

# WRITE

*your will*

# SO SHE CAN WRITE

*her future*

**How you can leave the world  
a better place to be a girl**



Until we are all equal



Plan International

**Roumana, 17-years-old,  
Savanes region of Togo**

A young girl with short dark hair, wearing a white t-shirt, is smiling and looking down at a notebook she is writing in. She is in a classroom setting with green chalkboard panels in the background. A pink line is drawn around her head and shoulders.

Damipi, 17-years-old,  
Savanes region of Togo

# NO GIRL'S FUTURE SHOULD ALREADY BE WRITTEN

We live in a time where it's still difficult to be a girl. We've been fighting hard for girls' rights, but in many parts of the world, progress has been slow. In fact, in some places, leaders' commitment to gender equality is reaching a standstill.

**It can feel demoralising. But we don't stay disheartened for long.**

That's because of people like you. Those ready to stand with us. Those with an unshakeable belief in what they and we both stand for. Those looking to give a gift in their will to Plan International UK and leave the world a better place to be a girl.

So, let us take you on a journey – from our past to the future we envision – and show you the life-altering impact your gift could have for generations of girls to come.

**Our story began in 1937 during the Spanish Civil War, when we helped displaced children fleeing conflict.**

Our founder, John Langdon-Davies, was the pioneer of child sponsorship. Almost one hundred years later, thanks to supporters like you, we're there for children in over 45 countries, helping empower them to write their own futures.

No matter what's been happening around the globe, we've been there to help transform lives and drive change. We worked in England during World War II, helping displaced children from around Europe, before shifting our focus to South America and Asia in the 1960s, where children were living in poverty. Then, throughout the 1980s, we set up cereal banks and vegetable gardens to help millions of people across West Africa survive the drought.

Always pushing for more progress, we launched our 'Because I Am A Girl' campaign in 2007, fighting for a fair and just world for girls. Since then, we've made huge strides forward in the fight for girls' rights, including a global petition that helped outlaw child marriage in Malawi. Today, we work with local partners and community leaders to train and educate girls and their families, so we can keep them in school and out of forced marriages.

**We've already changed millions of lives around the world and, with supporters like you behind us, we're confident there's still so much more we can do.**



**Girl practising reading at New Barn Nursery, 1944**

So many of the millions of girls we've worked with have empowering stories to tell, from fighting for their rights in their communities, to escaping child marriage, and becoming local leaders who can pass their experiences on to the next generation.

**"Like many girls in my village, I didn't know my rights. But Plan International's Champions project lit a flame of liberation in me – and I'll do everything I can to make sure it never goes out."**

- Damipi, aged 17, Togo



Plan International / Louis Vincent



Plan International

**"My grandmother is my rock, and getting an education is the best way to thank her. I want to be a nurse so I can help my grandmother and my siblings."**

- Jenifer, aged 10, Guatemala

**"When I became a victim [of child marriage], I understood all the suffering it can cause: the fear, the sadness and the loss of freedom. But Plan International has given me my confidence and my courage back."** - Roumana, aged 17, Togo



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**"With persistence, I convinced my parents to let me participate [in a Plan International programme aged 12]. Now, at the age of 71, I'm a recognised female leader."**

- Marianita, aged 71, Ecuador

By leaving a gift in your will, you can make sure there are countless more still to write – stories as unique and inspiring as Damipi's, Jenifer's, Roumana's and Marianita's, where girls take control of their own futures.





Newborn girl in Santa Elena,  
Ecuador

**When you leave a gift in your will to Plan International UK, you're fighting for girls' rights long into the future, and we won't stop fighting until we are all equal.**

So, what does this future look like? It's a girl being taught her rights and given the platform to use them, so she won't just have a choice, but a say. Not only that, but she'll be set up to support the next generation of girls, and every generation that follows. That's because we help teenage girls to teach and inspire younger girls, helping them grow into role models and leaders in their communities.

This means little girls who today haven't taken their first steps, or are yet to even be born, will never know what it's like to grow up feeling undervalued. Instead, they'll be supported by those around them, shown dignity and respect, and given the freedom to write futures of their own.

With your support, we can keep working with communities around the world to give girls the opportunity to fulfil their potential. It takes a village to raise a child and people like you help make sure they're raised to believe in themselves.

