

Write a letter, change a life

WRITE

FOR

RIGHTS

2019

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



'I want to thank Amnesty globally. The support they gave us is amazing and it makes a lot of difference. The thousands of letters we have received shows that this struggle is not just about us, that we are not alone.'

Nonhle Mbuthuma, land rights defender in South Africa. More than 520,000 messages and appeals were sent to support Nonhle during Write for Rights 2018.



YOUR WORDS HAVE POWER

This winter you could stand in solidarity with a young person fighting for freedom, justice and equality.

It only takes a few minutes to write a letter or a card. But for a teenager on death row, a young activist fighting to save a community hit by climate change or a university student held in a political 're-education' camp, a message of solidarity is a powerful reminder that they are not alone.

Your words – combined with those of many people around the world – can also persuade people in authority to address cruelty and injustice. Letters, cards, emails and social media posts show them that the world is watching and ready to hold them to account. When hundreds of thousands of us act together, humanity wins.

In 2018, more than 182,000 people throughout the UK took part in Write for Rights. Around the world, almost 6 million letters and messages were sent during the campaign. They made a big difference to people who had put their life and liberty on the line to defend human rights:

- More than **500,000 messages** demanding to know who killed human rights activist and Rio councillor **Marielle Franco** were sent to the Brazilian authorities. In March 2019, two former police officers were arrested for the crime.
- More than **250,000 solidarity messages** were sent to **Gulzar Duishenova**, who campaigns for the rights of people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. In March 2019, the government signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Some **700,000 letters and appeals** were sent in support of **Atena Daemi**, who was jailed in Iran for criticising the death penalty. She was later given access to the medical treatment she requires.

So join us and take action this winter. This year's campaign focuses on some remarkable young people around the world: some facing human rights violations, some standing up for their own rights, others defending the rights of a wider community. All of them need our support.

'I am wholeheartedly grateful to all the people around the world who have showered me with compassion and kindness and spared no effort in supporting me.'

Atena Daemi



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This year's campaign

Young people are a leading force for change in our communities, from confronting climate injustice to calling for women's rights. This year all our Write for Rights cases are children and young people standing up for human rights who need our support.

This booklet has information on 12 children, young people or groups whose human rights are being abused right now. We've suggested actions you can take for each one, including:

- Sending a message of support so they know you're thinking of them
- Writing a letter appealing to those with the power to stop the abuse
- Getting creative to draw attention and encourage others to join the campaign

- Using social media to show your solidarity online or contact the authorities.

The focus on children and young people chimes with the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of Child (below). Many people featured in previous Write for Rights campaigns have told us that the most powerful letters they received were personalised, handwritten cards – so do send them if you have time.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Write for Rights 2019 runs from **1 November to 31 December**. International Human Rights Day is **10 December**.

The 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is on **20 November 2019**.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Adopted by the UN General Assembly on 20 November 1989, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by every state in the world apart from the USA. It lists important rights that everyone under the age of 18 should have, including:

- The right to food, water, and healthcare
- The right to be protected from harm
- The right to education
- The right to play
- The right to be protected from exploitation
- The right to have their voice heard in decisions that affect them.

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child oversees the convention. It reviews countries

every five years to assess how well they are implementing the convention and makes recommendations on how to improve children's rights.

Optional Protocol 3 to the convention enables the committee to hear complaints from children whose rights have been breached – but only if the country has ratified Optional Protocol 3. Our Children's Human Rights Network is urging the UK to mark the convention's 30th anniversary by ratifying the protocol.

You can download a summary of the convention, or the full document, from [unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/](https://www.unicef.org.uk/what-we-do/un-convention-child-rights/)

Amnesty International UK – Children's Human Rights Network

Amnesty International UK has an active Children's Human Rights Network, which empowers children and young people to protect their rights. The network takes action on individual cases, such as Emil Ostrovko (page 6) and José Adrián (page 11). It also campaigns on wider issues, for example the Home Office's profit-making fee for registering children as UK citizens (page 15).

As part of the activities for the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the network is encouraging young people to take part in Write for Rights 2019, and is keen to support youth group activities.

 **To contact or join the Children's Human Rights Network, see page 15**

New to Write for Rights?

Getting involved in the campaign is easy, but the first time can seem a bit overwhelming, so here are some tips.

- You don't have to take action on every case – anything you do to support one or two individuals will make a real difference.
- Your message of support will have more impact if you make it personal. If you're unsure what to write, we've provided some suggested messages.
- When writing to the authorities, include your name and country, as this shows the letter or card is genuine and personal. Write as one human being to another, keeping requests clear and polite.
- Throughout this booklet we have stated whether you can include your full name and address in a solidarity card or letter. Where we have said no, it is to ensure that the individual does not feel overwhelmed at having to reply to everyone. In these cases, you can give just your first name, with your town or country.
- If there is anything else you are unsure of, check out our Frequently Asked Questions section on page 22.
- In some cases we suggest actions other than letter writing – but don't worry if you can't do all those as there are plenty of other letters to do. Each case also includes creative ideas which could work well for group events.

