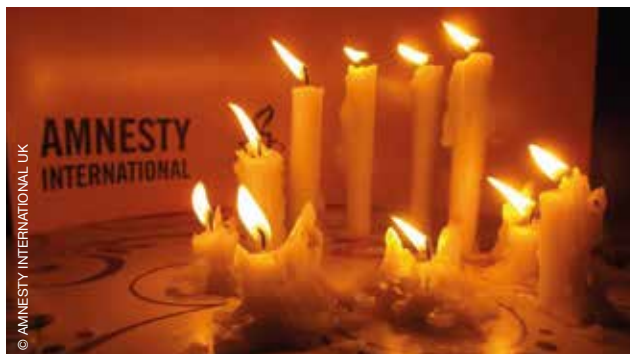
USING YOUR WILL

MAKING A 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, large or small, really is priceless to us – gifts left in Wills by our supporters now fund around one in ten of our campaigns.

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.

Amnesty's Make a Will Fortnight 7-20 March 2016 is offering supporters the opportunity to have a simple Will written or changed for free by a local solicitor. 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.



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 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 Fortnight 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.



ÁNGEL COLÓN

Ángel Colón, a Honduran migrant, was tortured and imprisoned in Mexico. Ángel was desperately trying to reach the USA to find a job to pay for medical treatment for his gravely ill son. The house he was staying in was raided and he was arrested, tortured and forced to sign a false statement implicating him in criminal activity.

Amnesty International recognised Ángel as a prisoner of conscience and just four months later, after more than 20,000 people took action to demand his release, the charges were dropped and he was released unconditionally.

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. So when you leave a gift to Amnesty, you're really leaving freedom, peace or justice for other human beings around the world.

SAMPLE WORDING

We strongly recommend you have your Will drafted by a solicitor to ensure your wishes are properly carried out. Here are some examples you may find useful.

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.*

Income from gifts left in Wills go into the Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust. The Trust funds research into human rights abuses, relieves distress among victims of human rights violations and works for the abolition of torture, extrajudicial executions and 'disappearances'.

Did you know?
 Around 10%
 of Amnesty's funds
 come from gifts
 people leave in
 their Wills



YORM BOPHA

When her neighbours in Beoung Kak Lake, Cambodia, were forced from their homes in their thousands to make way for development, Yorm Bopha did not stay silent. She took up a microphone and led local activists – most of whom were women – in resistance.

Yorm was sentenced to three years imprisonment to keep her quiet, on false charges for planning an assault on two men. Amnesty International recognised Yorm as a prisoner of conscience and, after more than 90,000 people signed our global petition, she was released and reunited with her husband and young son.

MAKE A WILL FORTNIGHT

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MAKES WILL WRITING CHEAPER AND EASIER

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 7 and 20 March 2016, and they will help you plan your Will and then write it up, so that all your wishes are carried out.

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.

WHAT YOUR GIFT COULD DO

- Leaving a legacy of £1,800 could help give security training in a safe place to a South Asian Human Rights Defender whose safety is at risk.
- Leaving a legacy of £4,000 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.
- Leaving a legacy of £8,000 could help cover the annual costs of our Rapid Response system, which mobilises thousands of our members when a community is at imminent risk of forced eviction.

**TURN OVER NOW TO FILL
OUT YOUR WILL PLANNER**

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.

Did you know?

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

*Source: BBC magazine

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 HP 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.

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*

*Source: Will Aid research, July 2014

AMNESTY'S MAKE A WILL FORTNIGHT

7-20 MARCH 2016

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

- Visit www.amnesty.org.uk/makeawill
- Call our Legacy Team on **020 7033 1627**

Thank you.

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