

WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR MP ABOUT THE LOBBYING BILL

What to do before you write your letter

- Find out if how your MP voted: <http://www.oxfam.org.uk/blogs/2013/11/gagging-law-mp-results-table>
- If your MP voted against the bill, thank them for doing so.
- If your MP voted for the bill, tell them that you are concerned and ask them why they have done so.

Ideas of what to include in your letter

- You are concerned about part 2 of the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Bill.
- There has been a lack of debate around this bill and you are concerned about the speed at which it is being pushed through Parliament.
- In its current form, this bill **threatens to stifle legitimate public debate** and non-party political campaigning on policies that affect people's lives.
- There is still a great deal of ambiguity in the Governments' amendments to the bill. Legal opinion suggests that amendments will not result in allowing charities to campaign on important issues in election years.
- Give examples of campaigns you have joined or admired – it may be a local campaign to save your hospital or an international campaign on Fairtrade.
- If that campaign had taken place during an election year, would you have been able to get involved? The legislation is unclear what activities would fall foul of it.

Ask your MP to:

- Write to the ministers leading this Bill (Mr Andrew Lansley MP and Mr Tom Brake MP)
- Listen to the proposals made by the Commission on Civil Society and Democratic Engagement and vote for them when they get a chance.

Don't forget to let us know when you receive a reply from your MP. You can tweet [@oxfamgb](https://twitter.com/oxfamgb) or email campaigns@oxfam.org.uk – thank you!