

Pass
it on.

Making
a will



FutureDharmaFund

'The Buddha knew
that the Bodhi tree
had sheltered him....

He felt gratitude.
Not only that: he gave
expression to that

feeling of gratitude.
He acted upon it.'

Passing on
what we've been given

Order Convention
Vinehall, UK, 1978



Meditation

London Buddhist Centre, 2018



Passing on what we've been given

Our world is beautiful. And our world is in a mess. Sangharakshita has said we have a choice between evolution or extinction.

Meanwhile we live our Dharma lives as best we can, juggling the demands of family, work, relationships, illness, and death.

We know that many people suffer, who don't have what we've been given. Some live in poverty or danger; others are materially rich but feel desperately lonely or void of meaning.

There may have been times when our lives were like this too. Maybe not so long ago.

In a way, everything we have was given to us by other people. Naturally we feel an impulse to give to others, especially when we're aware of their suffering.

But we also feel a limit to how much we can give away. We need our money, our home, our savings to provide for our family and friends.

When we die we will probably want to give something to those we love and our local sangha.

But we can also make a real difference to the lives of many others around the world after we are gone.

Giving to future generations

You may not feel wealthy, but by leaving a share of your estate to the causes you care about most, you may be able to make a surprisingly significant contribution.

FutureDharma is now Triratna's main way of funding Dharma work.

Gifts to FutureDharma are already translating Dharma books into many languages, growing our crucial online platforms, supporting our Bodhisattva outreach to small and isolated sanghas from West Wales to Warsaw, and sharing the best Dharma teaching worldwide.

Future generations will need the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha, just as we do. Please help to pass them on by leaving a gift in your will to FutureDharma Fund.



Passing on the Three Jewels



Nandavajra & Amritasiddhi,
Triratna's Indian Movement Coordinator,
funded by FutureDharma.
International Council Meeting,
Bhaja Retreat Centre, India, 2018



Ratnadharini shows Sangharakshita Adhisthana for the first time, in 2012. Her team's careful management of its purchase and renovation kept the cost to under £3 million. This is wonderful value for such a central location in the UK and accommodation for 150 people, or up to 500 with camping.

Using your money well

We know that by leaving money in your will you are placing your trust in us to spend it well after you've gone. That's why FutureDharma projects are chosen with great care by our trustees: Public Preceptors, Chairs, Order Convenors and members of the International Council who are well placed to know what is most needed.

FutureDharma Fund came into being in 2016 as a bold vision to make possible many more Dharma projects throughout the world. Our trustees choose those projects that:

- 1 / develop **unity** and shared understanding within our sangha,
- 2 / ensure real **depth** and intensity of practice, and
- 3 / create **breadth**, spreading the Dharma to as many people as possible.

None of us know when we will die or what the world will need when we do. But you can be confident that when the time comes you will be helping future generations to transform their minds, lives, even the world.

Overleaf is just a selection of the kind of projects you will be making possible.

1 / Unity: many lives, sharing in one sangha

There are more and more of us, often living far apart. How do we stay in touch with each other and with the spirit of our community?

Online platforms can be a distraction. But if used skilfully, they become a rich and valuable way of sharing and connecting with others.

Live coverage of ordinations in Mexico on **The Buddhist Centre Online** allowed thousands of people to tune in from all over the world. **Clear Vision's** Newsbyte videos inspire us with stories of sangha members using their Buddhist practice to enrich their lives and those of others.

Invaluable teaching materials, including the Mitra study course, lectures and meditations are free for anyone to use. For some, they are a vital source of inspiration and hope.



For Zoe Lim, the only Triratna Buddhist in Singapore, our online spaces are her only source of practice and community: Without this group I don't think I could live in Singapore... when I do the online study group I am different; it pulls me back to the anchor of my life, refocusing me on what is important. I really feel supported... I feel like I'm not alone; I have friends... it's an amazing group of women walking this path together in very different contexts.

2 / Depth of Practice

As the movement and the world change, there are fewer opportunities for us to live and work together. How do we find a depth and intensity of collective practice?

We are working with Windhorse Trust to generate investment in new residential communities and team-based businesses. Supporters' gifts fund retreats where Ukrainians, Russians, Estonians, Hungarians and Poles deepen their meditation and forge surprising friendships. A team of young Indian Order members help young people to go for refuge. An international Order course trains the leaders of the future.

For five months each year young people from all over the world live, study, and work together on Adhisthana's DharmaLife courses. So far, they have travelled from 14 countries including Australia, Germany, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Sweden, Turkey, UK and USA.

We want this precious opportunity to be available to any young Buddhist, whatever their financial circumstances. FutureDharma Bursaries pay for four young women or men from India to join a DharmaLife course every year.



I am so grateful to Bhante Sangharakshita for creating this sangha that cared for me as a boy in a Karuna hostel, and is helping me to learn and grow on the DharmaLife course at Adhisthana.

Vinod Gaikwad

3 / Breadth of Outreach

In today's world, how do we expand our sphere of concern and express our Bodhisattva aspiration to respond to the cries of the world?

The Buddhist vision has always been to make the teachings and practices available to anyone regardless of where they live, so that they can apply them to their everyday lives.

A weekly pop-up Buddhist centre in the busy city of Warsaw, Poland. A small team of Spanish-speakers flown out to Venezuela to lead retreats for Mitras – their only chance of taking part in ordination training due to the economic crisis in their country. A Public Preceptor, Maitripala, and a Young Person's Coordinator, are supporting sangha across the huge expanse of Australia and New Zealand. New Triratna groups run on tiny budgets but make a massive impact for people in West Wales and Clacton-on-Sea, UK.

