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**Welcome Back!**

We hope you had a great summer break and are full of energy to get your Amnesty Youth Group off to a flying start this term! This guide will help you plan your activities over the autumn so do invest time in reading it.

**PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR YOUTH GROUP MEMBERS!**

**Contact Details**

As a youth group, you are part of a wider network of Amnesty activists such as student (university) and local groups, trade union activists, volunteer country coordinators, Regional Media Support Officers and thematic networks (Children’s, Women’s and LGBTI) all supported by the Community Organising Team at Amnesty International UK (AIUK).



I am the **Community Organiser (Youth)** and your main point of contact. I am the staff member responsible for supporting and empowering youth groups so do please get in touch with me. I love to hear about your activities so do keep me updated with photos and reports.

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

**Telephone**: 020 7033 1590

**Address**:

Amnesty International UK

Human Rights Action Centre

17-25 New Inn Yard

London

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Let’s have a great year!

Anne Montague & the Community Organising Team

Amnesty International UK.

**Your Start of term pack - What’s in it?**

Your beginning of term pack is full of helpful materials to help you make an impact at the beginning of term. Here’s a list of what’s in the pack:

**For decoration**

* Posters
* Placards

**To hand out**

* Badges
* Stickers
* Tattoos (temporary!)
* ‘Not Powerless’ postcards (with space to add in your meeting times)
* Universal Declaration of Human Rights Passports
* General Join Amnesty leaflet

**To Read/Share with members of the group**

* This Guide to the Autumn term!
* Resources list

**New! Our Planet, Our Rights Climate Change Resources**

* Placards
* Badges
* Explainers

**Want to order more resources?**

Please see the enclosed Resources Guide containing a list of our resources along with their product codes. You can call our mailing house directly to order materials quoting the relevant product codes. The number is: **01788 545 553**

**Get noticed, get members**

Here are a few quick tips on making an impact at the beginning of the academic year.

* It may be an obvious one but holding an assembly or series of assemblies can significantly boost your membership. Also, can you do a short introduction to Amnesty and your youth group during tutor/form times?
* Show a short video (there are lots to choose from. We can help you with this).
* If your school or college has a club/societies fair at the beginning of term make sure you have a stall and that it looks great (the materials in the pack should help you).
* Find other ways to publicise the group and the first meeting – noticeboards, school website and twitter accounts, distribute flyers over lunchtime or after school/college.
* Plan your first meeting well. Make sure it is well-timed, includes everyone and is fun!
* Make sure everyone knows when and where meetings are held (preferably at the same time and venue).
* Have an idea of the campaigns you would like to focus on during the term. Ask new members for their ideas to make them feel involved.

**Campaigns**

***Note: You will receive specific campaign actions in your monthly emails so do check your inbox this week for the September actions.***

**‘I Welcome’ Refugees**



Our global refugee campaign launched in October 2016. The aim of the campaign is that refugees are protected, welcomed and enjoy their human rights, including through strengthened global responsibility-sharing and international cooperation. In the UK, the campaign has a number of strands, both at a national and local level. We are currently particularly focussing on the issue of refugee family reunion and creating a more welcoming environment for refugees already in the UK. This term we are asking youth groups to [write a poem](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-poem-families-together) on this theme that can be performed in one minute. Watch out for your September email for more information on this. [www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-secretary-reunite-refugee-families](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-secretary-reunite-refugee-families) [www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees)

**Our Planet, Our Rights – Human Rights in the climate crisis**



The climate crisis threatens human survival and all human rights - to life, health, housing, water and sanitation, and livelihood. Millions are already suffering from its catastrophic effects and this will get worse. As governments fail to act on climate change, we are seeing the biggest inter-generational human rights violation in history. States are obliged to uphold human rights. They must tackle the climate crisis quickly and humanely – and the measures they take must not violate human rights.

[www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/](http://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/climate-change/)

**Children’s Right to Citizenship**



Thousands of children grow up in the UK without British citizenship. Many of them are born here and many have the right to claim it. However, some children are essentially being prevented from registering as British citizens as the government charges a large, profit-making fee - it costs the Home Office £372 to register a person but they charge £1012. We think that this profit element should be removed from the children’s registration fee in all cases and that children who cannot afford the fee should not pay at all. We are calling on the Home Office to make these changes.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-office-stop-profiteering-childrens-rights>

**BRAVE - Human Right’s Defenders**



Right now, people across the world are risking everything to speak out against injustice. Student leaders, political opponents, teachers, lawyers, journalists, women’s rights and environmental activists and many others. But they’re being harassed, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for what’s right. In 2016, at least 281 of these Human Rights Defenders (HRD’s) were killed in 22 countries, including defenders who protected the environment, defended minorities, and opposed barriers to women and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender (LGBTI) rights. BRAVE is Amnesty International’s campaign calling for increased recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/brave-campaign](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/brave-campaign)

**Write for Rights 2019**

Our annual Write for Rights campaign will run from **November 1st to December** **31st.** As well as asking supporters to write appeal letters to the authorities, this is also the time of year when we ask supporters to write directly to people who have suffered from human rights abuse and those who defend them. The cards offer hope and encouragement to the people who receive them, and make a big impression on police, prison staff and political authorities, which can help to keep the recipients safe. [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)



**Fundraising**

It’s a new school year so it’s time to start planning your fundraising activities. See below for a few ideas for fundraising activities.

