

The image features a group of women in a mangrove environment. In the foreground, a woman in a bright green outfit and headwrap smiles broadly, her necklace adorned with several oyster shells. Behind her, a woman in a yellow outfit and headwrap also smiles, and to the left, a woman in a red outfit and headwrap looks down. The background shows lush green mangrove trees under a clear sky. The ActionAid logo is in the top left, and a tagline is at the bottom. A vertical credit line is on the right edge.

**act:onaid**

Changing the world  
with women and girls

**Make a difference with a gift in your Will**

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**Stand in solidarity with future generations of women and girls with a gift in your Will.**

## **Thank you for requesting more information about leaving a gift in your Will to ActionAid.**

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.

**Stand in solidarity with future generations of women and girls.**



I have so much trust for ActionAid. It's nice to have confidence that my money will be going to the right place. We chose to leave a gift in our Will to ActionAid...so that you can carry on the work and look after future generations of children.

**Gill Turton, Legacy Pledger**

Le Thi Mong Thu is part of a local women's group in Vietnam. The group, supported by ActionAid, is helping their community find solutions to climate change.





# The global impact of a gift in your Will



Anna is an ActionAid consultant working on gender-based violence and child protection within refugee communities. She also helps run safe spaces for women and girls, funded by ActionAid. Here, they can access mental health support and leadership training. Anna says, "Women are creating transformational change through becoming leaders in their communities. And I feel that is the most sustainable approach to women's empowerment."



In Bangladesh, women and girls are finding solutions to climate change and the cost of living crisis with ActionAid's support.

Uzala is a mother, farmer and the general secretary of a women farmers group set up by ActionAid. Through the group, she has been able to plant new crops, sell her produce and earn an income.

She says "ActionAid created a group where us women farmers could meet. We saved up money and took out loans. With the loans, we bought chickens, ducks, cows and goats. Now, we have many of them"



Catherine is the local rights programme coordinator for ActionAid Kenya. The area has been severely impacted by drought, meaning many people are surviving on one meal per day and girls are dropping out of school to take care of their families. In response, ActionAid Kenya launched a school feeding programme to 26 schools across three locations, aimed at keeping children in school. Catherine said "This is a collective responsibility for all of us to fight this drought."

@mnaaculate Bashirah / ActionAid

@Fahelina Menti / ActionAid

@Sarah Waiswa / ActionAid





## Catch-up centres: A gift in your Will could support the next generation

When girls are not able to go to school, it has a negative impact on their lives. In Kenya, hundreds of thousands of girls are out of primary school, but ActionAid has been supporting 5,00 catch-up centres designed to help girls learn about their rights and get an education.

With a gift in your Will, you could help support programmes like this, ensuring that children – especially girls – can access the education and skills they need to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Florence (pictured left) is a former girls' club member and understands the importance of services such as these. Florence attended a girls forum when she was at school and has a close relationship with partners from ActionAid Kenya. She is pleased to see the school drop-out rates in her area improving and enjoys being a role model to other young girls. She says, "[Girls] need to know that it is their right to get an education and see the importance of it and where it can take them."



## A legacy of change:

Period poverty is a reality that affects many women and girls across the world. Juliet (pictured left) is chair of the Community Transformation Agenda (COTA), ActionAid's partner at a refugee settlement in Uganda. A lack of water, rising food prices and reduced rations at the settlement impact women and girls' ability to buy pads and manage their periods. Sometimes, they even have to sell their food just to buy sanitary products. Girls also find it difficult to manage their periods due to the lack of facilities at school, and this impacts their education.

"A big challenge affecting women and girls is that they can't afford period products," Juliet says. "Women and girls are finding it extremely hard to cope with their periods. It is also impacting upon the number of girls attending school, because

they miss school when they don't have access to pads."

COTA runs workshops for girls on how to manage their periods and make reusable pads. They also distribute sanitation kits, which include reusable pads, and support women and girls to grow their own food.

Juliet says "We are trying to raise awareness among the community that a girl being on her period shouldn't prevent her from attending school. We are doing public education to dismantle the bias that a girl shouldn't go out in public or interact with other people when she is on her period."

Gifts in Wills can be used to support the life-changing work run by partners like COTA.



## 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 or you can 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).

Razia is a feminist leader and activist who has received training from ActionAid.

@EstherMbahazi / ActionAid



## 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 free Will offers, you can write your Will for free with a local solicitor or online in the comfort of your own home. 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, please email us at [legacies@actionaid.org](mailto:legacies@actionaid.org) for more information or call our friendly team at **01460 238 000**.

# We've been working with women and girls for over 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.

1975

**act:onaid**

Changed name to 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



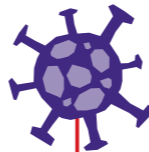
ActionAid supported women and young girls and campaigned against trafficking.

2004



We ran a campaign to abolish school fees in Kenya.

2015



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

2017



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

2020



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

2022



ActionAid begins work with local partners in Ukraine and neighbouring countries, providing immediate support, including food, hygiene items and services to prevent exploitation and gender-based violence.

2024



As we look ahead to the future, we are grateful for all the support ActionAid receives. 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, we will continue to stand in solidarity with women and girls as they change the world. With a gift in your Will, you will be a part of that essential work – helping us stand with women and girls as they reclaim and strengthen their rights, end gender-based violence and ensure equal access to education. Your extraordinary legacy will be a better, safer future for everyone. Thank you.





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 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**



Teleza is a teacher and member of the Young Urban Women's Network. This network, supported by ActionAid, address women's economic and healthcare rights.



## 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.

## 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. 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.



Amy (in yellow) with her women's group, who farm oysters and lead climate adaptation in Senegal. By developing local prevention initiatives, Amy and the women's group are creating sustainable livelihoods for their families and communities.

# With a gift in your Will, you can help more girls access their rights and be better prepared for whatever the future holds.

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.

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