



# Shape the future

What you think is really important. There are people who want to listen to what you have to say. Follow the steps below to write an awesome and inspiring letter and get your voice heard!



## What is an MP?

People choose Members of Parliament (MPs) to tell the government what people think in the place they live.

MPs need to listen to what people say so they can take the ideas to the Houses of Parliament, which is where all the laws are made.

You can send your own MP letters to tell them what's important to you. MPs only reply to letters from people in their own area, so it's important to add in your address on any letters you send

## Who is my MP?

You can ask an adult to help you find out who your local elected representative is by looking at **theyworkforyou.com** – you might be represented by someone other than an MP depending on where you live.

If you're in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland you could write to your Assembly Member (AM), Member of the Scottish Parliament (MSP) or Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA). If you live outside of the UK, speak to an adult about who to contact.

## What to say

### 1 Introduce yourself and what it is you care about

- Say how old you are and which Girlguiding unit you're in.
- Say why you're writing to them in one or two sentences.
- Why not tell them about Girlguiding and why you enjoy being a member?

### 2 Tell them what the problem is

- Tell your MP what has made you write to them. You could include:
  - What's the problem and how big is it?
  - Who does it affect?
  - Why do you care about this problem?

### 3 Suggest things that could help solve the problem

- Tell them what you think will help to solve the problem and why. For example, raising money for something could be a good way to solve the problem.

### 4 Ask your MP to do something

- What do you think your MP could do to help the problem?

## Top tips

- **Keep it short** – keep your letter to one side of A4.
- **Be creative** – MPs get lots of letters. How could you make your letter stand out?
- **Make it personal** – say why this is important to you and how it affects you or people you care about.
- **Get to know your MP** – ask an adult to help you look your MP up online to find out what they care about most.

## You're a superstar! You've written your letter, you've made your voice heard, feel proud!

It's really important that girls' and young women's voices are heard on the issues that affect you now and in future. You've helped make that happen. You might not hear back from your MP, but your voice has been heard.

Practise writing your MP letter here.

**We've created some space for you to jot down all your amazing ideas.**

# Shape the future

A large, empty white rectangular area intended for writing an MP letter or jotting down ideas. The area is completely blank and occupies most of the page below the header.