

GIVE SHELTER, PROTECTION AND HOPE

YOUR GUIDE TO PROTECTING
REFUGEES WITH A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency
United Kingdom for UNHCR

LEAVING A GIFT OF SHELTER, PROTECTION AND HOPE IN YOUR WILL



There have always been refugees. Through the centuries, it has always been ordinary people who have borne the brunt when their countries go to war.

Right now, we only need to look to Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and Myanmar, to understand the devastating human cost of conflict and persecution.

Today, there are more displaced people than at any time in history, while growing political instability and climate change could force millions more from their homes in the years and decades to come. Yet that is only one side of the story.

As long as there have been refugees, there have also been kind people like you who have helped give them shelter, protection and hope.

Helping refugees means seeing them as the grandparents, mothers, fathers and children they are – people who want nothing more dearly than to return home. It is about recognising people who are forced to flee as our fellow human beings, who

often share the same aspirations and dreams as ourselves. It is about reaching out a helping hand to people who find themselves in situations that, but for the quirks of geography and fate, we might have found ourselves in.

UK for UNHCR raises funds to support the work of UNHCR with refugees and displaced people around the world. With a gift in your will to UK for UNHCR, you can ensure that the values which inspired you to help refugees today live on.

A gift in your will can be a gift of protection, of safety from persecution, and of the hope of a better future for refugees.

Thank you for your support and generosity.



Emma Cherniavsky
Chief Executive Officer, UK for UNHCR

Turn to page 8 for answers to your questions about gifts in wills.



Rohingya refugees arriving in Bangladesh, after fleeing terrible violence in Myanmar in 2017.



UNHCR supporter Lynn Dang, shares her very personal reasons for caring deeply about helping refugees now, and in the future.

"We all want a more
Compassionate and peaceful
world. It starts with how we
treat and protect the most
vulnerable people when they
ask us for our help." - Lynn

"I became a refugee when I was four years old. My father was a soldier in the South Vietnamese army and when Saigon fell, the family had all our assets seized and Dad was sent to a re-education labour camp. After he was released, my parents, my three sisters and I fled Vietnam by taking a boat journey through the South China Sea and ended up in a UNHCR camp in Malaysia.

UNHCR provided my family and I with practical support such as immediate access to shelter, food, clothing and medical attention.

Equally as important, UNHCR gave us light during our darkest months. When you become a refugee,

you become invisible and stateless, living in a limbo of uncertainty. UNHCR reminded us of our humanity. They protected us and gave us hope for our future.

Refugees are ordinary people who are fleeing their homes because of the extraordinary circumstances of war, conflict and persecution. They have endured trauma and hardship. It's important that we don't stand by silently whilst others are suffering."

Image top: Lynn and her sister after arriving safely in Malaysia.

GIVING SHELTER, PROTECTION AND HOPE FROM 1950 TO THE 2020S AND BEYOND

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was created in 1950, to help the millions of Europeans who had lost their homes in World War II.



When Soviet tanks rolled into Hungary to quell the Uprising, people fled across the Austrian border with whatever possessions they could carry. UNHCR was there to help them to safety.

Since 1950, we've seen time and again the conflict and instability that forces people to leave behind their homes, possessions and livelihoods to find safety. In 1956, over 200,000 Hungarians fled their homeland into Austria to escape the Soviet invasion, and UNHCR was there to provide refuge.

Throughout the 1960s and 1970s, decolonisation brought major upheaval across Africa and Asia, with

UNHCR protecting and giving shelter to millions. The aftermath of the Vietnam War shone a light on the plight of families who were left with no choice but to take to the water in boats in a desperate attempt to find safety. Sadly, echoes of the exodus of 'the boat people' are still being seen today in the Mediterranean, where thousands of refugees from places like Syria and Libya have tragically lost their lives.



In the 1990s, war returned to Europe, and UNHCR's work was critical in protecting families escaping the bitter conflict in the Balkans. At around the same time, millions fled genocide in Rwanda, and UNHCR teams were there to provide shelter, protection and medical care after their ordeal.

Recent years have seen the need for UNHCR's assistance increase exponentially. Conflict in countries like Syria, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Yemen meant that by 2020 there were nearly 80 million displaced people in the world – more than at any time in history.

With climate change heightening the likelihood of natural disaster, and the scarcity of natural resources increasing the risk of conflict, **in the years to come, UNHCR will be needed more than ever.**

Today, less than one percent of UNHCR funding comes from the United Nations; the rest comes from voluntary donations. Gifts left by supporters in their wills are set to be critical to our ability to respond to humanitarian emergencies in the future. With a gift in your will you can help ensure that when people have to flee conflict, natural disasters or persecution, they will always be able to find shelter, protection and hope with UNHCR.



