**Template Letter for writing to your MP about racial injustice.**

This template gathers ideas from various campaigners around the UK and are not necessarily recommendations of Tearfund. We hope this template helps you to write your own letter to your MP or devolved representatives on these important justice issues, and as an international development charity our own advocacy work continues to focus on extreme poverty globally. *For more details, please see the* [*#BlackLivesMatter Toolkit*](https://www.tearfund.org/~/media/files/main_site/about_us/blm_guide.pdf)

Dear [Insert name of your MP]

I'm writing to you as a constituent, deeply challenged by the Black Lives Matter conversations that have been happening over recent weeks. [You might wish to insert one of the personal changes that you have made in response here, for example, ‘Personally, I am taking part in a book club reading xxxxx, to understand how I can take steps towards challenging this injustice’]

I am writing to ask you to raise three urgent issues with the Government.

**1. Please ask the Prime Minister for action, not just reviews.**

The government recently published a report that shows that black, asian and minority ethnic (BAME) british people have been disproportionately affected by covid-19, but the report did not include any propositions on how we can work to reduce these disparities. There have been other announcements of commissions and reviews on racial injustice since - but we already have hundreds of recommendations from previous reviews that provide us with practical ways of taking action on racial injustice in the UK. Commissions and reviews alone are not sufficient, we need to government to action recommendations

Please could you write to the Prime Minister to:

* Ask that the current review on Race and Ethnic Disparities has specific recommendations and actions on institutionalised racism in each section of society (police, housing, business/recruitment, education etc).
* Ask for a plan of action on the recommendations from previous reviews and reports, including the Lammy report on inequality in the criminal justice system; the Angiolini review about disproportionality in deaths in custody; the Wendy Williams’s review about the Home Office’s handling of the Windrush scandal; and the Ruby McGregor-Smith’s review about discrimination in the workplace.

**2. Establish the Office for Tackling Injustices**

In July 2019 former Prime Minister Theresa May announced the creation of a new Office for Tackling Injustices, with an aim of tackling “deep-seated societal injustices”. This would be a helpful and welcome step to address systemic societal injustices in the UK.

Please ask Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, Minister for the Cabinet Office, for clarity of the timeline for establishing this office, and for information about what the budget and remit of this Office will be, so that it can help to hold the government and future governments to account on issues of systemic injustice in the UK.

**3. Cancel debt for the world’s poorest countries**

Coronavirus has held up a mirror to the brokenness in our own society and also revealed the inequality that exists globally. The agreement to temporarily suspend debt repayments for the world’s poorest 77 countries at the G20 finance ministers’ meeting in April was an important one, but we need to go much further for a just and fair response to the pandemic.

Please write to the Chancellor, Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP, urging him to work with fellow finance ministers to cancel, rather than merely suspend bilateral debt payments in 2020 and 2021, as well as to urge the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and private creditors to cancel debt payments owed in 2020 and 2021 by these countries.

Debt is a huge burden for the world’s poorest countries, and right now the cancellation of debt is a key way we can help release finances to strengthen public healthcare systems, buy medical supplies and improve access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) to reduce the impact of the pandemic in the world’s poorest countries.

I know you will share my feeling of outrage at the widespread racial injustice that remains in our society that recent weeks have highlighted. As one of your constituents I really support and endorse every move you can make to stand against structural racism in your position as a member of parliament wherever you encounter it. Do let me know how I can support you in this.

Many thanks,

[Your name

Your address and postcode]