

Tips on Lobbying Your MP

Finding the MP's Contact Details

- Find out who your MP is by typing your postcode in [here](#).
- Find MPs' contact details [here](#)
- Browse for their local constituency website to find their email address for letters and surgery meetings for constituents. Send your letter to both email addresses.

As MPs get hundreds of letters, a useful tactic is to send the email to both the constituency and parliamentary addresses. And then about 10 mins after you have sent it phone the MP's number in Parliament to ask her/his secretary to draw your email to the MP's attention. Try the same for the constituency office. [During the current pandemic calls may not be answered and emails provide the only way to get through.]

Try to build up a good relationship with the MP's Secretary in the constituency and keep in regular contact.

Also try to build a relationship with the MP's Parliamentary Assistant or Researcher (they usually have both). This might be difficult during lockdown when staff work from home.

The Letter

Make it personal and in your own words. MPs can spot template letters a mile off.

Make reference to a previous communication or some personal or friendly comment e.g. applauding your MP on some local or national action (if appropriate).

Explain why this issue matters to you; please edit our template letters, and write them in your own words making other points as you see fit, especially if you can draw on personal experience of Yemen or other humanitarian crises.

Make sure you include some specific 'Asks'. MPs have told us they will respond to direct requests such as writing to Ministers or putting down written questions in Parliament.

Please don't hesitate to contact [Paul Tippell](#), LASER Campaign Coordinator for Yemen, if you would like him to talk to your branch by Zoom or help in finding your MP and drafting your letter.

Meeting an MP

MPs get hundreds of letters so it's always better to meet with them. Remember it really doesn't matter if s/he is not your own constituency MP.

Make a Virtual Appointment to see the MP: Find the MP's local contact details [here](#). Call the MP's local office to make an appointment. Write for an appointment if calls are not answered.

Go as a Group: If possible, organise a small group (4 or 5) of concerned people to accompany you (live or electronically) when you meet with the MP. Try to find at least one person who is a constituent if you can.

Prepare for the Meeting:

1. Write out what you want to say to your MP. Try to put this in your own words and do not draw on personal experiences or those of friends or relatives in Yemen if applicable. Keep this reasonably short.
2. Have a short handout ready to give them about the humanitarian crisis.
3. Set out exactly what you would like the MP to do. Keep this reasonably short. It is much better to ask the MP to do take some personal action, such as:
 - a. putting down a written question to the Middle East Minister
 - b. speaking in Parliament on the crisis in Yemen
 - c. writing to or speaking with the Middle East Minister directly, rather than simply passing on your letter.
4. Print out a copy of your 'Asks' to hand to her/him during the meeting.

During the Meeting:

1. Remember you will have only a short time with your MP so be efficient and keep things brief.
2. Very briefly introduce yourself.
3. Briefly explain your concerns and key facts. It is usually best if just one person in the group does the speaking at this stage. Give out a short handout on the humanitarian crisis.
4. Your MP will probably want to come back to you at this point. Don't let the MP take too long and be ready to counter any points s/he makes that you don't agree with.
5. Give the MP a copy of what you want her/him to do - your 'Asks'. Read this out. Stress that you would like them to write/speak with the Middle East Minister personally.
6. Make sure that the MP promises to get back to you with the Minister's response.
7. Good luck