Stay up to date

If you've got any questions about the cases you're working on, please get in touch with: Individuals at Risk team
Amnesty International UK
Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA
Tel: **020 7033 1636**
Email: **iar@amnesty.org.uk**

POSTAGE RATES

Weight not over	Europe	Rest of the world
10g	£1.35	£1.35
20g	£1.35	£1.55
100g	£1.60	£2.30

RESOURCES

Printed materials

Want to order more materials? Please call us on **01788 545 553** or order online at **amnesty.org.uk/write**

BOOKLET **WFR 001**

Write for Rights Campaign Booklet

MAP (A2) **WFR 002**

Campaign poster and map

POSTERS (A3)

WFR 003 Poster set of 3

WFR 008 Yiliyasijiang Reheman (China)

WFR 009 Marine! Ubaldo (Phillipines)

WFR 010 Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder (Greece)

ACTION CARDS (A5)

WFR 004 Action card set of 2

WFR 006 Yiliyasijiang Reheman (China)

WFR 007 Migrant Women (UK)

STICKERS **WFR 005**

Sticker sheet (15 stickers per sheet)

Online

Go to **amnesty.org.uk/write** for the latest on Write for Rights 2019. You can download pdf versions of the printed materials and additional resources, including:

- Case sheets with solidarity and appeal actions (useful to print out for events and stalls)
- Translations of suggested solidarity messages
- Address labels for individuals or appeal targets
- Updates on cases
- Case sheets for younger audiences
- Top tips for organising a Write for Rights event
- Good news from previous campaigns.

If you have any questions about the campaign, please contact our Supporter Communications Team on **020 7033 1777**.



