

## **REDUCING THE LEGACY OF CONFLICT: REMEMBERING OXFORD RESEARCH GROUP IN YOUR WILL**

*If you are considering leaving money in your Will to a charity, such as Oxford Research Group (ORG), this leaflet will help you understand the different types of legacy you can leave and explains what you need to do to include such a legacy in your Will.*

### **WHY MAKE A WILL?**

Making a Will is the only legally-recognised way of ensuring that your estate is bequeathed to the people and causes that were important to you during your lifetime. Yet two-thirds of the population still fail to make a Will.

If you don't leave a valid Will, your estate will be divided according to the law at the time. This means that it is possible that your entire estate will go to the Crown, depriving your family, friends and favourite causes of your generosity. If you are married, living with a partner or have children but do not leave a will, you should not assume that they will automatically receive your estate should you die.

By making a Will your assets will be distributed according to your wishes as opposed to the law.

There may also be tax benefits to leaving a legacy to a charity. You can leave everything to your spouse or to a charity free of tax – but at present only the first £312,000 (2008/2009) passing to anyone else is tax free with the remainder being taxed at 40%. So if you leave money to a registered charity such as Oxford Research Group, it can reduce any inheritance tax bill on your death.

## WHY OXFORD RESEARCH GROUP?

ORG has working since 1982 to promote a more sustainable approach to security for the UK and the world, thereby helping to reduce conflict globally and minimise the human cost of conflict. Our analyses and policy proposals have consistently been one step ahead of developing opinion.

We were awarded the Niwano Peace Prize in 2003 for our work on the promotion of disarmament and non-violent methods for resolving conflict. In April 2005, we were named one of the top 20 think tanks in the UK by The Independent newspaper. Our work has been endorsed by many public figures and opinion-formers. For example, in 2007 Archbishop Desmond Tutu wrote:

*"I am delighted at the enormous impact ORG is making. I hope that good sense will ultimately prevail among world leaders, or that they will be made to care about priority issues by a concerned public, and your work is crucial in this regard."*

Sustainable security is the key innovative policy initiative we are currently developing and promoting, once again placing ORG at the forefront of new security thinking. We believe that there is a critical and urgent need for the promotion and establishment of security strategies which have learned from the mistakes of the past and are fit for the needs of the 21st Century. With a modest uplift in resources, ORG's work is well placed to contribute to a "tipping point" in the way the world achieves security – a tipping point that must be reached in the next 5-10 years if the century is not to be one of increasing violence and deprivation for the majority of the world's people.

Find out more about the different ways we are currently working from our website at [www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk).

## HOW YOUR BEQUEST CAN HELP ORG

ORG relies on donations from individuals as well as from trusts and foundations. In particular, ORG desperately needs unrestricted donations (i.e. donations that allow ORG to use the money as it sees fit) as these funds allow us the flexibility to react quickly and sensibly to unforeseen events, as we did in the aftermath of 9/11. Conditions are not placed on their use by the donor. Legacy gifts are a vital source of unrestricted funding.

So your legacy to ORG can help us carry out our important work. Over time the nature of ORG's work does change, and as it is likely to be many years before we receive your legacy gift, it can be difficult to know exactly where and how we might be working in the future and therefore exactly what we might use your money for. Whilst we may not know precisely the programmes we will be running at the time we receive your legacy, we can be sure that ORG will always be working towards resolving conflict and promoting the non-violent resolution of conflict.

We hope that you will trust us to use your support in the most useful and efficient way at the time we receive it. If you would like to discuss any specific wishes you may have, please do get in touch with the ORG's Fundraiser (see p.7).

## HOW TO LEAVE A BEQUEST TO OXFORD RESEARCH GROUP

It is best not to try to write a Will on your own. You should employ the services of a solicitor who can ensure that your Will is valid and that all your wishes are included. If you do not have a solicitor, visit the Law Society website ([www.lawsociety.org.uk](http://www.lawsociety.org.uk)) to find a Will and Probate solicitor.

If you already have a Will and want to make amendments, such as to add a legacy to Oxford Research Group, the easiest and cheapest option is to add a Codicil to your Will. Again, this should be done through your solicitor who will be able to advise you on how to do this.

If you do include, or intend to include, Oxford Research Group in your Will, it would be very helpful for our long-term planning if you could let us know by sending us a Confidential Pledge Form (at the end of this leaflet). This is entirely confidential and is *not* legally binding as it is purely a statement of your intentions.

