



The Demos Legacy Society

Frequently Asked Questions & Bequest Pledge Form

What's the benefit of a bequest?

- **SIMPLICITY.** Just a few sentences in your Will or trust are all that is needed.
- **FLEXIBILITY.** Because you are not actually making a gift until after your lifetime, you can change your mind at any time.
- **VERSATILITY.** You can structure the bequest to leave a specific item or amount of money, make the gift contingent on certain events, or leave a percentage of your estate to us.
- **TAX RELIEF.** If your estate is subject to estate tax, your gift is entitled to an estate tax charitable deduction for the gift's full value.

Is there a minimum bequest donation to be part of the Demos Legacy Society?

Absolutely not. We welcome your gift of any size ... and deeply appreciate your thoughtfulness and willingness. You do not have to be wealthy to make a charitable bequest that will have a noticeable impact.

You can specify a specific dollar amount or you can choose to give a percentage of your estate. If you are not sure about your future circumstances, you can set up a contingency bequest thereby insuring that your spouse and/or family is provided for first.

Can I change my mind?

Yes. You can cancel or change the amount of a bequest at any time.

What is the quickest and easiest way to make a bequest?

You can amend a Will or trust to make a gift without rewriting the entire document. Your attorney can prepare the simple statement, called a codicil, which adds a new provision while reaffirming the other terms of your will. If you do not have a Will or trust, you should look into establishing one. At that time, you can instruct your attorney or advisor that you wish to include a charitable bequest to Demos.

Is there special language that I should use when making a bequest?

Yes, you can contact the Demos Development Department for assistance, or use the sample language as follows:

“I hereby bequeath the sum of \$_____ for the benefit of Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action.”

Or

“I hereby bequeath _____% of my estate for the benefit of Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action.”

Will my gift be tax deductible?

Historically, bequests have been deductible for federal estate tax purposes. In addition, the gift is usually exempt from state inheritance taxes.

Next Steps:

1. Consult with an attorney who regularly prepares Wills, trusts, and other estate planning documents.
2. Contact Demos to discuss your gift so that we can help make sure your gift will be used for your chosen purpose.
3. Complete and return the pledge form below, and provide Demos with a copy of the relevant provision from your Will or trust benefiting Demos.
4. Join a group of passionate individuals committed to equality in the Demos Legacy Society, and receive the recognition and acknowledgment for your intended gift.

Bequest Pledge Form

YES, I WANT TO LEAVE A LEGACY!

I am committed to leaving a lasting legacy beyond my lifetime by including a charitable bequest to Demos in my Will.

SAMPLE BEQUEST LANGUAGE:

“I hereby bequeath the sum of \$ _____ for the benefit of Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action.” Or: “I hereby bequeath ___% of my estate for the benefit of Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action.”

MY COMMITMENT:

- I intend to leave \$ _____ to Demos for charitable purposes.
- I intend to leave _____% of my estate assets to Demos for charitable purposes.
- I will designate this as an unrestricted charitable bequest to be used for Demos priorities as determined by its leadership.

MY LEGACY STORY:

- I am comfortable with Demos publicly acknowledging my gift, on its website and in donor materials such as the annual report, knowing that it can inspire others to give (specific gift amount will not be published).
- I wish that my charitable bequest remain anonymous.

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

SIGNATURE(S) _____ DATE _____

Please return this form to the address below, and share a copy with your estate planning attorney. Demos is a 501c3 charitable organization, exempt from federal income taxation. Our Tax ID number is: 13-4105066.



Tori O’Neal-McElrath, *VP of External Affairs*

220 FIFTH AVENUE, NY, NY 10001

T: 202.347.5458 F: 212.633.2015 E: toneal@demos.org