



Autumn Guide 2017



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We hope you will feel inspired to take action on all of our campaigns but remind you that all actions are optional.

This mailing is also available to download at

www.amnesty.org.uk/youth

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Welcome Back!

We hope you had a great summer break and are full of energy to get your Amnesty Youth Group off to a flying start this term! This guide will help you plan your activities over the autumn so do invest time in reading it. The information in this guide is for the whole youth group so, if you can, please do share it.

Contact Details

As a youth group, you are part of a wider network of Amnesty activists such as student (university) and local groups, trade union activists, volunteer country coordinators, Regional Media Support Officers and thematic networks (Children's, Women's and LGBTI) all supported by the Community Organising Team at Amnesty International UK (AIUK).



I am the **Community Organiser for Youth** and your main point of contact. I am the staff member responsible for supporting and empowering youth groups so do please get in touch with me. I'd love to hear from you.

Email: anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk

Telephone: 020 7033 1590

Address:

Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London
EC2A 3EA

Let's have a great year!

Anne Montague & the Community Organising Team
Amnesty International UK.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Your Start of term pack - What's in it?

Your beginning of term pack should be with you by the end of the week (please let us know if it doesn't arrive). It's full of helpful materials to help you make an impact at the beginning of term. Here's a list of what's in the pack:

For decoration

- Balloons
- Posters
- Protect the Human Placards
- **Not Powerless** placards (see next section for what these are)
- Wallplanners
- A Collection box for fundraising

To hand out

- Badges
- Stickers
- Tattoos (temporary!)
- **Not Powerless** postcards (with space to add in your meeting times)
- **BRAVE** leaflet (new campaign - see below for details)
- Action cards featuring four Human Rights Defender Cases (**BRAVE** campaign)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Passports
- Ali Aarrass joke book (read the back page of the book for what this is)
- General Join Amnesty leaflet

To Read/Share with members of the group

- This Guide to the Autumn term!
- Resources list
- Fundraising Guide

Want to order more resources?

Please see the enclosed Resources Guide containing a list of our resources along with their product codes. You can call our mailing house directly to order materials quoting the relevant product codes. The number is: **01788 545 553**

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Get noticed, get members

Here are a few quick tips on making an impact at the beginning of the academic year.

‘Not Powerless’ recruitment tool!

You may have seen our **Not Powerless** social media campaign to get a new generation of activists involved in human rights. We think this could be a great tool to help youth groups as part of a beginning of term recruitment drive. Here’s a quick guide to using the **Not**

Powerless materials at a stall or first meeting:

1. Find something for people to write on such as flip chart paper on a wall or a white board.
2. Ask people to write down what human rights they most care about – e.g. women’s rights, refugee rights.
3. If possible, ask students to have their photo taken with our **Not Powerless** placards.
4. If at a stall, give them a **Not Powerless** postcard and invite them to your next meeting. Don’t forget to write the day and time of your meetings on the back of the postcard!

What to do with your photos and flip chart list of rights

We would love to see your **Not Powerless** placard photos as well as your lists of most cared about human rights. The best way to do this is to email or post them using the contact details on page 2.

Tips for making an impact

- It may be an obvious one but holding an assembly or series of assemblies can significantly boost your membership. Also, can you do a short introduction to Amnesty and your youth group during tutor/form times?
- Show a short video (there are lots to choose from. We can help you with this)
- If your school or college has a club/societies fair at the beginning of term make sure you have a stall and that it looks great (the materials in the pack should help you).
- Find other ways to publicise the group and the first meeting – noticeboards, school website and twitter accounts, distribute flyers over lunchtime or after school/college
- Plan your first meeting well. Make sure it is well-timed, includes everyone and is fun!
- Make sure everyone knows when and where meetings are held (preferably at the same time and venue).
- Have an idea of the campaigns you would like to focus on during the term. Ask new members for their ideas to make them feel involved.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Campaigns

BRAVE Speak up for those who speak for us

Right now, people across the world are risking everything to speak out against injustice. Student leaders, political opponents, teachers, lawyers, journalists, women's rights and environmental activists and many others. But they're being harassed, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for what's right. In 2016, at least 281 of these Human Rights Defenders (HRD's) were killed in 22 countries, including defenders who protected the environment, defended minorities, and opposed barriers to women and LGBTI rights. BRAVE is Amnesty International's campaign calling for increased recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world. www.amnesty.org.uk/defenders

This will be the main focus for youth groups from September. You will find some more information about Human Rights Defenders at the end of this briefing. You will also find sample action cards featuring four Human Rights Defender cases in your start of term pack.

