YOUR GUIDE TO

LEAVING A GIFT IN YOUR WILL



For the women you love, and the generations who'll follow.

OVARIAN CANCER ACTION

YOU CAN HELP CHANGE THE FUTURE FOR THE WOMEN YOU LOVE



If you've been affected by ovarian cancer, you'll know why change can't come soon enough.

For too long, women affected by ovarian cancer have been let down by a lack of investment and progress. Today, ovarian cancer survival remains lower than breast cancer survival was in the 1970s. It's time to change this.

Fuelled by sustained investment in research, breast cancer outcomes have transformed, with survival rising from 50% in the 1970s to 87% today.

With your help, we are determined to accelerate the same kind of progress for ovarian cancer, so that no woman dies of this disease.

In 2006, we opened the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Europe's first centre dedicated to ovarian cancer research. Since then, our incredible supporters have helped invest £13 million in pioneering research projects across the UK.

From advancing OvarianVax, a world-first vaccine designed to protect women in the future, to developing kinder, more effective treatments for women living with ovarian cancer today, our researchers are determined to make ovarian cancer a survivable disease.

We also raise awareness of ovarian cancer symptoms and hereditary risk among the public and GPs, and campaign for better access to genetic testing so that more women have the opportunity to take preventative action.

Saving lives depends on improving awareness and understanding, while advancing research to improve prevention, earlier detection and treatment.

By leaving a gift in your Will to Ovarian Cancer Action, you can help fund life-saving research and improve earlier diagnosis. You can help ensure the next generation of girls who face ovarian cancer will survive.

Cary

Cary Wakefield
Chief Executive Officer
Ovarian Cancer Action



“We want to develop better treatments for women with ovarian cancer, make them live longer, develop ways to prevent the disease and identify those who are at risk.”

Professor Iain McNeish
Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre Director

YOUR GIFT COULD BRING WORLD-FIRST BREAKTHROUGHS CLOSER

Every year, thousands of women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer, often too late for effective treatment.

But what if we could prevent ovarian cancer altogether?

That's the ambition behind OvarianVax – a pioneering research project aiming to develop the world's first vaccine to prevent ovarian cancer.

For over a decade, gifts in Wills helped fund Professor Ahmed and his team at the University of Oxford as they uncovered the clues of how ovarian cancer develops, and how the immune system responds to it. These discoveries have laid the foundations for OvarianVax. Much like the HPV vaccine has transformed the prevention of cervical cancer, OvarianVax aims to train the immune system to recognise and attack the earliest signs of ovarian cancer before the disease can take hold.

But developing a vaccine takes time, determination and continued investment. Advancing OvarianVax towards clinical trial is the next step – to help us understand whether it can safely and effectively prevent ovarian cancer.

Gifts given in Wills make a huge contribution to accelerating long-term, yet vital ground-breaking research – the very work that is desperately needed to move us closer to a future where ovarian cancer can be stopped before it starts.

"OvarianVax could offer the solution to prevent ovarian cancer, firstly in women at high risk but also more widely if future trials prove successful. I can't thank Ovarian Cancer Action donors enough for their support that led us to start developing this vaccine."

Professor Ahmed Ahmed
University of Oxford



YOU CAN HELP MORE PEOPLE UNDERSTAND THEIR RISK

Around 1,200 of the 7,500 cases of ovarian cancer diagnosed in the UK every year are triggered by an inherited mutation in a patient's BRCA genes.

This mutation means their genes can't do their usual job of preventing cancer cells, e.g. in the ovaries, breast and prostate, from developing.

Men and women with a BRCA mutation have a 50% chance of passing it onto each of their children, and certain population groups have a higher prevalence of BRCA mutations. As an example, 1 in 40 people with Ashkenazi Jewish Heritage carry a BRCA gene mutation compared to 1 in 400 people in the general population.

89% of people affected by BRCA mutations don't know about their risk.

We know that education is vital, so we raise awareness of hereditary risk, both with the public and healthcare professionals, to enable people to take risk-reducing action. We campaign for women diagnosed with ovarian cancer to be offered genetic testing at diagnosis, to ensure they receive the most suitable treatment and to give their family members the opportunity to find out their own risks.



"In 2014, I was given a late stage metastatic ovarian cancer diagnosis. I found out too late that it was triggered by a gene mutation I didn't know I was carrying. I had unknowingly passed this risk onto my daughter, but having this knowledge has allowed her to take preventive action."

Alison, who has pledged a gift in her Will to Ovarian Cancer Action



YOUR SIMPLE GUIDE TO LEAVING A LASTING LEGACY

Leaving a legacy is one of the most generous and lasting gifts you can leave for the next generation. Choosing to support Ovarian Cancer Action's work, alongside providing for loved ones through your wishes, is remarkably simple, and enormously appreciated. Here's how to do it.

1.

Decide who you'd like your Will to benefit

Take some time to consider who you would like to remember in your Will, and in what way. This might include family and friends, as well as causes that are important to you.

2.

Choose your executors

Executors are the people who are responsible for administering your Will. It's best to choose two executors – they can also be beneficiaries of the Will.

3.

Get your Will signed and witnessed

When the Will is drawn up, it will need to be signed by you in the presence of two witnesses. These cannot be beneficiaries.

4.

Keep your Will safe

It's best to leave your Will with your solicitor for safekeeping, but do make sure you keep a copy.

Seeking professional advice

We strongly advise that you consult a solicitor or legal professional when planning your Will. If you don't already have a solicitor, the Law Society can help you find one on **020 7242 1222**, or in Scotland contact the Law Society of Scotland on **0131 226 7411**. It's also a good idea to review your Will from time to time, as changes in your personal circumstances may affect whether it still reflects your wishes.



