

# Remember René Cassin in your Will – and let human rights be your lasting legacy



**The Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was the civilised nations' response to the horrors of the Holocaust – the world was united in saying 'Never again!'

As the French-Jewish co-author of the Universal Declaration, **Monsieur René Cassin** has left us all a precious legacy. You can keep that legacy alive by remembering René Cassin (charity number 1117472) in your will.

## René Cassin

René Cassin – the Jewish voice for human rights – works to protect and promote the rights of vulnerable individuals and communities – particularly on issues that resonate with the Jewish experience:

- **Discrimination** – where we will highlight the extreme prejudice endured by Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities, often called 'the last bastion of acceptable racism'
- **Slavery and human trafficking** – where we will seek to capitalise on the welcome momentum created by the Modern Slavery Act 2015 to ensure better protection for victims of slavery and trafficking
- **Asylum** – where we will continue to shine a light on the scandalous treatment of asylum-seekers held in prison-like conditions in the UK, often with no time limit on their detention
- **Human rights provisions in the UK** – where, in response to the Government's imminent consultation on repealing the Human Rights Act, we will emphasise the fact that human rights law developed as a response to the Holocaust
- **Human rights education** – where we will empower tomorrow's human rights advocates through our René Cassin Fellowship Programme for young professionals, and by speaking to school students and youth groups

## Making a Will – the basics

**Every adult should have a Will**, regardless of age, income or wealth. A Will is the only way of ensuring your wishes are met after your death. And not making a Will can cause real administrative and legal complications for your loved ones at a very difficult time.

In making a Will, naturally your first priority has to be taking care of your family and loved ones.

You can write your Will yourself, but **you should get expert advice** to make sure it is interpreted in the way you wanted.

You need to get your Will **formally witnessed and signed** to make it **legally valid**.

If you want to **update your Will**, you need to make an official alteration (called a 'codicil') or make a new Will.

### Types of Will and samples of how to word them

- **A share of your estate** (Residuary Legacy)

Once you've worked out what you're leaving to family and friends, you can donate a share, or all of what's left.

Our **Suggested wording** to leave a share of your estate (Residuary Legacy) is:

'Subject to the payment of my debts, funeral and testamentary expenses, I give (the whole/insert percentage value) of my estate not otherwise disposed of by this my Will to René Cassin of 853 Finchley Road, London NW11 8LX, registered charity number 1117472, for the general purposes of René Cassin, and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.'

- **A specific sum of money** (Pecuniary Legacy)

If you want to leave a lump sum to René Cassin, you specify this amount in your will.

Our **Suggested wording** to leave a specific sum (Pecuniary Legacy) is:

'I give free of tax to René Cassin of 853 Finchley Road, London NW11 8LX, registered charity

number 1117472, the sum of £\_\_\_\_\_ for the purposes of René Cassin, and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.'

- **A specific item**

Such as property, jewellery, stocks and shares – or any item that you think will be of some value to René Cassin's work when sold.

Our **Suggested wording** to leave a specific item is:

'I give to René Cassin of 853 Finchley Road, London NW11 8LX, registered charity number 1117472, absolutely (write in here whatever you wish to give) for the purpose of René Cassin, and I declare that the receipt of their Treasurer or other proper officer shall be a full and sufficient discharge.'

## **Further information to help you write your Will:**

- **The Government's website**  
<https://www.gov.uk/donating-to-charity/leaving-gifts-to-charity-in-your-will>
- **Citizens' Advice**  
<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/relationships/death-and-wills/wills/>
- **Remember a Charity**  
<http://www.rememberacharity.org.uk/>
- **The Guardian**  
<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2010/jul/09/charities-qa-charity-legacies>

## René Cassin – defending and extending human rights

**2000** – The Consultative Council of Jewish Organisations takes a group of young professionals to the UN Commission on Human Rights (since reformed as the Human Rights Council) in Geneva. Dismayed by the absence of a Jewish voice on universal human rights, they are inspired to set up René Cassin to raise awareness of human rights and encourage activism within the Jewish community.

**2003** – René Cassin hosts a series of public events featuring high-profile speakers such as Dame Ruth Deech, Dr Indarjit Singh and Peter Tatchell, addressing the most important human rights issues of the day.

**2005** – We launch an innovative education programme for UK secondary schools on genocide, immigration and childrens' rights which reaches over 3, 000 Jewish secondary school children.

**2006** – As part of a campaign for restitution for victims of genocide, René Cassin representatives negotiate the first-ever reference to group rights in a UN instrument (the Basic Principles on Rights for Victims).

**2007** – We launch the Jewish Human Rights Network with the support of the Chief Rabbi and the Attorney General of the United Kingdom.

**2008** – We begin our campaign to end modern slavery and trafficking in the UK, which eventually results in legislation to combat this human rights issue. We produce a Haggadah Companion on slavery and trafficking for the Jewish community.

**2009** – We take on attempts to repeal the UK Human Rights Act in Parliament and with the Jewish community, we develop alliances to combat discrimination against Gypsies, Travellers and Roma people in the UK and Europe.

**2010** – We travel to Geneva and The Hague with our activists to intervene at high level meetings. We begin producing a series of resources for lawyers on Asylum and Detention.

**2011** – René Cassin is growing! We hire a new staff member to manage our five campaigns and educational programmes! We travel to New York for UN meetings and intervene on behalf of Gypsy and Traveller rights.

**2012** – We launch the René Cassin Fellowship Programme on Judaism and human rights. Our first group of Fellows from the US, UK and Israel spend two weeks in Israel looking at human rights issues on the ground in a complex environment.

**2013** – René Cassin leads the Jewish community in the fight against legal aid cuts, takes lawyers to Geneva for the Universal Periodic Review and continues to voice Jewish support for the Human Rights Act.

**2014** – René Cassin launches a training programme for faith leaders on combatting endemic discrimination against Gypsies and Travellers; helps launch a Parliamentary Inquiry into immigration detention and speaks out against proposals to withdraw the UK from the European Convention on Human Rights.

**2015** – René Cassin hosts London premiere of *Valley of Sighs*, a powerful documentary about a forgotten genocide of Roma by the Nazis; organises major meeting to mark the passing of the Modern Slavery Act; emphasises the links between the Magna Carta (800 years old this year) and the Human Rights Act; builds pressure on the issue of indefinite immigration detention – actions at Harmondsworth Immigration Detention Centre attract coverage in Jewish and national press

**2016** – former Attorney-General, Dominic Grieve tells Rabbi Julia Neuberger why he fully supports the Human Rights Act at a packed René Cassin meeting; ex-detainees and Jewish, Christian and Muslim clerics tell Parliamentarians why they should oppose indefinite immigration detention at an event in the House of Commons; René Cassin produces video testimony of a German Jew interned on the Isle of Man by the British in 1940.