Case 1. **BELARUS**
Emil Ostrovko page 6



Case 2. **CANADA**
Grassy Narrows youth page 7



Case 3. **CHINA**
Yiliyasijiang Reheman page 8

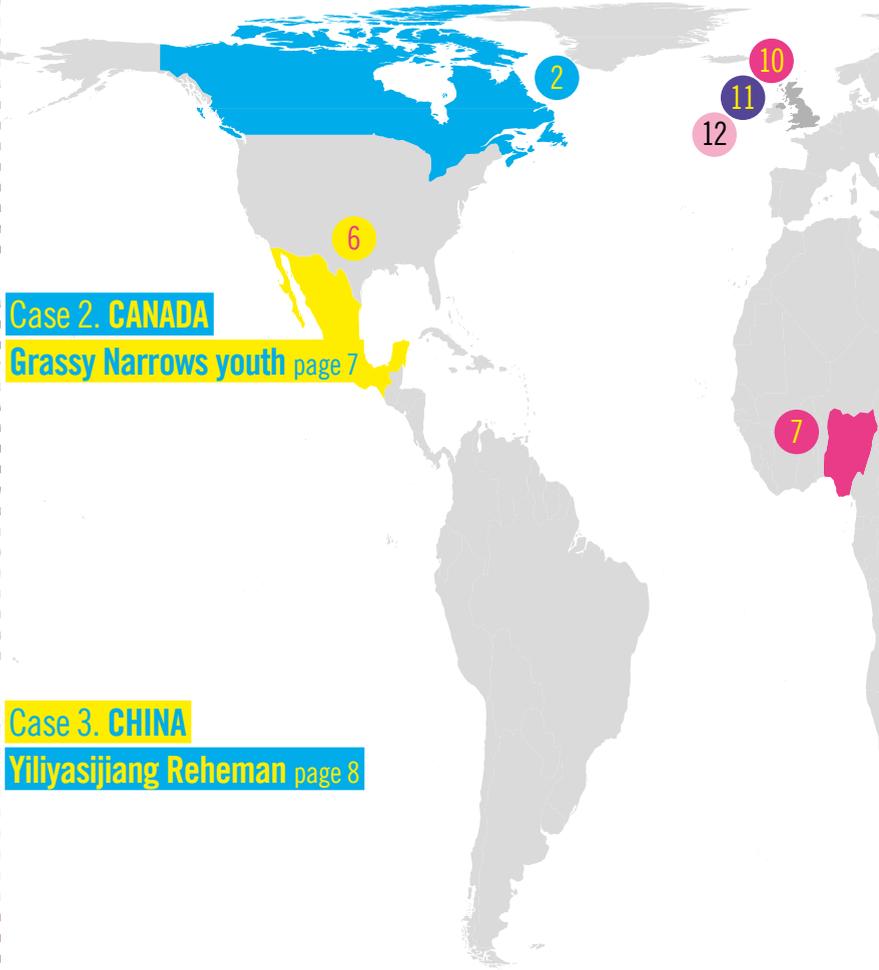


Case 4. **GREECE**
Sarah Mardini and
Seán Binder page 9

Case 5. **IRAN**
Yasaman Aryani page 10

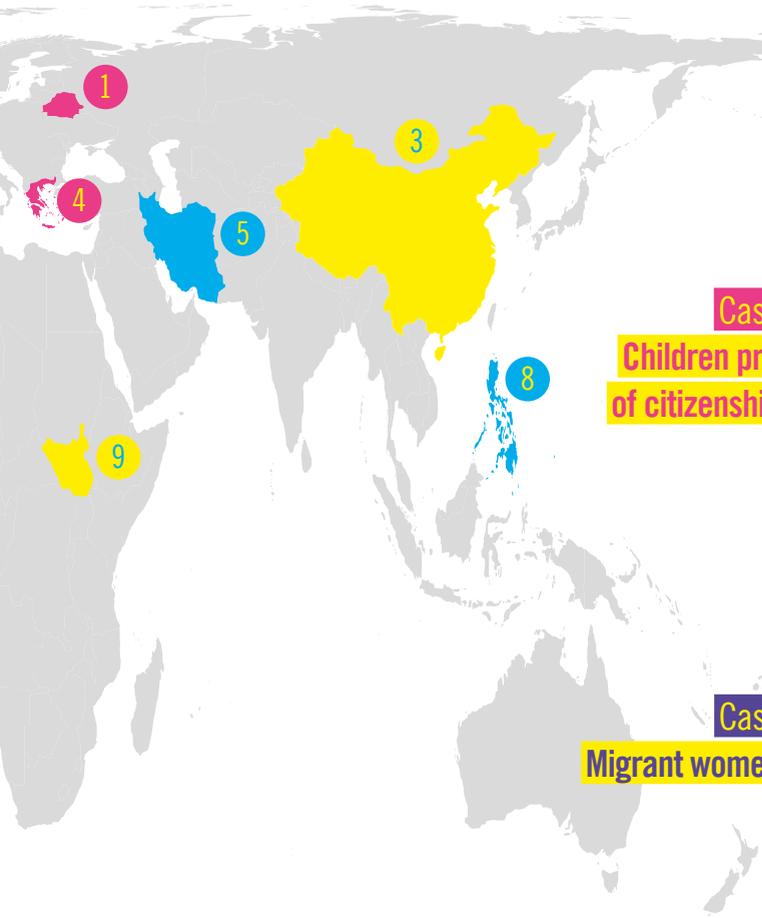


Case 6. **MEXICO**
José Adrián page 11



Case 9. SOUTH SUDAN

Magai Matiop Ngong page 14



Case 10. UK

Children priced out of citizenship page 15



Case 11. UK

Migrant women page 16



Case 7. NIGERIA

Nasu Abdulaziz page 12



Case 8. PHILIPPINES

Marinel Ubaldo page 13



Case 12. UK

Young trans people page 17



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BELARUS

EMIL OSTROVKO

Jailed teenager hopes to study again

Seventeen-year-old Emil Ostrovko was waiting for his girlfriend at a bus stop on the outskirts of Minsk in April 2018 when police officers arrived, beat him, and arrested him for distributing illicit drugs. Earlier in the year, Emil got an after-school job as a courier for an online company. His employer told him the parcels contained legal smoking materials.

After months in detention, Emil was given a 10-year prison sentence for drug trafficking, later reduced to eight years. The investigators did not look for the owner of the company or anyone else: only Emil was prosecuted.

He is one of around 15,000 children and young people in Belarus serving long prison sentences for petty drug offences. They are treated far worse than other prisoners and forced to do long hours of hard labour. Emil got frostbite from clearing snow with his bare hands. The situation is a little better now he is in an adult prison. But Emil still dreams of returning to his studies.

'I asked him, "What are those spots on your hands?" He answered, "Mum, here we carry snow from morning till night with our bare hands. It is probably frostbite".'

Yulia, Emil's mother

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Emil Vadimovich Ostrovko
Correctional Colony Number 2
Ul. Sikorskogo 1, otryad 1
Bobruisk
Mogilevskaya oblast
213800 Belarus

Language Russian, Belarussian or English

Suggested message Emil is keen on studying and reading, and is particularly interested in economics, business and innovation.

Creative action Please send him the latest news on these fields, alongside other inspirational or interesting stories.

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?**
Emil is Catholic, so you can send him Christmas greetings
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** Yes

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Prosecutor General to free Emil Ostrovko.

Write to Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus

Alexander Koniuk
Internatsionalnaya Str. 22
220030 Minsk
Belarus

Salutation Dear Prosecutor General

In your letter ask him

- To immediately release Emil Ostrovko and ensure his criminal record is cleared
- To ensure no child in Belarus is prosecuted or imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug-related offences.

Every message counts

Together we can campaign to free Emil



© Allan Lissner

CANADA

GRASSY NARROWS YOUTH

Campaigning against mercury poisoning

Young people from the Grassy Narrows First Nation in northwest Ontario are fighting for a healthy future for themselves and their community.

