



**A GUIDE TO WRITING YOUR WILL**

# INTRODUCTION

## OUR MISSION

The Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights is an international initiative to develop civilian-led monitoring of violations of international humanitarian law or human rights. Our team works ceaselessly to secure accountability and reparation for those violations and to develop the practice of civilian rights. Civilians are not only victims during conflicts, but they are above all holders of rights. For this reason, all our work aims to empower civilians and help them to access a range of mechanisms and remedies.

## OUR PURPOSE

Our programmes range across different countries in the MENA region. Particularly, we are very proud to carry out programmes in Iraq, Syria, Yemen and South Sudan. We developed a civilian-led monitoring tool enabling civilians to monitor and document human rights violations. Using this tool, we have collected approximately 3,500 reports per year for each country. Then, we use these precious data to carry out an incredible advocacy effort.



**PROTECTING CIVILIANS  
IN WAR ZONES  
BY PROMOTING INNOVATION  
IN SECURING  
JUSTICE**



**TOGETHER WE CAN ENSURE  
JUSTICE FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
VIOLATIONS  
AND MAKE PROGRESS IN  
ENDING THOSE CRIMES**

# **WHY LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL?**

Leaving a gift in your Will is a powerful way to help us empower civilians in war zones. Every donation allows us to deliver a vast range of activities.

You can make a big difference in civilians' lives. No matter the size of your gift, we would maximise the impact of your donation by supporting those who need it the most.

Your gift will be used to ensure justice for everyone who experienced human rights violations in conflict-affected zones.

From Iraq to Yemen, we will make sure that civilians can access legal mechanisms and have reparations.

There is no legal requirement for everyone to make a Will. However, dying intestate could mean that what you care about is not looked after when you are gone.

Making a Will is an easy and straightforward way to make sure that your wishes will be fulfilled. If you choose to leave a gift in your Will for Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights, we can guarantee you that your generosity will be remembered.

# THE PROCESS OF LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

## YOUR WILL

Making a will is a delicate decision, but there is nothing to be afraid of in writing a Will and leaving a legacy. Above all, remember that we are here to help you every step of the way.



What you leave in your Will is your estate, consisting of everything you own like property, money, personal belongings and the share of things that you own with other people. What you owe, like a mortgage, is deducted from your estate.

By writing a Will you are establishing a legally binding document to set out how your estate will be distributed. If you die without a Will you are 'intestate'. In these situations, the law decides how to distribute your estate, and this may not result in what you want to happen.



**AS A FIRST STEP  
IN WRITING A WILL  
WE RECOMMEND CONTACTING  
A SOLICITOR**

In order to help you find a solicitor for writing or updating your Will, you can use the following contacts.

England and Wales

The Law Society

0207 242 1222

[lawsociety.org.uk](http://lawsociety.org.uk)

Scotland

The Law Society of Scotland

0131 226 7411

[lawscot.org.uk](http://lawscot.org.uk)

Northern Ireland

The Law Society

of Northern Ireland

0289 023 1614

[lawsoc-ni.org](http://lawsoc-ni.org)



# CHOOSE AN EXECUTOR

After contacting a solicitor you should also choose an executor.

An executor is a person in charge of making sure that your estate is administrated and divided following your wishes. This person could be either a solicitor, a member of your family or a friend. You can also have more than one executor.



# LEAVE A GIFT

In the meantime, you can start to get an idea of what you would like your Will to contain. What do you want to be remembered for?

Probably your first wish would be to look after your loved ones, whether they are children, family or friends. After that, you may want to leave a gift in your Will to the Ceasefire Centre for Civil Rights.

A gift in Will can be of different types.

## **RESIDUARY**

A residuary gift is a share of your estate.

## **PECUNIARY**

A pecuniary gift is a fixed amount of money, for example £3,000.

## **SPECIFIC**

A specific gift is a particular belonging that you wish to donate. You can choose to donate a house, a car or anything that you think has financial value.

If you want to leave a gift in your Will for Ceasefire, you can simply add our Charity name, Charity registration number and address that you can find below.

Then, you need to specify what type of gift you wish to leave.



**CEASEFIRE CENTRE FOR  
CIVILIAN RIGHTS  
CHARITY NO. 1160083  
54 COMMERCIAL  
STREET  
LONDON E1 6LT**



# IN SUMMARY



## 1

### FIND A SOLICITOR

Your first step would be to find a solicitor or contact your existing solicitor. They will help you to write your Will or update your previous one.

## 2

### CHOOSE AN EXECUTOR

You also need to decide who will be your executor - the person in charge of carrying out the instructions of your Will. Your executor could be either a solicitor or a family member.

## 3

### LEAVE A GIFT

After contacting a solicitor, if you wish you can decide to leave a gift in your Will. If you decide to leave a gift for Ceasefire you have to provide the following details:  
**Ceasefire Centre for Civilian Rights, Charity No. 1160083, 54 Commercial Street London E1 6LT.**  
You should also specify what kind of gift you wish to leave.



# F.A.Q.

## **I WISH TO PRIORITISE LOOKING AFTER MY LOVED ONES, CAN I STILL DONATE TO CEASEFIRE?**

Of course, you can! We understand that your priority would be to provide for your loved one. After that, you can still decide to leave a gift of any size for Ceasefire. By all means, we will make sure that your generosity will be used to empower civilians in war zones to have their rights respected.

## **AM I ENTITLED TO TAX BENEFITS IF I LEAVE A GIFT FOR A CHARITABLE ORGANISATION IN MY WILL?**

Yes. In the UK the Inheritance Tax rate is 40%. However, this is only charged on the part of your estate that's above the threshold of £325,000. By leaving a gift in your Will equal to or greater than 10% of your total estate, you are entitled to a reduced Inheritance rate of 36%. In any case, Tax Law could be very complicated and we recommend you to contact a solicitor or a legal adviser.

## IS IT MANDATORY TO CONTACT A SOLICITOR?

We recommend contacting a solicitor or a legal advisor to help you write your Will to make sure that your Will would be valid. However, it is not mandatory to get professional help.

## SHOULD I LET YOU KNOW IF I LEAVE A GIFT IN MY WILL FOR CEASEFIRE?

We would be more than happy to know that you chose to leave a gift in your Will for Ceasefire. However, you don't need to let us know. If you decide to inform us, we can help you ensure that your donation will be valid and reach our organisation.



# GET IN TOUCH

We would be pleased to further discuss with you the possibility of leaving a gift in your Will for Ceasefire. Please contact us at [fundraising@ceasefire.org](mailto:fundraising@ceasefire.org) if you need any additional information. Our team will be happy to provide you with anything you need to ensure that your wishes will be fulfilled.

# THANK YOU!

All photos have been provided by **KirkukNow**, a Ceasefire's partner in Iraq. Visit their [website](#) to discover more about their work on the ground.