



# AMNESTY FEMINISTS

**INTERNATIONAL**

**WOMEN'S DAY**

**GROUPS TOOLKIT**

**2019**

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



A happy International Women's Day 2019 from the Amnesty UK Feminist Network.

We hope it will be - but there is a lot to do.

This year, like every year, we are living in a world that is unfair and unsafe for women. We remain less free, less valued, less in charge of our own bodies purely by virtue of our gender or our sex. Women continue to be demonised and abused when we raise our voices, or demand recognition of our identities, or call ourselves 'feminist'. For many people, identifying yourself as someone who believes in "Political, Economic and Social equality between genders" makes you an extremist.

We do not believe that this is an extreme ask. We do not believe that feminism is a bad word - and we do not believe equality has been achieved.

The "Women's Action Network" is now Amnesty Feminists. We like it better. We think it's more inclusive, and speaks to what actually unites the people who make up our Network; we are feminists, people who want to see equality of genders. We're not all women. We're not all binary. It is what we strive for that unites us.

Please join us this International Women's Day in taking action for Women and for Women's Rights around the world.

In Solidarity,

Rachel, Florence, Dali, Poppy, Shiamaa, Maisam, Lo, Allie and Cathy

The Amnesty Feminist Network Committee



### **NORTHERN IRELAND: TIME FOR CHANGE**

Abortion reform in Northern Ireland has not been helped by the tumultuous political climate. The UK Government claims that reform should be dealt with by the Northern Ireland Executive — but this hasn't existed since January 2017.

There has been some progress. In June 2017 the UK Government announced women from Northern Ireland will be given free abortions in England and Wales.

While this does make this option more available for some women, it is no substitute for women in Northern Ireland being able to access abortion healthcare at home, surrounded by friends and family, with the GPs, doctors and midwives they know and trust.

Northern Ireland urgently needs to reform its dangerous and degrading abortion law. The UK Government has the duty, the ability and the responsibility to bring an end to this cruel betrayal of women.

It's time for them to step up.

#### **TAKE ACTION**

On International Women's Day, please tweet the link to the Amnesty UK petition, tagging the Amnesty Feminist Network.

**Link:** <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/northern-ireland-abortion-not-crime>

**Hashtag:** #NowforNI

**Suggested Tweet:** Tell the British Government it's time to step up for the rights of women in Northern Ireland. Sign our petition at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/northern-ireland-abortion-not-crime> @amnestyUK @amnestyFeminist #NowforNI



**STAND IN SOLIDARITY:**

**TELL REFUGEE WOMEN IN GREECE THEY ARE NOT ALONE**

The images of her son shaking and throwing up will never leave Soraya, a mother of three from Afghanistan. They were cramped together with dozens of others on a small boat, risking their lives to cross the Aegean Sea:

**“Always I say bravo to myself for passing that sea, because I wanted to make a better future for my children.”**

But for many, such dreams are often shattered on arrival in Greece. Many find themselves months on end in overcrowded refugee camps where living conditions are dire. Sewage seeps into the tents, food is scarce, and rats and mice are common.

Some camps have become extremely dangerous places, especially for women. Even going to the toilet can put you at risk of sexual harassment and abuse.

Support from others is crucial. Let’s show refugee women in Greece that we stand with them and support them in their struggle for a safe future.

Help strengthen their voices by adding yours - send your message of solidarity now. We will make sure these inspiring women receive it.

**TAKE ACTION**

Write and collect messages of solidarity for Women in Greek refugee camps and return them to us. We'll make sure they get them.

**Amnesty Feminists, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**



## **SPEAK UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AZZA SOLIMAN**

Every day, Azza Soliman risks her own safety and freedom to defend survivors of abuse in Egypt.

Azza bravely speaks out for victims of torture, arbitrary detention, domestic abuse, and rape. She co-founded the centre for Egyptian women's legal assistance and later Lawyers for Justice and Peace to give much-needed legal aid, support, and literacy lessons for women in poverty and survivors of abuse.

Because of their courageous and selfless work, Azza and other Egyptian Human Rights Defenders have been labelled as spies and national security threats. They have been targeted with smear campaigns and government surveillance - and security forces and pro-government media constantly harass them. Many of them face up to life in prison, as a result of the politically motivated court case known as 'Case 173'.

