



Nottingham & Nottinghamshire  
**REFUGEE FORUM**



**Because of Joan's legacy, we are able to keep our project supporting refused asylum seekers, as well as our café and garden, open to the community.**

**It is such an honour for Nottingham Refugee Forum when a kind and compassionate supporter chooses to leave a gift to us in their Will. Thank you so much for your interest in doing so.**

We strongly believe everyone deserves a chance to feel safe and live with dignity. Our vision is a society where refugees and people seeking asylum are welcomed, receive fair and compassionate treatment and the support to rebuild their lives.

If you believe in our vision too, then leaving a gift in your Will to Nottingham Refugee Forum is a really meaningful way of upholding your values long after you've gone.

Within this pack, you'll find out what previous legacies left to us by supporters have made possible. You Will also hear about others who want to support individuals seeking refuge by making this important step.

We hope you'll understand why your interest is so gratefully received and give you everything you need to make an informed decision about leaving a legacy to us. We're more than happy to answer any queries so please get in touch with us if you need more information.

With your help, together, we can work towards a society where everyone has a chance they deserve to rebuild their lives.

In solidarity and with our deepest gratitude,

**The Fundraising Team, Nottingham Refugee Forum**

E: [fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk)

T: 01159601230



### **A message from our Chair:**

A legacy gift is more than a donation. It is an act of solidarity that allows our charity to challenge injustice, build community and stand with people whose rights and dignity are under threat. Every day, refugees and asylum seekers are welcomed by our team of committed staff and volunteers, each seeking the same things we would want for our own families: safety, respect, and the chance to rebuild their lives. This is why legacy gifts matter so deeply.

# Leave a legacy of Welcome



## ***We believe that everyone deserves a chance to rebuild their lives.***

If you share this belief, leaving a gift to Nottingham Refugee Forum is a very special way of upholding the values that matter most to you.

Lots of people have shared with us that it brings comfort to them to know that their money or assets will have a lasting impact and will continue to make the world a more welcoming place long after they've passed on.

And, it doesn't have to be a lot. Every gift, no matter the size, is so important in enabling individuals and families seeking safety a chance to rebuild their lives. Even a small amount in your Will can make a huge difference.

“

**I have no words to thank you for the support and kindness you all showed helping me out. I will always remember you in my prayers. God bless you all.**

”

Imran,  
Specialist Advice Client

Here are some examples of the projects gifts in Wills could make possible, and the ways your gift could make an important contribution in the future.



### Specialist Advice

We provide specialist advice to people seeking safety who are facing some of the toughest moments of their lives. Many are homeless, survivors of abuse, LGBT+, or families with no recourse to public funds. We walk with them through complicated systems, helping them overcome barriers to achieve fair outcomes and rebuild their lives with **dignity** and hope.

### Community Café

By running Café Narjis, we've created a warm, welcoming place where people from all backgrounds can share food, connect and feel at home. The hot, nutritious and culturally familiar meal which serves up to 100 people a day is a lifeline for many seeking refuge. Our volunteers, many with lived experience, cook with care, share their traditions and help people feel like they're not alone.



### Grassroots Community Garden

Our Grassroots Community Garden is a warm, friendly place where clients, volunteers and local people can meet, talk and feel part of a community. For volunteers with lived experience, being in the garden brings purpose, routine and confidence, and is a therapeutic space. As well as growing flowers, fruit and vegetables for our café, the garden hosts Refugee Week BBQs, pizza nights, art classes and yoga.

### Pamoja Women's Group

"For ten years, our weekly group has been a place where women can learn new skills, grow in confidence and imagine new possibilities for themselves. Women join us for everything from seaside trips to creative sessions with independent artists. Most of all, the group offers a safe, friendly space to relax, connect and feel they belong. It helps women seeking safety build friendships, ease anxiety and enjoy new opportunities together with plenty of smiles, laughter and support along the way.



# How one women's legacy helped provide compassion to refugees

Joan was a valued ESOL teacher and volunteer at Nottingham Refugee Forum and left a substantial gift to us in her Will.

Like so many of our supporters, Joan was deeply passionate about welcoming everyone who had fled their homes and were seeking safety in Nottingham. Joan loved spending time in the classroom, helping students practise their English – both in group settings, alongside other tutors, and also individually. She was always energetic, witty and kind. She never missed a class, was loved by her students, and is dearly missed by all of us at Nottingham Refugee Forum.

In her memory, Joan's legacy now supports our project for refused asylum seekers, helps our café serve over 13,000 meals each year, and keeps our garden welcoming more than 100 clients annually.

