

Your lasting LEGACY.  
Their brighter FUTURE.



**RAILWAY**  
**children**  
No child lost to the streets



## LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL CAN MAKE A LASTING DIFFERENCE TO CHILDREN AROUND THE WORLD

Railway Children has been reaching and protecting children who are alone and at risk for over 25 years. In that time we've changed thousands of lives and made sure countless young people are safe from harm. We couldn't do it without the ongoing generosity of our amazing supporters – people like you.

The children we help face violence, abuse and exploitation every day. No matter where they are, we work hard to reach them before they are lost to a life of trauma and despair from which they can't escape.

With your support, children in India are being reunited with their families or introduced into nurturing family environments, children in Tanzania are returning to education and the hope of a brighter future, and children in the UK have somebody there for them when they need it most, for as long as it takes.

## We will be there for vulnerable children for as long as it takes, and you can be too.

Around the world, millions of children live difficult lives that no child should have to endure. Poverty, conflict and the stresses of daily life have pushed more families to breaking point. Many children who face violence and abuse at home or whose parents simply can't care for them, head to the streets. Other children found on transport networks are caught up in exploitation or are running away from problems that seem insurmountable.

But what they find on the streets is often far worse.

**Your legacy can help change that.**

It is so important to make a Will and ensure your loved ones are provided for after you have gone. If you are able to also include a gift to us as a charity then we can carry on changing lives in your memory for many years to come. It is a great way of having a positive impact on future generations without it costing you anything during your lifetime. We hope this guide will reassure you that leaving a legacy can be a fulfilling and empowering decision as well as being a simple and straightforward process.

Thank you.

**Rob Capener**  
Group CEO, Railway Children

## WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO MAKE A WILL

Recent research has shown that half of UK adults do not have a Will in place, with one of the top reasons being that people believe their loved ones will automatically inherit their wealth.<sup>1</sup> Yet without a Will, there is no guarantee that the people and causes you care about will benefit from what you leave behind.

If you pass away without making a Will your estate will be divided based on laws out of your control and your wishes may not be carried out. But if you have made a Will, or amended an existing one, using the proper processes then you are in control of what happens after you are gone.

<sup>1</sup>[www.canadalife.co.uk/news/half-of-uk-adults-dont-have-a-will/](http://www.canadalife.co.uk/news/half-of-uk-adults-dont-have-a-will/)

*Jess was first referred to us after British Transport Police officers saw her hanging around Leeds station and worried she might be in danger. She was seen in gangs with older teenagers and there was a lot of criminal activity going on within the group – with alcohol and drugs regularly involved. We've helped Jess understand the risks she is taking and spent time with the family too. There has been a lot of trauma in the past and Jess's mum is worried she is involved in county lines, moving drugs around for the gangs, and that she is being sexually exploited too. **Our teams visit the family often, making sure Jess stays safe at home and that the family has all the support available from other, already stretched, services and we won't stop until we know Jess is safe.***



## Railway Children's promise to you

If you feel able to leave a gift to Railway Children in your Will, or amend an existing Will, we promise to:

- make sure your gift supports children with nowhere else to turn and helps change lives for good.
- use your gift in the most efficient way to achieve the greatest impact for the highest number of children and families.
- never put you under any pressure and let you make decisions about your legacy in your own time.
- always respect that the first priority of your Will is to provide for your loved ones.
- accept that you can change your mind, at any time, and will completely understand if you do so.
- respect your privacy and never ask you to tell us about the decisions you make in your Will – although we would like to be able to thank you if you do tell us.

## THE FIVE-STEP GUIDE TO MAKING A WILL

Although it is simple and straightforward to make a Will, we would strongly recommend using a qualified solicitor to ensure the documents are legally valid. Consider the following points to help you prepare to meet with a solicitor:

### Calculate the value of what you own

You could use the checklist in the 'planning your Will' guide to list all of your property, money and possessions (your estate).

### Choose your beneficiaries

This lists everyone you would like to remember in your Will. Again there is a guide to this in the 'planning your Will' document.

### Choose what types of gifts / legacies you would like to leave and to whom

Residuary, pecuniary or specific – your solicitor can discuss with you how different legacies work and which is best for you.

### Choose an executor and solicitor

An executor is responsible for administering your estate – they can also be a beneficiary. You can appoint a solicitor or professional to be an executor, but they may charge a fee.

### Keep your Will in a safe place

You can ask your solicitor or bank manager to look after your Will. Keep a copy yourself and remember to let your executor know where they can find the original.

## THREE WAYS YOU CAN LEAVE A GIFT TO RAILWAY CHILDREN

### Residuary legacy

A donation of some or all of what is left of your wealth (the residue) once taxes, charges and specific gifts have been allocated.

### Pecuniary legacy

This is a fixed sum left to a named beneficiary.

### Specific legacy

You may choose to leave a specific item rather than money – such as property, stocks and shares, jewellery or other valuables.

*Vinay lost his mum at the age of seven and has faced a traumatic life ever since, with his dad turning to alcohol and regularly coming home drunk. When we first met him, he was alone and scared at Katpadi railway station and we knew he would be an easy target for traffickers and those looking to abuse and exploit vulnerable children. We took him to our shelter where he could get food and water and had somewhere safe to stay while we tracked down his family. Understandably Vinay was very wary of seeing his father, but we've been working with the whole family ever since to tackle his dad's alcohol problems and help them build a safer, stronger family unit together.*



# WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND CAN HELP VULNERABLE CHILDREN MOVE FORWARD

If you decide you are able to leave a gift to Railway Children in your Will, we would love to hear from you.

Contact our team on **01270 757596**  
or visit [www.railwaychildren.org.uk/donate/gifts-in-wills](http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/donate/gifts-in-wills)

**Thank you**



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