



GUIDE TO

Leave a legacy with
**Children Change
Colombia**

Simple steps and guidance to
help you make a difference



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Our work

Over the last 30 years, CCC has helped more than 65,000 children to overcome the traumas of poverty, armed conflict, displacement and lack of education through over 50 projects.

Our three main focus points are **recruitment into armed groups, sexual and gender based violence, and exclusion from education**, as we believe these are the most neglected and important issues for children in Colombia.

More recently, we have also been working on three cross-cutting issues of **raising awareness for the environment, children and young people on the move, and the pandemic**.

By leaving a donation in your will, you will be giving the opportunity of a lifetime to even more children to have a brighter future.



Together with AcaDesan, CCC is currently helping improve Afro-Colombian children's access to 'ethno education' and protect them from illegal mining in the Chocó & Valle de Cauca region.

getting started

Leaving a charitable legacy in your will is much simpler than you might think. However, there are some important steps that need to be completed in order to fulfil your wishes.

1. Make sure your loved ones have been taken care of. Choose **who you want** to put in your will.



This is the number one priority and should come before considering leaving any money to NGOs like CCC.

2. Work out the value of **your estate** and decide which gifts you want to give



Calculate your total number of assets (e.g. car, house, jewellery, possessions, bank accounts etc.) and then subtract from this your total number of liabilities (debts, mortgage, overdrafts etc.).

3. Make sure your will is written according to **your wishes**, including specific details wherever necessary.



CCC currently has a partnership with FreeWills (www.freewills.co.uk) who provide free online advice for creating your legally binding document.

4.

Choose an **executor** or executors, who will ensure your wishes are carried out in your absence.



This can be a family relative, friend or legal professional.

5.

Choose an **executor** or executors, who will ensure your wishes are carried out in your absence.



Inheritance tax is usually a 40% charge on your estate above the threshold. It can be a complicated matter. To find out more, visit the [HMRC website](#).

6.

Don't forget to consider **inheritance tax**



You should use a professional writer when writing your will. Your will must be signed and witnessed. We recommended you keep copies of your will and kept where it can be easily located.

7.

Follow the CCC donation instructions to secure your legacy. **If you have left a gift to us, please do let us know** so we can pass on our gratitude, on behalf of both us and our beneficiaries.



Follow [this link](#) to donate. Donations can be made via cheque, direct debit, bank transfer, over the phone, or see other options.

8.

Lastly, keep **your will up to date**.



This is especially important if your circumstances change.



Frequently asked Q&A

Q. Are there different types of gift that can be left in a will?

A. Yes. The three types are: pecuniary, which means leaving a fixed amount of money; specific involves leaving particular item of value, such as land, shares or possessions; residuary entails leaving a percentage or share of your estate to your chosen charity once all your other payments have been taken care of, and these are the types of gifts that generally have the most impact.

Q. What are the tax implications of leaving a gift to charity?

A. If 10% or more of your estate is left to charity, this will reduce your inheritance tax. Similarly, your donation may be subtracted from your estate before inheritance tax is calculated. Make sure to sign a gift aid form, as this will also allow the reclaiming of any tax paid on your donations. However, it is important to check implications for your specific situation, which can be done by contacting HMRC.

Q. How big does my donation have to be? Is there a minimum?

A. There is no prescribed amount, you may leave as much, or as little, as you feel comfortable with. Any donations will have an impact on our projects and be a great help to the children in Colombia.

Q. Do I have to be a certain age in order to add a charitable gift to my will?

A. No. You can indicate your wishes whenever you feel ready and know what your wishes are. This can be anything from the ages of 40, 50 or 60.



CCC real life stories

Paris-Quibdó exchange

Between 1985 and 2020, over 7400 minors were recruited into illegal armed groups and around 16,000 were killed in conflict. For thousands of children in Colombia this is their childhood reality. They don't have the privilege of taking part in dance or football classes as is common for young people in the UK.

Instead, many suffer from psychological trauma and are deterred from attending school, leading to a cycle of entrapment and isolation in the future and into adulthood.

Together with **Círculo de Estudios**, CCC ran a cultural exchange project between Paris and Quibdó, to break down prejudices, a factor in the armed conflicts. The youths performed 'El Bunde del Agua', comprising of art, music and dance, which expressed their fears, hope and dreams, as well as the violence and hardships they experience everyday.

Through projects like these, young people in Colombia are shown an alternative path of tolerance and peace, giving them the tools to lead lives free from conflict.





Misión Gaia (Magdalena)

CCC's project with **Misión Gaia** is located in the rural area of Minca in Magdalena, targeting 225 students and 15 teachers in three rural schools.

The project aims to improve the quality of education by providing teachers and school management with the necessary resources to re-plan and adapt their pedagogic processes.

Students are offered after-school support with tutoring in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) courses, helping to enhance overall school proficiency, critical thinking and young people are becoming entrepreneurs, making their own websites and promotional videos. The project also provides vocational education and training in areas related to sustainable tourism.



Approximately 1.2 million Colombian children (11% of all school-age children) currently do not receive any formal education. Although initial enrolment rates are often high, the majority of children drop out long before graduation.

