

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Article 2

Universality of rights

These rights belong to everybody; whether we are rich or poor, whatever country we live in, whatever sex or whatever colour we are, whatever language we speak, whatever we think or whatever we believe.

In UK Law

Human Rights Act

Article 9

Freedom of thought, conscience and religion

The Human Rights Act has been used by women's rights defenders in many cases where women's and girl's rights have been violated.

The act has played a key role in ensuring the fair treatment of older women in care homes. In family law, it has been used to secure stronger protections for domestic violence survivors and to appeal against unfair custody decisions. It has also been used to secure justice for rape victims in instances when police investigations have been poorly handled.

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, women's rights;**

or

- **An appeal or solidarity poem for Azza Soliman, a women's human rights defender 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

Some poems will be showcased 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. Your voice matters and you can make a difference!

Watch poet Sarah Crossan take the Make a Difference in a Minute challenge as she performs 'Everyone Who Cares': **www.amnesty.org.uk/sarahcrossan**

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 women's 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 her country. Azza has now been charged with insulting Egypt because she says that women in Egypt face violence. She is banned from travel and could be sent to prison, just because she won't stop defending Egyptian women 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

Women's rights in Egypt

In Egypt women have inadequate protection from sexual and gender-based violence, as well as facing gender discrimination in law and practice.

The government is trying to stop people from having freedom: freedom to help women, freedom to defend women's 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 women's rights defenders.

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