[Sample letter to the editor – short]

Dear Editor:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, June 15, \_\_\_\_\_ is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. On that day, communities in the USA and all over the world will sponsor events to highlight the growing tragic issue of elder abuse.

Your readers -- young and old -- should know that the U.S. Administration on Aging estimates that as many as 1 in 10 older Americans are abused or neglected each year. Older adults are contributing members of American society and their abuse or neglect diminishes all of us. America has confronted and addressed the issues of child abuse and domestic violence, but, as a society we have for too long ignored the issue of elder abuse.

Elder abuse can be physical, emotional, financial and sexual. It also includes people who are neglected and those who neglect themselves (self-neglect). Elders who are abused are twice as likely to be hospitalized, four times as likely to go into nursing homes and three times as likely to die. While most abusers are family members, trusted professionals and complete strangers may also target older adults. Abuse can happen in any setting: in the older adult’s own home, nursing homes, or assisted living facilities.

Elder abuse can be prevented if everyone would treat older Americans with respect and care. Learning the warning signs of abuse and knowing how to report it is another great step. Adult Protective Services, the police, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program are organizations that you can call on for assistance and information. Please urge your readers to get more information on how they can stop elder abuse by visiting the National Center on Elder Abuse’s website <https://ncea.acl.gov> or by calling the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116

Sincerely,