

VENEZUELA

GERALDINE CHACÓN

Persecuted for youth work

Geraldine Chacón always wanted to defend other people. Aged nine she dreamed of being a lawyer. At 14 she stood for her local youth government. And at university she started a network of Amnesty activists pushing for change. As her mother says, 'Any injustice she saw, she fought against.'

This passion inspired her to work for the Community Ambassadors Foundation, an organisation working with young people in some of the poorest areas of the capital, Caracas.

But on 1 February 2018, the 24-year-old was arrested at her home in Caracas by armed officers. It was part of a big crackdown on critics of the government and human rights activists. Geraldine spent four months in prison in appalling conditions. She could not even get a drink of water when she needed it.

She was released on 1 June but her case remains open. This means she cannot leave the country and could be re-arrested at any time.



© Fabiola Ferrero / VII Mentor Program

'I've campaigned for Write for Rights cases before. I never imagined I'd be on the other side of the campaign'
Geraldine Chacón

SOLIDARITY ACTION

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Suggested message

Tell Geraldine that she's not alone and has your support as a fellow youth activist. Her birthday is 25 December if you'd like to send a birthday card.

Language

Spanish, English or French

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? **Yes**
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- Include my name and address? **Use your first name and school address**

APPEAL ACTION

Write a letter to Venezuela's Attorney General, Tarek William Saab, urging him to close the case against Geraldine Chacón and to investigate what happened to her in prison.

Start your letter

Dear Attorney General

SEND ALL YOUR CARDS AND LETTERS TO

Community Organiser (Youth),
Amnesty International UK,
17-25 New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3EA

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2018



GET CREATIVE

As Geraldine can't leave the country, she might like a postcard from your local area. You can write your message on the back.



KYRGYZSTAN

GULZAR

DUISHENOVA

Campaigning for the rights of disabled people

Gulzar Duishenova lost the movement in her legs after a car accident in 2002. The next year her husband died, leaving her as the sole carer for her two young children. Later Gulzar met other people living with disabilities in the capital, Bishkek, and realised they faced similar problems. **Workplaces and public transport are not adapted for wheelchairs, so it is hard to find a job and you have to rely on other people to lift you on to buses.**

Gulzar campaigns for people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan to be able to live with dignity and move around freely. She meets officials, organises training for bus drivers, and campaigns on social media. But she still faces barriers and daily discrimination in a society where women are not meant to speak out and people with disabilities are seen as 'invalids' with an incurable disease.



SOLIDARITY ACTION

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Suggested message

We support you, Gulzar. We hope that your activism will lead to the better treatment of people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan.

Language

Russian, Kyrgyz or English

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
Muslim only
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? **Yes**
- Include my name and address?
Use your first name and school address

APPEAL ACTION

Send a letter to the Speaker of Parliament, Jogorku Kenesh, urging him to support Gulzar Duishenova's fight for the rights of people with disabilities.

Start your letter

Dear Speaker

SEND ALL YOUR CARDS AND LETTERS TO

Community Organiser (Youth),
Amnesty International UK,
17-25 New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3EA

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS
2018**



GET CREATIVE

Create your own placards saying 'We stand with you, Gulzar' and write your messages on the back.



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



UK

SEYI AKIWOWO

Bombarded with online abuse

Seyi used to be a local councillor in London. After a video of her speaking at the European Parliament spread online, she received many cruel and insulting messages. She reported more than 75 messages – most of them were sexist and racist – to social media companies, including Twitter. But Twitter did nothing about it and did not even reply to her.

Frustrated, Seyi decided to speak out about the abuse in the media, and eventually Twitter stopped the accounts of some of the people targeting her. She went on to launch Glitch, an organisation that aims to end online abuse.

Online abuse of women and girls is common in the UK and can stop them saying what they want to say. Earlier this year, Amnesty and a polling company did a survey about this. One in five women told us they had suffered abuse or bullying on social media and companies like Twitter were not doing enough to deal with it.



© Carmen Valino

SOLIDARITY ACTION

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

Suggested message

Dear Seyi, Thank you for trying to do something about online abuse and for working to make Twitter safer and more equal for everyone. I stand in solidarity with you.

Language

English

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message?
Yes
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes
- Include my name and address?
Use your first name and school address

APPEAL ACTION

Send a letter to Twitter Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey, asking him to make Twitter a safe space for all users.

Start your letter

Dear Mr Dorsey

SEND ALL YOUR CARDS AND LETTERS TO

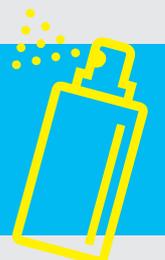
Community Organiser (Youth),
Amnesty International UK,
17-25 New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3EA

WRITE FOR RIGHTS 2018



GET CREATIVE

Create your own 'Women's Rights are Human Rights' postcard and write your message on the back.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

