YOUR NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

DATE

MP’S NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

Dear [MP’S NAME],

My name is [YOUR NAME]. I am writing in the capacity of [OCCUPATION], whereby my time and efforts are dedicated to [PERSONAL VISION]. I have resided in [CONSTITUENCY] for [LENGTH OF TIME], whereby I have been active in the community through [INSERT ANY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS HERE]. I am also a member of the British Association of Social workers. BASW is the professional association for social work in the UK with offices in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

The murder of George Floyd, who was mercilessly killed in act of police brutality, was a horrific act. I am sure you will agree that there are simply no words to convey the devastating impact of George’s death, both on his loved ones, but also with Black and Ethnic Minority groups across the world; his legacy continues to reach every corner of the globe, through ongoing protests. Yet, there is a real concern that such protests will fall upon deaf ears. Indeed, the silence of some amongst the most powerful has been evident.

A startling number of leaders who claim to represent their constituents have failed to speak out regarding George Floyd’s murder; in other areas, leaders have given platitudes with no actions to back up their words.

It is unequivocal that systemic racism permeates every area in society; it is institutionalised. This is the case in the UK as much as in the United States, as highlighted in the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry report by Sir William Macpherson.

According to research undertaken by Opinium dated 2019, [seventy-one percent of people from ethnic minorities now report having faced racial discrimination, compared with 58% in January 2016, before the European Union Referendum](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/may/20/racism-on-the-rise-since-brexit-vote-nationwide-study-reveals).

I have been increasingly alarmed at the recent statistics highlighting the shameful discrimination experienced by Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people at the hands of the police in the UK. According to the Institute of Race Relations, the [police are 28 times more likely to use Section 60 Stop-and-search powers against black people compared to white counterparts in the UK.](http://www.irr.org.uk/research/statistics/criminal-justice/) Furthermore, according to Inquest,  [Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people die disproportionately as a result of use of force or restraint by the police](https://www.inquest.org.uk/bame-deaths-in-police-custody), raising serious questions of institutional racism as a contributory factor in their deaths. Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people are also more likely to be penalised in the context of the coronavirus; The Guardian revealed that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in England were [54% more likely to be fined under coronavirus rules](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/26/bame-people-fined-more-than-white-population-under-coronavirus-laws) than white people. No amount of justification can explain away such damning statistics.

I would like to clarify your stance as to George Floyd’s murder, namely:

[PLEASE CHECK THE POINTS BELOW TO IDENTIFY WHETHER THEY ARE APPLICABLE IN YOUR CONSTITUENCY BEFORE INCLUDING].

1. Why you have not yet demonstrated your solidarity with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people in the UK, publicly condemned the act, or offered support to constituents during this time.
2. Whether you will be writing to Central Government to share your concern, or propose policy changes aimed at stamping-out racism within the UK?
3. How you plan to work with multi-agency services at a local level, the police being central to such a plan, to ensure that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people are protected from oppression by the police or any other institution?
4. What measures you will be taking to ensure that racism within [CONSTITUENCY] is not allowed to thrive?
5. How you have supported Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic constituents during the COVID-19 crisis? A Public Health England report entitled ‘A review into the disparities in the risk and outcomes of COVID-19’ highlights that Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals had [between 10 and 50% higher risk of death when compared to White British.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/889195/disparities_review.pdf) This is unacceptable. Furthermore, what are your long-term plans to support this at-risk group in the post COVID-19 transition?
6. How do you plan to diversify constituent representation within [CONSTITUENCY]? At present, there is a marked lack of representation from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups.

Finally, there is growing concern that Black Lives Matter protests in the US have been met with police violence and that the President has taken repressive action against protesters. Disturbingly, whilst the UK’s export control guidance states that arms exports should not be licensed where there is a clear risk they may be used in repression, [the UK Government continues to supply the USA with tear gas, rubber bullets and riot shields that are being used against protestors](https://www.change.org/p/suspend-uk-export-of-tear-gas-rubber-bullets-and-riot-shields-to-usa). This is a clear violation of human rights.

A final question is as follows:

1. Do you support the cancellation of such exports, and, will you be calling on the UK Government to actively condemn unlawful or disproportionate state violence in the USA, or in the UK when it arises?

Thank you for your time in this matter.

I eagerly anticipate your response, and, would welcome any advice as to how I personally can contribute to anti-racism efforts within [CONSTITUENCY], support local Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups, and continue to challenge our leaders – those who have a duty of care and representation.

Yours Sincerely,

[NAME]

[CONTACT DETAILS].