(Image Top) Between 1970-79, around 780,000 people fled Vietnam in tiny boats, hoping to find safety. UNHCR established reception centres across Southeast Asia, including in Pulau Bidong, Malaysia.

(Centre) During the Balkan conflict, UNHCR helped millions of displaced people. Here ethnic Albanians are returning to their homes in the Kisna Reka area after having lived out in the open for months.

(Bottom) Internally displaced Syrians in Dayr Hafir, rural Aleppo, collect vital aid supplies from UNHCR teams working on the ground with local partners.



WHAT YOUR LEGACY COULD MEAN TO REFUGEES

When people have to flee, they don't just lose their home and possessions. They lose their livelihoods and their means of feeding their families.

Refugees lose their sense of security, they lose access to services like water and healthcare, and their children's education is stopped abruptly.

With a gift in your will, you can make sure that UNHCR can continue to provide refugees with what we would all want for those we love, if they were forced to leave everything behind: a warm and compassionate welcome, shelter to protect them from the elements and the practical support that will allow them to sustain themselves and rebuild their lives.

After they've endured the horror of war, you can give people shelter, protection and hope

A gift in your will could help ensure UNHCR continues to be there when people have no choice but to flee their homes, and help sustain our ability to provide an emergency relief operation anywhere in the world within 72 hours.

Providing people with safe shelter will always be at the core of UNHCR's work, as will providing protection from the persecution they may have fled. In the longer-term, your gift could help provide the services refugees will need to survive, and eventually to rebuild their lives.

Providing essentials like safe water and sanitation will always be critical to UNHCR's work, as will ensuring people can access emergency healthcare when they need it. With your support we will also continue our efforts to ensure that every child who becomes a refugee can resume their education, and is given the opportunity to attain the skills and knowledge that will help them build a better future.



UNHCR staff welcoming Venezuelan children to Brazil, 2020.

You can protect people while they're far from home

Nearly every refugee holds one fervent desire above all others – they want to return home, to the life, land and people they left behind.

Where this is impossible, with your support UNHCR can continue to help people relocate to a country of safety or, where they have become separated from their families, to reunite them. When the security situation allows it, a gift in your will could help UNHCR provide the legal and practical support that allows people to return to the country they will always call home, and begin to rebuild the lives that were so cruelly snatched away from them.

See page 9 for how to remember refugees in your will.



YOU CAN GIVE PROTECTION TO FAMILIES LIKE AMIRA'S

Amira and her husband fled their home in Aleppo, to escape Syria's civil war, in 2012. With material supplied by UNHCR, they built a shelter in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, where they now live with their daughter Amani. The family is surviving with the help of emergency payments from UNHCR, but like most refugee families, they dream of the day they can return home. Amira calls her beloved Aleppo,

"My mother, my heart, my life."

GIVING SHELTER, PROTECTION AND HOPE IN YOUR WILL

Your questions answered

Why should I make a will?

Making a will is the only way you can be sure that the people and causes you care about are provided for after you die. If you die without making a will – which is called being ‘intestate’ – it could mean years of legal limbo for your family and even result in your estate going to the government.

How can I include UK for UNHCR in my will?

There are three different types of gift you can consider:

- **Residuary gift.** A specified percentage of your estate after your loved ones are provided for.
- **Pecuniary gift.** A financial donation of a fixed amount.
- **Specific gift.** A possession or item such as jewellery, property or shares.

Can I write my own will?

Any errors in a will can cause problems and make it invalid. That is why we strongly recommend that you consult a qualified solicitor.



Ethiopian refugees under the protection of UNHCR in Sudan.

What if I already have a will?

If you have an existing will it's very simple to amend it to include UK for UNHCR, by asking your solicitor to draw up a codicil (an amendment to an existing will).

Should I tell UK for UNHCR I've included you in my will?

We understand your will is very personal and you are under no obligation to let us know your intentions. However, it's enormously helpful if you do. It will help us plan our long-term work, and also make sure we only send you appropriate communications and we would, of course, love the opportunity to thank you properly.

Can including UK for UNHCR in my will reduce inheritance tax?

Including a charity like UK for UNHCR in your will can reduce the tax burden on your beneficiaries. The rules do change frequently however, so please visit the HMRC website or ask your solicitor to update you.

How will UK for UNHCR use my gift?

Your donation to UK for UNHCR will fund the critical future work of UNHCR around the world. A gift in your will would be a wonderful act of solidarity with refugees, and ensure that in the future people forced to flee will be provided with shelter and the services they need to sustain their families until it is safe for them to return home.