'I Welcome' Refugees



Our global refugee campaign, '**I Welcome**', launched last October. The aim of the campaign is that refugees are protected, welcomed and enjoy their human rights, including through strengthened global responsibility-sharing and international cooperation. In the UK, the campaign will have a number of strands, both at a national and local level. We want to influence the government to open up more safe and legal routes, so that refugees can seek sanctuary in the UK, but we also want to try to create a more welcoming environment for refugees already in the UK. www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees

This will be the main focus for youth groups from October.

Write for Rights 2017



Our annual Write for Rights campaign will run from **November 1st to December 31st**. As well as asking supporters to write appeal letters to the authorities, this is also the time of year when we ask supporters to write directly to people who have suffered from human rights abuse and those who defend them. The cards offer hope and encouragement to the people who receive them, and make a big impression on police, prison staff and political authorities, which can help to keep the recipients safe. www.amnesty.org.uk/write

This will be the main focus for youth groups from November.

Fundraising

I Welcome Campaign



Right now, record numbers of people worldwide are fleeing violence and persecution. But instead of protecting refugees, governments are slamming their doors shut forcing many people, who are simply seeking safety, to make dangerous journeys. Some people pile into overcrowded boats on dangerous seas, others cross the Sahara in ancient trucks or trek mountains carrying everything they own.

September marks the start of an international period of fundraising to support the [I Welcome campaign](#). All of us who are part of Amnesty International UK can make a real impact. Because, when we speak, we're speaking with seven million people – including you. Support our 'I Welcome' campaign so we can build pressure at the highest levels to create legal routes so refugees can reach safety.

What you can do

By organising a fundraising event you enable us to keep up pressure on governments to meet their obligations to refugees. There are loads of ways to get involved, but here are a few suggestions:

- **I Welcome Party** - It could be a tea party, a talent show, a film night or whatever else you want to organise. Ask people to pay an entrance fee and have collection buckets on arrival to help raise funds and awareness.
- **Sponsored Walk** - Ask friends or family to sponsor you. You could put an 'I Welcome' twist on this idea by covering the distance a refugee might cover on a leg of their journey.
- **AmnesTEA** - Bake some cakes, get friends together to help raise money. You could give your AmnesTEA a competitive edge and award prizes for best bake or the show stopper.

[Order your AmnesTEA kit.](#)

To order materials or to ask for advice contact Jackie in the Community Fundraising Team on 020 7033 1651 or jackie.pickersgill@amnesty.org.uk

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Bits & Pieces

School Speakers

Don't forget that you can book one of our fantastic Amnesty school speakers. They run free human rights workshops, lessons, assemblies or whole day events in your school. [Fill out this form](#) and you'll automatically get sent a list of school speakers in your area.

Youth Advisory Group – Recruitment open soon!



Each year we recruit a small group of youth group members to give us their views on our work such as our campaigns, mailings, website and how we can get more young people involved in Amnesty. We will be welcoming applications for this year's group very soon. You will be sent a separate email about this so look out for it. It really

is an amazing opportunity for youth group members - former members have gone on to take on roles such as members of the Student Action Network Committee, Chair of the Annual General Meeting and member of the AIUK Board.

Youth Conference 2018



After the success of Youth Conference 2017 we are hoping to hold another one in early 2018. Watch this space for news.

National Conference & AGM: 7-8 April 2018 – Swansea

Bookings for our annual National Conference and Annual General Meeting will soon be open and we'll let you know when. This is for all our members (not just youth groups) to come together to learn about current campaigns, hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops, meet staff and fellow Amnesty members. Youth Groups are increasingly playing a key role and have full voting rights alongside our local and student groups. It's a great experience for youth group members and we can't recommend it highly enough! [Here is a short film](#) to give you a flavour of what it's like.

