

The background of the top half of the page is a red-tinted photograph of a crowd of people at a protest. Many individuals are holding up signs that read "NO MORE DRUG WAR" in bold, capital letters. Some signs also include the website "www.nomoredrugwar.org". The overall tone is serious and activist.

# What is your legacy?

**Leaving a legacy gift for the Drug Policy Alliance is one of the most significant contributions you can make in the fight to end the war on drugs. A legacy gift is a wise investment that may provide valuable tax benefits without affecting your income.**

Drug policy reform is among the most successful movements in recent decades, largely because of the Drug Policy Alliance's leadership. We have played a pivotal role in shaping drug policy and have moved vital issues – including legalizing cannabis, ending mass incarceration, and prioritizing health and harm reduction responses to the overdose crisis – from the fringes of United States politics into the mainstream. As a result of our work, there are tens of thousands fewer people behind bars, hundreds of thousands more who were not arrested, and millions living in states with expanded access to services that address addiction. There is no telling how many lives we have saved.

By making a legacy gift, you will make a meaningful difference and become a member of a growing group of individuals who have taken the extra initiative for the future of drug policy by including us in their estate plans. It's simple: just make the Drug Policy Alliance a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan, life insurance, trust, or other estate planning vehicles.

**Here's how you can establish your legacy for health and justice at the Drug Policy Alliance.**

**We are  
the Drug  
Policy  
Alliance.**

# Bequests

Use your will to make a charitable bequest to the Drug Policy Alliance.

Including the Drug Policy Alliance in your will (also known as making a bequest) allows you to make a meaningful impact in the fight to end the war on drugs without having to give up crucial assets needed during your lifetime.

**HOW IT WORKS:** A charitable bequest to the Drug Policy Alliance made in your will can take many forms:

- You can designate a percentage of your estate.
- You can designate a specific sum of money.
- You can leave an asset, such as real estate, securities, or other property.
- You can leave the remainder of your estate after other beneficiaries receive the portions you designate.
- You can make the Drug Policy Alliance the contingent beneficiary of your estate if your spouse/ partner or other beneficiaries pass away before you.
- You can also create a charitable trust in your will to benefit the Drug Policy Alliance.

With all of these methods of bequests, you can designate exactly how you want the funds to be used or you can make an unrestricted bequest, which allows the Drug Policy Alliance to use your contribution wherever it is needed most.

To make a bequest to the Drug Policy Alliance, you will need to use the correct language in your will:

*“I hereby give and bequeath [cash amount, percentage amount, or property you are giving] to the Drug Policy Alliance, New York, New York, for its general purposes.”*

Please note: This is not tax or legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified accountant, financial advisor, estate planner, or other tax professional to determine the consequences of their gift.

# Retirement Assets

Make sure that the beneficiary designations for your retirement assets include the Drug Policy Alliance as a beneficiary.

You worked hard to save money for your retirement. Donating to the Drug Policy Alliance is a way to ensure that the remaining funds in your retirement account will help support the issues you care about. Retirement assets left to anyone other than a married spouse can be subject to high estate taxes. When left to the Drug Policy Alliance, the full value of your remaining retirement assets will go directly to the organization. That's why many donors name the Drug Policy Alliance as the beneficiary of their retirement plans.

**HOW IT WORKS:** To make a gift of retirement assets, such as a 401(k), 403(b), IRA, or pension fund, you can simply name the Drug Policy Alliance as the beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of all or part of your retirement account, at least for those in plans that allow you to name beneficiaries. After your death, if your primary beneficiary does not survive you, the remaining assets will go to the Drug Policy Alliance.

There are significant taxes associated with leaving retirement assets to individuals. Depending on the type and amount of retirement assets you own, the estate taxes could cut those assets nearly in half and income taxes on the proceeds to your beneficiary could then cut the leftover amount even more. But retirement assets left to a nonprofit organization are not taxed at all.

Please note: This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of their gift.

# Charitable Trusts

**If you have significant assets, establish a charitable trust to provide for your loved ones while they are alive and have the remainder in the trust go to the Drug Policy Alliance.**

Charitable trusts offer supporters a way to provide for their loved ones while also supporting the Drug Policy Alliance either immediately through a “charitable lead trust,” or after a period of time through a “charitable remainder trust.”

**HOW IT WORKS:** Charitable remainder trusts are created by transferring assets into a trust, which provides income to your spouse, partner, children, a friend, or even to yourself over a period of time. After a period of time passes, the principal transfers to the Drug Policy Alliance. A charitable lead trust functions like a mirror image of a charitable remainder trust. You create a charitable lead trust by transferring assets into the trust. The trust then pays the Drug Policy Alliance an annual income for a fixed number of years, after which the principal held in the trust reverts to either you, your spouse, partner, children, or any other beneficiaries you name.

When you create a lifetime charitable trust, you will receive an immediate tax deduction based on the Drug Policy Alliance's remainder interest in the trust and avoid estate taxes. If you create a lifetime charitable trust with an appreciated asset, you also defer capital gains taxes.

Please note: This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of their gift.

# Life Insurance

**Include the Drug Policy Alliance as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy.**

For many people, life insurance policies are less important later in life, when financial obligations like the cost of raising and educating children and paying a mortgage tend to decrease. This makes a gift of life insurance an excellent planned giving vehicle. It enables supporters to leverage relatively modest premium payments into a significant contribution toward the Drug Policy Alliance's fight to end the war on drugs. In short, this tool helps you get the most value for your money.

**HOW IT WORKS:** There are a number of ways to make a gift of life insurance to the Drug Policy Alliance. You can name the Drug Policy Alliance as the beneficiary of all or a portion of the proceeds of your policy, or you can transfer ownership of the policy to the Drug Policy Alliance outright. You can also name the Drug Policy Alliance as the contingent beneficiary of your policy.

- When you donate your life insurance policy to the Drug Policy Alliance, you can claim an immediate income tax deduction for the current value of the policy and your future premium payments are also deductible.

- If your beneficiary is also an heir to your estate, estate taxes could reduce the proceeds they receive by as much as half. If you own a substantial life insurance policy and want the proceeds to pass to your beneficiaries tax-free, then you may need an Irrevocable Life Insurance Trust (ILIT). An ILIT is a trust that owns life insurance policies and thus removes the insurance proceeds from your taxable estate, as long as certain conditions are met.

Please note: This is not legal advice. Any prospective donor should seek the advice of a qualified estate and/or tax professional to determine the consequences of their gift.





To ensure that your wishes are followed exactly, we suggest including the Drug Policy Alliance's full name and address in your will:

**Drug Policy Alliance**  
**131 West 33rd Street, 15th Floor, New York, NY 10001**  
**501(c)(3) Tax ID number: 52-1516692**

The Drug Policy Alliance has received many significant commitments of support in the form of planned gifts, and we remain extremely grateful to our supporters who have made their legacy a future in which drug policy is grounded in science, compassion, health, and human rights.

Our staff can help you craft a gift that can yield significant support to the Drug Policy Alliance as well as tax benefits, financial security, and the knowledge that your commitment to ending the war on drugs will continue far into the future.

**For more information, please contact:**

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[drugpolicy.org/legacy](http://drugpolicy.org/legacy)