Make a sight-saving gift in your Will

Vaishnavi, from India, was treated for cataract at the age of 5
A shared vision

Blindness and visual impairment have a profound effect on anybody’s life, no more so than in low- and middle-income countries, where 90% of people with blinding conditions live.

Orbis believes that no-one should have to live with blinding conditions that could have been prevented or treated if their circumstances were different.

By remembering Orbis UK in your Will you can share in this vision, providing a legacy of hope and enabling more people in the world to be free from sight loss.

Together we will make a huge impact across the world, offering this generation and those to come enduring hope that avoidable blindness will become increasingly rare.

Leaving a gift in your Will to Orbis UK will give people the chance of a brighter future, of getting an education and earning an income to support their families, and of feeling a greater sense of belonging in their communities.
Saving people’s sight for generations to come.

Thank you for requesting information on leaving a gift in your Will, and thank you all the more if you are considering leaving a sight-saving gift as part of your life’s legacy.

These acts of kindness make a huge difference to the reach of our work, as approximately 15% of our total funds come from such gifts. And this type of income allows us to plan with more certainty to help the people most in need of our support.

I’m extremely proud of my role working at Orbis and the sight-saving work we do. But I am as proud of my personal commitment to support the charity with a gift in my Will.

The impact that saving or restoring a person’s sight can have on them, their families and all of their futures is truly profound. Knowing that I could provide someone with that life-changing moment when I’m gone feels like a very special legacy indeed.

Please do read on to find out more about how a gift in your Will could support our work. You can also read about the steps you might need to take to write a Will, or include a gift to charity in it should you decide to.

Any gift you leave to Orbis UK will go towards making eye care available everywhere, for everyone. We will include and work with your executors to show them where your gift will go and the impact it will have on future generations.

Thank you once again for sharing our vision.

Rebecca Cronin, Chief Executive Orbis UK

338 million people in the world are blind or visually impaired*

90% live in low- or middle-income countries

77% of these conditions are treatable or preventable

*Figure refers to visual impairment that prevents people seeing well at distance.
Help make eye care available for everyone, everywhere with a gift in your Will

By leaving a gift to Orbis UK in your Will you can help train and mentor eye care teams to save sight and transform lives in their communities.

By taking this step, you’re leaving a sight-saving legacy with a deep and long-lasting impact. Your gift will make more people aware of the importance of eye health, and it will improve eye care services from large regional hospitals to Vision Centres serving remote communities.

By supporting Orbis UK you will be equipping eye care professionals with the skills to screen for and treat eye conditions, providing communities with the knowledge to seek help when they need it, and developing a health care system that recognises the importance of eye care for all. You will share in our comprehensive and sustainable legacy of high-quality sight-saving care for generations to come.

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Tsehay is an Orbis-trained Integrated Eye Care Worker who lives and works in Gamo Gofa, Ethiopia. Since she took part in Orbis-supported training, Tsehay has operated on more than 600 people in the late stages of trachoma, a blinding eye disease. The brief surgery relieves the excruciating pain of the condition, as well as halting the loss of sight it causes. Tsehay explains, “Since Orbis started to intervene in this district the number of trachoma patients is dropping, because now we don’t treat patients on the base facility only. Now we also go to the community and treat them before it gets too late, so that they won’t need any surgery. “I’m very happy when people regain their sight. And people are very happy with me. Sometimes they call me ‘mother of eyes’ because of their happiness and satisfaction with the work.” Tsehay has since received further training and wants to become an ophthalmic nurse so she can help more people in her community. A gift in your Will can train the next generation of eye care workers to continue and expand this sight-saving work.
You can help create a future where there are enough eye care workers like Tsehay to provide quality eye care to every person in need.

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Writing your Will

Common terms
Here are some common terms you may come across when writing your Will, and what they mean.

Assets The things you own that are worth money, such as a car, house, property, savings or shares.

Beneficiary A person or institution such as a charity (Orbis UK) who receives a gift from your Will.

Codicil A document that makes an amendment to your Will and is signed and witnessed in the same way as your Will.

Estate The total value of everything you own after any outstanding debts have been paid.

Conditional legacy A gift in a Will which will only take effect if a condition is met upon the Legator's death.

Legal Guardians If your children are aged under 18, you can appoint a Legal Guardian in your Will to care for your children.

Legacy or bequest This is a gift of money, property or other assets in your Will.

Legator or testator The person who has made the Will.

Liabilities Things you owe money on, such as mortgage, loans, credit cards and debts.

Trustee The people or an institution specified in your Will to manage a trust set up in your Will.

Executor A person or institution, such as a firm of solicitors, who will administer your estate and ensure your wishes are respected in the distribution of your estate.

Mirrored Will Virtually identical Wills where one person in a couple leaves their estate to the other in the event of their passing away.

For every £1 we spent in 2021, 74p contributed directly to saving sight. The other 26p went towards raising more funds.

For every £1 spent on raising funds, we raised £3.43.
What are executors and how do I choose them?
Executors are people you appoint to ensure the wishes in your Will are followed. It is recommended to name at least two people in case one person is unable to act for you. You may choose friends, family members or a solicitor, and they may still benefit in your Will.

What is a residuary gift?
A residuary gift is a share of your total estate after other payments, debts, taxes and administrative expenses have been deducted. As a residuary gift is a percentage of your estate it will keep its value over time.

Here is some suggested wording to leave a residuary gift in your Will:
I leave the share of (amount in percentage) of my estate to Orbis Charitable Trust registered charity number 1061352, 41-42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG

What is a pecuniary gift?
A pecuniary gift is a fixed amount of money that you leave in a Will, otherwise known as a cash gift.