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Important Practical Stuff

Re-affiliations

After a little hiatus we are hoping to reinstate our regular affiliation process soon. This means that you will get reminders when your annual affiliation is due. We'd hate you to drop off our mailing list so please do re-affiliate as soon as you get your reminders.

Youth Group Surveys

Thanks to those of you who completed our youth group survey at the end of last term. We intend to do these termly from now on. Do please fill out the surveys as they really help us to find out what groups have been doing and what we could be doing better to support youth groups.

Monthly Emails

If you aren't receiving our monthly emails do please check your junk or clutter folder. If you think the emails aren't getting through the school firewall it may be worth changing your contact email to a personal one. This seems to resolve the problem. Please get in touch if you have any concerns about your monthly emails.

Sharing information with your youth group members

We actively encourage information we send in our mailings to be shared with other members of the youth group so that everyone feels empowered and involved in decisions about the group's activities. However, we endeavour to make the content of our mailings suitable for a 14+ age group so do please check the content before sharing.



YOUTH GROUP ACTION

BRAVE

Amnesty International's campaign calling for increased recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world.

Who are Human Rights Defenders?

A Human Rights Defender is a person who individually or in association with others acts to defend and/or promote human rights at local, national, regional or international levels, using nonviolent means. Human Rights Defenders comes from all walks of life and can be journalists, lawyers, health professionals, teachers, trade unionists, whistle-blowers, farmers and victims or relatives of victims of human rights violations and abuses. But fundamentally they are identified by what they do rather than by their profession.

At Amnesty we believe that Human Rights Defenders are instrumental for achieving social change and crucial to uphold freedoms and human rights across the world. Supporting their rights and their space to live and operate is one of the most important ways to ensure human rights for us all. Without them, and YOU, promoting people's rights around the world, there'd be no human rights. The **BRAVE** campaign is focusing on four individuals:

Azza Soliman – Egypt



Azza is a lawyer, a long-standing Women Human Rights Defender, and the co-founder of the Centre for Egyptian victims of torture and arbitrary detention. She has been arrested several times, and harassed by the Egyptian authorities and the media for defending women's rights. Today, Azza is facing three trumped up charges, is banned from international travel, and has had her assets frozen.

She risks imprisonment of up to 25 years for her activities as a human rights defender.

Sakris Kupila – Finland



Sakris is a 21 year old medical student, youth activist and a defender of transgender rights. Sakris is being denied legal gender recognition because he refuses to fulfil the requirements of the current process – which requires a diagnosis of “mental disorder” and enforced sterilisation*. Because of his work

advocating for the rights of Trans people, Sakris has faced harassment, intimidation, threats of open hostility and violent beatings, forcing him to take a year away from his education.

* surgery to make a person or animal unable to produce offspring

YOUTH GROUP ACTION

Tep Vanny – Cambodia



Tep Vanny is a housing rights activist, human rights defender, and community representative in Cambodia. She has been in prison since 16 August 2016 for her land protest work, and the authorities are going to extraordinary lengths to ensure that she remains in prison. They hope to send a chilling message to other human rights defenders and activists.

Rodrigo Mundaca and members of MODATIMA – Chile



Rodrigo Mundaca is a member and spokesperson of the Defence Movement of Earth, Environmental Protection and Access to Water (MODATIMA) in central Chile. Since 2012, Rodrigo has denounced abuses committed by politicians and businesses which affected communities' right to water. Between 2012 and 2015, Rodrigo has had four criminal cases initiated against him, and threats and attacks against him and other members of MODATIM are regular.

****STOP PRESS** - Dr Mudawi released!**



We originally planned to feature Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, from Sudan as one of our featured cases for this campaign. He is a human rights defender working to shine a spotlight on human rights violations in Sudan. He is a Professor of Engineering at the University of Khartoum, and the founder and former director of the Sudan Social Development Organisation. He has been arrested several times for his human rights work, most recently on the 7 December 2016.

On the evening of Tuesday 29th August 2017, Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam was released after a Presidential Pardon by President Bashir. This is brilliant news for Dr Mudawi. We will keep a watching brief on his case in case anything changes that we need to respond to, but for now, we have decided not to feature the action cards calling for his release in your packs.

www.amnesty.org.uk/defenders