

HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

20th
ANNIVERSARY

HUMAN
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL





THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT TURNS TWENTY

November 9 2018 sees is the 20th anniversary of the Human Rights Act in the UK - and we think that's worth celebrating.

The act brought the European Convention on Human Rights into British law. It means that courts can look at that set of rights and judge whether authorities are respecting them in their actions towards individuals. Even more than that, though, it requires public authorities to ensure their decisions and actions comply with the rights protected in the act - which means there's far less need for courts to get involved in the first place.

The Human Rights Act can and does protect people at their most vulnerable. It protects people from domestic abuse. It safeguards families. It makes it safer to be homosexual. It guarantees that innocent means innocent, and that people investigated for crimes that it turns out they did not commit do not have their DNA and fingerprints arbitrarily held by police. It was through the Human Rights Act that the families of the Hillsborough victims were able to find some manner of justice for their loved ones and, it is because of the Human Rights Act that the UK can take a stand on Human Rights around the world - because our government can't demand others do better without committing to protect fundamental rights themselves.

So in November, or over the next year, please join with other parts of Amnesty across the Country and celebrate the birthday of the Human Rights Act - and take that celebration into your community. We want to make sure everyone feels the way we feel about the Human Rights Act - and make sure that it's protected in the future, just as it has protected us.

CELEBRATE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

We're producing some things to get you started - and we have a couple of ideas of how you might go about it. But however you want to celebrate, celebrate.

Posters

Bold and celebratory, these posters will remind people that see them of some of the top-line protections they enjoy in the UK thanks to the Human Rights Act.

The aim is to get them up around your town. It's important people know about the anniversary, and see that it's something being celebrated.

Cardboard Coasters

Use them yourselves - but also don't be shy about giving them out in quantity to local businesses - particularly bars, coffee shops, etc.

Like the posters, they will remind people of some of the protections afforded to them - and remind them to celebrate their rights.

Balloons

Because otherwise it isn't a party.

Badges

Wear them, give them out, and allow people to quietly declare that they too Love Human Rights.

ORDERING SUPPLIES

Call our fulfilment warehouse on **01788 545 553** and use the following codes. All of the items are free to Amnesty Activists.

