



Gifts in Wills

A Guide



Intercom Trust

Supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans+ people across the SouthWest
Registered Charity Number 1171878

A message from our CEO

Firstly, I want to say thank you for considering leaving Intercom Trust a gift in your will. A donation of this kind will make a huge difference to our charity, helping us to continue providing our services for LGBT+ communities across the South West long into the future.

As CEO of this organisation I'm incredibly proud of the progress we've made - as a society, across the South West, and within Intercom itself.

However, there is still work to do and as the South West's leading LGBT+ charity, our services are increasingly in demand. We continue to develop our help, support and advocacy services for all our communities. We encourage public institutions to recognise the challenges that we as LGBT+ people in the South West can face.

As CEO, my vision is to keep offering and growing our services for as long as our communities need them, and it is with your help that we can build a more colourful future for everyone.

Yours Sincerely,



Andy Hunt
Chief Executive Officer
Intercom Trust



Who are Intercom Trust?

Intercom Trust was founded in 1997 recognising that LGBT+ communities were prone to experiencing phobic abuse and that there was very little intercommunication between groups across the South West. Our aim was – and still is – to improve communication between our communities, public services and the voluntary sector.

Intercom Trust is a leading LGBT+ organisation in the South West and across the country, having achieved national recognition for our pioneering work. We continue to advocate for our community and are helping institutions adapt to social change, driving forward LGBT+ representation and equality.

Our Vision

Working together to build a South West where people respect, celebrate and engage with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities; and where LGBT+ communities live with real equality.

Our Values

- Have high professional standards
- Be confidential and trustworthy
- Be fair, inclusive, non-judgmental, and respectful of difference.
- Promote equality and justice
- Be transparent and have integrity

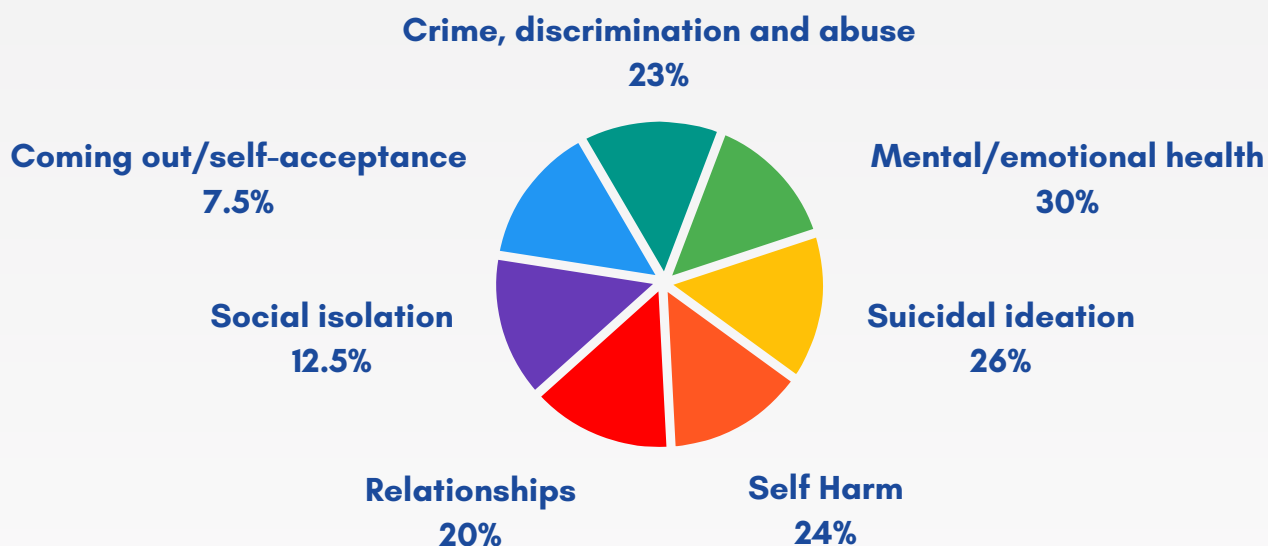


How your gift could help

We support over 3000 people every year, nearly 50% of whom are under 18 years old. Leaving a gift in your will could help our much needed charity to deliver a vital service to more and more LGBT+ people every year who come to us in crisis. So many of our communities are still struggling with their identities, experience of personal trauma, rejection, discrimination and isolation and have nowhere else to turn. Your generosity could help us to be a lifeline to so many people who are in need.

How we help

Intercom Trust delivers over twenty three thousand interventions per year, in the following major categories:



"I feel it has been really helpful for me to connect with other members of the community, as well as discussing issues facing me personally with regards to my gender identity. Intercom has been extremely helpful in validating me and making me feel less alone..."

