\*Full name of addressee\* \*Individual Email\*

\*Address\* \*Personal Address\*

Tel:\*Personal Number\*

 \*date\* 2015

Dear [INSERT MPs NAME]

My name is [NAME], and I am writing to you, as a constituent, to respectfully draw your attention to the current crisis in the Central African Republic (CAR). This is an issue about which I am deeply concerned and I appeal to you, as a Member of Parliament and representative of the public, to take action and raise this issue within parliament.

CAR is a war torn country with a history of political instability and violence. The two main warring factions are the predominantly Christian Anti-Balaka and the predominantly Muslim Seleka. As the United Nations have affirmed, mass atrocities are occurring on both sides, affecting the entire population of 4.8 million. CAR’s transitional government is struggling to contain this crisis and restore the rule of law. Thousands of Central Africans have lost their lives in the conflict which continues to devastate communities across the country. Of the 2.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid, half are children and the threat of sexual and gender based violence, and insurgent attacks, is ever-present in the warring territories.

At present, civilians in CAR are suffering attacks which threaten to proliferate to mass atrocities and potentially even to genocide. Amnesty International and the United Nations have both found evidence that ethnic cleansing of Muslims has taken place in CAR. Despite the scale of this crisis, and the international community’s pledge to honour the 20 year anniversary of the Rwandan genocide with the promise of ‘*never again’*,governments around the world, including the UK, have not responded adequately, failing to commit sufficient support to long-term stability in CAR.

Furthermore, the upcoming national elections in CAR this summer threaten to increase instability and tensions between communities and could potentially spark high levels of violence, leading to further mass atrocities. It is the moral and ethical obligation of the UK government to work to help ensure that these elections in CAR in 2015 do not trigger a cycle of renewed violence. It is essential that we act now. By offering support through the EU Trust Fund on CAR to community-level reconciliation and peacebuilding activities in the country, we can help to promote long-term community cohesion. This would limit the potential for future conflict, and encourage long-lasting peace.

I find further concern in that states which lack effective governance and control quickly become safe havens for terrorist activity. As the Central African Republic borders other key states which are also suffering from violence and instability, (The Congos, Chad, Sudan and South Sudan), it is necessary that we work to promote a peaceful, stable, democratic state in the Central African Republic. We can do this by helping to ensure that the reconciliation and peacebuilding demands of the crisis in CAR are being met.

Aegis Trust’s international network of student campaigners are working towards raising public awareness of the crisis in CAR and campaigning for the international community, with the help of the UK government to acknowledge the crisis and help CAR to restore stability and promote sustainable long-term cohesion.

I ask that you raise your voice in support for action in CAR. I therefore respectfully request that you table one or more of these parliamentary questions, so that this issue can receive the attention that it so desperately needs and deserves.

Parliamentary Questions

* To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the UK government is doing to address the ongoing killings and help to build sustainable peace in the Central African Republic?
* To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what efforts have been made to ensure that the EU Trust Fund is supporting reconciliation and peacebuilding activities in the Central African Republic?
* To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the UK is supporting the Central African Republic in its preparations for national elections in 2015?
* To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what kind of diplomatic relationship can we expect to develop with the Central African Republic in the coming year?
* To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the UK government is currently fulfilling its ‘Responsibility to Protect’ in the Central African Republic?
* To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the United Kingdom’s budgetary commitment to the Central African Republic is supporting the country’s road to recovery in the short, medium and long-term?
* To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the UK government is upholding its pledge to support women’s rights and help victims of sexual and gender based violence in the Central African Republic?

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. May I express in advance my great appreciation of your help in this matter.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

[Name]