



Our work

In 2010, Platform 51 worked with 11,000 girls and women directly through our face-to-face work across England and Wales.

We also helped thousands more through our campaigning on issues that affect women and girls.

“Platform 51 has helped me hugely. They make you feel so welcome and get you involved. It’s practical and emotional help at the same time. I feel like I have a voice, and I can get my opinions across.” Naomi

“If I hadn’t come to Platform 51 I’d have been lost. I’d have been in the gutter.” Rochelle

If you have any questions please contact the Supporters’ Team on 01865 304205 or email supporters@platform51.org

This guide explains why gifts left in supporters’ wills are so valuable, and provides advice on how to go about making or changing your will to include a legacy to Platform 51.

About Platform 51

Platform 51 supports girls and women as they take control of their lives.

Girls and women today face problems that are often subtle or misunderstood. Despite shifts in attitude and changes in the law, women are often unheard, isolated and face discrimination. Many women we work with are affected by poverty, sexism and racism, and struggle to get the education they need.

Generally we run programmes from our women-only centres which are in some of the most deprived areas of England and Wales. But we also work in schools, community centres, youth clubs, mother and baby units, prisons, online: anywhere, in fact, where we can make a difference.

Platform 51 does two things. Firstly, we work face-to-face with women. Because each person has different problems, what we do is different in each case. By taking part in courses, group activities and counselling, we help each woman to understand what is going on in her life. This usually inspires women to take the first step, which might be finding the courage to say ‘no’, learning to speak English, applying to college, or having more confidence as a parent.

Secondly, we speak out on behalf of all women in England and Wales. We challenge inequality, discrimination and negative stereotypes of women by influencing decision makers and lobbying for changes in the law.

But there’s so much more for us to do. We can only reach a very small proportion of the girls and women who need services like ours. The more funds we raise, the more we can achieve.

A great thing to do

A legacy is a fantastic way to support Platform 51. It allows us to provide vital services for girls and women, giving them long-term support for as long as they need it. And it means we can plan for the future to make real and lasting changes to girls’ and women’s lives.

You don’t have to be wealthy to leave a legacy to Platform 51. The gifts we receive from wills range from a few hundred pounds to tens of thousands and all are gratefully received. Up to half of our income from supporters comes from legacies; they are a very important source of income for us.

We understand that you want to make sure that your family is looked after. But please consider leaving a small gift to Platform 51 after your other concerns have been taken care of. Even a very small percentage of an estate can make a big difference.



How your gift helps

A gift of £5,000 could allow 250 women to benefit from one-to-one counselling to talk about problems such as abuse or depression.

£20,000 could employ a Platform 51 worker for a year who supports about 150 girls and women to develop their skills, work through their problems and improve their confidence.

One supporter left 3% of her estate to Platform 51. This helped us to support 4,000 girls and women. 100 young women finished their education thanks to the childcare the legacy allowed us to provide.

“I am very grateful for the support that Platform 51 has given me; it has helped me stand up and play my role in the community I live in.”
Hazvinei

Find out more at www.platform51.org

If you would like more information about where our money comes from and how we use it, our annual review and financial statements are available through the post on request, or you can find them on our website at www.platform51.org

A great thing for you

Leaving a gift to Platform 51 in your will is a wonderful way to leave the world a better place. Many people find that they are able to give a larger donation through their will than at any other time. The effect will be felt a long time into the future by the thousands of girls and women who benefit from our services every year.

There may also be a financial benefit for your family. Legacy gifts to charity are not taxed so Platform 51 will receive the full benefit of any gift you make. In some cases a charitable legacy can reduce the amount of inheritance tax quite considerably, leaving both the family and the charity better off. Your solicitor will be able to tell you whether this applies to you, and advise you further on inheritance tax planning. More details are available from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs' website: www.hmrc.gov.uk.

Types of legacy

There are several ways you can leave a legacy to Platform 51:

Residuary gift: A share of your estate once all other gifts, debts, and other expenses have been paid, usually

expressed as a percentage.

Pecuniary gift: A specific sum of money. Bear in mind that the value of a pecuniary gift may reduce as a result of inflation. For example, £5,000 will be worth less in ten years' time than it is today.

There are other types of gift you can include in your will, including a specific gift (a particular item) or a reversionary gift (a gift that is given to one person for use during their lifetime and then to another person or organisation after the first recipient has died). Please talk to your solicitor for more information about gifts like these.

If you already have a will

If you already have a valid will, you can include a gift to Platform 51 quite easily by adding a codicil (a short document added to the end of your will). This will need to be signed and witnessed in the same way as your existing will and kept in the same place. As with any change to your will, we recommend that you consult a solicitor to make sure that it's done correctly.