**Individuals and families seeking refuge  
Will benefit from these services for years  
to come – a legacy we believe Joan would  
have been proud of.**



# A trip through the archives

We're so **proud** of what we have achieved over our history. We hope it brings back some treasured memories for you. From the very beginning, we've relied on the generosity and kindness of supporters like you to keep our work going. If you choose to leave a gift to Nottingham Refugee Forum in your Will, you Will enable us to continue supporting many more individuals and families seeking sanctuary in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire with the **compassionate** support they need. Thank you for being a part of our vision to ensure everyone seeking safety is welcomed, safe and given the chance to rebuild their lives.



**Debbie Royle**

**2000**



We were founded by volunteers who saw a need for **specialised support** for refugees and people seeking asylum locally.

**2001**



**17th February 2001**  
We held Nottingham's first refugee conference to discuss common problems and interests. We expected 50 people; 150 came

**2002**



**19th January 2002**  
Bill Morris opened our building on Mansfield Road.  
**July 2002**  
We campaigned against RAF Newton serving as an accommodation centre for refugees.

**2003**



In our early days, we **campaigned** to prevent the deportation of families, vigorously defending the human rights of those escaping oppression or conflict.



The conference brought together refugees and supporters to campaign, connect, and share interests.



Bill Morris, General Secretary of TUC and NNRF chair Mike Scott celebrate the opening of our building on Mansfield Road.



Friends of the Daoud family show their support outside the former family home in August.



Our garden is the perfect place to bring people together, especially during Refugee Week which we love hosting each year.



In 2021, volunteers created our Grassroots Community Garden.



Supporting our runners in the Robin Hood Half Marathon.



Volunteers are the foundation of our work, giving over 500 hours of their time each week. Almost half have lived experience.

2015



**Resettlement Work**

In 2015 we were contracted to provide the casework for Syrians brought to the UK under the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

2016



In 2016 we set up **Voices in Refuge**, starting to provide fully trained interpreters, many with lived experience, and delivering community interpreting training across the UK.

2020



In 2020 we celebrated our **20th anniversary**, transformed our services during Covid by moving support online, and helping those who needed us most. None of this would have been possible without our supporters' generosity.

2022

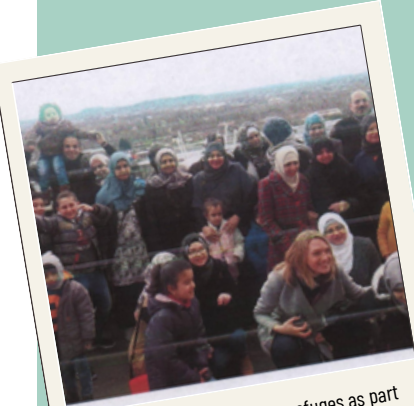


**Baroness Ruth Lister**

became a patron for Nottingham Refugee Forum, bringing her valued experience as a member of the House of Lords give our clients a voice in government.



Baroness Ruth Lister helped change the new refugee period from 28 to 56 days.



Welcoming our first Syrian refugees as part of the resettlement programme.



Our resettlement work continues today with us welcoming Afghan refugees.



Our bright café serves over 1,000 meals a month.

# My Legacy Story: Dave

I have decided to leave a legacy gift in my Will to Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum.

Why? Because after more than 20 years of volunteering in different roles, this organisation has become incredibly close to my heart. It's the largest refugee charity in the East Midlands, offering specialist support that reaches over 4,000 people and families every year. There's nothing else quite like it.

Over the years, I've seen first-hand the difference the Forum makes. I want to play my part in helping it continue supporting asylum seekers and refugees as they rebuild their lives in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire for many years to come.



The Forum is fortunate to have a knowledgeable, experienced and hardworking staff team, supported by dedicated volunteers. Together they work tirelessly to ensure people are treated with dignity and fairness.

My monthly donation helps the Forum right now, and it can be used wherever it's needed most. But a legacy gift Will help secure its future as the first place people turn to when they arrive seeking safety. It means the principles I care about — justice, dignity and welcome — Will continue long after I'm gone.

I hope you'll consider leaving a gift in your Will too, if you can.

Dave Hewitt



# Start your free Will today



## How to write your Will

Writing or updating your Will can be intimidating but we're here to make it simpler and put your mind at ease. If you haven't yet written your Will, or want to update your Will we recommend that you use our trusted partners Farewill.

## Online

We're so pleased to offer our supporters the chance to write or update their Will for free, helping you look after the people and causes you care about. Give yourself peace of mind and write your Will in 30 minutes with Farewill. The online service is suitable for essential Will needs, for those living in England and Wales.

## Telephone

You can also choose to make your Will over the phone with one of Farewill's specialists. The service is available throughout the UK and offers personal guidance for complex needs from specialists. It's a reassuring way to get expert support while making important decisions.

