

LIBERTY
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KOREA

WRITING LETTERS TO NORTH KOREAN FRIENDS





North Korean refugees risk their lives to reach freedom. But even when they reach freedom, their journey is still far from over. While the obstacles they face upon arriving in South Korea are very different from those they faced in China and North Korea, these obstacles can be extremely challenging and difficult for anyone starting a new life in a foreign country. Many North Korean refugees arrive in South Korea completely alone and have nobody there to guide them as they navigate a brand new society.

One of our North Korean friends said, "I still feel lonely from time to time. I really miss my family. I actually had depression when I first came to South Korea because of the loneliness."

Another person shared that holidays and birthdays are some of the hardest days of the year because traditionally, these days are usually spent with family but since resettling, these celebratory days are spent alone.

Your letters of encouragement can show resettled North Koreans that there is an international movement of people that believe in them and remind them that they are not alone. These letters will be shared with our North Korean friends on holidays or other special days and will continue to be a source of strength, hope, and encouragement to many North Koreans as they establish their new lives in freedom.

These letters must be written in Korean or in English with Korean translation. Please pay close attention to the following guidelines as you write your letter(s).





Guidelines for a great letter:

Create context for the reader!

Adding personal touches and details about yourself are really what make these letters more valuable. For example, you could describe how old you are, how many siblings you have, what kind of topics you enjoy studying at school, or the kind of work you do.

Address the North Korean person as 선생님 (teacher) to show respect.

The relationships that your rescue team members already have are some of the best leads to locking in a partnership with a business or a school organization. Ask your team members if they have these relationships (whether personal or professional) and start a conversation with your team member's contact.



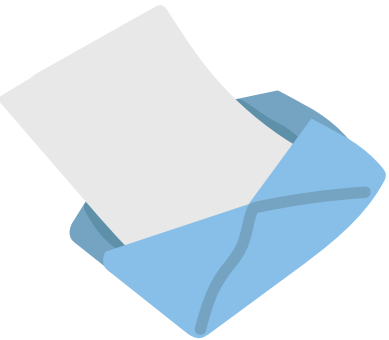
The goal is empowerment and encouragement.

These letters should be present and future oriented with the purpose of empowering and encouraging our North Korean friends who have recently resettled in South Korea. The following are some possible topics that you can cover in your letter - any of the topics below or a combination of these topics would work:

- Facing and having overcome a lot of challenges already
- Their potential and hope for the future
- On being supported both locally and globally
- On being valued and believed in

Things to avoid in your letter

- **Avoid** sharing personal contact information such as instagram handles or email addresses
- **Avoid** any religious and political references, terminology, and symbols
- **Avoid** mentions of family separation, missing loved ones, and specific challenges in China and/or North Korea. China and North Korea can be mentioned as long as the message is encouraging. For example, "You've already overcome incredible challenges in China and North Korea so I believe you will be able to overcome the challenges in South Korea!"

