

Changing the world  
with **women and girls**  
**act:onaid**

Make an incredible  
difference to so many lives  
with a **gift in your Will**

A gift left in your Will to ActionAid will make a lasting difference to future generations of women and girls living in poverty.



Thank you for requesting more information about leaving a gift in your Will to ActionAid. On behalf of all of us, I would like to thank you for considering leaving a legacy that will transform the lives of women and girls living in poverty around the world.

Gifts in Wills are a truly powerful way to make a lasting difference. Thanks to kind supporters like you, we've prevented and responded to violence against women and girls, promoted girls' access to education and fought for equal pay and social protections for women in the workplace. Gifts in Wills have also enabled us to be on the ground saving lives and prioritising women's leadership during humanitarian emergencies. Most importantly, they allow us to plan for the future, making all this vital work possible in the uncertain years to come.

Our work would simply not be possible without our amazing supporters, which is why I am so grateful that you are considering remembering ActionAid in your Will, in addition to looking after your family and loved ones. A gift left to ActionAid will have an enduring impact on future generations of women and girls living in poverty.

Thank you again for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "F. Longley".

**Frances Longley**  
CEO ActionAid UK



ActionAid supporters have made it possible for us to provide support – in the form of food and other essentials – to children in Cambodia during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## The global impact of a gift in your Will



Chance wants to be a nurse when she grows up. He's always been a dedicated student, popular with her teachers and classmates alike. But her school was built from bamboo and plastic sheeting. This meant it was hard for her to concentrate due to noise from other classes, and during the rainy season the rain would soak the students' clothes and schoolbooks alike. Now, with the help of our supporters, ActionAid has been able to build and equip three new classroom blocks for Kabuye Primary School, using sturdy, rainproof cement and bricks. The school can now accommodate more students, and they can learn in comfort, all year round. Chance and her classmates are delighted.



12-year-old Sandhya lives with her parents and younger sister, Jyothi, in Bhubaneswar, India. She's a girl of many talents – not just an excellent student but also involved in extra-curricular activities like poetry, singing, dancing, acting and debate. In May 2019, when Cyclone Fani tore through her community, her building lost power and she was afraid it might collapse. Her belongings were ruined, including school supplies and books. In the cyclone's aftermath, ActionAid India provided educational kits, containing notebooks, pens and other essentials, to 500 children in Bhubaneswar, including to Sandhya and Jyothi. "This kit has been very helpful for us. It enabled us to continue our studies despite our study material getting damaged because of the cyclone," says Sandhya.

D.R.C

Kenya

India

© Kevin Majoni/ActionAid



Betty is 19 years old and in her community in Kenya the practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still sadly commonplace. Betty herself was set to undergo FGM but was saved by the Komesi Women's Network, an ActionAid-supported organisation that is dedicated to leading the fight against FGM. At the Network's dedicated workshop, Betty is one of 70 girls now receiving training on income generating activities such as tailoring and bead-making. Betty hopes to live in a world of greater equality. She says, "Both boys and girls are equal and therefore there is no reason to deny a girl her rights to education. By denying her these rights, you increase her chances of living a life full of poverty in future."



When the pandemic forced schools in Nepal to close, ActionAid set up community-based learning, so that children's education could continue.

## Children's Clubs: A gift in your Will could support the next generation

It is vital that we ensure young people living in poverty have every opportunity to learn and to get the support they need to flourish – especially girls, whose education is often not made a priority.

That's why, in vulnerable communities around the world, ActionAid establishes and supports children's clubs.

These clubs play a crucial role, offering a fun, safe space for children to share their problems and get a say in how their communities develop. At the clubs, children can meet, play, learn, read and share knowledge with each other, gaining strength as a group to overcome challenges.

The impact of children's clubs can be life-changing. With a gift in your Will, you could help support them, giving more children – especially girls – the skills and knowledge needed to build a better life.



© Rajendranath Yogi/ActionAid

## The life-changing impact of a gift to ActionAid

15-year-old Sushmita (pictured left) lives in Bajura, Nepal, where she is a student in Grade 9. Her mother Mimsara is a farm worker and is the family's sole breadwinner – her father is unable to work due to a physical disability. The family had a small piece of land but it was swept away by flooding several years ago, making their situation far more precarious. Sushmita's school attendance became irregular, as she never had the required school supplies.

Working with local partners and with the help of our generous supporters, ActionAid provided Sushmita's mother with 20,000 Nepalese rupees (about £120) to enable her to set up a small shop. For Sushmita, the impact was life-changing. "This was the happiest day of our life when

our family got support to set up a small shop," she says. "We sell items like biscuits, cookies, candies, soap, detergent, shampoo and sugar. Our family earns about 500-1,000 Nepalese rupees (between £3 and £6) from the shop.

