

**Sample #1:**

Below is a great sample Letter to the Editor written by Nityanand Jayaraman protesting Dow's sponsorship of the Hindu Music Festival. It is effective because it is passionate, factual, concise and localized.

Dear Editor:

I was shocked to read that Dow Chemical is sponsoring The Hindu Music Festival this year. Dow Chemical is the owner of Union Carbide, which was declared a fugitive from Indian courts in 1991, and is wanted for culpable homicide in relation to the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster. Dow has been personally shielding the fugitive, and has prolonged the misery of the gas victims by refusing to clean up the toxic wastes in Bhopal. In 2007, Dow was caught for having paid Rs. 80 lakhs in bribes to Indian agriculture ministry officials to expedite registration of three pesticides, including Dursban, which was withdrawn from domestic use in the US owing to its effects on the brains of developing children. The Hindu and Frontline have been consistent and sensitive in reporting on Bhopal. Does this new partnership with Dow Chemical, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, symbolize a new phase in The Hindu group's reporting on the Bhopal issue? I would urge The Hindu to resist the financial temptation offered by Dow and return their money.

Sincerely,

Nityanand Jayaraman

**Sample #2**

Below is a great sample Letter to the Editor that you could adapt that covers the Bhopal issue more broadly.

Dear Editor,

This December 3<sup>rd</sup> marks 25 years of corporate irresponsibility. Since the Bhopal disaster occurred in 1984, more than 23,000 people have died and more than 100,000 people have been left chronically ill either because they were directly exposed to the toxic gas or because they continue to live with contaminated groundwater. Dow Chemical Company, who took ownership of Union Carbide, refuses to take responsibility.

This issue is crucial because it has huge implications for the chemical industry, globalization, and human rights. As a local [student/mother/etc] activist, I am organizing with [people can insert own short thing here]. We demand that Dow take responsibility for the disaster and show some congruence with their supposed values. After 25 long year of injustice, it is time that Dow finally owns up to their catastrophic mistake and shows some heart.

Sincerely,

Name

See the Writing a Letter to the Editor section of the [25<sup>th</sup> Day of Action Toolkit](#) to learn how to place LTEs in your local paper.