

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Article 19

We all have the right to make up our own minds, to think what we like, to say what we think, and to share our ideas with other people wherever they live, through books, radio, television and in other ways.

In UK Law

Human Rights Act

Article 9

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

1 Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief, in worship, teaching, practice and observance.

2 Freedom to manifest one's religion or beliefs shall be subject only to such limitations as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of public safety, for the protection of public order, health or morals, or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A MINUTE

Take the Make a Difference in a Minute challenge and write a poem that you can perform in one minute or less. It can be:

- **Your personal experience of, or view on, freedom of expression;**

or

- **An appeal or solidarity poem for Azza Soliman, an individual at risk who has had her right to freedom of expression taken away (see details overleaf).**

You can submit your poem in written form, as an audio clip or as a 1-minute video

www.amnesty.org.uk/wordsthatburn

A selection of poems will be selected for showcase on the website. We will let you know if your poem is selected for showcase.

If you submit an appeal or solidarity poem for Azza Soliman, Amnesty International UK will send your written poems, and where possible audio and video clips, to Azza and the Egyptian president.

Find out more about Amnesty International and free speech at **www.amnesty.org.uk/freespeech**

SPEAK OUT FOR OTHERS

Azza Soliman

Azza Soliman is a lawyer and women's human rights defender from Egypt. She has been arrested many times for defending human rights. The Egyptian authorities and media have harassed Azza by inventing stories about her and calling her an enemy of Egypt. She is now under threat of being imprisoned.

Azza has worked very hard to protect others human rights. She has started an organisation that helps poor Egyptian women get legal aid and support.

The Egyptian government is trying to silence Azza because they do not like the things she says about Egypt. Azza has now been charged with insulting Egypt by saying that women in Egypt face violence. She is banned from travel and could be sent to prison for up to 25 years, just because she won't stop defending Egyptian people and their human rights.

"Several of us women human rights defenders decided to face all of these absurd accusations and defamation ... We have decided to carry on despite the injustice and darkness that are rampant in Egypt today."

Azza Soliman



Azza Soliman © Private

Freedom of Expression in Egypt

Egypt imposes harsh laws on charities and human rights groups and tries to control their activities. Anyone who goes against these laws is in danger of imprisonment.

The government is trying to stop people from having freedom: freedom to help each other, freedom to defend their human rights, and freedom to express themselves.

Appeal and Solidarity

Write an appeal poem to the Egyptian president, Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, asking him to drop the charges against Azza and to stop the government imprisoning and harassing human rights defenders.

Write a solidarity poem to Azza, letting her know that you support her and her work defending women's human rights.