LEAVE A LEGACY OF BETTER CARE

A future where ovarian cancer is survivable depends on more than breakthrough research. It depends on women having access to the very best treatment when they need it.

Today, that isn't always the case. Ovarian cancer surgery is highly complex, and access to expert care can vary depending on where a woman lives. Yet research shows that women have better outcomes when they are treated by specialist surgical teams.

That's why, with the help of gifts in Wills, we're investing in the next generation of ovarian cancer surgeons.

Through our Surgical Expertise Programme, we support talented surgeons to learn from some of the world's leading ovarian cancer specialists, like Professor Christina Fotopoulou, before bringing those skills back to women in their own hospitals.

For every surgeon we train, more women can access expert care, better treatment and the best possible chance of survival, wherever they live.

"The most important moment for me is when a patient wakes up from an operation, and I tell her that everything went well. But being so closely involved in their care also means I see every day just how unfair access to surgery can be."

Professor Christina Fotopoulou
Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at Hammersmith Hospital and Deputy Director of the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre



ALL YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why do I need to make a Will?

A Will helps ensure that your wishes are understood and that the people and causes closest to your heart can benefit in the way you intend.

Why leave a gift to Ovarian Cancer Action?

Gifts left in Wills are hugely valuable to us and have an enormous impact. They help fund research, raise awareness and drive progress towards earlier diagnosis, better treatments and prevention for women now and in the future. Legacy gifts are exactly that: lasting legacies that live on in the lives of the women and girls who, one day, will survive ovarian cancer.

Do I need to leave a large gift to make a difference?

No. Every gift, whatever its size, can help fund life-changing research and support women and girls now, and in the future.



How will a gift to Ovarian Cancer Action affect my tax position?

Gifts to registered charities in your Will are tax free. So, if the value of your estate is more than the inheritance tax threshold, it could reduce the burden of inheritance tax. Your solicitor or accountant will be able to help you assess your options.

What type of gift can I leave in my Will?

Many kind supporters choose to leave a share of their estate, known as a residuary gift, because it allows loved ones to be looked after first while helping the gift keep its value over time. You can also leave a fixed sum of money, known as a pecuniary gift, or a specific item of value, such as property, jewellery or antiques.

I already have a Will, how do I leave a gift to Ovarian Cancer Action?

Firstly, thank you. If you are considering a gift, we are hugely grateful. It's relatively simple to update your Will using a codicil, without the need to rewrite your entire Will. Your solicitor will be able to advise on the best approach based on your circumstances.

3% OF A £250,000 ESTATE*
could fund three weeks of OvarianVax research, helping scientists develop a vaccine that could one day stop the disease before it starts.



*Your estate is everything you own.

How do I make sure my gift gets to you?

To make sure your gift reaches Ovarian Cancer Action, please ask your solicitor to include our full charity details in your Will:

Ovarian Cancer Action,
483 Green Lanes, London, N13 4BS

Registered Charity Number: 1109743 (England & Wales)

Scottish Charity Number: SC043478

If I decide to leave a gift to Ovarian Cancer Action, should I tell you?

Remembering Ovarian Cancer Action in your Will is a very personal decision and one that you may prefer not to share with us. But if you do decide to tell us in confidence, it will give us an opportunity to say thank you and tell you about the kind of progress your gift will contribute to. Please be assured that any information you give to us about your gift will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Derrick's gift for the future

"Having witnessed my wife's four-year struggle with ovarian cancer, we only talked of death shortly before she died at 52. Sue said that if I ever gave to charity, she hoped it would help find a solution to this disease. I've since seen that Ovarian Cancer Action is striving to do exactly that.

I saw first-hand what ovarian cancer can do to someone fit and healthy, and shared Sue's emotional path through treatment and its side effects.

I hope my gift will help the work in this area continue, bringing together all connected professionals and interested parties. Knowing my gift will help others affected by this disease brings me a sense of peace."



If you would like to discuss anything about leaving a legacy to Ovarian Cancer Action, please email us at **legacy@ovarian.org.uk** or call us on **020 7380 1730**.

JUST 5% OF A £450,000 ESTATE*

could fund a month of research at the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, helping more women have the chance to live longer, healthier lives beyond ovarian cancer.



*Your estate is everything you own.

THE FUTURE YOU COULD HELP CREATE

For many women, the hope after treatment is simple – to put ovarian cancer behind them and enjoy precious time with the people they love, and who love them in return.

Yet 70% of women will see their disease come back, making relapse one of the greatest challenges facing researchers today.

At the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre, Professor Iain McNeish and his team are working to change that. Their research is uncovering how ovarian cancer can manipulate parts of the immune system, creating the conditions it needs to survive and resist treatment.

By understanding these hidden processes, the team is testing promising new drugs that could help prevent ovarian cancer from returning. If successful, these experiments could pave the way for future clinical trials and bring us closer to more effective treatments.

A gift in your Will could help power discoveries like these, helping to create a future where more women live longer, healthier lives after an ovarian cancer diagnosis.



OUR PROMISE TO YOU

If you choose to leave a gift in your Will to Ovarian Cancer Action, we promise to:

- ✔ Honour you and your gift by putting it to the very best use, transforming the future of ovarian cancer for women today and the next generation.
- ✔ Respect that your family and loved ones always come first.
- ✔ Support your decisions, knowing you can change your mind at any time.
- ✔ Answer your questions openly and keep you informed in the way you choose.



Contact us

If you'd like to talk to someone about the difference your gift could make, or have any questions, please drop us an email at **legacy@ovarian.org.uk** or give our team a call on **020 7380 1730**. We would love to hear from you.

Thank you for considering a gift in your Will.

ovarian.org.uk

Registered with FUNDRAISING REGULATOR

OVARIAN CANCER ACTION

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