



**TOGETHER, WE CAN GIVE REFUGEES
IN BRITAIN A BRIGHTER FUTURE**

A GUIDE TO LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL.



**SUPPORTING AND
EMPOWERING
REFUGEES**



Photo: Ruth Towell

Hossain, his wife and two sons were forced to flee Afghanistan when the Taliban seized control in August, 2021. In a few short days they saw everything collapse, "not just Kabul but also our dreams, our aspirations, our country."

Their departure was difficult and stressful for the entire family, and they arrived here having left a successful life in Afghanistan, to live in a hotel for a couple of months. Hossain describes this time as very dark.

It was the support and welcome he has received from the Refugee Council once he and his family

were moved into a house in Leeds, that marked the beginning of a new brighter phase:

"The Refugee Council helped us find English classes, so we can learn the language. They help us to navigate and explore the city and see what is interesting for those that are looking for a job, connecting us to different people and organisations. I am having employability workshops. Helping with kids schools, everything - they do it in a professional and polite way. In a way that you really think you are not left alone, there are people out there to help you."

A MESSAGE FROM ENVER

Since our founding after World War II, the Refugee Council has helped hundreds of thousands of people to rebuild their lives in Britain. Today our work is more important than ever before as we help refugees integrate into communities and feel safe and happy.

Leaving a gift in your Will is such a wonderful way to help refugees in the future. I am humbled that so many supporters choose to leave a lasting legacy in this way.

We cannot predict the wars, conflicts or oppressive regimes that will force people to seek asylum in the future. A gift in your Will can help to make sure that anyone who arrives in Britain seeking sanctuary finds the safety and support they need.



Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Enver Solomon' in a cursive style.

Enver Solomon
Chief Executive of Refugee Council

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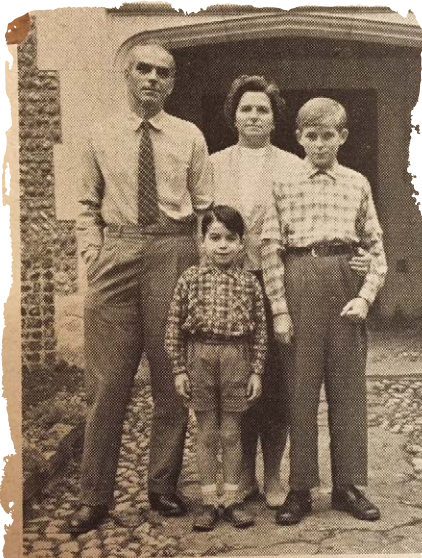
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REFUGEE COUNCIL: THERE FOR REFUGEES SINCE 1951

Refugee Council was founded in response to the UN Refugee Convention.

The right to claim asylum is an international human right and we believe that all those who come to Britain seeking protection should be treated equally to others and supported to rebuild their lives here.

1950-1960

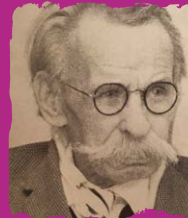


A Polish family recently arrived from an Italian camp.

We supported over 2,000 refugees from Eastern and Central Europe following World War II.

We set up Agnew House, a residential home for older refugees. Many residents were Holocaust survivors.

This is a picture of Michael K, the first resident at Agnew House.



1970s



We supported 5,619 Vietnamese and South East Asian refugees fleeing the Vietnam war.

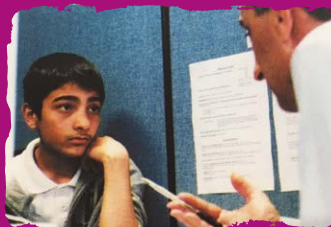
1980s

In just two months in 1989, more than 3,000 Kurds sought asylum in the UK. They faced a multitude of barriers such as admission policies, detention and removal.

We started to strengthen our now well-respected advocacy work to fight for the rights of all refugees in Britain.



1990s



In 1994 we set up the only national service working with unaccompanied refugee children in Britain. To this day, we remain the only national organisation working with unaccompanied refugee children. Each year we help over 3,000 refugee children.

2000s

In 2015 we campaigned in response to the Syria crisis. We asked the Government to welcome Syrian refugees to Britain and we won!

More recently, we've worked with others in the sector to call out the inhumane and unworkable Rwanda Plan. This was finally scrapped in 2024.

Last year, our services reached 15,851 people in need of support.



HOW A GIFT IN YOUR WILL COULD TRANSFORM LIVES

CHILDREN

Last year, 6,941 separated refugee children were able to receive the support they needed (25% more than in 2021-2).