In the 1960s, a pulp mill upstream dumped an estimated nine tonnes of mercury into the river system, contaminating the fish and making them dangerous to eat. For the community it was devastating: fishing was a vital part of their way of life. Generations of young people grew up with serious health problems and lost their cultural traditions. The government has done little to address what is currently Canada's worst health crisis.

In 2017, the government promised to deal with the mercury crisis 'once and for all'. This would mean cleaning up the river, offering the community specialised health care and providing compensation. The young people of the Grassy Narrows First Nation are determined to hold the government to its promise.

'I've always been taught that if you do something wrong, you have to fix it.'

Rodney Bruce, Grassy Narrows community

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Grassy Narrows youth
c/o Amnesty International Canada
312 Laurier Avenue East
Ottawa
Ontario
Canada
K1N 1H9

Language English or Anishinaabe

Suggested messages Justice for Grassy Narrows
Grassy Narrows – we're with you
Mercury justice now **#Freegrassy**

We support the youth of Grassy Narrows

Creative action Share environmental or nature conservation work in your community.

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** No

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Tell the Prime Minister to provide the Grassy Narrows First Nation with specialist health care and compensation.

Write to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

Office of the Prime Minister

80 Wellington Street

Ottawa, Ontario

CANADA

K1A 0A2

Salutation Dear Prime Minister

In your letter ask him

- To provide specialised health care for survivors of mercury poisoning at Grassy Narrows
- To compensate all community members for the impacts of mercury poisoning
- To formally acknowledge that the Grassy Narrows youth are suffering from mercury poisoning.

Every message counts Together we can support the Grassy Narrows youth fight for justice



CHINA

YILIYASIJIANG REHEMAN

Forced disappearance of student

Yiliyasijiang Reheман and his pregnant wife Mairinisha Abuduaini were studying at a university in Egypt when he went missing in July 2017. He was one of about 200 Uyghur people rounded up by the Egyptian government at the behest of the Chinese authorities. Three weeks later Mairinisha gave birth to their second child.

Mairinisha, who now lives in Turkey, later learned that Yiliyasijiang had been sent back to the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China. She believes he is among the estimated one million mainly Muslim people locked up in secretive 'transformation-through-education' camps.

Since 2017, the Chinese government has intensified its campaign of mass internment, surveillance, indoctrination and forced cultural assimilation against Uyghurs and members of other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in Xinjiang. Those sent to the camps are not put on trial, have no access to a lawyer or the right to challenge the decision, and may face torture and other ill-treatment.

'My husband should be released as soon as possible. We need a warm and complete family. Our children need their father. I will never give up until we can be reunited.'

Mairinisha Abuduaini

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Mairinisha Abuduaini
c/o Uluslararası Af Örgütü Türkiye Şubesi
Hacımimi Mh. Kemeraltı Cd.
Ada Han No.31 Kat:2
Daire:2 34425 Karaköy
Beyoğlu, İstanbul
Turkey

Language English, Uyghur, Chinese or Arabic

Suggested message We are thinking of you and your husband Yiliyasijiang Reheман. We hope that he will be released soon. *A Chinese translation is available at [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)*

Creative action Yiliyasijiang is a keen football fan so link with a local team to campaign on his case.

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** Yes

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the President of China to immediately and unconditionally release Yiliyasijiang Reheман.

Write to Xi Jinping

President of the People's Republic of China
Zhongnanhai
Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Salutation Dear President

In your letter ask him

- To disclose Yiliyasijiang Reheман's whereabouts
- To allow Mairinisha Abuduaini to communicate with her husband
- To give Yiliyasijiang Reheман access to a lawyer of his choosing
- To allow unrestricted access to Xinjiang for an independent investigation by the UN or other international bodies.

Every message counts Together we can work to free Yiliyasijiang Reheман



GREECE

SARAH MARDINI AND SEÁN BINDER

On trial for saving lives

In Greece, you can go to prison for trying to save a life. It happened to Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder when, as trained rescuers, they volunteered for a search-and-rescue organisation in Lesbos.

Their job was to help spot boats in distress at sea and help refugees. But Sarah and Seán ended up behind bars charged with spying, people smuggling and belonging to a criminal organisation. They spent more than 100 days in prison before being released on bail in December 2018. If found guilty, they could be jailed for 25 years.

Seán, now in Ireland, says the scariest thing about the situation 'is not that it put me in jail, it's that this can happen to anyone'. This is what happens when governments criminalise people who try to help refugees rather than doing more to protect a refugee's right to find a safe place to live.

'Humanitarian work isn't criminal, nor is it heroic.... Helping others should be absolutely normal.' Seán Binder

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder
c/o Amnesty International
Europe Regional Office
1 Easton Street
London
WC1X 0DW
UK

Language Sarah: English or Arabic; Seán: English or German.

Solidarity guidance Sarah and Seán would like solidarity to be directed, where possible, to refugee support organisations in your area, and/or in Greece.

Creative action Hold a joint event with a local refugee welcome organisation.

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** Yes

SEND AN APPEAL MESSAGE

Tell the Greek authorities to drop all charges against Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder.

