
RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE was a relentless pursuer of a U.S. foreign policy that worked to save lives around the world — in Vietnam’s Mekong Delta region in the 60’s, in war-torn communities throughout Bosnia in the 90’s, and in the Taliban-controlled areas of Afghanistan in this millennium.

One of his crowning achievements was his successful effort to end the brutal war in Bosnia, which at the time, was a seemingly-interminable conflict that resulted in more than 100,000 deaths and forced hundreds of thousands to flee horrific violence to become refugees in other countries.

He served under four U.S. presidents and his last position as Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan at the US State Department was one of the most challenging of his career. During that post, he traveled through crowded tent cities to meet personally with those displaced by conflict and natural disasters and listen to their needs.

In 2009, when some three million people were displaced by military operations in Pakistan, Richard met directly with non-governmental organizations to hear all perspectives on how best to respond. He secured hundreds of millions of dollars for the relief effort not only from the U.S. government but also from European and Gulf countries whom he lobbied relentlessly.

Sadly, in 2010, the world lost this remarkable diplomat and humanitarian, but his legacy endures to this day in many ways, not least in the continuing work of Refugees International.
Richard Holbrooke and Refugees International

Richard led Refugees International as chairman of the board for four years from 1996-1999, bringing his decades-long expertise and compassion to strengthen RI’s advocacy for the world’s most vulnerable people.

During his tenure as RI’s board chair, Richard transformed this small advocacy organization focused historically on Indochinese refugees into a global voice for refugees displaced by conflict, persecution and natural disaster and for the millions who are internally displaced.

A son of immigrants from Europe, Richard always argued that internally displaced people should have the same rights as refugees under the Geneva Convention and he never gave up fighting for those rights.

“A true giant of American foreign policy who has made America stronger, safer and more respected.”
- PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA

What we loved about Richard was not only his intellectual heft and his unmatched diplomatic skills but his ability to be an effective, relentless advocate for the world’s most vulnerable people. Former President George H. W. Bush described Mr. Holbrooke to the New York Times’ columnist Roger Cohen as “the most persistent advocate I’ve ever run into.” His nickname, “The Bulldozer,” made us proud, for it was his dogged determination that helped saved countless lives throughout his career.

The RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Giving Program

It is with this pride that we honor our former board chair, Richard C. Holbrooke, through our RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Giving Program. All of us at RI are so grateful for our generous supporters who believe in our mission and our work. At the heart of this generosity are those who have made a thoughtful decision to include RI in their estate planning. As a supporter of RI, we hope that you will consider joining this effort by remembering Refugees International in your will.

How Your RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Gift Will Make a Difference

Your bequest will help RI:

- Guarantee the future of the only US-based, fully independent advocacy organization dedicated solely to fighting to save the lives of the world’s refugees and displaced people. RI does not accept funding from any government or from the United Nations, so our advocacy is never constrained nor encumbered.
- Enable RI to expand its work in more countries to save more lives each year. Currently, there are more than 50 million people around the world who have been displaced due to conflict or persecution. Unfortunately, each year the numbers continue to grow due to rising conflict, violence and instability.
- Help RI establish a sustainable Emergency Response Fund to allow our team to address new, emergent humanitarian disasters as soon as they unfold.

RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Society

The RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Society recognizes those loyal and generous RI supporters who have chosen to include RI in their long-term charitable giving plans. To show our gratitude, members are acknowledged in our annual report; receive special benefits throughout the year including invitations to events, exclusive webinars, and meetings with our president and advocates who conduct our lifesaving work.

There are many ways to make a planned gift to Refugees International. They include:

1) Bequests under a will or living trust
2) Beneficiary Designations under Retirement Plan assets such as a 401(k); a 403 (b), or an IRA
3) Pledges
4) Life Insurance

How To Include Refugees International in Your Will

A bequest made in your will or trust will help secure Refugees International’s mission and work into the future. There are two easy ways to remember RI in your will:

1) A specific bequest. This directs a fixed dollar amount or particular assets, such as securities or property.
2) A residuary bequest directs all of a percentage of your estate, after specific gifts to other beneficiaries, have been fulfilled. No percentage is too small and all amounts will make an impact on our work. Sample language is below:

“I give and bequeath to Refugees International, a nonprofit organization whose address is 2001 S Street, NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20009; the sum of ______ [all or % of the remainder of my estate] to be used for the general purposes of the organization at the discretion of the president and board of directors.”

You may designate your bequest in honor of a loved one. RI prefers that bequests be provided for general operating purposes (an unrestricted donation), so that we may use your generous gift in the areas that are most needed.

We would be so grateful if you would notify us that you have named Refugees International in your will. We would very much like the opportunity to thank you for your lifesaving gift to help the world’s most vulnerable people.
Yes, I accept the invitation to join the RICHARD C. HOLBROOKE Legacy Giving Program. I have provided for Refugees International in my estate plans in the following way(s):

☐ will
☐ living trust
☐ life insurance policy
☐ retirement plan
☐ charitable trust
☐ other: ________

☐ Please send me information about including Refugees International in my estate plans.

NAME________________________________________________

ADDRESS ____________________________________________

CITY_________________________________________________

STATE______________________ ZIP____________________

TELEPHONE________________________________________

EMAIL _____________________________________________

For more information, please contact the Development Department at 202-828-0110, ext. 202 or development@refugeesinternational.org.
Refugees International (RI) advocates for lifesaving assistance and protection for displaced people and promotes solutions to displacement crises. We are an independent organization and do not accept any government or UN funding.

RI saves lives by compelling the world’s leaders to provide clean water, food, health care and other basic assistance to people uprooted by conflict, persecution or natural disasters. Our success is based on a simple formula: we witness displaced people’s needs, we promote solutions to decision makers, and we demand action.

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