Posters

HRA013

Cardboard Coasters

HRA012

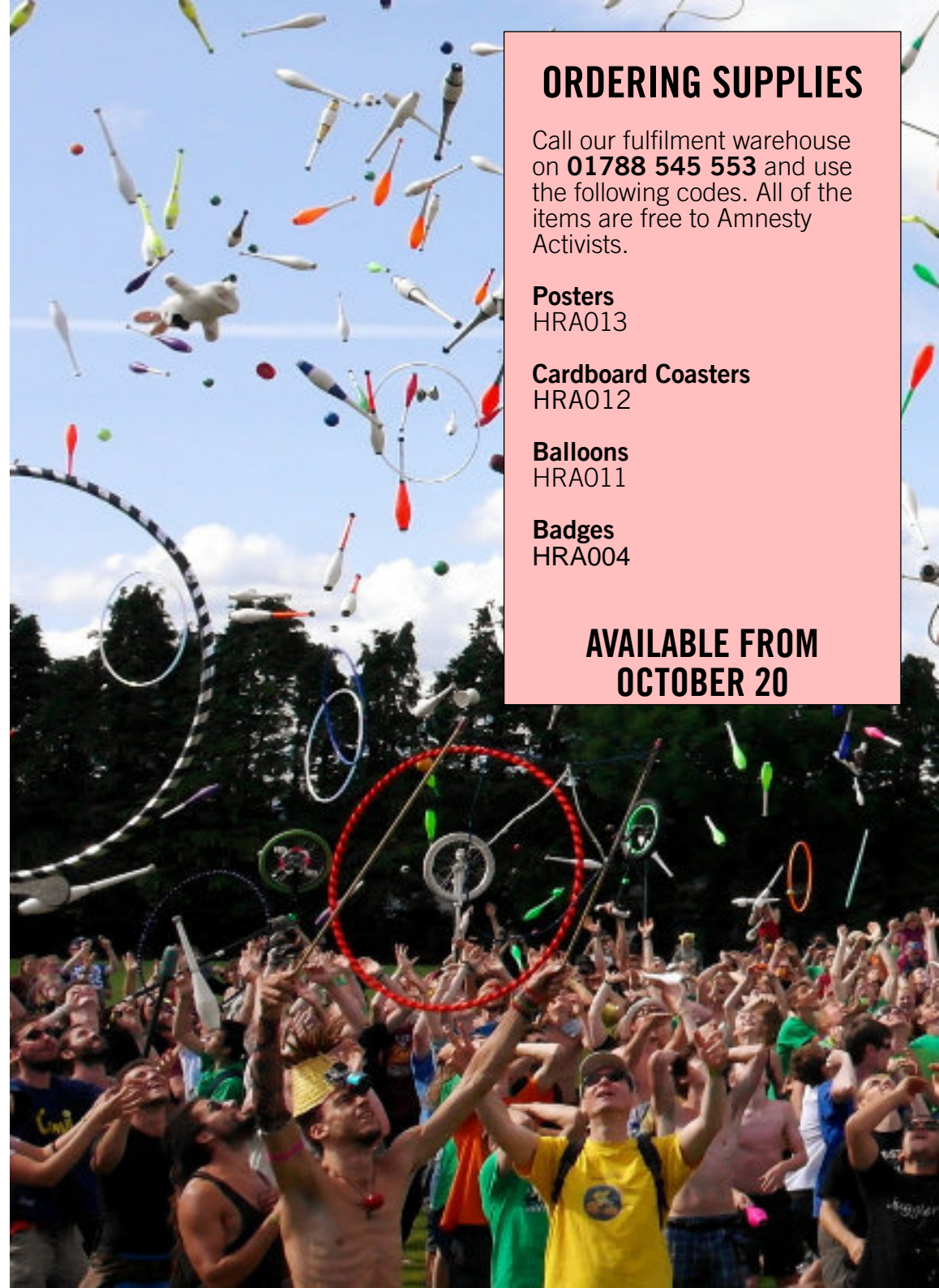
Balloons

HRA011

Badges

HRA004

**AVAILABLE FROM
OCTOBER 20**



GETTING THE MESSAGE OUT AND ABOUT

These are just a couple of ideas we thought of in the office, but we know that Amnesty groups, networks, and individual activists are endlessly creative. We're excited to see what you come up with.

Bar crawl / Coffee Shop crawl

Take your party out on tour. This could be an engaging, active event that would engage members and residents of your area in a different way. It would also take you into a lot of local businesses, who you could encourage to put a poster in their window, or perhaps take a load of cardboard coasters (or bar mats, if you prefer) to spread the message even after you have moved on!

Why not contact a local group a neighbouring group and join together? Or, alternatively, compete? How many businesses can you get to take a poster? Take a photo of each once they're up. Share them with the office too! (Email farshid.talaghani@amnesty.org.uk)

(Please, undertake all your events safely, responsibly, and keeping in mind you are representing Amnesty. There's some things to think about overleaf.)

Combine it with your Write for Rights events

If you're holding Write for Rights events, why not give them a bit of extra party atmosphere?

BE SAFE, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE HAPPY

We know you know this stuff - but it does bear repeating, because it's essential we remember it all in everything we do.

Be Safe

Wear responsible clothing and footwear for your event.

Be careful if you're out - especially if alcohol is involved in your event in any way. Have a mind for your personal safety and the safety of others in your group.

Be Responsible

We all want to be remembered fondly when we leave a place. We want Amnesty to be remembered fondly too! If interacting with businesses and residents of your town, please be polite. They're allowed not to be interested, or just not to put up a poster.

If alcohol is involved in your event, keep an eye on yourself and each other.

Be Happy

This is a celebration. Be happy, and try to make sure everyone else is happy. Make sure your event is welcoming and inclusive, and fun for everyone.

Cake is also highly recommended - but consider allergies when you're buying or baking!

TELL THE PRESS!

Below is a template letter which we'd encourage you to personalise and send to your local newspaper

If you need contacts for local publications or some advice on any press matters, contact harriet.garland@amnesty.org.uk or 0207 033 1692

Dear Sir/Madam,

Twenty years ago the Human Rights Act gained royal assent and since then it has played a role in many big struggles for justice, but very few people are aware of the part it has played. It's the unsung hero of UK life.

It was vital in the Hillsborough families' struggle to finally get the inquest they had sought so they could uncover the truth about how their 96 loved ones died and confirm that police mistakes led to their deaths.

It has also been an essential tool for the parents of a son who died in a Mid Staffs hospital who used the Act to expose the inadequate care he received.

It has also been used to challenge an elderly couple's separation in two different nursing homes, by the daughter of a woman who was murdered by her violent partner, and by relatives of patients who had 'Do not resuscitate' orders placed on their notes without their consent.

It has ensured equal rights for gay couples, protected journalists and their sources and led to prosecutions over slavery and trafficking.

We should celebrate twenty years of the Human Rights Act and the contribution it has made to righting wrongs. Avoidable tragedies like Grenfell are evidence that we need the means to hold the powerful to account, now as much as ever.

Yours sincerely,

[name]