**So, together, one community at a time, we can help every girl take control of her world – and what better gift is there to leave behind than that?**

# YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Hopefully the information below will answer any questions you might have. If there's anything else, or if you'd like to chat to our Gifts in Wills Team, led by Sophia Stylianou, you can reach them by calling **020 3217 0215** or emailing **legacies@plan-uk.org**

## HOW DO I INCLUDE PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK IN MY WILL?

If you'd like to include Plan International UK in your will we suggest you visit a practising solicitor. To help ensure your gift is used in the way you would wish we have a suggested legal wording for you to show your solicitor and use when writing your will.

## I HAVE ALREADY GOT A WILL – HOW DO I CHANGE IT?

Ask your solicitor to add a codicil (the legal term for an amendment). If you want to make substantial changes it may be better to ask your solicitor to draft a new will. Please contact us if you would like a sample codicil.

Plan International UK [offers free will writing services](#). Please get in touch or visit our website if you'd like to know more about these. You can also find a solicitor near you by visiting the Law Society's website.

## WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A SOLICITOR?

We'd be happy to send you a list of solicitors near you who specialise in wills. Please contact us if you'd like us to do this.

## CAN I LEAVE A LEGACY TO THE CHILD I SPONSOR?

We aren't able to give a gift to a specific child or family. The strength of our community approach is that our work benefits all the children in a community, not just those who are sponsored. However, you can ask for your gift to benefit our work in the country where your sponsored child lives, or a particular kind of project. Please get in touch if you'd like to discuss this.

## ARE THERE ANY TAX BENEFITS TO LEAVING A LEGACY?

Generally, if your estate is worth more than £325,000, inheritance tax is charged (at up to 40%) on the part of it over this threshold. This may be different for certain individuals, such as married couples, those who have been widowed and those leaving their family home to children or grandchildren – please ask your solicitor.

But there are two ways leaving a gift to a charity can help reduce the impact of inheritance tax on your beneficiaries.

- Any gift to charity in your will would generally be exempt from

inheritance tax thus reducing the amount of tax due from the estate.

- In some situations, anyone leaving 10% or more of their estate to charity may qualify for a reduced rate of inheritance tax – 36% rather than 40%.

Charities are also generally exempt from capital gains tax. When someone dies, the assets in their estate are valued and, if they are later sold during the estate administration at a higher value, capital gains tax may be payable on the increase (the gain). If however an asset is transferred to a charity before sale, this can reduce the estate's capital gains tax bill (because the charity is exempt), which can therefore benefit the wider estate. Your solicitor can advise you further on this.

### **CAN I SUPPORT A SPECIFIC TYPE OF PROJECT?**

Yes. You can personalise your gift by requesting that it be used to support a certain area of our work: health projects, for example, or education. We'll do everything we can to follow your wishes, but, as life changes in developing countries, the focus of our work will change, so it's best to allow some flexibility in your instructions. If there's a specific area you wish to support, please contact us to talk about how this might happen.

### **IS THERE SUGGESTED WORDING TO LEAVE A GIFT IN MY WILL TO PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK?**

Yes – please see the suggested wording below. This will help when you visit your solicitor.

### **CAN I GIVE A GIFT TO PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK IN MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE?**

Of course. You can find out more about celebrating the life of a loved one by simply getting in touch.

### **WHAT DO I DO ONCE I'VE LEFT A LEGACY TO PLAN INTERNATIONAL UK?**

You don't need to do anything else, but it is very helpful if [you get in touch to let us know](#). Knowing that you are leaving us a gift in your will helps us plan for the future. We'd also like to have the chance to say thank you.

### **WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A LARGE GIFT TO LEAVE?**

Of course, your loved ones should always come first, but any gift that you leave to Plan International, no matter how big or small, will mean we are able to continue to provide some of the world's poorest children with essentials such as education, healthcare, clean water and toilets.

# HOW TO LEAVE US A GIFT IN YOUR WILL: SUGGESTED WORDING

These are the main types of gift you can leave to Plan International UK in your will, with suggested wording to show your solicitor.

**RESIDUARY LEGACY** – a percentage share of your estate after payment of specific and pecuniary legacies (see below) and any debts due. This type of gift keeps pace with inflation.

