

# Template letter to the editor

This template can be localised and used as written or as inspiration for you to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

Search for your local newspaper's Editor details on the 'Contact' page of their website.

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Dear Editor,

As **[publication name]** is a leader in driving local culture, we need your support, and the support of your readers, to help take a stand against discriminatory words and actions and to create a more inclusive world.

We can create a more accepting world by working to integrate individuals with intellectual disabilities into realms of society from which they have been excluded. We fight for equality, acceptance, and respect by treating all with the dignity they deserve.

Those with intellectual disabilities have grown familiar with a feeling of isolation because of exclusivity in society. A lack of inclusion has become a hurtful norm to people with intellectual disabilities, their families, and their friends. People with intellectual disabilities have had to overcome challenges arising from societal stereotypes for too long.

It is time for a change. People with intellectual disabilities accomplish great things, are members of our local communities and deserve the same respect and dignity that each of us expects from others. Help drive much needed change that will bring acceptance and inclusion to our community.

Special Olympics are asking everyone to help make a change by bringing awareness to inclusive practices and encouraging people to make your pledge to end the use of the R-Word.

Pledge today to use respectful, people first language at [www.specialolympics.com.au/r-word-pledge](http://www.specialolympics.com.au/r-word-pledge).

Sincerely,

**[NAME]**