• **Cage-a-thon:** take it in turns to sit in a cage to raise awareness of cases featured in the BRAVE campaign. Ask people to sponsor you to raise money for Amnesty International UK. Invite teachers to sit in the cage to raise extra funds. You could involve your art or technology departments to help design the cage.

• **Film Marathon**: put on a film marathon. Feature some films that cover human rights themes and others that are a little more light-hearted. People could pay or donate to come along and you could sell refreshments. Make it an overnight event if you’re feeling adventurous! If you don’t have the time or resources to organise a marathon, you could hold a screening of a single film. Make it a regular event if it’s a hit. You could even invite people from the school to suggest films.

• **Amnesty International Fair**: either organise your own fair or have an Amnesty International stall/area in your school’s summer fair. Raise money with fairground games and have an art exhibition touching on human rights themes. You could also sell homemade cakes and have a tombola to bring in extra funds. Speak to local businesses to ask them to donate prizes for your tombola – we can write you a letter to help with this.

• **Jamnesty Event:** organise a live music event in the evening. Invite school bands and performers to take part. You can work with your school’s music department to help source the bands and to help with the

logistics. Start promoting the event early and sell advance tickets to friends and family. Sell refreshments on the night and hold a raffle to raise extra money – you can get prizes donated from local businesses.

Whatever you decide to do to raise money for Amnesty International UK, our Community Fundraising and Events team is on hand to help. We can provide you with advice, free fundraising materials and can write letters confirming you are legitimate fundraisers which will help you get raffle prize donations and free venues. Email [fundraise@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:fundraise@amnesty.org.uk) or call 020 7033 1650 to speak to someone who’ll be happy to help!

**Bits & Pieces**

**School Speakers**

Don’t forget that you can book one of our fantastic volunteer Amnesty school speakers. They run free human rights workshops, lessons, assemblies or whole day events in your school. For a list of school speakers in your area go to: [www.amnesty.org.uk/invite-amnesty-speaker-your-school](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/invite-amnesty-speaker-your-school)

**Youth Advisory Group – Recruitment open soon!**

A group of people standing in front of a crowd posing for the camera

Description automatically generated

Each year we recruit a small group of Amnesty youth group members to give us their views on our work such as our campaigns, mailings, website and how we can get more young people involved in Amnesty. We will be welcoming applications for this year’s group very soon. You will be sent a separate email about this so look out for it. It really is an amazing opportunity for youth group members make new friends, build confidence and provide a youth voice within Amnesty International UK. Former members have gone on to take on roles such as members of the Student Action Network Committee, Chair of the Annual General Meeting and member of the Amnesty UK Board.

**National Conference & AGM: 20th-21st June 2020 - Nottingham**

Bookings for our annual [National Conference and Annual General Meeting](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/speakers) will soon be open and we’ll let you know when. This is for all our members (not just youth groups) to come together to learn about current campaigns, hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops, meet staff and fellow Amnesty members. Youth Groups are increasingly playing a key role and have full voting rights alongside our local and student groups. It’s a great experience for youth group members and we can’t recommend it highly enough!

**Important Practical Stuff**

**Re-affiliations**

You will get reminders when your annual affiliation is due. We’d hate you to drop off our mailing list so please do re-affiliate as soon as you get your reminders.

**Monthly Emails**

We send youth groups monthly mailings. If you aren’t receiving them do please check your junk or clutter folder. If you think the emails aren’t getting through the school firewall please talk to your school’s IT person. Please get in touch if you have any concerns about your monthly emails.

**Sharing information with your youth group members**

We actively encourage information we send in our mailings to be shared with other members of the youth group so that everyone feels empowered and involved in decisions about the group’s activities. However, we endeavour to make the content of our mailings suitable for a 14+ age group so do please check the content before sharing.

**Safe-guarding**

At Amnesty International UK our priority is to enable children and young people to engage with us in a safe way. We have created a safe-guarding page on our website. Please do have a look if you are interested in finding out more about our safe-guarding policy.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/safeguarding>

**Data-Protection**

To help groups and activists understand their responsibilities when it comes to data protection, we have prepared a set of guidance which can be downloaded.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/data-protection-guidance-for-groups>

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