## WHAT TYPES OF LEGACY CAN YOU LEAVE?

There are three main ways you can leave a gift in your Will:

- A **Pecuniary Legacy** is a fixed sum of money.
- A **Specific Legacy** is a gift of property or a particular item of value.
- A **Residuary Legacy** is a share of your estate.

When your estate is distributed, taxes and debts are paid first, then Specific and Pecuniary Legacies.

What is left is called the residue. If you do not specify that a charity or individual should receive this, it will be distributed by the Government according to the current legislation. Many people make significant gifts of property, possessions and money to family and friends, then leave the residue to a charity such as Oxford Research Group (a Residuary Legacy). This is a valuable and tax-effective way to support our work.

### **Donations in lieu of flowers (In Memorium giving)**

You can also ask in your Will that family and friends make donations to Oxford Research Group instead of sending flowers at your funeral.

## SUGGESTED WORDING

If you choose to include Oxford Research Group in your will, please ask your solicitor to use one of the following suggested texts.

### 1) Pecuniary Legacy

I bequeath to Oxford Research Group of Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT, (Registered Charity No. 299436), the sum of (*amount in figures and words*) £..... to be applied by Oxford Research Group for its charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Oxford Research Group for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

### 2) Residuary Legacy

I bequeath to Oxford Research Group of Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT, (Registered Charity No. 299436), (*please state fraction / percentage*) of the residue of my estate to be applied by Oxford Research Group for its charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Oxford Research Group for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

### 3) Specific Legacy

I bequeath to Oxford Research Group of Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A 4LT, (Registered Charity No. 299436), (*write in here whatever you wish to give*) to be applied by Oxford Research Group for its charitable purposes and I further direct that the receipt of the Hon. Treasurer or any other proper officer of Oxford Research Group for the time being shall be sufficient discharge to my executors.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

For further information or to discuss any of the issues covered here, please contact ORG's Fundraiser:

### **Fiona Harrison**

Fundraiser

Oxford Research Group

Development House

56-64 Leonard Street

London EC2A 4LT

T 020 7549 0298

F 020 7681 1668

E [fiona.harrison@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](mailto:fiona.harrison@oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk)

**[www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk)**

Registered Charity No. 299436

*Thank you for considering leaving a legacy to Oxford Research Group in your Will.*

*Please note that the information above is not legal advice; you should always consult a Wills and Probate Solicitor when drawing up or amending a Will.*

## GLOSSARY

Beneficiaries	People or organisations – for example a charity – who benefit from a Will.
Contingent Legacy	A gift that is dependent on an event that may or may not happen. For example, if the testator outlives an intended beneficiary, a gift might pass instead to a nominated charity.
Estate	The property, including money, owned by the Deceased, after any debts and/or expenses connected with his/her death have been taken into account.
Executor(s)	Person(s) appointed in a Will by the testator to deal with the estate after his/her death.
Guardian(s)	The person(s) appointed in a Will by the testator to look after his/her children if there is no-one else with parental responsibility to do so.
Pecuniary Legacy	A gift of money (i.e. where the precise value is specifically indicated) allocated in the Will by the testator.
Pledge	A promise or statement that an individual intends to include a legacy in their Will or has already done so. It is <i>not</i> a binding contract.
Pledger	Someone who has informed the charity that they have included, or plan to include, a legacy to that charity in their Will.
Residuary Legacy	A share of the estate (i.e. a percentage) allocated in the Will by the testator.
Specific Legacy	A gift of property or an item of value allocated in the Will by the testator.
Testator	The person who makes a Will.

**CONFIDENTIAL PLEDGE**

Your Pledge to Oxford Research Group can make a real difference to our work to promote a more sustainable approach to security for the UK and the world.

It is entirely up to you as to what detail you give us about your intended legacy, but if you do so it helps with our long-term planning. This pledge is simply a statement of intent and is not binding in any way.

It would be very helpful if you could confirm either of the following:

- I have included Oxford Research Group in my Will.
- I have not yet included Oxford research Group in my Will but intend to do so.

Full name .....

.....

Postcode ..... Telephone .....

Signature .....

Date .....

ORG will not pass on any of your details to any other organisations.

My Gift is in the form of:

- The residue, or part of the residue, of my estate after my friends and family have been provided for;
- Percentage of my estate: I currently intend to leave ..... %;

**Or**

- A cash gift of up to £500     £550-£1,000     over £1,000

**Please show this form to your solicitor and then return it to:**

Oxford Research Group, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street,  
London, EC2A 4LT.

Registered Charity No. 299436. [www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk)  
You can contact us on 020 7549 0298

Address .....

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Email.....