

# Amnesty Scotland Activist Conference 2019

## Pre-Conference Information

**Venue:** This year's conference is at The Studio, 67 Hope Street, Glasgow, G2 6AE.

**Travel & Parking:** We encourage you to travel by public transport if possible. The venue is a short walk from Central Station (5mins), St Enoch's Subway Station (7mins), Queen Street Station (10mins) and Buchanan Bus Station (15mins). Further travel details, including details of the nearest NCP car parks are available at <http://studiovenues.co.uk/venues/glasgow/map-directions/>.

**Timings & Arrival:** The conference doors will open at 10am for registration, with the conference starting at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be available on arrival. We love you, but please don't arrive at the venue early. We will be busy setting up prior to the conference and you won't be able to get in. If you are arriving late, don't worry, just sneak in quietly at the back.

**#AskAmnestyAnything:** This is a Q&A session with senior leaders from Amnesty. There will be an opportunity to ask questions on the day, but if you want to skip the queue you can submit questions via Twitter by directing your questions to @mal\_ds and using #AskAmnestyAnything or emailing [Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk).

**Celebrating activism:** As with last year, we want to give you an opportunity to inspire your fellow activists by telling us about your Amnesty activism over the past year, whether as part of a local or student group or as an individual activist. These will be short slots of up to 3minutes. If you want a slot, please email [Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk). We would love to have a photo of your activism to display while you tell us about it. Send a photo with your request for a slot.

**Photos & Social media:** We encourage you to take photos and use social media throughout the day. Use #AmnestyScotland. However, we have two human rights defenders joining us for the day. They will be happy to speak with you, but please respect their need for security by not taking their photo or posting any details of their contribution to the conference.

**Post-conference drinks:** There will be an opportunity to join fellow activists for an informal and social drink after the conference. This is entirely optional and not part of the main conference. We will provide details of the local venue for these drinks on the day.

**Respect/ Activist code of conduct:** As part of the Amnesty family we ask you to make each other feel welcome and treat each other with respect throughout the day. If you do find that you have a difference of views with another participant, please do remember that we all have our own backgrounds that have built our view and be respectful about your difference of opinion and remember we have a shared belief in human rights. If you do feel uncomfortable at any stage, please talk to one of the conference organisers or Amnesty Scotland staff. Amnesty has an activist code of conduct which we expect all activists to abide by <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/activist-code-conduct>

**Questions:** We want you to enjoy the day and get maximum value and inspiration from the conference. If you have any questions ahead of the conference please contact [Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Malcolm.dingwall-smith@amnesty.org.uk).

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## Agenda

Time	Agenda
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Arrival</b> Registration, tea and coffee
10:30 – 11:45	<b>Morning Plenary: Individuals at Risk</b>  <b>Welcome</b> <i>Malcolm Dingwall-Smith, Regional Representative – Scotland, Amnesty International UK (AIUK)</i>  <b>Individuals at Risk keynote speaker</b> <i>Sena Atici, Campaigns Coordinator, Individuals at Risk team, AIUK</i> Sena will provide an insight into how and why Amnesty campaigns for individual at risk.  <b>Stories from the Frontline guest speakers</b> <i>Scottish Human Rights Defenders Fellowship</i> Two overseas Human Rights Defenders, currently in the UK on short-term fellowships at the University of Dundee University, will talk about their experiences campaigning for human rights in their own countries, in the context of individuals at risk.  <b>Individuals at Risk Q&amp;A</b> Sena and our guest HRDs will take questions from the audience.  <b>Conference Action</b> Photo action in support of an individual at risk
11:45 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:00	<b>‘Focus on’ individuals at risk workshops</b> These workshops will further explore the Individuals at Risk theme. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Focus on Eritrea</b> with Alex Jackson, Country Coordinator, AIUK</li> <li><b>Focus on North Africa</b> with Jackie Fry, Country Coordinator, AIUK</li> <li><b>Focus on China</b> with Megan Lindsay, Country Coordinator, AIUK</li> <li><b>Focus on Former Soviet Union</b> with Fuad Babayev and Matthew Houlston, Country Coordinators, AIUK</li> <li><b>Focus on Write for Rights</b> with Pauline Kelly, Media, Campaigns &amp; Human Rights Education Officer, Amnesty Scotland, and Sena Atici, Individuals At Risk team, AIUK</li> </ol>

