

Amnesty International

IMPRISONED WRITERS



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

Saturday 11 August

More than just a hashtag: women's rights in 2018

Today's readings:

Conceição Evaristo - *Women's Voices*: Conceição Evaristo is one of the few Afro-Brazilian women writers to achieve international recognition. Her works, especially the novel *Ponciá Vicêncio*, address themes such as racial, gender and class discrimination. This poem celebrating the strong women who inspired Conceição is translated by Celeste Dolores Mann.

Tarana Burke – *Founding MeToo*: In 2006, Tarana Burke founded the MeToo movement to help survivors of sexual violence, particularly young women of colour from low wealth communities, find pathways to healing. Using the idea of “empowerment through empathy,” the MeToo movement was ultimately created to ensure survivors know they're not alone in their journey.

Stella Nyanzi – *Mama Janet*: Stella Nyanzi is a poet, academic, and activist in Uganda who is active on social media to espouse the cause of women's rights and poverty in Uganda. She was arrested on 7 April 2018 for Facebook posts criticising Uganda's president, in particular for one referring to him as a 'pair of buttocks'. *Mama Janet* is directed to the first lady of Uganda, Janet Museveni, who backed off from a campaign promise to provide free sanitary pads to schoolgirls.

Azza Soliman – *Change is Possible*: Azza Soliman is a lawyer and women's rights defender who has been persecuted by the Egyptian government for almost 30 years. Her crime? Simply fighting for the basic human rights of Egyptian women. She faces years in prison on dubious charges. Her freedom is severely limited by an asset freeze and travel ban.

Today's readers:

Guy Bass is an award-winning author whose children's books series include *Stitch Head*, *Spyinosaur*, *The Legend of Frog*, *Dinkin Dings* and *Atomic!*

Laura Bates is the founder of the Everyday Sexism project. She is at the Book Festival talking about her new book *Misogynation*.

Kirsty Logan is a fiction writer, book reviewer, freelance editor, and writing mentor for WoMentoring. Her debut novel, *The Gracekeepers* was met with critical acclaim. Her latest novel is *The Gloaming*.

Holly Webb is a children's author, with over a hundred published books. Her latest works include *The Rescued Kitten*, *The Unwanted Puppy* and *The Princess and the Suffragette*.

Today's chair is Rahnuma Feist-Hassan, Board Member of The Empower Project

<https://www.theempowerproject.co.uk/>

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CALL TO ACTION:

Ask President Al-Sisi of Egypt to drop all charges against Azza Soliman.

Azza has been persecuted by the Egyptian authorities for almost 30 years simply for standing up for the rights of women. Her freedom is severely limited by an asset freeze and travel ban. President Al-Sisi could drop the charges and restore Azza's freedom.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/azza-soliman>