Write to Minister of Citizens' Protection
Michalis Chrisochoidis

@chrisochoidis

Email minister@yptp.gr

Salutation Dear Minister

In your message ask him

- To drop the charges against Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder
- To make public statements acknowledging the legitimacy of humanitarian action and action to defend refugee and migrant rights.

Every message counts Together we can call on the authorities to drop the charges against Sarah and Seán



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IRAN

YASAMAN ARYANI

Sixteen-year sentence for women's rights action

On 8 March – International Women's Day – 2019 Yasaman Aryani walked through a women-only train carriage in Tehran with her hair uncovered and handed out white flowers. She spoke of her hopes for a future where women would have the freedom to choose what to wear, so that one day they could walk together 'me without the hijab and you with the hijab'.

A video of her act of defiance went viral, and on 10 April she was arrested. She was held alone in a cell for days while interrogators questioned her. They told her to 'confess' that foreign elements were behind her activism and 'repent' her actions. Otherwise, they said, her friends and family would be arrested. On 31 July, Yasaman learned she had been sentenced to 16 years in prison – of which she must serve at least 10 years.

This cruel punishment is part of a wider crackdown on women who campaign against Iran's forced veiling laws. Since 2018, dozens of women, including Yasaman's mother, Monireh Arabshahi, have been arrested.

'[I hope to walk side by side in the street one day] me without the hijab and you with the hijab.' Yasaman Aryani

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Take a photo or video of yourself handing out flowers or experiencing the sun, wind or rain on your hair and post them on your social media accounts. Tag them **#FreeYasaman** with a message on Twitter to **@yasamanaryani95** and Iran's leader **@khamenei_ir**. You can also email your photos and videos to: **iran_team@amnesty.org**.

Language English or Persian

Suggested message Our thoughts are with you and your family. *A Persian translation is available at [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)*

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? No
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes
- Include my name and address? No

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Tell the Head of the Judiciary to release Yasaman Aryani immediately and unconditionally.

Write to Head of the Judiciary Ebrahim Raisi
c/o Permanent Mission of Iran to the UN
Chemin du Petit-Saconnex 28
1209 Geneva
Switzerland

Salutation Dear Mr Raisi

In your letter ask him

- To release Yasaman Aryani and Monireh Arabshahi immediately and unconditionally
- To unconditionally release all other women's rights defenders detained for peacefully protesting against forced veiling
- Stop criminalising the work of women human rights defenders so that they can carry out their important work, including campaigning against forced veiling.

Every message counts

Together we can stand with Yasaman



© AI

MEXICO

JOSÉ ADRIÁN

Arrested, beaten and strung up by the police

In February 2016, 14-year-old José Adrián was walking home from school when he stumbled into the aftermath of a fight between a group of youths in which a police car was damaged. Police officers grabbed him and threw him against the car, and one officer stomped on his neck. José Adrián, who has a hearing disability, was the only one to be arrested. The officers did not provide an explanation or contact his parents.

At the police station, José Adrián was handcuffed, hung from a wall and left for what felt like hours. To get him released, his family, who are Indigenous Maya and live in a disadvantaged community, were forced to pay a fine and the costs of repairing the police car – money they could ill afford. José Adrián dropped out of school because of the ordeal.

Today, he is back in high school, and he and his family want to move on with their lives. But the authorities have still not provided reparations or brought the officers responsible to justice.

NOTE José Adrián is his first name – we are not using his family name for security reasons.

'What I want is that they make [the] police better. I don't want what happened to me to happen to other kids.' José Adrián

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

José Adrián
c/o Amnistía Internacional México
Dr José María Vertiz 1196
Letran Valle
03650 Ciudad de México
CDMX
Mexico

Language Spanish or English

Suggested message José Adrián, the bravery you have shown in your fight for justice is inspirational. We stand with you and support you in your struggle.

Email mexteam@amnesty.org

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** Yes

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Governor of Yucatán State to provide José Adrián with reparations and bring those responsible for the abuse to justice.

Write to Governor of Yucatán State Lic Mauricio Vila Dosal
Palacio de Gobierno Calle 61 x 60 y 62
Col Centro, CP 97000
Mérida
Yucatán
México

Salutation Dear Governor

In your letter ask him

- To ensure José Adrián and his family receive full reparations for the abuses he suffered
- To bring those responsible for José Adrián's ordeal to justice
- To stop the police in Yucatán from using torture and ill-treatment.

Every message counts Campaign with José Adrián and his family for justice



NIGERIA

NASU ABDULAZIZ

Shot while defending his home

Nasu Abdulaziz is fighting for his right to a home. His community was evicted without warning from their century-old settlement, Otodo Gbame, in Lagos. Between November 2016 and April 2017, armed men acting on government orders razed Otodo Gbame to the ground, leaving 30,000 people homeless.

On the penultimate night of the eviction, Nasu was shot in the arm. The next day the Lagos State Taskforce rampaged through the settlement, shooting bullets and teargas. In the ensuing panic, some people drowned in a nearby lagoon. Nine people are believed to have been killed, with another 15 still missing.

