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Writing to Your Local MP About Peaceful Community Spaces

Encouraging more peaceful, welcoming places for people to gather. Use this version when the goal is to advocate for physical environments, community programs, and neighbourhood initiatives that support peace, belonging, and social cohesion.

Peaceful communities don't happen by accident, they are built through thoughtful spaces where people can gather, talk, rest, and connect. Writing to your local MP is an effective way to support neighbourhoods that foster safety, belonging, and social wellbeing.

Start with purpose: Begin by saying why peaceful public spaces matter to you. For example:

- Concern about rising tension, loneliness, or disconnection
- A lack of safe or accessible places for families, young people, or older residents
- The need for shaded parks, community gardens, meeting rooms, or pedestrian-friendly streets
- Interest in strengthening community cohesion and safety

"I am writing because our community needs more peaceful, accessible places where people can gather safely and connect meaningfully."

Keep your message grounded and local: Explain how community spaces – or the lack of them – affect everyday life. Connect it to:

- your street
- your neighbourhood
- local families
- isolated residents
- community groups
- school communities
- recent events

"In our suburb, many people feel disconnected or overwhelmed. More peaceful spaces – shaded parks, community rooms, safe paths – would help strengthen wellbeing and social connection."

Share a personal story: Personal stories bring the issue to life. For example:

- A time when a park or hall brought people together
- A moment when you, your children, or a neighbour felt unsafe or isolated
- A conversation from a KTC that highlighted a community need
- A time you saw a peaceful space help someone feel included

“One experience that shaped my thinking was...”

Make a clear, specific request: Request one or two practical improvements. For example:

- Require developers to include either public meeting areas, shared green spaces, or communal gathering spots in all new housing or apartment developments.
- Funding to improve local parks, shade, seating, or lighting
- Creating community meeting spaces or upgrading existing ones
- Supporting neighbourhood houses, libraries, or youth centres
- Investing in “peaceful spaces” such as reflection gardens, meditation areas, or storytelling circles
- Traffic calming, safer footpaths, or better lighting for family-friendly areas
- Funding for community-building events or intergenerational programs

Phrase it respectfully: “I am asking you to support...” or “I would appreciate your help in advocating for...”

Keep the tone peaceful and respectful: Avoid blame. Use language like:

- “Our community would benefit from...”
- “I’m concerned about the lack of...”
- “I’m hopeful we can improve...”

Offer your willingness to engage:

“I would be glad to meet, attend a community consultation, or help bring local voices together on this issue.”

Close with gratitude:

“Thank you for your time and for the work you do for our community.”

Writing to Your Local MP About Peaceful Community Spaces: SAMPLE LETTER

Dear [MP Name],

I am writing as a member of the [suburb] community because peaceful, safe, and welcoming public spaces are essential for connection and well-being.

Lately, I've noticed that many people in our neighbourhood feel isolated or overwhelmed, and that we lack enough peaceful places where residents can rest, gather, and feel safe. Community connection begins with our shared spaces.

One experience that shaped my thinking was:

[insert story]

Because of this, I am asking you to support initiatives such as:

[insert requests – e.g., improved parks, community halls, shaded areas, benches, safer lighting, community-building programs]

I would welcome the opportunity to speak further or participate in any local consultations about improving community spaces.

Thank you for your time and for the work you do representing our community.

Warmly,

[Name]

[Optional contact]

Writing to Your Local MP about Committing to Peace

Focused on peacebuilding, social cohesion, and compassionate policymaking. This version encourages the MP to strengthen peace-oriented policies, programs, and community supports.

When we speak up with calm, clarity, and compassion, we remind our elected representatives that peace matters to ordinary people. Writing to your MP is one of the most accessible and meaningful ways to encourage peace-building throughout our neighbourhoods, institutions, and national policies.

Start with purpose: Begin by stating why peace matters to you. For example:

- Concern about increasing division or hostility
- The emotional impact of global conflicts on local communities
- Support for humane policies toward refugees and vulnerable groups
- Desire for government investment in peace education, cohesion, and well-being

“I am writing because peace matters deeply to me, and...”

Keep it grounded and local: MPs respond to issues connected to daily life.

Describe how peace – or the lack of it – shows up in your suburb:

- tension in the community
- worries among families
- social fragmentation
- the emotional climate of local young people
- pressure on multicultural or faith communities
- rising loneliness

“In our suburb, many people are feeling overwhelmed by global events. We need more support for connection, dialogue, and community wellbeing.”

Share a personal story: Stories help MPs understand the human experience behind your request.

Examples:

- a moment of worry or division in your neighbourhood

- a hopeful moment of solidarity
- a reflection from your Kitchen Table Conversation
- your work with a local community, parish, or volunteer group

“One experience that shaped my thinking was...”

Make a clear request: Choose one or two specific peace-focused asks, such as:

- Fund community-building and cohesion programs
- Support peace education in schools
- Advocate for humane refugee and asylum seeker policies
- Support mental health initiatives that reduce distress and division
- Promote intercultural and interfaith dialogue
- Increase resourcing for organisations supporting displaced people
- Strengthen policies that reduce online harm and misinformation

Phrase it respectfully:

“I am asking you to...”

or

“I believe our community would benefit from...”

Keep the tone peaceful and constructive: Avoid blame or confrontation. Use:

- “I’m concerned about...”
- “I’m hopeful we can...”
- “I appreciate your attention to...”

Offer ongoing engagement:

“I would welcome the chance to discuss this further or participate in local peace initiatives.”

Close with gratitude:

“Thank you for your time and for the work you do representing our community.”

Include name, suburb, and optional contact details.

Writing to Your Local MP about Committing to Peace:

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear [MP Name],

I am writing because peace, social cohesion, and community wellbeing matter deeply to me.

Recently, I've noticed rising tension and uncertainty, much of it influenced by global events. Many people in our community feel overwhelmed, isolated, or unsure how to talk across differences. As neighbours, we want to build something more peaceful and connected.

One experience that shaped my thinking was:

[insert story]

Because of this, I am asking you to support initiatives such as:

[insert specific peace-building requests]

I would welcome the chance to hear more about any peace-related work underway and to participate or support where possible.

Thank you for your time and for the important work you do on behalf of our community.

Warmly,

[Name]

[Email / Phone, optional]

Neighbour Letter Template

Dear neighbour,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is _____, and I live nearby on _____. I'm writing simply to reach out, say hello, and help strengthen the sense of connection in our neighbourhood.

While we may pass each other on the street or wave in passing, it can be easy in our busy lives to miss opportunities to really know the people who live closest to us. With so much of the world's news and noise at our fingertips each day, it feels more important than ever to build small pockets of peace, kindness, and community right where we live.

I'd love to play a part in helping our street become a place where people look out for one another, feel comfortable saying hello, and know who they can call on if they ever need a hand. If you ever need anything – a cup of sugar, a walking buddy, help bringing in bins, someone to check your mail while you're away, or simply a friendly chat – please know I'm here.

If you'd like to stay in touch, feel free to add your contact details below or to reach out whenever suits you:

Name:

Phone:

You're always welcome to pop by and say hello. It would be lovely to get to know each other a little better.

Warmly,

(Your name)

YOU'RE
INVITED!



Neighbourhood Peace Walk

WHERE ?

WHEN ?

WHAT ?

WHY ?

A gentle stroll to reconnect,
slow down, build community, and
share a moment of peace.

All welcome.