Subject: Attacks against women, including human rights defenders

Dear [name of your MP here]

I am writing to you as my MP to share my concerns as we celebrate the 114th year of International Women’s Day.

In the first half of 2023, women human rights defenders in Colombia amounted to [one-quarter](https://giwps.georgetown.edu/conflicts-to-watch-in-2024-implications-for-women-peace-and-security/) of the total human rights defenders that were attacked, while in the second half of 2023 the number of women activists who were murdered rose by 50%, in comparison to the same period of 2022. According to [Global Witness](https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/standing-firm/), Colombia is the deadliest country in the world for human rights defenders.

In Kenya, between 2016 and 2024 more than 500 women have been victims of femicide - [14 of these murders occurred in January of this year alone](https://www.dw.com/en/kenyan-women-march-against-femicide/a-68104363). This spike has prompted a surge in demonstrations across the country, with women activists calling for systematic change, improved policies and laws to reduce gender-based violence.

However, it is well-known that [these numbers are relative estimations](https://www.africadatahub.org/femicide-kenya) and in fact, the statistics do not account for the many cases that go unreported, or disappear and are unable to be counted. The statistics are startling, and are a stark reminder of how far is still yet to go, but it’s important to spotlight the efforts that are being made in spite of these realities.

I am writing to ask you to bring the situation of women, including women human rights defenders, to the attention of the Minister for Women and Equalities, the Rt Hon Kemi Badenoch MP, as well as the Prime Minister’s Special Representative for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and Minister of State, Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon.

I ask that you particularly raise to what extent the UK Government is creating and supporting platforms to amplify grassroots women’s and girls’ voices, and protect and enable women leaders, activists, human rights defenders and peacebuilders, to enable their safe and meaningful participation in decision making at national, regional and international levels, as per the FCDO’s [International Women and Girls Strategy 2023–2030](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/640a0bb1d3bf7f02f7d9db18/international-women-and-girls-strategy-2023-2030.pdf).

I would also ask that you inquire of the Ministers about the efforts of the UK Government in supporting and protecting women human rights defenders and victims of sexual and gender-based violence, including killings, in Colombia and Kenya.

The UK has a particular responsibility to uphold the rights of women, both nationally and internationally. It is essential that the UK takes action to raise these issues at such a critical moment such as in light of the celebration of International Women’s Day.

I thank you in advance for the actions that you will take on this situation and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name here]