Children who have seen their homes destroyed, loved ones killed, been tortured or trafficked.

A gift in your Will could help to provide life-changing mental health support, advice on the asylum process, youth and social groups to these children.



INTEGRATION

"I can't believe I am entering the hospital as a working doctor. In my pizza delivery days it looked like a distant dream. Without help I received through this programme I wouldn't be here"

– Iranian doctor

A worthwhile career can help to rebuild your life when you've lost everything.

Gifts in Wills help provide conversation clubs, employment-preparation workshops, CV guidance and interview training.

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT



Refugees are five times more likely to have mental health needs than the rest of the UK population. Last year, 1,433 refugees benefited from our therapeutic services

Your gift could help our expert therapists work with individuals or groups, helping both adults and children understand their experiences and start to build strength and resilience.

"When I come to talk it clears my heart and my brain."

FARHAD'S JOURNEY: A LEGACY OF HOPE & HEALING

My name is Farhad, and I am a doctor from Afghanistan. In my home country, I dedicated my life to helping others, working in hospitals and clinics, and did a Masters in international health policy. But everything changed when I was forced to flee my home.

It took a year and a half to be granted refugee status. It was frustrating for me and my family – I left my family behind in insecurity, they had to leave the country for Pakistan. Thankfully I now have my wife and two children with me, but I'm still waiting for my other children to join me. That takes a lot of energy and time, thinking about them.

The Refugee Council's support has been essential. Since 2022, they have provided me with essential training, guidance on the NHS system, and assistance in preparing my CV and for exams. I'm hoping that within a few months I'll be able to pass and start a clinical attachment with a hospital.

Although I haven't experienced discrimination firsthand, I know it exists. The Refugee Council's programmes play a crucial role in changing perceptions and supporting refugees to rebuild their lives in safety. Refugees bring not only skills and knowledge, but also resilience and determination. My daughters, who are excelling in school, are a testament to this and will certainly be an asset to British society.





THE DIFFERENT WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

A SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE

Once you have taken care of your loved ones, you can leave the remainder of your estate, or a share of the remainder, to us. This is known as a **residuary gift**.

A GIFT OF MONEY

You can leave an amount of money to Refugee Council in your Will. This is called a **pecuniary gift**.

A SPECIFIC ITEM

You can leave a particular item, such as artwork, jewellery or a property when making a Will. This is known as a **specific gift**.

A GIFT WHEN A TRUST ENDS

You might want to set up a trust in your Will so that someone can enjoy the benefit of money or property during their lifetime. Afterwards, the remaining money or property would then come to us. This is called a **reversionary gift**.

We can never predict the wars or conflicts of the future, so a gift without restrictions will allow us to help refugees however we are needed most. Please consider leaving your gift without restrictions.

We are extremely grateful for any type of gift left in your Will. Please speak to a solicitor if you're not sure which type of gift is best for you.

WRITING YOUR WILL

3 simple steps to get started

1. YOUR ASSETS

Think about the assets that you own, how much they are worth and whether you share anything with friends or family.

Also spend some time thinking about any debts as these will reduce your overall estate value.

Remember to think about where your important documents are stored so that you can pass this information on to the relevant people.

2. LEAVING YOUR GIFTS

Think about the gifts that you'd like to leave to your loved ones. Make sure you have their full names and addresses.

After that, you might like to consider leaving a gift to Refugee Council.

If this is something you'd like to do, our address is **134 – 138 The Grove, London E15 1NS** and charity number is **1014576**.

3. CHOOSING YOUR EXECUTORS

Executors are people named by you in your Will who will carry out the instructions left in the Will and organise your estate. An executor can be a friend, family member or a professional such as a solicitor or even a bank.

One of the most important things is to choose somebody you trust to carry out your wishes. If you choose friends or family members as executors, it is sensible to discuss this with them to check that they're happy with this decision.



The Refugee Council has partnered with Farewill to help making a Will simple and free.

Find out more at www.farewill.com/rcwill

All you need to do is click 'get started' on the Farewill free will service, and select leaving a gift to the Refugee Council when prompted. Farewill will sort the rest out, and your Will will be returned to you printed, signed and witnessed.



SUGGESTED WORDING FOR YOUR WILL

TO LEAVE A SHARE OF YOUR ESTATE (residuary gift)

"I give all (or a% share of) the residue of my estate to British Refugee Council, 134 – 138 The Grove, London E15 1NS, registered charity number 1014576 to be used for its general charitable purposes."

