

Kate Allen, Director Amnesty International UK

Director of Amnesty International UK since 2000 Kate Allen has been the prominent champion of Amnesty International's campaigns, which demand respect for women's human rights, stronger restrictions on the arms trade and the release of all prisoners of conscience, and for an end to torture and the death penalty.

Kate regularly appears on national radio and television news programmes, including BBC Radio 4's Today programme, Sky News and the BBC News channel, and in the letters and comment pages of national newspapers and websites.

As the head of Amnesty International's UK Section, Kate engages in high-level lobbying with senior government figures and is a member of the Foreign Secretary's advisory group on human rights. Each year she also gives evidence on behalf of Amnesty to the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Select Committee.

Kate also travels internationally on behalf of Amnesty, joining 3 research missions to Egypt since the revolution in 2011. She has previously visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Rwanda Uganda, Kenya and Nepal, meeting those working to defending human rights and those whose rights have been abused, as well as government representatives.

Kate's role as head of the UK Section of Amnesty – with 224,000 supporters the third largest of the 52 national sections – involves her regularly attending local group meetings, regional and national conferences and other supporter events.

Professional background

- Kate was previously at the Refugee Council, where she was Deputy Chief Executive and amongst other responsibilities headed the UK emergency evacuation programmes from Bosnia and Kosovo, and chaired the Asylum Rights Campaign. In 1998/99 Kate was seconded to the Home Office where she worked on the 1999 Asylum and Immigration Act.

May 2011