Today, thousands of families remain separated, more than 100 children have lost out on education, and many livelihoods have been destroyed. There has been no independent investigation into the forced evictions or the excessive use of force by the police and military.

But Nasu has not given up. He is campaigning with the Nigerian Slum/Informal Settlement Federation, a grassroots organisation demanding more inclusive and habitable cities.

'The whole experience to me is like a war where soldiers are told to kill. The only thing I can call this is terrorism.' Nasu Abdulaziz

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Amnesty International Nigeria
PO BOX 14212
Wuse, Abuja
Nigeria

Language English, Yoruba or Egun

Suggested message We stand with Nasu and his community as they fight for

#JusticeforOtodoGbame

Creative action Create pictures or drawings of what home means to you.

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** No
- **Include my name and address?** No

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Governor of Lagos State to investigate the forced eviction of the Otodo Gbame community, ensure they are resettled, and provide them with compensation.

Write to His Excellency Babajide Olusola
Sanwo-Olu
Governor of Lagos State
Governor's Office
Ikeja
Lagos State
Nigeria

Salutation Dear Sir

In your letter ask him to

- Investigate the forced eviction of the Otodo Gbame community
- Ensure they are resettled and given adequate compensation and reparations.

Every message counts

Together we can help Nasu and his community to live with dignity



© Tracie Williams/Greenpeace

PHILIPPINES

MARINEL UBALDO

Fighting to save a community hit by climate crisis

Marinel Sumook Ubaldo was 16 when she faced the devastating impact of climate change at first hand. On 13 November 2013, Typhoon Yolanda, one of the most powerful on record, destroyed her village, Matarinao, in Eastern Samar province. The typhoon killed 6,300 people in the Philippines and millions lost their homes.

‘The government response was inadequate,’ Marinel says: the relocation sites lacked basic services such as water and electricity, and there were only limited opportunities for people to earn a living. As a result, many families returned to their original homes, even though they are in dangerous areas.

Since the typhoon, Marinel has become a leading youth activist, dedicated to ensuring governments around the world confront climate change and its impact on communities like Matarinao.

‘I want world leaders to commit to minimising the emission of greenhouse gases. I want them to help vulnerable countries, such as my own, adapt to the unavoidable effects of climate change.’ Marinel Sumook Ubaldo

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Marinel Ubaldo,
c/o Amnesty International Philippines
6-C Perseveranda Townhomes II
Maningning Street, Sikatuna Village
Quezon City 1101
Philippines

Language English, Filipino or Waray

Suggested message Marinel, we stand with you in your fight for your community. *A Filipino translation is available at [amnesty.org.uk/write](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)*

Creative action Marinel would love to hear how your community is helping to protect the environment.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? No
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes
- Include my name and address? Yes

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Tell the government to provide the residents of Matarinao, Eastern Samar, with decent living conditions.

Write to Rodrigo Duterte, President of Philippines,
Malacañang Complex
JP Laurel Street, San Miguel
Manila 1005
Philippines

Salutation Dear President

In your letter tell him

- To provide residents of Matarinao, Salcedo, Eastern Samar and other vulnerable areas with water, electricity, safe and adequate housing, and employment opportunities
- To ensure the rights of people living in vulnerable communities are respected and upheld, especially in times of disaster.

Every message counts

Together we can help protect communities most vulnerable to climate change



SOUTH SUDAN

MAGAI MATIOP NGONG

Teenager faces execution

Magai Matiop Ngong was 15 when he was convicted of murder. The school student, who loves running and gospel singing, had no lawyer to help him until after the trial. Although he told the judge his age and that the killing was an accident, he was sentenced to death by hanging.

Now 17, Magai is on death row in South Sudan's capital, Juba. He survives on the hope that his appeal against execution will succeed, enabling him to return to school. The death penalty for children who were under the age of 18 when the crime was committed is strictly prohibited by both international law and South Sudan's Transitional Constitution.

Nevertheless, one of the seven people hanged in South Sudan last year was, like Magai, just a child.

'Before the accident, I was in secondary school... My own aim was to study and do things that can help others.'

Magai Matiop Ngong

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Magai Matiop Ngong
c/o Amnesty International Regional Office for East Africa, the Horn and Great Lakes
Riverside Studios
Riverside Lane, off Riverside Drive
PO Box 1527-00606,
Nairobi
Kenya

Language English, Dinka or Arabic

Suggested message Before posting your message to Magai, take a photo of it and post on your social networks, using the hashtag **#InSolidarityWithMagai**. On Twitter, use the same hashtag and tag your tweets to **@AmnestyEARO**, and **@RepSouthSudan** and/or **@PresSalva**.

Creative action When sharing photos, include banners or signs you've made with **#InSolidarityWithMagai**

CAN I

- **Send a religious card or message?** No
- **Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty?** Yes
- **Include my name and address?** Yes

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the President of South Sudan to commute Magai Matiop Ngong's death sentence.