These are just some of the outreach projects that are passing on the gift of Dharma practice and sangha throughout the world.



I am Chair of the Port Fairy Buddhist Centre, a small outlying sangha in Victoria Australia, with one other Order Member, Sanghamati, nearby to help.... Maitripala has mentored me to lead retreats and boosted my confidence in stepping up as Chair of this group. She is able to respond with integrity, authenticity and a great deal of love. I feel grateful to know I can call her, and just honestly talk, knowing she will always be honest and kind.

Akashamani



Shrine room, Adhisthana

Adhisthana: a realm of blessings

Passing on the gift of the Three Jewels is at the heart of Triratna, and of Adhisthana. That's why we support the Sikkha Project to help teachers to develop skills, materials and their own style of communicating the Dharma.

Adhisthana is a place for gatherings, large and small, supporting the streams of kalyana mitrata which flow between us. It's home to the International Council, Public Preceptors' College and the Order Office, which strengthen that flow. It's a site of pilgrimage and home to a community of committed men and women. There's a rich programme of retreats, trainings and residential courses to deepen our Dharma practice.

With your help the buildings and land will develop over the coming decades to create a place of beauty and profundity. Adhisthana means 'realm of blessings': of the Three Jewels, of Sangharakshita and of the lineage of teachings and practices that he has embodied. But wherever you live you can participate in Adhisthana through resources and inspiration, shared online, and passed on across our network of friendships, and out into the world.



Adhisthana offers a participation in the larger mandala of the Triratna community, where different retreats and groupings coincide all the time, making it more obvious that our lives are taking place within a much larger vision. Between us an institution and a world is being created and embodied, within which each one of us can participate and trust.

Saddhanandi,
Chair of Adhisthana



Why make a will?

**'Life is
uncertain;
death is
certain.'**

The Buddha

Why make a will?

One thing is for certain: one day we will die.

Most of us don't want to think about dying. But facing the reality of death can help us get on with living our life well.

Writing your will can be an important spiritual practice in itself.

A will helps you identify what you value most and put your energy into it now.

Your will ensures your money and property go to the people and causes you love after you've gone.

Your will helps the people you love take care of things in a difficult time.

A will tells your friends how you wish to be buried or cremated.

A will appoints trusted family members or friends to look after your interests.

A will helps you give.



The recent death of an Order Member friend affected me deeply. His death was sudden, unexpected, and at a relatively young age. Prior to this I had thought about making a will, but now I knew I must do so as a matter of urgency. I want to support others to come into contact with the Dharma, and to benefit in the same way that I have, through being so involved with the Triratna Sangha.

Keturaja,

Cambridge, UK



I had certain amounts I wanted to leave for my son and my new granddaughter. Then the residue of my estate will be divided, 65% for FutureDharma Fund and 35% for the Sydney Buddhist Centre. FutureDharma can support sanghas around the world; populations where if they don't get funding from outside, the Dharma just won't reach them.

Nagasuri,
Sydney, Australia



Practising the Dharma in Triratna has brought meaning and joy to my life, and I've seen it benefit many others. I want us to help more people, as well as strengthen and deepen our tradition. I'm leaving a legacy to FutureDharma so that when the time comes the money I leave can be used in a wise and helpful way.

Paramabandhu
London, UK



I want to leave money to FutureDharma to change people's lives. The idea of writing a will makes me think of being surrounded by people I love and being able to give to them. And interestingly leaving money to friends doesn't feature. (I'd like to leave my bike to someone or leave my clothes to someone.) Any money I have I want to go towards something that makes the world a better place.

Caroline,
Oxford, UK

Watch people talk about why they give to FutureDharma Fund in their will:

futredharma.org/pledge-a-gift-in-your-will



Next steps

Next steps

It's far easier to write a will than you may think.

You can draft it yourself. But most people find it helpful to use a lawyer or professional will writer.

Simply contact a local lawyer and let them know you want to write a will or update your existing will to include a gift to FutureDharma Fund. They will help you think through issues such as tax, and make sure that your will is valid.

You can leave a particular amount of money, or a percentage. A fixed amount may devalue over time, so many people choose to leave a percentage of the residuary of their estate. Your lawyer will help you choose what is best for you.

If you're in the UK, a solicitor may charge between £100 and £200 for a simple will. Satyadasa is an Order Member who runs an independent will writing service.

If you live outside the UK you should still be able to leave a gift in your will to FutureDharma. Again, seek advice from a lawyer.

A will is a personal matter. But if you are thinking of leaving a gift to FutureDharma in your will, it would be helpful if you let us know so we can keep in touch and let you know how our projects develop.

You can drop us an email at legacy@futuredharma.org

phone on
+44 (0)1531 640541

or fill in a simple form on our website:
[www.futuredharma.org/
pledge-a-gift-in-your-will](http://www.futuredharma.org/pledge-a-gift-in-your-will)

Your lawyer will need:

Our Name:
FutureDharma Fund

Our Address:
Adhisthana
Coddington
Ledbury
HR8 1JL, UK

Our UK Charity Number:
1167344

Other useful information:
Satyadasa:
www.greengatewills.co.uk
0203 222 6073

Booklet Text:
Liz Bassett, Amalavajra
Design: Dhammarati



Order Convention
Bodhgaya, 2016

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MENS BRA
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Adhisthana
Coddington
Ledbury
HR8 1JL, UK
+44 (0)1531 641726

www.futuredharma.org