



# GIFTS IN WILLS GUIDE



# OUR HISTORY

Founded in 1975, the LGBTQ+ community has always been at the heart of everything we do at LGBT Foundation.

As the needs of LGBTQ+ people have changed over the years, so have we. Over the years, LGBT Foundation has grown to be the largest charity of our kind in the UK, supporting over 40,000 people each year.





A photograph of two men in a close embrace, kissing. The man on the left is wearing a brown jacket and has his eyes closed. The man on the right is wearing a blue denim jacket over a yellow shirt and is smiling broadly. Behind them is a large rainbow flag. A purple circular graphic is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing text.

**LGBT Foundation**, formerly known as The Lesbian & Gay Foundation, traces its roots back to the merger of two local community groups - Manchester Lesbian & Gay Switchboard Services and Healthy Gay Manchester.



**1975**

**Manchester Lesbian & Gay Switchboard Services (MLGSS)** began life, providing a support line to LGBTQ+ people who had nowhere else to turn. When homosexuality was decriminalised in 1967, an increasing number of people started to come out, and with that, often came challenges in their personal lives. All too common, their stories were one of isolation and crisis. In response, six gay men gathered in a back bedroom of a house in Manchester to create and deliver a support line to help LGBTQ+ people at what was often a pivotal moment in their lives. The Helpline remains a vital part of the Foundation's work to this day.

**1994**

Our Chief Executive Paul Martin OBE co-founded Healthy Gay Manchester. Formed in response to the HIV epidemic, the charity worked tirelessly to raise awareness and to combat myths and stigma around HIV/AIDS, at a time of heightened public fear. Led by the community, for the community, Healthy Gay Manchester was uniquely positioned to provide direct health and wellbeing support for gay and bi men.

**2000**

Manchester Lesbian & Gay Switchboard Services and Healthy Gay Manchester merged, becoming the Lesbian & Gay Foundation. In doing so, we became the UK's largest health and community charity for LGBTQ+ people.



**2015**

We became fully trans inclusive and changed our name to LGBT Foundation.

**2020**

We established the Indigo Gender Service in partnership with the NHS, designed by and for trans communities in Greater Manchester.

**2022**

We launched our free will writing service to help LGBT Foundation supporters to leave a meaningful legacy behind.



# OUR WORK

LGBT Foundation's work span many areas, from health and wellbeing services, to campaigning for and on behalf of LGBTQ+ people for equality.

## OUR WORK INCLUDES:

- Helpline
- Counselling
- Befriending
- Night time safety
- Domestic abuse
- Drug & alcohol recovery
- Pride in Ageing
- Women's Programme
- Trans Programme
- Trans Advocacy
- Men's Programme
- Bi Programme
- Social and support groups
- LGBTQ+ inclusion training
- Pride in Practice healthcare accreditation scheme
- Indigo Gender Service
- Sexual health testing and advice
- Policy and Research
- Campaigns

Our reach extends across the UK and overseas – each year, **we support over 40,000 people to improve their health and wellbeing.**

None of this work would be possible without the support of people like you.





# WHY WRITING A WILL IS IMPORTANT

A will is one of the most important documents that you will ever make.

It is a legal document that decides how your estate (*everything you own*) will be distributed after you pass away.

A will offers you the **opportunity to reflect on your life** and consider how you would like to benefit those you leave behind. In England and Wales, if someone passes away without a will, **inheritance rules** (called the *rules of intestacy*) mean that your estate will be passed to your relatives in a very specific order of priority, which might not match your wishes. For LGBTQ+ people, a will is even more important, as many of us have chosen families which are not legally recognised under the law.

## TAX RELIEF

Depending on both the value of and beneficiaries of your estate, there may be Inheritance Tax to pay. There is no Inheritance tax to pay if the value of the estate is below the current government-set threshold, and this threshold is increased if you leave your home to your children (including adopted, foster or stepchildren) or grandchildren.

Where applied, Inheritance Tax is based on set percentage of the value of the estate, but this can be reduced on some assets if you leave 10% or more of the 'net value' of your estate to charity (the net value is the estate's total value minus any debts. For more information on Inheritance Tax and the latest threshold amounts please visit [www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax](http://www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax) or consult with a professional advisor.



# HOW DO I WRITE A WILL?

Once you have decided on what you would like your will to contain, visit a solicitor to have your will drawn up.

If you don't have a solicitor, perhaps ask friends and family members for recommendations, or visit the Law Society for solicitors in your local area.

Alternatively, you can write your simple will for free through us, with our will-writing provider Co-op Legal Services.





# LGBT FOUNDATION'S FREE WILL WRITING SERVICE

We offer a [free will-writing service](#), with options to write your simple will over telephone or online.

