

Make the Government **listen** to you



**Do you want to make things better where you live?
Are you angry about something that seems unfair?**

You can try to change things by sending a petition to parliament. Many of us don't think much about politics but parliament exists to make sure the government represents you and listens to what you care about.

Members of Parliament (MPs) look at petitions. Thanks to petitions, people have **changed the law**. One of the largest petitions ever in the UK was to give women the right to vote. More recently, over a million people signed a petition and made the government agree that free school meals should be given to children in need during school holidays.

When a petition gets...

10,000 signatures

Government must respond and explain what they are doing about the problem. Parliament can ask the government for clearer responses.

100,000 signatures

The problem may be debated in parliament by MPs and a government minister who has to say what they're doing to help.

Staff may also contact petitioners to help MPs find out more about the petition.



How to start a petition and get it noticed



Good petitions say what they want parliament or government to do and explain why the petition matters.

Think of ONE action you want them to take. Then talk to other people about what your petition will say. This will help you describe the problem you care about and write your request as clearly as possible.

Find five people to support your petition. You'll need their emails.

Once your petition has been accepted, you will need to share it with as many people as possible and ask them to sign it.

Start your petition at:

petition.parliament.uk/petitions/check.

To get your petition noticed:



Spread the word: tell people about your petition and explain why it's important - family, friends, community, church, social groups, local charities, businesses. Ask them to sign and ask people they know to sign.



Get others to help you: ask for help from good writers, speakers and social media users – all useful skills to help promote your petition.



Use social media: (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok) to connect with supporters who will sign and share your petition.



Run an event or activity: it could be a meeting, a sponsored walk or even a cake stall – anywhere where you can talk openly about your petition and why it matters.



Take photos: for social media and for sending to local media. Always ask permission first.



Contact your MP: you can find their details at parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/contact-your-mp. Tell them about your petition. Ask to meet them to talk about how they can help.



Contact journalists: write to local newspapers and magazines and the nearest radio and TV stations. Tell them why you have started a petition, what you want the government to do, and about your events. They could tell the story behind your petition.

Start a petition to raise awareness of a problem you care about. For support, contact your local community organisation.