## Our partner - why Farewill?

- Farewill is the best rated Will writer in the UK, and has won multiple awards for their service, including National Will Writing Firm of the Year.
- Farewill's specialist team are available to help you over the phone, **+44 20 8050 2686** or email, [hello@farewill.com](mailto:hello@farewill.com) Monday to Friday 9-6pm.
- Farewill have created friendly and easy to use [online guides](#) to answer your questions, and help you prepare to write your Will.
- You can update your Will at anytime with their [Unlimited Changes](#) service



I don't know how can I say thank you for yesterday. Honestly we have been having many difficulties for long time and I have not had any chance to take my daughter out and make her happy. Maybe it is unbelievable but it is one of my dream to take my daughter to cinema, farm, theatre and you made one of them come true.

Pamoja Women's Group Attendee



# Leave a lasting gift of hope

## No obligation or pressure

There's absolutely no obligation to leave a gift in your Will to Nottingham Refugee Forum. We know that including us in your Will is a big decision, and that your loved ones come first, But all gifts make a life-changing difference to individuals and families seeking sanctuary in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

We would be so grateful if you do decide that you would like to support Nottingham Refugee Forum in this way.

## Leave a lasting impact

You can leave a specific amount of money, a percentage of your estate, or even a specific item. There are three main types of gifts:

- a. A share of your estate (residuary gift)
- b. A fixed sum of money (pecuniary gift)
- c. A specific item, such as jewellery or property

The decision of what kind of gift to leave, or whether to leave one, is entirely yours.

## Recommended wording

If you prefer to include a Gift in your Will without using Farewill, this is our suggested wording.

*I give free of inheritance tax to Nottingham Refugee Forum Registered Charity Number: 1121560 of Sycamore Centre, 33a Hungerhill Road, Nottingham, NG3 4NB [insert gift details, e.g. 10% of the residue of my estate] to be used for its general charitable purposes. I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or duly authorised officer at Nottingham Refugee Forum shall be a full and sufficient discharge for my Executors.*

## Let us know about your intentions

If you have already remembered us in your Will, or you plan to do so, there's no pressure to tell us, but we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with our fundraising team by calling **01159601230** or emailing **[fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@nottsrefugeeforum.org.uk)** to have a chat with our team.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Do I get legal advice when writing my Will with Farewill?**

Farewill makes Will writing simple by providing online and telephone services that guide you through the process. Their team of specialists check your Will for clarity and completeness. However, Farewill is not a law firm, and they don't provide individual legal advice. If you have complex circumstances – for example, detailed tax planning needs – you should speak to a solicitor. Call Farewill on **020 8050 2686** and they will let you know if your situation falls outside what their service can cover.

## **Do I have to use Farewill to include a gift to Nottingham Refugee Forum in my Will?**

You don't need to use Farewill to leave a gift in your Will. A legacy is valid as long as it's written into a legally compliant Will. The simplest and safest way to do that is to speak with a solicitor, who can make sure the wording is correct, the Will is properly witnessed, and the gift is protected from any disputes later on. A solicitor can also advise you on tax implications and ensure the rest of your estate is structured according to your wishes.

## **Does Nottingham Refugee Forum pay for this?**

Gifts in Wills are vital for securing our future. We provide supporters with the opportunity to write their Will for free through our partnership with Farewill. While we encourage you to consider leaving a gift, we cover the cost of the Will. Typically, the RRP of a Will is from £100.

## **How much money goes to supporting people seeking refuge?**

For every £1 we spend, 90p goes towards the running of our services. The remaining amount goes towards our buildings and fundraising costs.

## **Can I update my Will later?**

You can update your Will if your situation changes. Farewill provide an Update Service on their Wills online, offering unlimited free updates for the first year and £10 a year after.

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## **Can I ask for my gift to be used for a specific purpose?**

We do everything we can to honour specific legacy wishes. However, we recommend wording that allows gift can be used wherever the greatest need is at that time. This means we can adapt to whatever the future holds in our work with people seeking safety in the UK.

## **Is it worth leaving a gift in my Will if I don't have a lot of money?**

Absolutely. We are grateful for every gift, whatever the amount. Each one helps us provide the support that enables people seeking sanctuary locally to rebuild their lives.



**People who have fled danger and unimaginable suffering come to the UK seeking safety, and then are faced with an asylum system that is complex, confusing and often retraumatising. The people we meet every day are our priority. We're guided and led by people lived experience, involving them in every stage of our work; from volunteering in our cafe, to working as part of our staff team to being on our board. We support those we work with to play an active part in their communities as they rebuild their lives. Together, we can build a society where everyone is welcomed and treated with fairness and compassion.**



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**REFUGEE FORUM**



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Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee  
Forum: Registered Charity Number: 1121560

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Road, Nottingham, NG3 4NB