- Intercom Service User

Tan's Story

Leaving a legacy is an increasingly popular way to support a charity close to your heart. Here Tan tells us why they decided to leave a gift to the Intercom Trust in their will.

“

Intercom Trust is a small charity that achieves a lot by boldly challenging discrimination and nurturing greater community understanding for all which is just as vital now as it has ever been.

We, the LGBTQ+ family need to be visible and we need to remain visible.

The Intercom Trust are very much a part of that. It is an essential, frontline, hands-on service directly giving support to right where it is needed.

At the heart of this charity are dedicated, compassionate staff and volunteers who are driven by a strong desire for genuine good and professionalism.

They have and are achieving so much that I am delighted to leave a legacy for any future work.

Thank you for being there for us all.

Tan

”

Gifts in wills explained

Making a will can be a powerful act, bringing peace of mind that your loved ones are provided for in a way of your choosing. Leaving a gift to charity in your will can help to provide for your community in this same way which is why many people now choose to leave a legacy donation to a charity or cause which is important to them in their lifetime.



You may be surprised to know that leaving a gift to a charity in your will has many other benefits, both to you and to the charity you choose. Not only are you making sure that a charity close to your heart is able to continue its valuable work, but you are also reducing your taxable assets, potentially reducing the rate of your overall inheritance tax.



What this means is that as inheritance tax is taken after the gift to charity has been donated, your total taxable assets are reduced thus reducing the amount of tax deducted.

As the gift is not taxable, 100% of your donation goes to your chosen charity, which makes it one of the most effective ways of donating as there are very limited expenses on either side.

Where do I start?

Making a will can be a daunting prospect but in practice it can actually be quite simple. This guide gives you three easy steps to writing your will from start to finish:

1. Consider who or what you would like to leave a gift to
2. Choose your solicitor and executor and book an appointment
3. Write down your wishes and sign with your chosen representative

Key terms:

Solicitor: A legal representative or practitioner who deals with matters of law

Executor: Someone (usually a trusted friend or family member) who is responsible for implementing the wishes stated in your will.

You can now write your will with a solicitor or using an online will-writing company. There are pros and cons to both. You may need to seek advice to find out which is the best option for you.



Types of gift in your will

There are four main types of gift you can leave in your will:

A residuary gift

A percentage of your estate once any specified gifts have been made. Many people choose to leave this type of gift because its value will be dependent on the value of your estate at any given time rather than a set amount.

A pecuniary gift

A specific amount. It's worth bearing in mind that the effects of inflation mean that this type of gift is likely to lose value over time and may end up being less than you initially intend.



A reversionary gift

With a trust someone can enjoy the benefit of money or property during their lifetime. Afterwards, you can choose for the remaining money or property to be donated.

A specific gift

A gift or a specified item – such as a personal possession, land, buildings or stocks and shares.

When you are ready to make your will we hope that you will consider Intercom Trust for a donation. If you do, we would love to hear about it. Please feel free to get in touch and let us know; Andy, our CEO would be happy to have a chat. Contact him on 01392 201015.



Our promise to you

Leaving a gift to charity in your will is a gift of trust between an individual and your chosen organisation; trust that your wishes will be upheld and that the charity will use your gift wisely.

We promise to:

Apply any donation to the furtherance of our charitable objectives, continuing to advocate for LGBT+ people across the South West

Handle any donation sensitively, cost-effectively and with the utmost respect

Listen carefully to you and any questions you may have

Keep you informed of activities here at Intercom, should you wish us to

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FAQs

Does Intercom Trust really need a gift from me?

Absolutely! The majority of our services are offered for free to anyone and the number of people we support is growing year on year. For example our 1-2-1 Support and Advocacy Service was accessed by record numbers of people last year and continues to grow. By donating you can help us to achieve so much more.

Do I need a solicitor?

You can write your own will; however, to ensure that it is legally binding and covers everything you would like it to, we would always recommend a solicitor. This is because a professionally written will is more likely to accurately convey your wishes, and it offers an externally authenticated paper trail to prove its legitimacy.

I want to leave a gift to Intercom Trust, what are the Charity details?

Firstly, thank you, we appreciate your generosity.

These are all the details you need to include us in your will:

Name: Intercom Trust

Registered Address:

PO Box 285

Exeter

EX4 3ZT

Registered Charity Number: 1171878

If I do leave a gift, how will you find out?

Your will is private, and we won't know if you have left us a gift unless you choose to tell us – or until the time comes for your will to be read. However, if you have chosen to leave us a gift, we would love to know so we can thank you and stay in touch in the way that suits you best.

What about Inheritance Tax?