The free service is intended for our supporters, and while you do not have to include a gift to us by using this service, we hope you will consider supporting our vital work making the world a better place for LGBTQ+ people.

You can get started with your free will by visiting [co-olegalservices.co.uk/partners/lgbt](https://co-olegalservices.co.uk/partners/lgbt)

If you would like to discuss this with us before taking any next steps, please contact us at [charity@lgbt.foundation](mailto:charity@lgbt.foundation) or call **0345 3 30 30 30** (extension 2).



# TYPES OF GIFTS YOU CAN LEAVE IN YOUR WILL

There are **three main type of gifts** you can leave:

**SPECIFIC GIFTS** are objects that you may wish to leave to an individual or a charity, for example, a painting or family heirloom.

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**PECUNIARY GIFTS** are specified sums of money. It can be a specific amount to a specific individual or charity.

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**RESIDUARY GIFTS** are made from the residue of the estate. The residue is whatever is left after any specific or pecuniary gifts have been made, and all expenses and taxes have been paid. Residuary gifts can be given in whole to a specific individual or charity, or a percentage of it.

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## COMPLEX WILLS

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You may need a Complex Will, depending on your personal circumstances, but especially if:

- You are **divorced or separated**, especially if there are any dependents involved;
- You **own multiple properties, businesses, or international assets**;
- You wish to **disinherit family members**

If this applies, you may need a complex will. Our will-writing provider, **Co-op Legal Services**, will let you know if this is the case, and we may be able to offer a discounted complex will.

After you've taken care of your loved ones, we would be incredibly grateful if you would leave a gift in your will to us, ensuring we can be here for every single LGBTQ+ person that needs us.





# WITH YOUR GIFT TO LGBT FOUNDATION, YOU WILL...

Pledge and help create a future where all LGBTQ+ people can live a life free from discrimination

Over the decades, we have witnessed and been part of some incredible milestones in the fight for LGBT equality. Although we now have more legal rights than ever before, we know there is still a long way to go. For LGBTQ+ people today, the reality is quite stark: **half of LGBT people** said they've **experienced depression in the last year**, **46% of trans people** have thought about **taking their own life** and **one in seven LGBT people** have **avoided medical treatment out of fear of discrimination** because they are LGBT.

Help to improve the health and wellbeing of LGBTQ+ people and save lives

Our work helps LGBTQ+ people increase their skills, knowledge and self-confidence to improve and maintain their wellbeing. Our reach extends across the UK and overseas and each year, we support over 40,000 people. None of this work would be possible without the support of people like you.

Ensure we deliver our vital work

We are working daily to ensure that LGBTQ+ are given access to safe spaces, inclusive support, appropriate medical care and much more. By leaving a gift to LGBT Foundation in your Will, you will help continue our life-saving work. **96% reported that their wellbeing improved as a result of accessing our support.**

# BE A PART OF OUR JOURNEY

We are always evolving as we respond to the changing needs of our communities.

By leaving a gift in your will to LGBT Foundation, you will help future generations of LGBTQ+ people.

Be a part of our journey as we fight for LGBTQ+ equality, and continue providing support that reflects the diversity of our communities.

We have ambitions to grow our existing work and also develop new services for the LGBTQ+ community, including:

- Refugee & asylum support
- Housing services
- Community Centres
- Disordered eating support
- Sexual violence support

Your gift will help us to continue our existing provision, and to develop more inclusive services for future generations of LGBTQ+ people.

Leave a gift to LGBT Foundation today, and help change the future.





# GLOSSARY

ESTATE	All the money and property owned by a particular person at death.
INHERITANCE TAX	A tax applied to property and money acquired by gift or inheritance.
INTESTANCY	The condition of the estate of a person who dies without having in force a valid will or other binding declaration.
PECUNLARY	Relating to or consisting of money.
RESIDUARY	The residue of an estate.
WILL	A legal document by which an owner of property disposes of their assets in the event of death.

Charlotte and I are proud to have witnessed and to be part of the movement for LGBTQ+ equality over the years, from the abolition of Section 28, to the introduction of civil partnerships and then same-sex marriage. Although we have come a long way in legal terms, we know that there is a lot more work to do to make sure LGBTQ+ people have equitable access to healthcare services, justice, employment, and many other aspects of our society. When the time comes, we want to pass on the torch to future generations of LGBTQ+ people, just as the previous generations did for us, and make it a better place for our children to grow up in. For Charlotte and I, we can think of no better way to leave our final mark on the world.

- Amy\* & Charlotte\*, about leaving a gift in their Will to LGBT Foundation

# THANK YOU

## CONTACT DETAILS

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If you have any questions,  
or would like more information,  
please email the Fundraising Team  
at **charity@lgbt.foundation**  
or call **0345 3 30 30 30**  
(extension 2).

