



A Jain Initiative

'Give a Gift, Give an Organ'
- Pass it On



Following the death of 19-year-old Kurran Mehta in a car crash in Sept 2018, his mother chose to donate most of his organs to give the chance of life to other people.

“ Out of this unfathomable tragedy something very positive has happened, there is no better way to remember Kurran’s short but beautiful life. ”
- Kurran’s Mother



Why are we asked to donate organs?

- Each day someone dies across the UK waiting for a transplant
- By donating organs, you can save or transform the lives of others
- By donating after death, you could save or improve the lives of up to 9 people

They saved and transformed lives:



Rohit Hiralal Shah:

Was a gentle and kind man who lived his life being kind to everyone. Unfortunately, Rohit passed away aged only 55 after a heart attack. His kidneys, heart valves and corneas went on to help others.



Kirit Kantilal Mehta:

Passed away in November 2008. His kidneys, liver and pulmonary heart valve were donated to help others. “Our dad was a generous man who was always there for people in need. We know that donating his organs is what he would have wanted.”



Kundan Bala Shah:

Was the wife of the Late Bharatbhushan Lavji Shah and mother to Sachin and Bhavini. In September 2012, Kundan suffered a massive stroke and could not be saved. Even in death she showed her generosity by giving life to others by donating her kidneys and liver.



Rajen Anil Kothary:

Passed away in October 2001. His eyes, skin and tendons were donated.

Why is organ donation important to Jains?

- Nearly 1000 Asian people are waiting for a transplant
- Organs from the same ethnic group are much more likely to be a match for the recipient
- Waiting times for Asians are longer than for white people because of a shortage of donors from the Asian community

Waiting for a long time



Rakhi Shah:

Has been suffering from Lupus since 2010 and this has scarred her kidneys. She is at stage 5 kidney failure now and will be starting dialysis soon. Rakhi is on the UK transplant waiting list and hopes she will get the transplant she needs to transform her life soon.

What is the new 'Opt Out' policy for organ donation?

- The law is being changed to help save and improve more lives
- From Spring 2020, all adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the excluded groups
- This is called an 'opt out' system
- Organ donation will still be a gift. You will still have the right to choose whether to be an organ donor
- The family of a potential organ donor will always be approached to discuss the option of organ donation
- Any questions your family might have about the organ donation process will be addressed, including how your faith, beliefs or culture will be respected
- **IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU TELL YOUR FAMILY ABOUT YOUR DECISION TO DONATE SO THEY CAN SUPPORT YOUR WISH**
- When you have made your decision, it is important to record it on the NHS Organ Donor Register using the forms or online. You can also carry a faith specific organ donor card
- Remember that if you do not record a decision and are covered by the 'opt out' law, it will be considered that you agree to be an organ donor



It is important to remember that all healthcare professionals will always act to save your life first.

Will it be possible to have a usual funeral after donation?

Yes, the specialist surgical team will take great care during the donation operation to ensure that the body is ready for Jain funeral rites and there are no delays to the funeral arrangements.

What does Jainism say about the donation of organs and its effect on rebirth?

- Jains believe in saving lives i.e. 'Live and Help others to Live'. In order to help others, we may 'pass on' our organs after death
- Jains also believe the soul (Atma) and body are two separate entities. Death means the soul has severed all its bonds with the body (and organs) in a fraction of a second
- Organs are carefully removed after the donor has died and this has no effect on the soul or the new body it forms in its next birth
- Jain scriptures and Spiritual Leaders indicate that the donation of organs is in line with the fundamental Jain principles of Ahimsa (NonViolence), Jeev-Daya (compassion) and Abhay-Daan (eliminating the threat to life)

What can I do to save lives?

- Register your decision about organ donation
- Talk to your family and friends about your decision to donate
- Help save lives - Pass It On
- If you would like to donate, you do not need to wait for the opt out system
- You can register now by visiting: www.organdonation.nhs.uk/register-to-donate or phoning 0300 123 23 23



Param Puja Bhaishree Nalinbhai Kothari
Spiritual Head: Shree Raj Saubhag Satsang Mandal

"The full importance of human life can only be realised with its compassion to all living beings. This also includes donating one's organs whilst living and certainly after death."



Param Puja Sadhvi Shri Shilapiji of Veerayatan

"With the donation of organs, it is now possible to reduce the pain and suffering of people. Organ donation is a highly spiritual act-it helps others live even after we have left our own bodies. I encourage more and more people to take the active step of participating in this noble deed."



VANIK
COUNCIL
LIVE AND HELP TO LIVE

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