

OUR GUIDE: LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

The difference your gift could make

We cannot predict the wars, conflict or natural disasters that force people to uproot their lives and trek across thousands of miles in search of a better life. A gift in your Will leaves a lasting legacy, ensuring that people on the move can access a place of safety and the legal support they need towards rebuilding their life.

The beauty of leaving a legacy gift is that it costs you nothing now. You might be surprised how far a gift in your Will can go, even a small percentage of your estate could make a big difference to those who need it most.

What could your gift do?

- Provide expert legal assistance to refugees seeking a place of safety.
- Enable children to be reunited safely with their relatives.
- Help unaccompanied child refugees to receive the legal support they need.
- Achieve systemic improvements to policies limiting the rights of refugees.
- Invest in campaigns to build public awareness and support for refugees.

The different types of legacy gifts

Donations are vital to funding the work of Safe Passage International. When making your Will, family and friends always come first. But after you've taken care of loved ones, a gift to Safe Passage International – to the many refugees facing the loss of their homes and separation from families – could make all the difference to them.

(1) Cash gift

A cash gift is a specific amount of money given in a Will. You may also see it being referred to as a 'pecuniary gift'.

If you would like to have an **immediate impact** on the safe passage of refugees by donating a cash gift, here's some suggested wording to put in your Will:

'I give to Safe Passage International of PO Box 79446, London, E2 2HS (Registered Charity Number 1179608) the sum of [...written in words] pounds [£ ...in figures] free of tax for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the proper officer for the time being of Safe Passage International (Registered Charity Number 1179608) shall be a sufficient discharge to my executor(s).'

(2) Percentage of your estate

Alternatively, you can support the mission of Safe Passage International by donating a percentage of the remainder of your estate. This is only calculated once your loved ones have been taken care of. You may see this being referred to as a 'residuary gift'.

As this type of gift is a percentage of your estate, rather than a fixed amount, the gift will not be affected by inflation and will not lose value over time.

If you are considering leaving a percentage of your assets to Safe Passage International and protect the rights of refugees as they flee persecution, you might find the wording below helpful:

'I give to Safe Passage International of PO Box 79446, London, E2 2HS (Registered Charity Number 1179608) [...] % of the residue of my real and personal estate absolutely for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the proper officer at Safe Passage International (Registered Charity Number 1179608) shall be a sufficient discharge to my executor(s).'

Frequently asked questions

Why should I make a Will?

A Will is one of the most important documents that you will write. It is the only way to make sure that the people and the causes you care about are looked after. If you do not have a Will or if it is not validly created, your estate is said to be 'intestate'.

Without a valid Will, it could be difficult for your executors and family to sort out your affairs and so your wishes may not be properly carried out.

How can I make sure my Will is valid?

To make the Will legally binding, you must sign it and have it witnessed correctly.

You must:

- Be aged 18 or over;
- Be of sound mind;
- Make the Will voluntarily;
- Make it in writing;
- Sign it in the presence of two witnesses who are both over 18;
- Make sure that neither of the two witnesses is a beneficiary or a spouse/civil partner of a beneficiary; and
- Have it signed by those two witnesses, in your presence.

Do I need to use a solicitor to write or amend my Will?

You may choose to consult a solicitor to draft your Will, but it is not always necessary. However, we do recommend that your Will is reviewed by a legal professional to ensure that it is legal and valid.

There are certain situations where it is recommended to consult a professional. These include but are not exclusive to the following circumstances:

- You share property with someone who is not your marital or civil partner;
- You have a dependant, such as a child, who cannot care for themselves;
- You own property overseas; and/or
- Your permanent home is not in the UK.

To find your nearest legal advisor, use the search bar on the [Law Society's website](#).

What is the difference between a solicitor and a professional Will writer?

Solicitors tend to cost more than professional Will writers, so if money is a concern for you, the latter might be a better option.

However, if you have a complex estate or would prefer the added security that comes with using a qualified solicitor, we recommend that you choose this option instead.

How can I update my Will?

If you would like to leave a gift to charity but you have already made a Will, the simplest way to make any necessary updates is by writing a new Will. Once this is validly signed, any Wills you may have made in the past becomes automatically void.

You may also change your Will by adding a codicil, which is a legal document that allows you to make minor changes to your Will. It is advisable to consult a legal advisor if you so choose to take this route.

Does leaving a legacy gift affect inheritance tax?

Donations left to charity are exempt from inheritance tax. Also, if you leave more than 10% of your estate in your Will to Safe Passage and/or any other registered charity, then the overall rate of inheritance tax paid will reduce from 40% to 36%.

You can find out about other charitable tax benefits by [Inheritance tax](#) on the HMRC's website or asking a solicitor.

What should I do after I've made the Will?

Keep the Will in a safe place and make sure your executors know where the Will is kept, as they too must have access to it. You can store your Will with the Government's [Probate Service](#) or with a solicitor. There is typically no extra charge for storage if you leave it with the solicitor who drew up your Will.

You should also keep the Will up to date. This means that you should review your Will at least every 5 years and after any major life events, such as getting married, getting separated or divorced, having children, or moving house.

What next?

Whether you are considering leaving a gift in your Will or have already done so, please reach out to us by emailing our team (fundraising@safepassage.org.uk) or calling +447756879276. We would be delighted to hear from you and answer any questions that you may have.

Working with refugees, Safe Passage International aims to make it as easy as possible for people fleeing atrocities to access safe routes to protection. With very donation, no matter how big or small, we are one step closer to protecting people on the move and creating an environment where they may thrive.

Disclaimer: While we have made a concerted effort to provide up-to-date and precise information, the law is always changing and affects each person differently. This information is no substitute for specific advice about you personally and we will not be liable to you if you rely upon this information.