



Rotary

Sample Letter to the Editor

Dear **[EDITOR NAME]**,

I wanted to bring to your attention a major recent development in global public health. In September, the World Health Organization declared Nigeria polio-free. Nigeria was the last country in Africa with endemic poliovirus, leaving now only two countries – Pakistan and Afghanistan – where polio has never been stopped. If we can root the virus out of these two last strongholds, polio is poised to be only the second human disease ever eradicated, after smallpox.

Rotary, a humanitarian service organization with nearly 34,000 clubs across the world, including **[LOCAL CLUB(S)]**, made polio eradication its top priority in 1985. When the initiative started, more than 350,000 people were stricken by polio every year - nearly 1,000 new polio cases every day. Since that time, cases have been reduced by 99.9% with less than 50 cases **[MK1]** so far in 2015.

[On 24 October, [LOCAL CLUB] will [LOCAL ACTIVITY] in honor of World Polio Day].

On 23 October, Rotary and UNICEF will host an event in New York City which will stream live [online](#) and will provide a status update on the global effort to eradicate polio. The update will include appearances from celebrities, health experts, journalists and more.

Your readers can support the fight to protect all children from polio by visiting [endpolio.org](#) to donate and learn more. All donations to Rotary's efforts to end polio will be tripled, under a 2:1 match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Signed,