



Leaving a gift: helping secure human rights at home for future generations

Founded over 40 years the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) is an independent charity working to **bring human rights to life here at home**. We empower people to:

- **know** what human rights are (and often what they are not)
- to **put them into practice** achieve positive change in everyday life without resorting to the courts, and
- to make sure those in power **respect** and progress our human rights laws and systems.

At the heart of everything we do is a commitment to making sure the **international promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**, developed after the horrors of World War II, is made real here at home. Our innovative work seeks to achieve a society where human rights are respected as the cornerstone of our democracy and enable each of us to live well in communities that value the equal dignity of each person.

Why leave a gift to the British Institute of Human Rights

Imagine your parents have been told that after 65 years of marriage they cannot live in the same care home because they have different health issues, or your child cannot participate in school activities because she uses a wheelchair, or your nurse knows that it's wrong to keep a patient strapped to a hospital bed because it's easier than physiotherapy but he doesn't know how to challenge the hospital culture. Imagine that in the face of bureaucratic indifference and complications you don't know how our human rights should protect you in such situations. Worse still imagine the rights available in our law here at home have been stripped back by those in power to win political points which in reality leaves us all worse off.

The British Institute of Human Rights is the only UK-wide charity which works on these issues to bring human rights to life in everyday life beyond the courtrooms. We help people know what our human rights are and why they matter. We support our public services put human rights at the heart of their work, to practice prevention rather than cure. We tell those in power about these often unheard stories about why human rights matter here at home, showing the value of our current protections and ensuring the promise of international human rights continues to be part of our law.

The difference your gift can make

Your gift can help provide us with independent funding to continue our work. For example:

£1,000 could help us train 10 carers giving them the knowledge and confidence to make sure services treat them and those they care for with dignity and respect

£4,000 would enable us to reach 100 young people at community outreach events across the UK helping to inspire the next generation and continue the legacy of human rights

£8,000 could help meet the cost of our policy and research resources which supports other groups and people to understand what human rights are, why they matter and how they can get involved in national debates to make sure the promise of international human rights remains law here at home.

How to leave a gift

It is easy to leave a gift in your will but it is important to make sure that your intentions are clear. It is advisable to speak to a solicitor when making or changing a will. You can contact a lawyer specialising in this area via:

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- The Law Society's find a lawyer site: <http://solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk>
- The Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners: <http://www.step.org/branches-chapters#EnglandandWales>

BIHR cannot give legal advice about your will. However if you would like to discuss leaving BIHR a gift our Deputy Director Sanchita Hosali would be happy to speak with you. Sanchita can be contacted on email (INSERT) or on 0207 882 5850.

Different types of gifts

Gifts in wills are sometimes called legacies or bequests. There are three main types of gift you may like to consider:

- A **residuary gift** is a proportion of your estate. After all expenses, taxes and debts have been paid the balance can be divided between as many or as few people or organisations you wish. For example you could leave 15% of your estate to BIHR.
- A **pecuniary gift** is a specific sum of money such as £5,000. It can also be a particular item such as a property or artwork.
- A **reversionary gift** (or a life interest) is when you would like someone to use the gift during their lifetime, after which the gift reverts to BIHR. For example you could transfer your estate to your partner for their lifetime with a gift to BIHR after their death.

Tax implications

Inheritance tax may attach to the value of your estate – it is important to check the current threshold. At the time of writing inheritance tax of 40% is payable on estates above £325, 000. However because BIHR is a registered charity any gift you may leave is currently exempt from tax and can help reduce the tax your estate pays. As of April 2012 the Government introduced measures to make leaving a legacy to charity more attractive. A solicitor will be able to discuss this further with you.

Thank you

If you have left BIHR a legacy, or intend to, we would like to thank you and keep you up to date with our work. Of course we understand that you will is a personal and sensitive matter and you may not wish to share this with us. If however, you are happy to share this information, we would be grateful if you could complete the form on the next page and return it to us: Sanchita Hosali, Deputy Director, BIHR, QMUL, Mile End Road, London, E1 4NS

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The British Institute of **Human Rights**

bihr.org.uk



Legacy giving

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Legacy details (optional): e.g. you may wish to note the type and/or value of the gift.

Any other comments:

PLEASE NOTE

By providing BIHR with these details you are not entering into any binding legacy or legal agreement.

From time to time we would like to keep you up to date with news about BIHR. If you would prefer not to receive this information then please tick here []

Thank you for your kind support

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