**Template letter or email to newly elected MPs**

You can adapt this draft to ask the newly elected MP in your constituency how they will improve support for bereaved people over the next Parliament. You can find out who your MP is [here](https://members.parliament.uk/FindYourMP), with details of how to contact them.

Please complete or delete the sections in yellow before you send the letter or email.

Thank you.

Dear [First Name]

Supporting bereaved people in [insert the name of your constituency]

Congratulations on your recent election as MP of [insert name of constituency]. You have a critical role to play in improving support for bereaved people, and I am writing to ask how you plan to do this over the next Parliament.

[If you have been bereaved or you work with bereaved people, you could insert a paragraph about this here]

There are over three million bereavements each year in the UK. This includes over 40,000 children and young people bereaved of a parent, and over 13,000 parents bereaved of their child. The death of someone important brings significant emotional, practical and financial challenges, and can have significant consequences for physical and mental health, relationships and getting on with life and work. I am worried that

* Grief and bereavement remain taboo topics, leaving people lonely and unsupported in their grief
* Schools and workplaces are inconsistent in the support they offer to pupils and employees
* Complex administrative processes leave bereaved people struggling and many face financial distress
* Many people struggle to get extra support from formal bereavement services.

Grief is tough enough, without these additional challenges.

There will be significant opportunities for the new Parliament to help improve support for bereaved children, young people and adults. The National Bereavement Alliance and Childhood Bereavement Network is asking all MPs to consider how they can commit to their key asks, developed from consultations with bereaved people. These include the following:

**Facilitate conversations on grief, promoting compassionate communities by**

* Supporting public awareness campaigns so that talking about death, dying and bereavement isn’t taboo.
* Helping children and young people develop the skills to support themselves and others by learning and understanding about grief and bereavement at school.

**Support bereaved people in their places of learning and work by**

* Providing non-statutory bereavement guidance, ensuring all schools are aware of their bereaved pupils and have Bereavement Plans in place to meet their needs, including time off if needed, help with homework and exams and pathways to extra support.
* Introducing paid bereavement leave for employees over 16 years of age when a partner, parent or child dies.

**Reduce financial vulnerability in bereavement by**

* Asking the Financial Conduct Authority to review and develop minimum standards for dealing with bereaved customers.
* Legislating so that all bereaved people get the information and help they need in paying for a funeral and securing their home and income, including paying Bereavement Support Payment for longer and uprating funeral and bereavement benefits in line with relevant inflation.

**Strengthen the provision of bereavement support by**

* Investing sustainably in bereavement services and research over the next spending review period and beyond, so that children, young people and adults get the right help at the right time.
* Providing guidance to local health and care systems and networks on how to integrate and signpost to bereavement support, so everyone knows about the help available.

These policies are set out in more detail here <https://nationalbereavementalliance.org.uk/2024-manifesto-for-better-bereavement-support/>. I would be grateful if you would work with the National Bereavement Alliance and Childhood Bereavement Network to do what you can to implement them.

Thank you in advance, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[Your name]

If you send this message as an email, **please remember to include your address and postcode** so that the candidate knows that you are a local voter.