

suggested letter to your MP

Here is our suggested letter to your MP. Include your name, address and postcode. MPs are only obliged to respond to their own constituents so this link between you needs to be clear. Not sure who your MP is? Visit The House of Commons website www.parliament.uk/commons Feel free to add more details about your personal story if you would like to but don't write too much – keep it brief and punchy! Good luck. If you would like more advice email Frances Reid, Head of Communications: frances@ovarian.org.uk and enter **CAMPAIGN ADVICE** in your subject heading.

Our template letter

Dear *(Name Here MP)*,

As a member of your constituency I'd like to bring ovarian cancer to your attention. After breast, lung and bowel cancer, ovarian cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women, yet most people (66%) cannot name a single symptom associated with the disease.

For years, ovarian cancer was called a 'silent killer', but it's now clear through research that this is not the case. When treated early, survival rates can be very high. However, most women are only diagnosed once the cancer has already spread, often having experienced symptoms for some considerable time. This contributes to the low UK survival rates, which come very close to the bottom of the European league tables, at just over 30%. These rates have changed little in over 20 years.

(If you have been affected) I am one of the survivors, and want other women to have a fighting chance of living long and healthy lives. This will only happen when women and their GPs become more aware of the frequent and persistent symptoms of the disease. I am doing my bit by campaigning with **Ovarian cancer action** to **raise awareness** in our local community *(enter details of events in your constituency)*.

Will do you yours? I would like you to consider
(include just a couple of suggestions from our selection below for this letter)

- ✿ **Attending my event to show your support**
- ✿ **Sending a message of support which could be used in a press release**
- ✿ **Asking questions in the House of Commons to determine how our local cancer network and hospital compare in terms of survival and incidence**
- ✿ **Ensuring the new National Awareness and Early Detection Initiative moves swiftly to develop messaging about ovarian cancer**
- ✿ **Ensuring that the development of NICE clinical guidance on the recognition and initial management of ovarian cancer is not unduly delayed.**
- ✿ **Encouraging local PCTs and Cancer Networks to undertake awareness initiatives with Ovarian cancer action who can help.**
- ✿ **Contacting Ovarian cancer action to express your interest in helping drive progress in survival. They can brief you and put you in touch with other interested MPs.**

I look forward to hearing from you,
Yours sincerely

(Your name)

P.S.

If you'd like to find out more about Ovarian cancer action, please take a look at their website www.ovarian.org.uk or call them on 020 838 7605