



**World
Hemophilia
Day April 17**
Recognizing all bleeding disorders

How to advocate for better recognition, diagnosis and care by writing a letter to your local government

On April 17, 2026, the global inherited bleeding disorders community will come together on World Hemophilia Day to advocate for all inherited bleeding disorders. This year’s theme of “Diagnosis: First step to care” highlights the critical importance of diagnosis—the essential first step in treatment and care.

The WFH estimates that over three-quarters of the population of people with hemophilia worldwide are undiagnosed, and an even more significant gap exists for other bleeding disorders. This means that hundreds of thousands of people with bleeding disorders around the world still lack access to basic care. We have the power—and the shared commitment—to change this. We can improve diagnostic outcomes by strengthening the skills of healthcare professionals and enhancing the laboratory capacities. By increasing global diagnosis rates, we can move one step closer to our shared vision of Treatment for All.

One concrete way you can make a difference is to contact your local government and urge them to act to support the community. This document offers step-by-step instructions for writing a letter to government officials and policymakers, outlining a specific call to action. Below we provide some **tips for crafting an effective advocacy letter**, along with a customizable **letter template**. We encourage you to tailor the letter to your situation to maximize its impact.

Step-by-step guide

Here is a step-by-step guide for writing your own letter from scratch. Or, if you prefer, you can use the example letter in this document and adjust it to your local context.

1. Open the letter with an official address

- Include the date, as well as the name, title, and address of the official you are writing to
- Include a subject line in your letter

2. Introduce yourself and the purpose of your letter

- State who you are, or who the organization you are writing on behalf of is
- Indicate in the first paragraph that your letter concerns the diagnosis of people with bleeding disorders (PWBDs)

3. Explain your concerns related to inherited bleeding disorders

- Explain the current situation in your country regarding access to diagnosis, treatment and care for PWBDs
- Clearly define the issues and/or disparities this situation is creating for PWBDs and their families
- Explain the impact of bleeding disorders and late diagnosis on PWBDs, such as risk of musculoskeletal complications, long-term disability, life-threatening hemorrhages, and other health complications and impact on school and work attendance, etc.

4. Use statistical data to strengthen your argument

- Leverage reputable data sources like your national patient registry; local [hemophilia treatment centres](#) (HTCs); the [WFH Annual Global Survey](#); the [WFH World Bleeding Disorders Registry](#) (WBDR); publications in [Haemophilia](#) or other medical journals; resources available on [elearning.wfh.org](#); and resources from other reputable organizations
- Present comparative data (for example, data on number of identified people with hemophilia or other bleeding disorders compared to the expected number, data on gaps in identification by gender or geographic areas, etc.)
- Use [WFH interactive visualizations](#) to summarize Annual Global Survey data and gather country-specific statistics

5. Include personal stories and examples

- Personalize the letter by highlighting experiences of people who struggled to get diagnosed in your community or who benefitted from outreach and identification efforts

6. Make it relevant to policymakers

- Mention any existing laws, policies, or strategic plans to improve access to treatment and care for PWBDs in your country

- Also mention any commitments to international resolutions or other policy instruments such as the recent World Health organization Executive Board Decision to present for the adoption to the World Health Assembly a [resolution on hemophilia and other bleeding disorders](#), the United Nations Declaration on Universal Health Coverage ([read the declaration here](#)), or the [Political Declaration](#) of the Third High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable diseases, etc.

7. Acknowledge any past support

- Mention any appropriate actions your government has taken to support PWBDs including positive outcomes of past support, and express thanks for these actions

8. Describe what action(s) you hope the official will take

- Explain how further supporting specific outreach and identification initiatives would be impactful
- Clearly state the action(s) you hope the official will take
- Describe the positive effects the requested actions may have on individuals or the community

9. Offer support

- Explain how you, your organization, or your partner organizations can help the government official
- Detail any technical support, expertise, or other contributions you could offer to support your government in addressing the issues facing your community
- Make yourself available for further discussion or a follow up meeting

10. Close and sign your letter

- Thank the official and sign the letter using your full name
- Include the names or logos of affiliated organizations
- Provide your address and phone number so that you can receive replies

Example letter

You can customize the following letter based on your information and your local context.

April 17th, 2026
Mr. John Smith, M.P.
House of Commons
City, State
Postal Code

Subject: Improving diagnosis and access to care for people with bleeding disorders in [Name of Country]

Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms./Dr. [Name of Recipient],

My name is [Your Name] and I am writing on behalf of [your organization's Name] concerning people living with inherited bleeding disorders here in [Name of Country] are facing.

Inherited bleeding disorders, including hemophilia, von Willebrand disease (VWD), inherited platelet disorders, and other factor deficiencies are lifelong conditions that prevent blood from clotting properly. People with bleeding disorders (PWBDs) can experience uncontrolled internal or external bleeding that can result from a seemingly minor injury or can occur spontaneously. These bleeding episodes can cause severe pain, musculoskeletal complications, and disability, and can even result in death if left untreated.

In our own country, [Name of Country], there are over [#] people with hemophilia and [#] with VWD and [#] of people with other bleeding disorders diagnosed. However, based on the established prevalence (Iorio et al., 2019), it is estimated that only [#%] of people with hemophilia have been diagnosed compared to the expected number. While diagnosis gaps persist for people with vWD as well, which is the most common bleeding disorder with estimated 1 in 1,000 cases.

Each year, on April 17, our community commemorates World Hemophilia Day, a global disease day established to recognize and raise awareness about all bleeding disorders. This year, we are focusing on the critical importance of diagnosis—the essential first step in treatment and care. We are asking your help to support outreach and diagnosis for people with inherited bleeding disorders.

Tip: Information on each countries percent of identified patients can be found on the [Annual Global Survey Interactive maps](#), or your local registry.

Our organization, [Name of Organization], is ready to work with your invaluable support in raising awareness and [...].

Thank you for taking the time to consider our concerns. We look forward to your reply and remain available to discuss collaborative opportunities and be part of the solution to improve access to diagnosis, treatment and care for people living with inherited bleeding disorders.

Suggestion: If your organization has planned an advocacy or awareness event in relation to WHD, you can also take the opportunity to invite the government official you are writing to this event.

Sincerely,

Name
Signature
Organization
Address
Phone number
Email address

Sources:

Iorio A, Stonebraker JS, Chambost H, et al. Establishing the prevalence and prevalence at birth of hemophilia in males: a meta-analytic approach using national registries. *Ann Intern Med.* 2019; **171**: 540- 546.

Srivastava, A, Santagostino, E, Dougall, A, et al. WFH Guidelines for the Management of Hemophilia, 3rd edition. *Haemophilia.* 2020; 26(Suppl 6): 1- 158. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hae.14046>

World Federation of Hemophilia Report on Annual Global Survey 2024
<https://elearning.wfh.org/resource/report-on-the-annual-global-survey-2024/>

The World Bleeding Disorders Registry (WBDR) 2023 Data Report
<https://wfh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/wfh-wbdr-impact-report-2024.pdf>