Write to South Sudan does not have a functioning postal system, so please send a message to President Salva Kiir Mayardit on Twitter:

@RepSouthSudan and **@PresSalva**

Salutation Dear President

In your message ask him

- To commute Magai Matiop Ngong's death sentence
- To make a commitment that the death penalty will not be used against people below the age of 18 at the time of the crime, in line with South Sudanese and international human rights law
- To establish an official moratorium on executions.

Every message counts Together we can campaign to free Magai from death row



UK

CHILDREN PRICED OUT OF CITIZENSHIP

Children's rights are not for sale

Thousands of children who have every right to British citizenship are charged exorbitant fees to register as British citizens. This affects children who were born in the UK, or who were brought here at a young age, and have lived in the UK ever since.

The Home Office currently charges £1,012 for registration, much more than the cost of processing which is £372. The cost applies to each child, including children living in poverty and those in local authority care, and regardless of the number of children in a family.

Once children turn 18 they may lose the right to register. However, many children in this situation are not aware of this, or may assume that they are already British citizens. When they discover that they need to register their citizenship, there is little time left to raise the huge sum needed. If they cannot afford to register, they are at risk of being detained and removed from the UK once they reach adulthood.

'I didn't even know I was not British until my mother had to explain to me why I couldn't go on the same school trips as my class mates.'

Daniel, 15

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Urge the Home Secretary to change laws around child citizenship.

Write to Children's Human Rights Network
c/o Community Organising Team
Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

We will deliver all the letters to the Home Office.

Salutation Dear Home Secretary

In your letter tell them

- The Home Office should never profit from children claiming their rights to citizenship
- No child should be denied citizenship because they cannot afford the fee.

Every message counts Together we can change the laws on child citizenship

Amnesty International UK's Children's Human Rights Network is working with the Project for the Registration of Children as British Citizens to change the law.

Amnesty International UK's Children's Human Rights Network empowers children and young people to protect their rights enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. The network takes action on individual cases and campaigns on wider issues.

Sign up: amnesty.org.uk/join-our-childrens-human-rights-network
Email: childrensnetwork@amnesty.org.uk

Read the blog: amnesty.org.uk/blogs/childrens-human-rights-network-blog

 @amnestyUK_CHRN

 /AmnestyInternational.ChildrensHumanRights

 @amnestyukchildren



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UK

MIGRANT WOMEN

Demanding protection from domestic abuse

Migrant women find it virtually impossible to access protection if they experience domestic abuse. Many are blocked from accessing public funds and are turned away from life-saving refuges. And many are too scared to report the violence to the police or other services, for fear of being detained or deported. The fear is founded in reality: last year, 60 per cent of UK police forces admitted they referred victims of crime to the Home Office for immigration purposes.

The UK government has promised to reform the law on protection from domestic abuse, but its draft legislation fails to protect migrant women. Amnesty is campaigning with the Step Up Migrant Women coalition to ensure that migrant women affected by domestic abuse have equal access to protection and support.

'Migrant women deserve to be heard and deserve safety.'

Illary Valenzuela-Oblitas, co-ordinator, Step Up Migrant Women

SEND A MESSAGE OF SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Migrant Women

c/o Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Language English, Portuguese or Spanish

Suggested message We support equal rights and equal protection for women, wherever they come from.

Creative action You can use the colour purple in your letter or card: it is often used in campaigns to end violence against women and girls.

CAN I

- Send a religious card or message? No
- Send an Amnesty card or mention Amnesty? Yes
- Include my name and address? No

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Ask the Home Secretary to ensure that migrant women have access to protection from domestic abuse.

Write to Migrant Women Campaign

c/o Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

We will deliver all the letters to the Home Office.

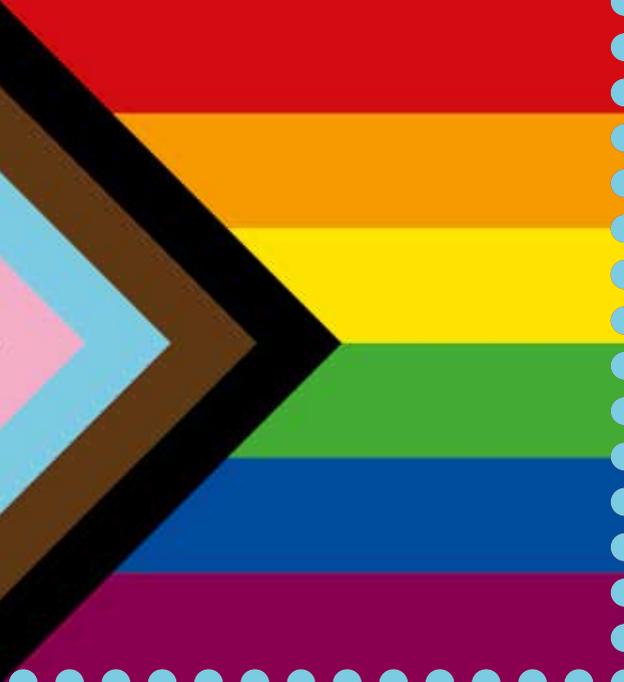
Salutation Dear Home Secretary

In your letter tell the Home Secretary

- The UK government must give equal protection to all survivors of domestic abuse
- Migrant survivors must be able to access the specialist services they need in a safe environment and free from discrimination.