“One percent of humanity now lives in forced exile. In the last 10 years, the number of people forcibly displaced has doubled, to almost 80 million people. UNHCR have done our utmost to ensure we assist the most vulnerable. However, we cannot go further without more support.”

Filippo Grandi, United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees



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You can give children a future

When families have to flee, their children's education goes on hold, often for years.

Siblings Ayesha, Amina and Rashed (above) lost their parents in Myanmar, and were then forced to flee to find safety in Bangladesh. Elder sister Ayesha is committed to giving her brother and sister the best opportunities she can – and 11-year-old Amina now attends a local UNHCR-supported learning centre for Rohingya children. Ayesha explains:

“ I lost my mother when I was a child and I wasn't able to study. But I will help my brother and sister as much as I can.”

WRITING UK FOR UNHCR INTO YOUR WILL

It is important that your solicitor includes the right wording in your will to ensure that you give what's right for you, and that your gift goes where you intend it to. Please use the wording below to leave a gift to UK for UNHCR and ensure that refugees are protected in the future.

Residuary Gift

I give all (or a _____ share of) the residue of my estate to United Kingdom for UNHCR, WeWork, 131 Finsbury Pavement, London, EC2A 1NT, registered charity number 1183415 to be used for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

Pecuniary Gift

I give the sum of £ (words and figures in country relevant currency) to United Kingdom for UNHCR, WeWork, 131 Finsbury Pavement, London, EC2A 1NT, registered charity number 1183415, to be used for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

Specific Gift

I give my _____ (describe the gift you want to leave) to United Kingdom for UNHCR, WeWork, 131 Finsbury Pavement, London, EC2A 1NT, registered charity number 1183415 to be used for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.

Please call 020 3761 8094
or email
supportercare@unrefugees.org.uk
to get in touch if you
have any questions.



The help we received from UNHCR allowed me to quickly move on with my life, to pursue my dream of competing at the Olympics.

Yusra

YOU CAN HELP REFUGEES ACHIEVE THEIR DREAMS

Yusra Mardini is a UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador, a Syrian refugee, and an Olympian. She swam in Rio 2016 as part of the first ever Refugee Olympic Team.

"In 2015, I was 17, a student dreaming of representing Syria at swimming events. After the conflict forced us to abandon our home in Damascus, my older sister Sara and I took the decision to travel to Europe.

In August, Sara and I boarded a dinghy in Turkey, along with 18 others, hoping to reach the Greek Islands. We all knew that many people had died making the journey ahead. But we were all equally desperate to escape the violence that lay behind us. Our boat was dangerously overcrowded and in that short stretch of sea, the engine failed.

Sara and I were experienced swimmers but others on the boat were not. We took turns in the water, making the boat lighter and helping turn it to face the waves to prevent it from capsizing. We called for help but no one came.

For over three hours we swam. Everyone was praying. At last, the engine spluttered back to life and we reached the shore.

I struggle to understand why we made it when many others didn't. Each time I hear about a group drowning at sea, it takes me back there, clinging to the boat's rope, desperately treading water.

The help we received from UNHCR allowed me to quickly move on with my life, to pursue my dream of competing at the Olympics. But many others are still facing incredible challenges and risks.

No one chooses to be a refugee, but while wars continue to rage, people will always feel compelled to make similar decisions. And when people flee such violent situations, we should all play our part in making sure they receive the help and support they need to rebuild their lives."

A gift in your will can mean that young people like Yusra, when they lose their homes, will always have someone to turn to. You can give them shelter, protection and hope.

YOU CAN PROVIDE PROTECTION

“The women and girls I work with have powerful stories to tell... about their children being kidnapped, sexual violence, fleeing conflict, hiding in the woods and fearing being attacked by armed men.

It is not an easy job, but this blue vest gives you superpowers. Women see that you work for UNHCR and they know you are there to help. I want to ensure funds are available to help these women.”

**Carlinda, UNHCR
Reporting Officer,
Democratic Republic
of the Congo (DRC).**



“Refugees are mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children, with the same hopes and ambitions as us — except that a twist of fate has bound their lives to a global refugee crisis on an unprecedented scale.”

Khaled Hosseini
Author and UNHCR Goodwill Ambassador

www.unrefugees.org.uk

UK for UNHCR is the UN Refugee Agency’s national partner for the UK, building solidarity, fostering partnerships and raising funds in the UK to help deliver global humanitarian relief for refugees through UNHCR’s work.

UK for UNHCR is a registered charity in England and Wales (registered charity number 1183415), and a member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraising and the Fundraising Regulator.

Cover image: “I brought my favourite toy, my doll, with me from Burundi.” Mamie, her siblings and parents Ishmael and Madjit, fled their home in Burundi. The family now live in the Nduta UNHCR refugee camp in Tanzania.

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