



Sensitive Writing Guidelines


Releasing children from poverty
Compassion
in Jesus' name

tearfund
New Zealand

Tearfund's partner Compassion works in some challenging countries around the globe, with children who are already at risk because of the long-term impact of poverty. Along with our church partners and supporters, we take our responsibility to safeguard those we serve very seriously.

You will be informed if the child you sponsor needs you to be extra careful when you write to them. This includes children living in **Burkina Faso, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.**

Due to the children's vulnerability in some of these countries, we have sensitive writing guidelines to assist you in knowing what is safe to share, so they are not endangered by our well-intentioned communication. We encourage you to bring all that's on your heart that you can't say, to God in prayer.

Some important things to note:

- Often our partner churches are in Christian-minority countries.
- We serve all children regardless of their religious beliefs, with the same level of care and support.

- Children and their families have the freedom to choose if they attend church services and other church-based activities, administered by the local church, where they can hear more about Jesus.
- We mustn't imply that Compassion or any of its National Office staff seek to evangelise or proselytise – and never talk about a move from another religion to Christianity.
- Sponsors can talk about personal testimonies in their letters but should avoid asking a child about their personal spiritual formation. (Instead ask about things like: Loving others, Willingness to put others before self, Choosing not to judge others, Expressing compassion and concern for others, Possessing an honest assessment of one's own character (humility), Seeking the truth, Exhibiting peacefulness, joy, wisdom in difficult or complicated circumstances, Thankfulness).
- You can share you are praying for your sponsored child (as prayer is broadly accepted), and about Christmas and Easter events, but please be general and do not use these occasions as an opportunity to encourage conversion.

- It's important that you talk about God rather than Jesus, and refrain from using bible verses to avoid consequences for any intercepted communication
- Please never place the children and their families at risk by criticising their country's politics/government, ruling regime, or religious bodies/ leaders.

Thank you for your commitment to support children in the neediest and most demanding environments. We are grateful for your generosity, commitment and kindness.

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