Leaving a gift to us – or any other charity – may lower your overall Inheritance Tax liability. If you leave over 10% of your estate to charity, you may be eligible to pay a reduced IHT rate. Every case is different, so it is best to speak to your solicitor about it.

I've just written my will. Do I have to do it all again if I want to leave you a gift?

No. Rather than re-writing everything you can instruct a solicitor to add an amendment to your existing will – which they will then prepare. This is known as a codicil.

What is the process of writing a will?

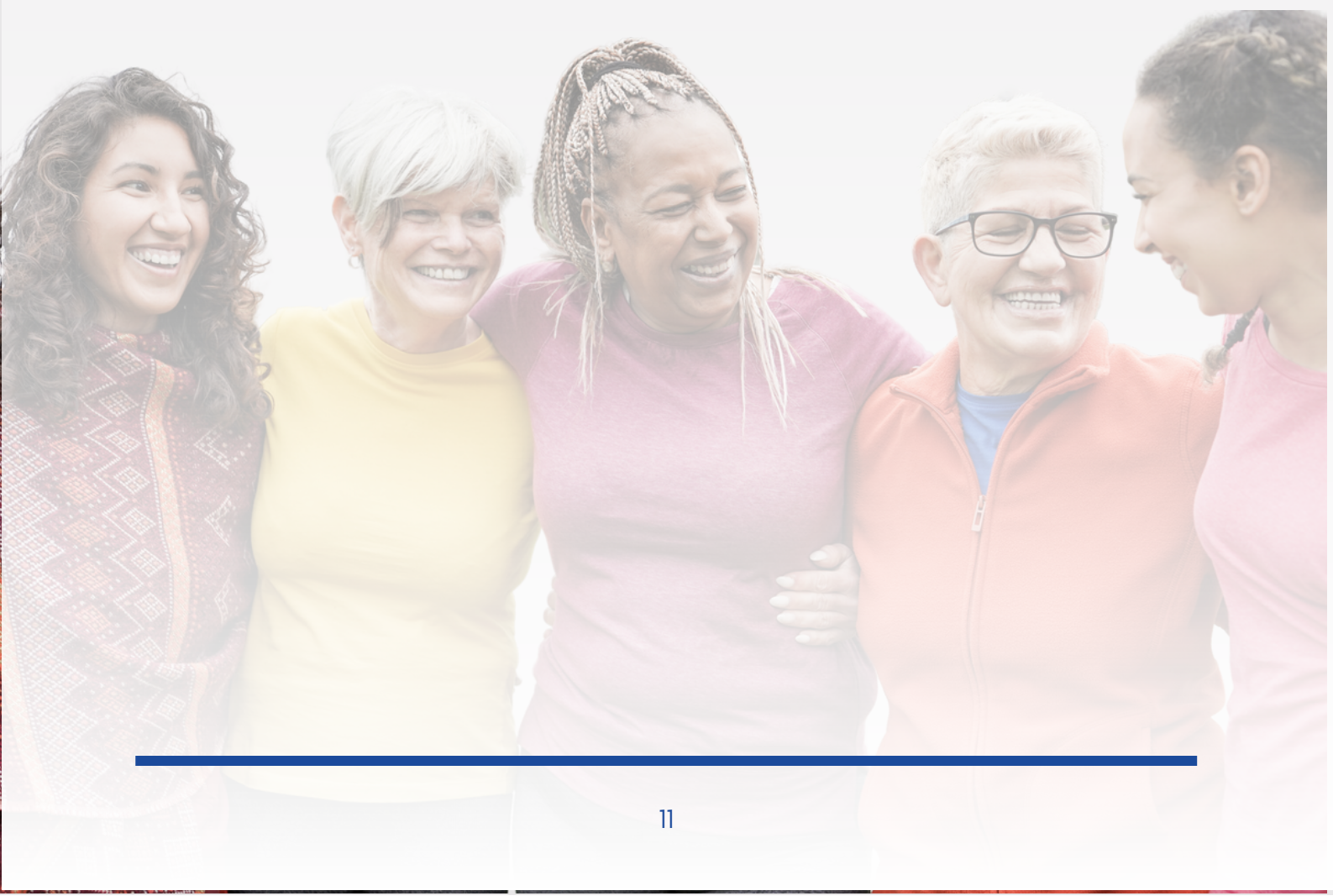
Most wills are straightforward, but it depends on individual circumstances: for example, if you would like to leave some of your estate in trust. For either simple or complex wills, the process begins with an appointment with your chosen or existing solicitor.



Thank you

Thank you for considering leaving a gift to Intercom Trust.

If you have any further questions, or would like to speak to someone in person, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Andy, our CEO, at andy@intercomtrust.org.uk, or on 01392 201015.





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