



Prisoners • Families • Communities
A Fresh Start Together

Supporting prisoners and their
families to make a fresh start



Please consider leaving
Pact a gift in your will

Remember people in prison with a gift in your will

A message from our Chief Executive, Andy Keen Downs

Pact is the pioneering national Catholic prison charity that supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families to make a fresh start. We provide caring and life-changing services at every stage of the criminal justice process: in court, in prison, on release, and in the community.

Our vision is of a society in which **justice is understood as a process of restoration and healing**, in which prisons are used sparingly and as places of learning and rehabilitation, and in which the innate dignity and worth of every human being is valued.

This year, Pact marks its 125th anniversary. Since 1898, Pact has sought to bring hope and light to people in prison.

Every year, thousands of people in prison receive our help because our supporters have chosen to include a gift to Pact in their wills.

After taking care of their loved ones, they have chosen to remember prisoners. These gifts help people to navigate the complexities of the criminal justice system, often during some of the most difficult days of their lives.

In this special 125th year, I am respectfully asking all of our supporters to consider whether including a gift in their will to Pact is right for them.

Every gift - no matter how big - will make a huge difference - offering people the promise of a fresh start for years to come.

Thank you so much for your support, and for taking the time to consider whether leaving a gift in your will to Pact is right for you.



Andy Keen Downs
Chief Executive of Pact



Remember those in prison as though you were bound with them. Hebrews 13:3

How a gift in your will can help: Lewis' story

"I spent twenty-five years in and out of prisons all over the country. I was sent to a Young Offender Institution at the age of 15. Wow - what a terrifying experience that was! But it still didn't stop me. From an early age, I started using substances to escape how I was feeling. And drugs are eventually what brought me to my knees.

In 2019 I found myself at the start of another prison sentence. I felt broken inside. I realised my way was not working. There was only one thing left to do. I got on my knees and I begged God for His help. I said, 'Lord, I can't do this on my own anymore.'

Pact supported me after I was released. My Pact Befriender, Mark, called me each week. He was so helpful and supportive. We talked over everything that was going on in my life. He wasn't frightened to point out to me where I may need to be careful or to possibly reconsider a course of action. Since being released I have found a local church, and the love and support I've received from them has been amazing. I've found that life is about progress, not perfection. I am trying my hardest, with the help of God, to be the best version of myself."



"I want to thank Pact for all the support they've given me. I am so very grateful, you have helped me immensely."

The difference you will make

By including a gift in your will to Pact, you'll create a lasting impact, helping to change people's lives for the better. We will use your gift carefully and effectively where it is most needed to help ensure that families do not have to cope with a prison sentence alone.

Your gift will help us to:

Build stronger families and safer communities

"In our darkest hour we have been shown compassion and empathy. My family and I will not forget any time soon."



Keep prisoners, their families and children safe

"I am so glad we could get the support we needed in a desperate situation. The relief was tremendous."



Put relationships at the heart of prison reform

"I pray that changes are made to our justice system. No one will ever know how hard this journey is."



Why I'm leaving a gift in my will to Pact



Margaret, a longstanding supporter of Pact, and legacy pledger, told us why she had included a gift in her will to Pact. Thank you, Margaret:

"When my husband and I recently re-did our wills, we wanted to leave gifts to the charities we had each supported. For me, this included Pact. The same reasoning applies to leaving a legacy as to supporting a charity in one's lifetime.

I support both the purpose – supporting prisoners and their loved ones - and the way Pact carries out that purpose. Pact supports prisoners and their families at a particularly stressful part of their life journey, and works in

a collaborative, not confrontational way, including with other agencies. Pact's way includes being clear about valuing human dignity, on its Catholic origins and social teaching. It is an efficient organisation with a welltrained workforce of staff, trustees and volunteers.

No one, I suspect, enjoys making a will. The formalities and the association with death are off-putting. However, it ensures, as far as possible, that your loved ones are provided for, and, after having made that essential provision, a legacy gift of some of the residue to a charity like Pact becomes a final way of reflecting the values and belief that made you unique."

"I pray that we may never forget all people, whoever they are and whatever they may have done, are loved by God and called to be sharers in His Kingdom. I commend to you the work of Pact, who do so much to support those in need of hope and a fresh start"

Pact's President, Cardinal Vincent Nichols



I've decided I would like to leave Pact a gift - what now?

When making or updating your will we strongly recommend that you consult a solicitor to ensure it is legally valid and reflects your intentions.

If you're looking for a solicitor, the **Law Society** can supply details of firms that specialise in wills.

You can call them on **020 7242 1222** or visit their website, www.lawsociety.org.uk

When you contact your solicitor or a reputable will-writing service, give them Pact's details.

The most
important
information
you need is:

Our registered charity number: **219278**
Our address: **Prison Advice and Care Trust,
Homework Southfields,
265-269 Wimbledon Park Road,
London, SW19 6NW**

Get in touch

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions, require further information, or would like to talk to us about including a gift in your will.

Please contact us in confidence and with no obligation.

How to get in touch:



By post
**The Fundraising Team, Pact, Homework Southfields,
265-269 Wimbledon Park Road, London, SW19 6NW**



By email
mylegacy@prisonadvice.org.uk



By phone
07710 170 942

Notify Pact of a gift in your will

If you feel comfortable doing so, please let us know that you've left us a gift in your will, or intend to do so. We would really value the opportunity to say thank you, and knowing you've included Pact in your will helps us to plan with confidence for the future.

Please complete and return the form below.

Please tick the appropriate box:

☐

**I intend to leave a gift in
my will to Pact**

☐

**I have already included
Pact in my will**

**Your full
name:**

Address:

Daytime telephone number:

Email address:



**Thank you very much
for your support.**



Pact is a proud member of Your Catholic Legacy - a group of charities working together to protect the future of Catholic good causes by spreading the word about gifts in wills. You can find out more by visiting their website:

www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk