

SPEAK OUT FOR SEYI

Seyi Akiwowo, has been actively defending the rights of women to express themselves freely on social media, without fear of threats and abuse. She herself received a wave of online abuse after a video of her speaking at the European Parliament went viral.

Seyi, a local councillor in London at the time, reported more than 75 instances of abuse – most of which was misogynistic (strongly prejudiced against women) and racist – to social media companies, including Twitter. But Twitter failed to acknowledge or respond to her reports at the time. Frustrated and disillusioned, Seyi decided to speak out about the abuse in the media, and eventually Twitter suspended some of the accounts targeting her.

She went on to launch Glitch, an organisation devoted to ending online abuse. Violence and abuse against women online is widespread in the UK, stifling freedom of expression. One in five women polled by Amnesty and Ipsos MORI earlier this year said they had suffered abuse or harassment on social media. Despite the scale of the problem, companies like Twitter are failing to act.

“Online abuse is not about robust debate. It’s about the intentional harassment of women to force them to leave the internet.” - Seyi Akiwowo



ONLINE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Article 1 of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women says that violence against women is an act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering.

Online violence against women is therefore a clear act of gender-based violence committed using ICT, including mobile phones, the internet, social media platforms and emails. All women have the right to feel safe and actively participate in online spaces without fear of abuse. All companies wherever they operate in the world, have a responsibility to respect all human rights.

Find out more about Seyi’s work:
<https://fixtheglitch.org/toolkit/>

Find out more about Amnesty UK’s campaigning for women’s rights including how you can get involved:
www.amnesty.org.uk/women

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A MINUTE

Take the 'Make a Difference in a Minute' challenge and write a poem that you can perform in one minute or less. It can be:

- **A solidarity poem for Seyi Akiwowo**
or
- **An appeal poem to tell Twitter's Chief Executive Jack Dorsey to make twitter a safe space for women.**

You can submit your poem in written form, as an audio clip or as a 1-minute video.

Some poems will be showcased on the website. We will let you know if your poem is selected for showcase.

If you submit an appeal or solidarity poem for Seyi Akiwowo, Amnesty International UK will send your written poems, and where possible audio and video clips, to her or to the Chief Executive of Twitter Jack Dorsey if it's an appeal poem.

Watch Sakris Kupila talk about the impact that your poems have <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/your-poetry-lgbti-rights> or watch Sabrina Mahfouz and Luke Wright perform their Make a Difference in a Minute poems <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/words-that-burn-make-difference-power>

SPEAK OUT FOR SEYI

Solidarity

Solidarity actions are sent to the people who have had their human rights taken away, and to their family and friends, to let them know that people are supporting them in their struggle for justice.

Write a solidarity poem to Seyi, letting her know that you support women's rights to express themselves freely on social media without fear or abuse.

Appeal

Appeal actions are to make people in power sit up and take notice of a cause that you care about. Amnesty is made up of ordinary people across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Your voice helps to ensure that when we speak, governments listen.

Write an appeal poem to Twitter's Chief Executive Jack Dorsey to tell him to make twitter a safe space for all users by enforcing its own rules on hateful conduct and abuse and ensuring that all women can enjoy safe online spaces.



Find out more about the Words That Burn project and submit your poems: www.amnesty.org.uk/wordsthatburn