**Here are 5 things you can lobby your UK MP to do to help free West Papua**

The Free West Papua Campaign in Oxford and its associates all over the world are working hard to lobby parliamentarians on West Papua – but nothing helps more than a groundswell at the local level putting pressure on MPs. Following the [historic gathering](https://www.freewestpapua.org/2016/05/03/westminster-meeting-makes-new-declaration-for-the-future-of-west-papua/) in Westminster on May 3, 2016, Jeremy Corbyn’s [calls for a referendum](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/may/06/jeremy-corbyn-on-west-papua-uk-labour-leader-calls-for-independence-vote) on independence, and the unification of the overseas movement under the [ULMWP](https://www.ulmwp.org/), the Papuan cause is [growing rapidly](https://www.freewestpapua.org/2016/05/22/momentum-continues-to-build-following-westminster-meeting/). We now need to intensify the pressure on the UK government. You can lobby your MP in surgery meetings, phone calls, letters and emails. When you do so, we recommend pointing them towards a [recent report](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/pais/research/researchcentres/ierg/westpapua/assessmentreport.pdf) from the Politics of Papua Project at the University of Warwick which gives a detailed overview of the issues in Papua and issues several recommendations for parliamentarians. Here are 5 things you can directly ask your MP to do:

1. **Sign the Westminster Declaration.**

The Prime Minister of Tonga, Vanuatu’s Foreign Minister, Australian Senator Scott Ludlam, and representatives from the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have all signed the Westminster Declaration, which calls for an internationally supervised vote on self-determination for West Papua. We will be gathering as many signatures from parliamentarians as possible before presenting the Declaration to the UN in 2017. MPs can sign by contacting [office@freewestpapua.org](mailto:office@freewestpapua.org).

1. **Join the** [**International Parliamentarians for West Papua**](https://www.ipwp.org/)**.**

A group for dozens of parliamentarians who support West Papua’s right to self-determination and seek to fight for West Papuans’ rights in their own legislatures and internationally. They can join the group [here](https://www.ipwp.org/join-ipwp/), or contact [office@ipwp.org](mailto:office@ipwp.org).

1. **Join the All Party Parliamentary Group on West Papua.**

Comprised of MPs across the political spectrum, the APPG on West Papua holds meeting in Westminster to examine the issues in West Papua and promote the human rights of West Papuans. They can join by contacting the chair, Andrew Smith MP, at [andrewsmith.mp@gmail.com](mailto:andrewsmith.mp@gmail.com).

1. **Ask questions in parliament.**

It is important that MPs are regularly raising questions around human rights violations, development, media restrictions, police impunity, discrimination, land rights, mining, historical injustice and Western complicity in the House of Commons. It is crucial that MPs pressure the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to end military exports to and training of the Indonesian police and army, and press for the release of political prisoners, the lifting of the NGO ban, and the end of torture and impunity.

**5. Support a resolution in parliament calling for media freedom in Papua.**

The Government of New Zealand recently passed a motion calling on Indonesia to respect freedom of the press with respect to West Papua. Following a [detailed report](https://www.hrw.org/report/2015/11/10/something-hide/indonesias-restrictions-media-freedom-and-rights-monitoring-papua) from Human Rights Watch, the campaign for media freedom in Papua is growing rapidly. You can find a template of a letter to send to your local representative asking them to pressure the Government to call for media freedom [here](https://www.freewestpapua.org/actions/ask-your-government-to-support-media-freedom-in-west-papua/).