13:00 – 14:00	Lunch & stalls
14:00 – 15:00	<b>Campaign &amp; Skills Workshops</b> These workshops will explore a particular campaign, skill or topic. <b>6. Ethical Activism</b> with Sena Atici, Individuals at Risk team, AIUK <b>7. Confidently Introducing Amnesty</b> with Hollie Ruddick, Amnesty Trainer <b>8. Children's Rights</b> with Anna Warren, Amnesty Children's Human Rights Network Committee member <b>9. Political Advocacy</b> with Liz Thomson, Campaigns Officer, Amnesty Scotland <b>10. Activist Self-Care</b> with Mairéad Healy and Donella Williams, Safeguarding team, AIUK
15:00 – 15:15	Break
15:15 – 16:30	<b>Afternoon Plenary</b>  <b>#AskAmnestyAnything panel</b> An opportunity to ask our panel about all aspects of Amnesty's work. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eilidh Douglas, Chair, AIUK</li> <li>- Osama Bhutta, Director of Communications, Amnesty International Secretariat</li> <li>- Tim Hancock, Director of the CEO's Office, AIUK</li> <li>- Naomi McAuliffe, Programme Director, Amnesty Scotland</li> </ul> <b>Celebrating Activist</b> An opportunity for you to share the highlights of your Amnesty campaigning over the past year, whether as local groups, student groups or individual activists.
16:30	Conference close
16:30 -	<b>Post-Conference drinks</b> Optional post-conference drinks and chance to socialise with other activists. Venue to be announced on day.

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## Workshops

### Pre-lunch workshops: 'Focus on...'

These workshops will further explore the Individuals at Risk theme. Four workshops led by Amnesty Country Co-ordinators will focus on the human rights situation in a country or region and put a spotlight on individuals at risk in those countries. The fifth workshop led by Amnesty staff will focus on this year's Write for Rights cases.

1. **Focus on Eritrea** with *Alex Jackson*
2. **Focus on North Africa** with *Jackie Fry*
3. **Focus on China** with *Megan Lindsay*
4. **Focus on Former Soviet Union** with *Fuad Babayev and Matthew Houlston*
5. **Focus on Write for Rights** with *Pauline Kelly, Media, Campaigns & Human Rights Education Officer, Amnesty Scotland, and Sena Atici, Individuals At Risk team, Amnesty International UK*

### Post-lunch workshops: Campaign & Skills

These workshops will explore a particular campaign, skill or topic led by Amnesty staff or lead activists.

1. **Ethical Activism** with *Sena Atici, Individuals at Risk team, Amnesty International UK*  
What makes a campaign ethical? Join Sena for a creative session where we'll talk about and trial ethics in activism and find out more about Amnesty's ethical guidelines.
2. **Confidently Introducing Amnesty** with *Hollie Ruddick, Amnesty Trainer*  
Whether talking to a group or on a stall, lots of activists will find themselves trying to introduce Amnesty to a non-Amnesty audience. This workshop will be an interactive opportunity to explore how to do so effectively and inspire people, as well as find out about being an Amnesty School Speaker or Adult Trainer if you want to do more.
3. **Children's Rights** with *Anna Warren, Amnesty Children's Human Rights Network Committee*  
The Amnesty Children's Human Rights Network committee are responsible for leading much of Amnesty UK's work in the area of children's human rights, and manage many of our relationships with other individuals and organisations. This workshop will update you on their latest campaigning and how you can participate.
4. **Political Advocacy** with *Liz Thomson, Campaigns Officer, Amnesty Scotland*  
Persuading politicians to make positive human rights change is vital to realising Amnesty's mission. This workshop will remove the mystique that can surround politicians and explore how we can engage them effectively, so they put human rights concerns at the centre of their decision-making.
5. **Activist Self-Care** with *Mairéad Healy and Donella Williams, Safeguarding team, Amnesty International UK*  
Amnesty activists do amazing work on behalf of others, but it is important to make sure you give time and energy to looking after yourself. This workshop will discuss the pressures that come with human rights activism both off and online, and share thoughts on how to manage these pressures.