Here is some suggested wording to leave a pecuniary gift in your Will:
I leave the sum of (amount in pounds) to Orbis Charitable Trust registered charity number 1061352, 41-42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG

What is a specific gift?
A specific gift is where you leave a particular item of value such as a personal possession, property or shares to Orbis UK.

What is inheritance tax?
Inheritance tax is the amount of money that you will need to pay from your estate if the total value is over a certain level. The amount may change in the future and there are exceptions and benefits available to married couples and civil partners. We would advise that you talk to a solicitor or professional financial advisor to understand how this affects your personal situation. For more information you can also visit the HMRC website at www.hmrc.gov.uk

How can I minimise my inheritance tax payments?
If you leave a gift in your Will you may be able to reduce or even eliminate your inheritance tax liability. Gifts to charities are 100% tax free and are taken out of your estate before any tax is calculated. In addition, if you leave at least 10% of your net estate to charity after certain deductions your inheritance tax rate will be reduced from 40% to 36%. Please be aware that these conditions are subject to change, so if this sounds like something you might want to consider we recommend talking to a solicitor or professional financial advisor to take further advice.
Imagine a world where nobody goes blind needlessly, simply because of where they live.

Dung lives in Hue, Vietnam with his wife and five children. He is a farmer, but for the past two months had not been able to work. Dung explains, ”My vision had become really blurry, starting with the cataract in my right eye.”

Two years ago, I was scared that a surgical procedure might cause permanent blindness. Also I have been the main breadwinner for the family, so it wasn’t an option to take the time to get treatment. I decided not to pursue help or surgery for my cataract. I had to accept that my eye was getting blurry.

The vision in Dung’s left eye then started to get cloudy too. ”I was worried that both eyes were going, and that I was becoming blind. I was very worried and nervous for myself and my family. I could not go to work, I had an accident on my motorbike, and even consuming food on my own had become a burden. I did not have confidence in myself.”

Dung decided it was time to go to Hue Eye Hospital, in Thua Thien Hue Province, where he was selected as a patient for the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital programme, training local eye care professionals on cataract removal.

”When the doctor removed the bandage over my eye, I realised I have clear vision again, and I am so happy for that. The first thing I want to do is to see my children and grandchildren clearly again. They have grown and I’m very excited to see them. Then as soon as my eyes are back to normal, I need to go back to my farming.”

A gift in your Will can bring sight-saving care to more people like Dung, keeping them in education or employment.
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How to write your Will

Why do I need to leave a Will?
Your Will is one of the most important documents you need to write. It ensures that your loved ones are looked after when you are no longer around and that your final wishes are respected.

Once your family and friends have been included, your Will is also a way for you to continue to support the causes closest to your heart. More and more people today are including a gift to charity in their Will to continue to support the valuable work they do. Orbis UK depends on this type of gift as a vital way to help continue the work of making eye care available everywhere, for everyone.

What if I don’t have a Will?
If you do not have a Will or your Will isn’t valid, your estate is said to be intestate which means that your wishes may not be carried out. Having a professionally written, up to date Will is the best way to ensure your requests are met.

Who should help me write or update my Will?
Orbis UK advises that you use a professional Will writer or solicitor to write or update your Will to ensure that it is valid and witnessed. This is why we are pleased to partner with Guardian Angel to provide a Will writing service for free, saving you £90 on the cost of your Will.

Visit www.gawill.uk/orbis and follow the steps to create your Will online for free. Guardian Angel will provide detailed guidance on everything you need to consider when making your Will. There is also the option to speak to an advisor over the phone or in person if you would prefer.

If I already have a Will, do I need to update it?
It is always a good idea to review your Will periodically to ensure that it still reflects your wishes, especially if your personal circumstances have changed.

Where do I store my Will?
As your Will is an important document it is essential that you keep it safe along with any other information such as your pension details and bank accounts.

What information will I need to get started?
Gather together details about you, your partner, children, legal guardians, executors and any other beneficiaries. Have information to hand on your assets and liabilities, together this will give an estimate of the value of your estate that you may like your Will to address. And consider any wishes you may have for your funeral.

Visit www.gawill.uk/orbis to start making your Will for free today. Or call us on 020 7608 7271 for more information.
Thank you for taking the time to consider leaving a gift in your Will to Orbis UK.

You are under no obligation to let us know your plans but doing so will allow us to thank you for helping to save sight, and to plan for the future. Please do fill out this form or visit orbis.org.uk/wills if you would like to notify us. The information you provide will be kept confidential and is not legally binding, simply a statement of your intent at this time.

I’d like to remember Orbis UK in my Will and leave a sight-saving gift for future generations.

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Address


Postcode

☐ I have left a gift in my Will to Orbis UK  ☐ I am considering leaving a gift in my Will to Orbis UK  ☐ Please don’t ask me about leaving a gift in my Will again

Signature


Date

How would you like to hear from us?

We’d love to keep in touch with you and keep you informed about our work, fundraising activity and the difference your support makes. We will only contact you in the ways that you choose and promise to keep your contact details safe:

☐ Yes, please email me.

☐ Yes, please contact me by phone

☐ If you no longer wish to hear from us by post, please tick this box

You can tell us to change or stop the way we communicate with you by emailing icare@orbis.org.uk

Please visit orbis.org.uk/privacypolicy to see how we use your data
Please return your completed form to: Freepost RUGA–HXTY–TAYZ, Orbis UK, 41-42 Craven Street, London, WC2N 5NG
Prince, from Ghana, had surgery on the Orbis Flying Eye Hospital at the age of 12 to correct strabismus (squint) in both eyes.