TO LEAVE A GIFT OF MONEY (pecuniary gift)

"I give the sum of £ (words & figures) to British Refugee Council, 134 – 138 The Grove, London E15 1NS, registered charity number 1014576 to be used for its general charitable purposes."

TO LEAVE A SPECIFIC ITEM (specific gift)

"I give my [Describe the specific gift you wish to leave eg. my jewellery] to British Refugee Council, 134 – 138 The Grove, London E15 1NS, registered charity number 1014576 to be used for its general charitable purposes."

We recommend that you use a solicitor to help write your Will, or that you write it with trained specialists such as our partner Farewill. This will make sure that your wishes are expressed as accurately as possible.



Photo: Ruth Towell

If you choose to include us in your Will, you will need these details.

Our name:

British Refugee Council

Our address:

**British Refugee Council,
134 – 138 The Grove,
London E15 1NS**

Our charity number:

1014576.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

HOW CAN I FIND A SOLICITOR?

If you'd like a solicitor to help you write your Will, you can visit the Law Society website at [lawsociety.org.uk](https://www.lawsociety.org.uk) for a list of legal professionals in your area. We always recommend using a solicitor to write your Will.

CAN A GIFT TO CHARITY HELP REDUCE INHERITANCE TAX?

Yes. If you leave at least 10% of your estate to charities like Refugee Council in your Will, you'll qualify for the reduced rate of inheritance tax of 36%. Leaving a percentage can also bring your estate below the inheritance tax threshold.

DO I REALLY NEED A WILL?

If you die without leaving a Will, this is called dying 'intestate'. It could mean that your estate does not benefit the people or causes you might have intended. If there are no family members left to inherit, the entire estate passes to the Crown.

WHAT IF I CHANGE MY MIND?

We understand that your Will is very personal to you and you can change your mind about leaving a gift to Refugee Council at any time. If you've previously told us you are intending to leave us a gift, it would be very helpful to let us know if that changes.

DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU IF I DECIDE TO LEAVE A GIFT?

Your Will is your private document so you don't have to tell us, or anyone, about your decisions. However, if you are happy for us to know that you have left us a gift, we'd love to know. It can help us to plan for the future and to transform even more lives.

I HAVE A DIFFERENT QUESTION

If you have any further questions, please get in touch with our legacy manager on 0207 346 1205 or email supporter@refugeecouncil.org.uk

SEMIRA'S STORY

"When I came to the UK, I thought I would find something kind, that things would be better.... I was sleeping at the bus stop and the train station. I saw people getting off the bus or train and I knew they were going home."

Semira, a refugee from Eritrea, called our Private Rented Scheme on a Thursday and by Friday we'd found a suitable place for her in a shared house where she is now safe and warm.

Our research shows that 1 in 2 refugees have been forced to sleep on the streets or in a night shelter after getting refugee status. A gift in your Will can help to change the future for refugees like Semira.




OUR PROMISE TO YOU

We know that leaving a gift in your Will is a very personal and meaningful decision. That's why we want to make this promise to you:

- We will always ensure that donations are spent wisely, wherever the need is greatest.
- We understand that your family and friends come first. We are humbled that you choose to include a gift to Refugee Council after you have provided for your loved ones.
- We respect your decision to change your mind, or to keep your gift private. We are grateful for any donation we receive.
- We will always be available to answer any questions you have about your support or about our work.



A young child with dark skin and short hair, wearing a blue and white striped long-sleeved shirt, is smiling broadly while holding a marshmallow on a wooden stick. The background is slightly out of focus, showing a person in a white hoodie and a white tent-like structure. The scene is outdoors with natural light.

" I'm leaving a gift to Refugee Council in my Will because I want to make sure they're still there to help people who have lost everything to rebuild their lives. I am so lucky to have my family around me. I can't imagine what it would be like for refugees to lose everyone and everything. I want to make sure there is help available in the future."

Vanessa, Refugee Council supporter



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A close-up photograph of two young children, a girl on the left and a boy on the right, both smiling warmly at the camera. The girl has her hair in braids with red and pink beads. The boy is wearing a dark grey sweater. The background is a soft-focus green lawn.

THANK YOU

If you have questions about leaving a gift in your Will, please contact our legacy manager on **0207 346 1205** or **supporter@refugeecouncil.org.uk**

British Refugee Council, (commonly called the Refugee Council) is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales, [No 2727514] and a registered charity number 1014576. Registered office: 134 – 138 The Grove, London E15 1NS, United Kingdom. VAT registration no: 936 519 988.

Photographs: Ingrid Turner, Sean Pollock and Sophia Evans.