"It has become a secure source of income for our family. I do not have to worry about my school supplies like schoolbooks, pen, school bag and uniform. I love going to school regularly. I also help my mother to look after the shop during my free time. I would like to thank ActionAid for supporting our family to be economically independent."

With a gift in your Will, you will be enabling more girls like Sushmita to complete their education and reach their full potential.



13-year-old Adori's family was forced from their home when floods ravaged her area of Bangladesh. ActionAid made sure girls like Adori received dignity kits, containing food, sanitary pads and other key items.

## Will writing tips

### Keep it up to date

Review your Will at least every five years, as any major life change, such as getting married or divorced, moving or having a child, needs to be recorded.

### Keep it in a safe place

Your solicitor may do this for free or for a small fee. Or deposit a copy with the Principal Probate Registry. Keep a copy in a safe place too, with other information your executors will need about your property, accounts and any investments and insurance policies. Make sure your executors know where to find this.

### Sign it

Your Will isn't effective until it is signed by yourself and two witnesses (they can't be family, friends or beneficiaries).

## Five steps to making the most important gift of all

- 1 Work out the value of your estate.
- 2 Decide on your beneficiaries.
- 3 Appoint your executors.
- 4 Visit a solicitor to have your Will drawn up for free\*.
- 5 Keep your Will in a safe place.

\*Thanks to ActionAid's National Free Wills Network membership, you can have your Will written for free by a local solicitor. ActionAid will cover the cost of a simple Will, at a discounted rate. There is no obligation to include a gift to ActionAid in your Will, however we hope you will consider us.

To take up this offer, you will need to provide us with your full name and postal address by contacting our friendly supporter contact team on +44 (0)1460 238 000 or by emailing [supportercontact@actionaid.org](mailto:supportercontact@actionaid.org).

We've been working with women and girls for nearly **50 years**

1972



ActionAid founded (as Action in Distress) with 88 UK supporters sponsoring 88 children in India and Kenya.

1974



First overseas office opens in Nairobi, 2,000 people signed up to the child sponsorship scheme.

1979

**actionaid**

Changed name to the more dynamic and proactive ActionAid (supporting nearly 40,000 children around the world).

1985



Year of Live Aid and famine prompted us to work in Sudan.

1993



Launched a literacy tool called Reflect which taught five million people across 70 countries to read and write. Reflect went on to win five UN literacy prizes.

2001



ActionAid supported women and young girls and campaigned against trafficking.

2004



We ran a campaign to abolish school fees in Kenya.

2015



Ebola virus spread in west Africa. AA ensured children were provided with textbooks and educational materials.

2017



Launched five-year strategy focusing on the rights of women and girls.

2020



Played an active role in keeping people safe in the face of the Covid-19 pandemic.

2022



As we look ahead to our 50th anniversary and beyond, there is a lot more work to be done with the kind support of people who share our vision.

## The Work Continues...

In the years and decades to come, with the help of our supporters, ActionAid will continue changing the world with women and girls. With a gift in your Will, you will be part of that essential work – together we can expand girls' access to education, work to end gender-based violence, and ensure women and girls' rights are strengthened around the world. This could be your powerful legacy.

“Impressed by ActionAid’s unstinting support for and championing of girls’ and women’s rights in the developing world we have been faithful donors down the years. When it came to writing our Will, it was natural that our charitable donation should be to ActionAid.

Women and girls especially need support. I want to enable girls to be able to dream and know that females can be engineers and women can run businesses. If you leave a gift in your Will to ActionAid, you will be making an enormous difference to vulnerable communities”

**Linda Marsden, on her decision to include ActionAid in her Will**



Our supporters made it possible for ActionAid to transform Shree Lata Kalarai Primary School in Nepal – modernising the buildings and facilities to improve safety; providing equipment; and constructing a child care centre.

## FAQ's

### What type of gift is best?

Any gift you can give to ActionAid UK will make a difference. A residuary gift is popular with many supporters because it takes care of their family first and remains proportional to the value of their estate by keeping pace with inflation. But any gift, large or small, can make a huge difference.

### Who should act as an executor of my Will?

Executors are the people who will carry out your wishes in accordance with your Will. You can appoint anyone you like – perhaps a close friend or family member – but make sure you ask them first. Some people prefer to appoint a professional executor, like a bank or solicitor, but we advise you to be aware of the amount they'll charge for this service before you decide.

### How do I choose my solicitor?

Details of solicitors in your area specialising in Wills can be found by searching the Law Society website [lawsociety.org.uk](http://lawsociety.org.uk) or calling their general enquiries line on 020 7242 1222. When deciding on a solicitor, we suggest that you ask how much they would charge for preparing your Will or Codicil and for dealing with your estate if appointed as executor.

During *Will Aid* month each November, many solicitors waive their fees for help drawing up your Will, in return for a voluntary donation to charity. You can find out more in the enclosed *Will Aid* leaflet.