This is especially rife in rural settings, with illiteracy rates almost four times greater in the countryside than in cities. This is due to the practice of gold mining, currently Colombia's largest export and an industry which relies significantly on child labour, as well as lack of resources.

La Sierra Nevada has been traditionally effected by conflict due to illegal plantations, but it is also a beautiful paradise. The indigenous communities are now learning other ways of living with dignity. They are being provided with the tools to defend and protect their surrounding environment, educate themselves in tourism and take pride in indigenous identities.

Maria's Story

When Maria was 16, guerrillas attacked her remote town and she was raped by two of their men. As a result, she became pregnant with Jairo.

However, as a result of the violent experience, María suffered severe psychological trauma. She struggled to accept her son, so the only emotions that Jairo learned to feel were the anger and desperation he encountered at home. He dropped out of school, and with no support to help him understand why he felt this way, turned to the only people he thought could give him a purpose; he began running errands for a local armed group.



Jairo's Story

Círculo de Estudios invited Maria's son, Jairo, to their project when he was 10. At first he was reluctant to take part and was aggressive towards the other children, but with support, Jairo changed his behaviour and began to make friends. He realised that he could be appreciated without having to resort to crime. Attending Círculo de Estudios allowed Jairo to **break the vicious cycle of violence** that he was tangled in.

Círculo de Estudios has also been providing **psychosocial support** to his mother, Maria,

Two years later he is a regular at the project and he has discovered hidden talents. He is a natural leader, his peers look up to him and he loves helping to run activities for the younger children. He is now known within the community for his work with children, not with the armed groups. Jairo is **back in school** and he has even set up a band playing traditional local music.



Sandra's Story

"My story is a hard one to tell. After my parents separated when I was 11 years old, a friend of theirs sexually abused me. I got pregnant but lost the baby after a few months. Shortly after, I ran away from home and started dealing and taking drugs. I had two children but their father left me to raise them without any money or any support. I felt there was no other option – I started working as a sex worker.

It was then that **ACJ** approached me and started to help me. Before I enrolled in their project, my children stayed indoors all day because I was too afraid for them to go out and play on the streets. Now, they participate in workshops which teach them how to avoid sexual exploitation and drugs. They are a lot happier and so am I as I know they will have a much better childhood and life than I did.

I have also been participating in ACJ's project for one year. With the support, guidance and opportunities they have given me, I have finally managed to leave sex work. I am now studying and thanks to the family workshops, I am now much more committed to my children. These workshops have reassured me and helped me gain access to my rights, participate in beauty training and made me realise I want a fresh start in life. I am looking for a job to provide a better future and life for me and my children."





30 years of CCC history



1991

CCC founded following a documentary by Desmond Wilcox about homeless and at-risk children living in the sewers of Bogotá. This tragedy sparked an emotional response from many around the world.



1996

Fe y alegría was introduced. They had children from gangs engage in music, dance and recreational activities.



2003

We started to work with Colegio del Cuervo. They provided support to children that had witnessed war, improving their self-worth and how to cope with life as a displaced individual.

1992



A children's home is built. Housing 300 children and providing them with education, vocational training and healthcare.

1990s



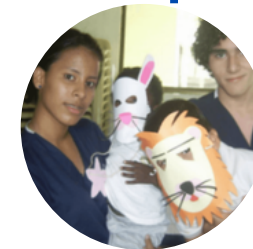
Flying Doctor Service came into place. This service worked toward eradicating fatal diseases that children are prone to, such as malaria and cholera.

2000s



We supported the Cedavida Organisation. Cedavida worked with families that had been displaced by the conflict.

2004



We began working with Fundamor Foundation. They provide medical, educational and emotional support for orphaned and abandoned children affected by HIV and AIDs.



Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes (ACJ)

Combat sexual and gender-based violence, a 'silent' issue, with effects that can endure generations. Approximately 70% of cases go unreported, and an estimated 200,000 children are abused each year.

Since 2010



Tiempo de Juego

Prevent children from becoming involved in gangs by promoting the understanding of rights, positive youth leadership and safe environments.

Since 2013



In 2016 we began supporting **Fundescodes**. They protected the rights of children and young people in and supported them against harm.

2016



El Origen

Work to improve access to education in the most marginalised areas where only 29% finish secondary school. This is often due to lack of resources, long commutes or .Spanish not being indigenous students' first language.

Since 2019



Misión Gaia

Since 2022

2010s



Fundación Carvajal helped children and young people develop skills on how to protect themselves against violence and keep them off the streets.

2015



Fundación CRAN

Provides foster homes and psychosocial support for children formerly associated with illegal armed groups.

Since 2017



CCC started their work with Círculo de Estudios. Their aim is to reduce the risk of children and young people being exposed to gender-based violence (GBV).

Since 2019



Work against the use of child labour in illegal mining, deforestation and cocoa farming, by tackling high student drop out rates and improving the quality of education.



If you have any further questions or would like to get in touch, here are our contact details as well as some useful links:

[Website](#)

[Instagram:](#)

@childrenchange colombia

[Facebook:](#)

@ChildChangeCOL

[Twitter:](#)

@ChildChangeCOL

[Email:](#)

info@childrenchange colombia.org

Our recommended wills agency is

[Free Wills.](#)