Azza has been arrested and interrogated. She now faces charges such as slandering Egypt's image by claiming that women in the country face rape. She has been banned from travel, her assets have been frozen - and she could face time in prison.

Stand with the brave: sign the petition to get all charges against Azza and Egyptian human rights defenders immediately and unconditionally dropped, and travel bans and asset freezes issued against them revoked.

### **TAKE ACTION**

Overleaf is a petition form which you can sign, and get signed in your communities. Please return completed sheets to:

**Amnesty Feminists, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**



Petition on behalf of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

# **SPEAK UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER AZZA SOLIMAN**

Azza Soliman is a lawyer and long-standing women’s Human Rights Defender. She is under threat of being detained as part of Case 173 for defending human rights. I urge you to:

- Drop the charges and lift the travel ban and asset freeze orders against Azza Soliman immediately and unconditionally;
- Drop Case 173 and lift the travel ban and asset freeze orders against human rights defenders and human rights organisations;
- Drop the draconian NGO bill and amend the current law so that it is in line with Egypt’s international and constitutional commitments to preserve the right to freedom of association.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>POSTCODE</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>

The information you give above will be delivered to the named target. Until that time, your data will be stored securely by Amnesty International United Kingdom Section – a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (01735872), and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust - a charity registered in England & Wales (1051681) and in Scotland (SC039534) and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (03139939) We will not use it for any other purposes. We will never sell or swap your personal information with anyone else. To find out more about how we use your information, please read our policy at [www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/privacy-notice).

Registered Office: The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA



## **STAND WITH WOMEN FIGHTING HATE IN POLAND**

On 11 November 2017, a group of 14 women were attacked during The Independence Day March in Warsaw, where hundreds of far-right protestors had gathered calling for things like a 'white Poland' and chanting "Europe will be white or deserted".

Their peaceful demonstration against hate caused fury among marchers. Minutes after they unfurled their 'Fascism Stop' banner, the women were attacked. Video footage shows people kicking, spitting and screaming at them. One of them lost consciousness and required medical help while the others were left with injuries, bruises and cuts.

**"They first pulled away our banner, then started tearing our clothes and kicking us. I was kicked several times in my back,"**

Elzbieta, one of the women.

Authorities initially decided to close the investigation into the attack against the women with an absurd justification. After the women appealed the decision, on 13 February 2019 a judge ordered the investigation into the violence to be re-opened. However, adding insult to injury, soon after the attack, the women were themselves charged and found guilty and fined for obstructing a lawful assembly.

The measures taken by the authorities are deeply worrying.

But these women won't stand for it. And neither should any of us.

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**Amnesty Feminists, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**



Petition on behalf of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

## **STAND WITH WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS IN POLAND**

Dear Minister,

I am writing to urge you to ensure that justice is delivered for the 14 women who were violently attacked by participants during the 2017 Independence Day March in Warsaw. These women attended the march to protest against the hatred on display and were attacked by people caught on camera kicking, hitting, spitting and verbally abusing them. They suffered humiliation, injuries, bruises and cuts. Police were not there to protect them.

Those responsible for the attacks must now be identified and brought to justice.

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## UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS

Sign up to our mailings or follow us on social media to stay up to date with future campaigns, including:

- **Gender Recognition Act**
- **Domestic Violence Bill**

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

### **Festival of Womanhood - "Through Palestinian Eyes" - May 19th**

Join Amnesty Feminists for a celebration of women, and an examination of their particular roles, identities and rights in Palestine and in conflict zones around the world.

The festival will raise awareness and expertise through workshops, film screenings, panel discussions and performances. We will stand in solidarity of these extraordinary women, and work to ensure their rights are protected.

## SPEAKERS

The Amnesty Feminist Network are available to speak to groups about ongoing campaigns and how you can get involved. Contact **feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk** to arrange a speaker.

## STAY IN TOUCH

**Twitter:** @amnestyfeminist

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/AmnestyFeminist>

**Email:** [feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:feministnetwork@amnesty.org.uk)

**Sign Up to the Network:** [www.amnesty.org.uk/join-amnesty-feminists](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/join-amnesty-feminists)