### Inheritance Tax

Inheritance Tax is a tax on money or possessions you leave when you die. It's also sometimes payable on trusts or gifts made during someone's lifetime. Inheritance Tax may be payable on an estate which exceeds the current threshold (£325,000), although no tax is payable on gifts to charities.

Please see [gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://gov.uk/inheritance-tax) for more information.

As tax is a complex area of law, we recommend you speak to an independent financial advisor or solicitor about the Inheritance Tax implications for your estate.

A properly drafted Will can help reduce the amount of tax payable, and increase the amount of your assets to go to your loved ones and chosen charities.

### Do I need to draw up a new Will?

If you do not wish to alter your existing Will other than to include a gift to ActionAid UK, you can amend your Will by preparing a document called a Codicil. We recommend that you consult a solicitor to ensure that the Codicil is valid and your wishes will take effect.

### Can I save tax by leaving a gift to ActionAid UK?

A gift to ActionAid UK in your Will is tax-exempt and this may save some of the tax your executors would otherwise have to pay from your estate. However, as tax is a complex area of law, we recommend you take specialist independent advice.

### Can I leave a legacy to a specific project or type of work?

The communities who most need our support changes over time, so we are unable to restrict gifts to specific projects, however there are options when restricting your gift. We do ask that you consider that your gift is much more effective if you specify that it can be used where the need is greatest, however, please do get in touch if you'd like to discuss this further via [legacies@actionaid.org](mailto:legacies@actionaid.org).

### How will ActionAid UK spend my legacy?

Around **69%** of donations to ActionAid UK are spent directly on programme work, including emergency and humanitarian response **17%** is spent on raising funds, **11%** is spent on running the organisation and **3%** on campaigning for change.

### Types of gifts in Wills

#### Residuary gift:

The remainder of the estate once other gifts and payments have been made. This type of gift is popular because it takes care of others first and remains proportional to the value of your estate by keeping pace with inflation.

#### Pecuniary gift:

A fixed sum of money. The value of the pecuniary gift could decrease over time, as the cost of living increases. For example, in fifteen years, £5,000 will buy a lot less than it does today.

#### Specific gift:

A named item, for example a piece of jewellery or property.

# A gift in your Will could enable more girls to access their right to an education – leading to a better future for everyone.

The rights of women and girls are at the heart of all we do, because the denial of their rights is one of the biggest causes of poverty worldwide and a grave injustice.

With a gift in your Will you can help more girls access their rights and be better prepared for the challenges of the future.

Cover image: 12-year-old Sandhya (Right) and her 10-year-old sister Jyothi (Left) both want to be doctors. After cyclone Fani devastated their area, ActionAid India provided them with school kits so they could keep learning.

 @ActionAidUK  @ActionAidUK  ActionAidUK [www.actionaid.org.uk](http://www.actionaid.org.uk)

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ActionAid supporters made it possible for us to offer wide-ranging in support in Nepal throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.



Every November you can get the peace of mind that comes from making your Will – and instead of paying a solicitor’s fee, you’ll be helping good causes like ActionAid UK.

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# Discover an easier way to write your Will – and help the causes you care for.

## Will Aid is simple.

Early in November, participating solicitors waive their fee for helping people to write a basic Will. Instead, they invite you to make a voluntary donation to charity.

### The suggested donation is:

**£100**

for a single basic Will

**£180**

for two basic matching  
or mirror Wills.

**With Will Aid, everyone benefits.** You get peace of mind from having a professionally drawn up Will and knowing your wishes will be carried out – while having the satisfaction of knowing you're helping to change the lives of women and girls living in poverty.

*Will Aid* helps raise millions of pounds each year for nine of the UK's best-loved charities, **including ActionAid UK.**

To get involved, simply use the "Find Solicitor" tool on the *Will Aid* website, and give them a call directly on **0300 0300 013** or email [enquiries@willaid.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@willaid.org.uk)

**Visit [www.willaid.org.uk](http://www.willaid.org.uk) for more details.**



Discover an easier way to write your Will – and help the causes you care for.

15-year-old Celestina attends an ActionAid-supported catch-up centre in Kenya, where she is gaining the skills and knowledge she needs to join a mainstream school and complete her education.

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## Write your will for free

ActionAid is a member of the *National Free Wills Network*, which offers a local Will-writing service – with ActionAid paying a discounted rate on your behalf.

If you take up the offer, there is **no obligation** to include a gift to ActionAid, however we hope that you will consider us.

A gift left to ActionAid will make a lasting difference and **transform the lives of future generations of women and girls living in poverty.**

To have your Will written for **free**, please provide us with your full name and postal address by contacting our friendly supporter contact team on **+44 (0)1460 238 000** or by emailing [supportercontact@actionaid.org](mailto:supportercontact@actionaid.org).

Our partners within the *National Free Wills Network* will then send through a list of participating solicitors in your local area, along with useful information on writing your Will. You can then make an appointment to see a solicitor.