*"I give (write in words) % of my estate to Plan International UK, Discovery House, 28-42 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE, registered charity number 276035 to be applied for the general purposes of that charity and I declare that an official receipt from the treasurer or other duly authorised officer of that charity shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors."*

**PECUNIARY LEGACY** – a fixed sum of money. This type of gift does not keep pace with inflation unless you review your will regularly or your will links the gift with inflation.

*"I give the sum of £ (write in words) to Plan International UK, Discovery House, 28-42 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE, registered charity number 276035 to be applied for the general purposes of that charity and I declare that an official receipt from the treasurer or other duly authorised officer of that charity shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors."*

**SPECIFIC LEGACY** – gift of specific items.

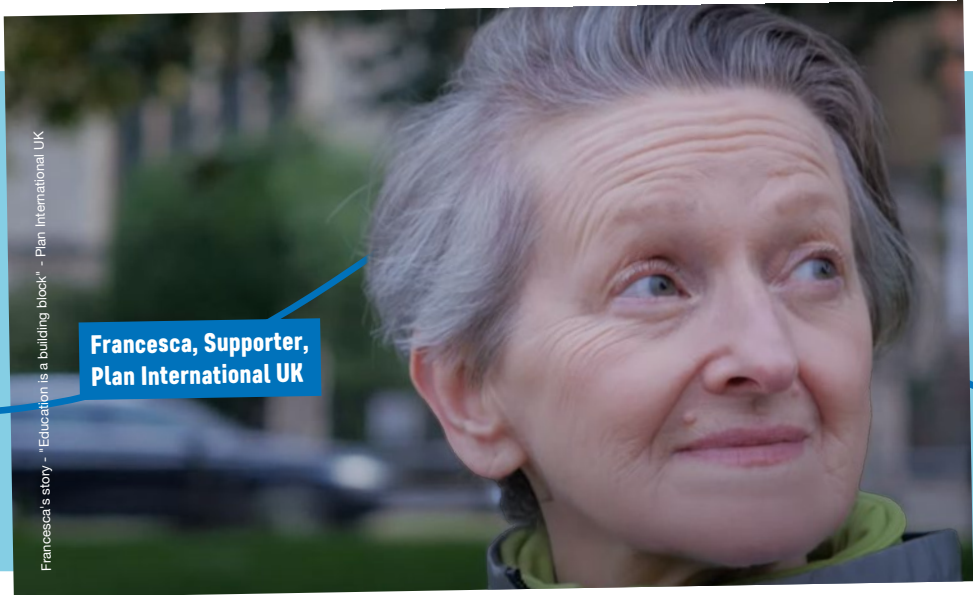
*"I give (insert description of items) to Plan International UK, Discovery House, 28-42 Banner Street, London EC1Y 8QE, registered charity number 276035 to be applied for the general purposes of that charity and I declare that an official receipt from the treasurer or other duly authorised officer of that charity shall be a sufficient discharge to my executors."*

If you're unsure about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch on 020 3217 0215 or at [legacies@plan-uk.org](mailto:legacies@plan-uk.org)



# “IF YOU EDUCATE GIRLS, YOU MAKE SOCIETY BETTER AS A WHOLE.”

Francesca is leaving a gift in her will to Plan International UK because she's passionate about girls' rights.



Francesca's story - "Education is a building block" - Plan International UK

Francesca, Supporter,  
Plan International UK

Growing up as a young girl in Italy, she remembers how expectations of what she would go on to do with her life were low – but she wasn't afraid to go against the grain. She says, **“I feel extraordinarily lucky to have had the freedom to explore opportunities and go on to higher education.”**

A feminist from the age of 14, she sees keeping girls in school as key in the fight for equality, adding, **“Education is a building block, and from there, girls can do anything.”**

Now, she's looking ahead to the future and just what her gift could one day help girls to achieve: **“It's a little contribution that can help, even when I'm not here, and that gives meaning to my life and makes me very happy.”**

# **WRITE** Plan International UK **INTO YOUR WILL AND EMPOWER GIRLS TO WRITE** their own futures

Below is the essential information that your solicitor will need when adding a gift to Plan International UK to your will. Please keep it somewhere safe.

**Plan International UK  
Discovery House  
28-42 Banner Street  
London  
EC1Y 8QE**

Registered Charity No. 276035