

Sample letter

Eli Izhakoff
World Diamond Council, Chair
52 Vanderbilt Ave., 19th Floor
New York, NY 10017 USA
eizhakoff@worlddiamondcouncil.org

DATE

Dear Eli Izhakoff,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the trade in conflict diamonds and the lack of regular, independent monitoring in the Kimberley Process. As both a consumer and a global citizen, I am shocked at the terror and misery that diamonds have brought to innocent civilians in Sierra Leone, Liberia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.

I applaud the diamond industry's creation of the World Diamond Council to address the issue of conflict diamonds. However, without a system of expert, independent and periodic reviews of all countries, the overall process remains open to abuse. As the Kimberley Process currently exists, consumers such as myself cannot have confidence that diamonds sold by jewellers are conflict-free.

I urge you to restore consumer confidence in the diamond industry. I request that the World Diamond Council both publicly state its support for regular, independent monitoring in the Kimberley Process and urge Participant countries to do so as well.

As the major industry representative on conflict diamonds, I believe you have the responsibility and the power to support recommendations that non-governmental organizations have made regarding monitoring. As well, I believe it is in the best interests of the entire diamond industry to ensure that the Kimberley Process is credible and effective.

The citizens of African countries where diamonds are fuelling and funding conflict deserve strong industry efforts to end the trade in conflict diamonds. Consumers in North America have the right to buy diamonds that are not funding violent conflict. Please act to ensure that diamonds are a source of development rather than war.

Thank-you and I look forward to your response at the address below.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

PHONE or EMAIL