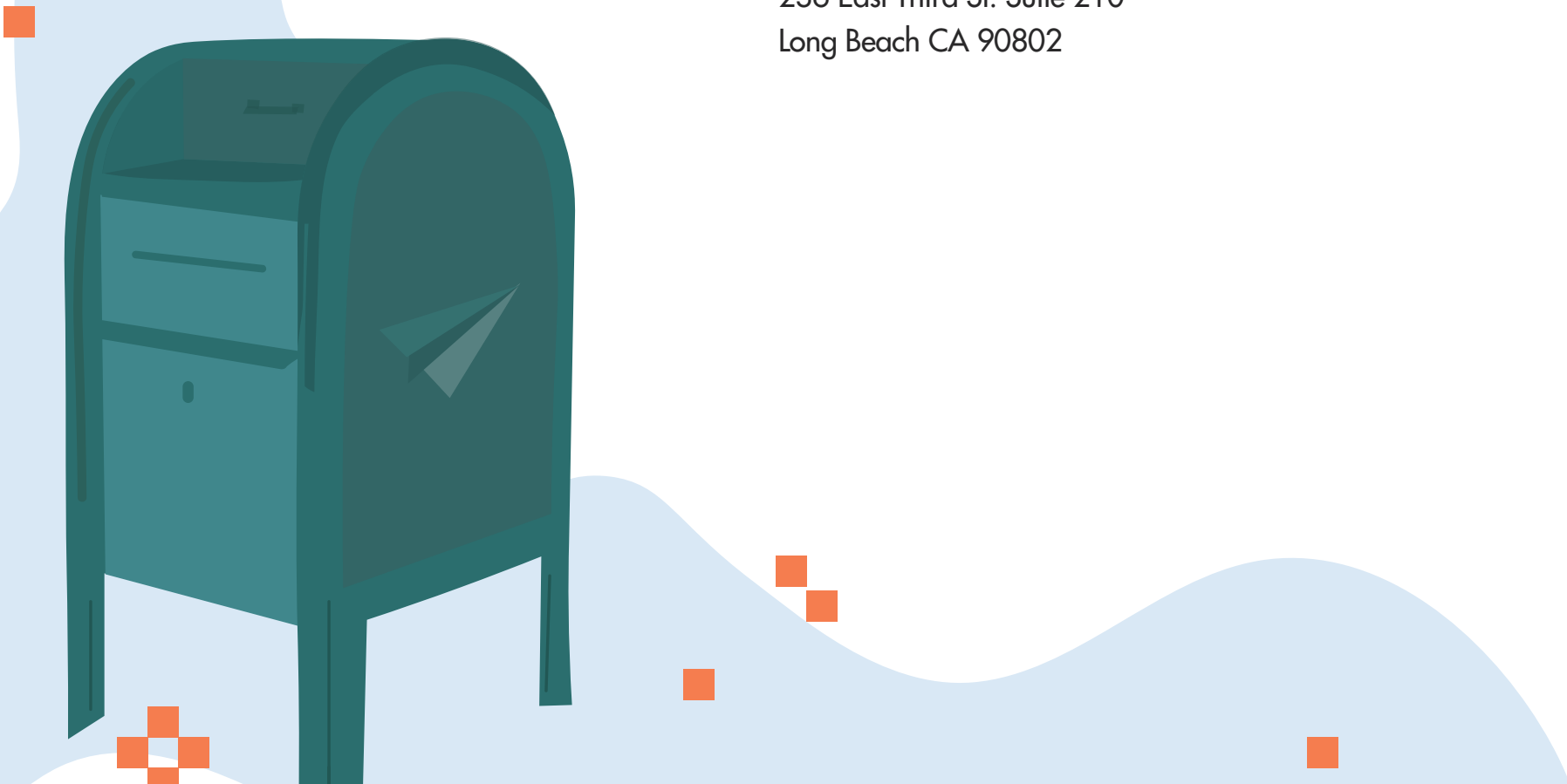




Logistics

Please send the letters to the following address:

Liberty in North Korea HQ
236 East Third St. Suite 210
Long Beach CA 90802



Sample Letter (must be translated into Korean)

Dear 선생님,

My name is Jessica and I am a second year Biology major at the University of California, San Diego. I was born and raised in California and after experiencing the weather in other states and countries, I don't have any plans on leaving the beautiful California weather any time soon! It's always sunny and warm here! My mom raised me, my older brother, and younger sister in a city that is full of people from all kinds of backgrounds and you can get amazing food from any country around the world. My favorite type of food is Mexican! I'm thankful to have grown up in a city that exposes me to the value and beauty of different cultures and ethnicities.

I've been part of the LiNK rescue team for about one year now and it's been an incredible experience! When I first entered college, I honestly did not know



much about North Korea or the North Korean people. However, I learned about North Korea during my freshman year club rush week and I was shocked to hear that there are 25 million people who do not have access to basic human rights. This made me want to take action so I signed up for the team and I love it!

One of the best things about being a part of the Rescue Team is being able to hear about the brave stories of North Koreans like you who risk their lives to find freedom. The journey must have been scary and I'm sure there were moments when freedom seemed so far away but you were able to overcome the difficult situations in North Korea and in China. It is so inspiring to think about your courage and it makes me want to be courageous in my own life.

Now that you're in South Korea, I hope that many doors open up to you and that you'll be surrounded by a good community. I can imagine that it can get pretty lonely. But you're not alone! My rescue team and the



international movement of LiNK supporters is standing with you and cheering you on. We believe in you and we are invested in your success!

As you pursue your goals, I hope that you'll also have time to do fun things and hobbies you enjoy. I personally love singing, playing my guitar, and going on long hikes. I look forward to the day when all of the North Korean people are free and are able to pursue the jobs and hobbies they love.

Sincerely,
Jessica Chan



The background is a dark teal color. Scattered across it are several white sheets of paper with wavy lines representing text. There are also several blue envelopes, some open and some closed. A few colored pencils (orange, green, red, yellow) are also scattered. In the top left, there are two small icons: one of a person and one of a bar chart. In the center, there is a red square containing the text 'LIBERTY IN NORTH KOREA' in white, bold, uppercase letters.

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