Alternatively, you may want to wait until you next rewrite your will. It's good practice to update your will regularly, to take into account any significant changes in your or your family's circumstances, for example the birth of a child or grandchild. Remember that if you have married since you wrote your will, it may no longer be valid.



If you don't already have a will

If you don't already have a will, it's well worth making one. When someone dies without a legal will it can cause severe difficulties for their loved ones at a time when they are already grieving. The administration of their estate passes to the courts and whatever intentions they had expressed to friends and family aren't taken into account. In some cases, everything they had can be taken by the government.

Your will is a legally binding document, so it's important to have it drawn up by a qualified solicitor to make sure it's done properly. It may not be valid if it's not worded correctly.

If you prepare beforehand it'll make the process quicker and easier. Here's a checklist of things you should prepare before you see your solicitor:

- Full names and addresses of the people you want to act as executors (who will ensure that the instructions in your will are carried out)
- Full names and addresses of the people you want to act as legal guardians for your children (if you have any under the age of 18)
- Bank and building society details for any accounts you have
- A list of the gifts you wish to make, with the full names and addresses of the people you're leaving them to
- A list of your assets and debts, so you can estimate the total value of your estate.

Assets:

Property
Home contents
Cars
Items of value; for example, jewellery or antiques
Bank or building society accounts
Insurance policies (including mortgage protection)
Company shares
Pensions
Any other savings; for example premium bonds

Debts:

Mortgage
Loans
Credit card debts
Overdraft
Tax owed and other debts

Estimate the value of each category and subtract the total value of your debts from the total value of your assets to find the estimated value of your estate.

Sample wordings for gifts

If you do include a gift to Platform 51 in your will, thank you. The correct wording is crucial in any will, so please make sure you use our full legal name: *Platform 51, the operating name of YWCA England & Wales.*

You may wish to copy one of the sample wordings for a residuary or pecuniary bequest on the next page.

Finding a solicitor

If you haven't used a solicitor before, your family or friends may be able to recommend one in your area.

You could also look in the Yellow Pages or contact the Citizens Advice Bureau.

The Law Society provides a searchable national online directory of solicitors at www.lawsociety.org.uk or you can phone them on 0870 6062555.

If you're worried about the cost, try calling a few different solicitors to ask for a quote.

"I found that the whole process was easier than I thought. Sorting out my will felt both important and a big relief - I'd been meaning to do it for some time."
Alison Crookes,
Platform 51 supporter

See how we spend your donations at www.platform51.org/supportus/yourmoney



Residuary bequest:

I leave free of tax to Platform 51, the operating name of YWCA England & Wales of Clarendon House, 52 Cornmarket Street, Oxford OX1 3EJ, Charity Registration Number 217868 (proportion of residue to be completed) for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors. If before my death (or after it but before my Trustees have given effect to the gift) YWCA England & Wales has changed its legal name or amalgamated with another body or transferred its assets to another body, my Trustees shall give effect to the gift as if it were a gift to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the assets have been transferred.

Pecuniary bequest:

I leave free of tax to Platform 51, the operating name of YWCA England & Wales of Clarendon House, 52 Cornmarket Street, Oxford OX1 3EJ, Charity Registration Number 217868, the sum of £(to be completed) (amount in words) for its general purposes and I direct that the receipt of the Treasurer or other duly authorised officer shall be a sufficient discharge to my Executors. If before my death (or after it but before my Trustees have given effect to the gift) YWCA England & Wales has changed its legal name or amalgamated with another body or transferred its assets to another

body, my Trustees shall give effect to the gift as if it were a gift to the body in its changed name or to the body which results from the amalgamation or to which the assets have been transferred.

Contact us

If you decide to include a gift to Platform 51 in your will, now or in the future, thank you. We understand that your will is a private document and if you prefer not to tell us, we'll respect your privacy.

If you would like to let us know that you've included a gift to Platform 51 in your will, or you intend to, we'll be glad to hear about it. We're able to plan ahead better if we know that we have stable sources of income for the future. It also means that we'll know not to contact you about legacies again.

We can also keep you updated on our work. If you'd like to specify how and when you hear from us in future, please get in touch with us (see right for our contact details).

Thank you

On behalf of the women and girls we support, thank you for taking the time to read this guide.

Contact us

If you would like any more information on anything in this guide, please contact the Supporters' Team and we'll be happy to help.

Phone: 01865 304205

Email: supporters@platform51.org

Post: Supporters' Team, Platform 51, Clarendon House, 52 Cornmarket Street, Oxford OX1 3EJ

We welcome your feedback so please let us know if you have any comments about this guide you would like to share with us

Platform 51 is the operating name of YWCA England & Wales, a registered charity, number 217868 and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England, no. 0137113. Registered office: Clarendon House, 52 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3EJ www.platform51.org

Thank you for supporting Platform 51