

# Amnesty International

## IMPRISONED WRITERS



DAILY READINGS: TOP AUTHORS READ FROM WORK THAT HIGHLIGHTS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES & RESTRICTIONS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Sunday 26 August

Faith in the Future

### Today's readings:

**Gavin Grimm** was 15 when he reintroduced himself to his classmates at Gloucester High School in Virginia as the boy he knew himself to be. When the school board banned Gavin from the boys' restroom, he sued his district, stating that the decision violated Title IX, which prohibits sex discrimination in schools that receive federal funding.

**Naomi Walder** is only 11 - but her strong voice at the March for Our Lives rally in Washington, DC, is still reverberating across the US. The fifth grader from Alexandria, Virginia, said she represented African-American girls ignored by the media and suffering from gun violence.

After escaping child slavery in India, **Payal Jangid** became a children's rights advocate, and is currently the leader of her village's Child Parliament, an organisation that holds meetings to discuss various issues including the need to stop child marriage.

**Sonita Alizadeh** is an Afghan rapper and activist who has been vocal against forced marriages. Alizadeh first gained attention as a teenager when she released '**Brides for Sale**', a song in which she raps about daughters being sold into marriage by their families, even though it is illegal for women to sing publicly in Iran, where she was living at the time.

### Today's readers:

**Frances Hardinge** writes thrillers, murder mysteries and other "downright odd" children's books. Her most recent book, *Cuckoo Song*, was published earlier this year and was shortlisted for the Carnegie medal.

**Kasia Matyjaszek** is a children's book illustrator who graduated from Edinburgh College of Art. In 2013 her work was exhibited in The Scottish National Gallery as part of the *Picture Hooks* scheme.

**Sergio de la Pava** is an American novelist and public defender. His most recent novel is *Lost Empress: A Protest* which he will be talking about tomorrow evening at 7pm.

**Ade Adepitan** is a Wheelchair basketball player, born in Nigeria. He has won medals at the European and World Championships as well as at the Athens Paralympics. His new book for children is a fictionalisation of his arrival in the UK called *Ade's Amazing Ade-ventures: Battle of the Cyborg Cat*.

**Today's Chair is** Fatima Bari MSYP (Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament).

### AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

Sign the Amnesty International UK petition calling on Home Secretary Sajid Javid to allow child refugees in the UK the right to sponsor their close family, so they can rebuild their lives together and help them integrate in their new community.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-secretary-reunite-refugee-families>