Every message counts

Together we can help ensure protection for all survivors of domestic abuse



UK

YOUNG TRANS PEOPLE

Trans rights are human rights

Trans people face discrimination and violence in society simply for being who they are.

The 2004 Gender Recognition Act (GRA) was a milestone for the human rights of trans people in the UK. It enabled people to change their legal gender. Fifteen years on, however, it is clear that the law does not go far enough. It fails to protect young trans people and people with non-binary identities – that is, identities other than male or female. This is one of the main reasons that since 2019 the UK has slipped from third to ninth best country in Europe for LGBT equality.

Amnesty International UK campaigns alongside the charities Mermaids and Gendered Intelligence for the rights of trans children and young people. They provide services, resources and training to change the realities of young trans people. We are calling for a reformed GRA based on self-determination, recognition of non-binary gender identities, and for this to be available to children and young people. Every person deserves the respect and dignity of being recognised as who they say they are.

For local Amnesty groups

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY

Many small things you can do would make a big difference and make your local group more trans-inclusive:

- Read and share the pocket guide you received with this booklet.
- Include either the trans-inclusive Pride flag or some words in your communications to show that you welcome trans people. For example: 'Our local Amnesty group is a trans-friendly space: everyone is welcome.'
- Encourage everyone to give their preferred pronouns when introducing themselves, so that members of your group who prefer gender-neutral pronouns, such as 'they' or 'ze', feel included when they say theirs.
- Distribute the LGBTQ+ window stickers to local businesses so that trans people in your area feel welcome when they go in.

SEND AN APPEAL LETTER

Call on the Women and Equalities Minister to reform the Gender Recognition Act.

Write to Trans Rights Campaign
c/o Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

We will deliver all the letters.

Salutation Dear Minister
In your letter tell her

- Trans people have a right to live free from discrimination and the UK's Gender Recognition Act currently fails to ensure this
- The Act should be brought into line with human rights standards: this means recognition for young trans people and ending the medical requirement for gender recognition.

Every message counts

Together we can reform the Gender Recognition Act

EVERY MESSAGE COUNTS

Write For Rights 2018

Last year hundreds of thousands of people around the world took part in Write for Rights 2018, sending nearly **6 million messages** of support and appeals to authorities. Here is some news and replies we received from the people highlighted in the campaign.

KENYA

Sengwer Indigenous people

Members of the Sengwer indigenous community are being forced from their ancestral home in the Embobut Forest by the Kenyan authorities. People round the world joined their fight, and brought it to public attention in Kenya.

'We would like to thank Amnesty for the work they have done, especially on the Write for Rights campaign. We are so thankful to Amnesty. We would like to thank... the entire team for exposing the ills, for exposing the problems and the challenges the Sengwer community underwent. God bless Amnesty, God bless Sengwer as we seek for justice.'

Sengwer Indigenous community



SOUTH AFRICA

Nonhle Mbuthuma

For more than a decade, Nonhle Mbuthuma has led a peaceful struggle against a company that wants to mine on her community's ancestral lands. She is a spokesperson of the Amadiba Crisis Committee (ACC). As a result, she has been subjected to death threats, intimidation and harassment. There has been some progress in the ACC's discussion with the government. Amnesty continues to work with Nonhle and her community.



'I want to thank Amnesty globally. The support they gave us is amazing and it makes a lot of difference. The thousands of letters we have received shows that this struggle is not just about us, that we are not alone.'

Nonhle Mbuthuma

BRAZIL

Marielle Franco

On 14 March 2018, Marielle Franco, a prominent human rights defender and city councillor, was shot dead in Rio de Janeiro as she returned home from a public debate. Her driver, Anderson Pedro Gomes, was also killed in the attack. In March 2019, two former police officers were arrested in connection with the killings. This is a first step towards justice, so we continue to call for an adequate, independent and impartial investigation into the deaths.



'It helps me to get up in the morning to know there is this big global network of affection.'

Monica Benicio, Marielle Franco's partner

INDIA

Pavatri Manjhi

Pavatri Manjhi has faced harassment and intimidation for defending the rights of her Adivasi (Indigenous) community to remain in their ancestral land, which is wanted by two companies to build power plants. Following last year's campaign, several government agencies ordered the Chhattisgarh state police to ensure Pavatri's safety. She says the harassment has diminished significantly and that the police have assured her they will protect her.



'The many letters kept us motivated. They make us feel that our issue is not geographically isolated. The world-wide support is encouraging.'

Degree Chouhan, Pavatri's fellow human rights defender

VENEZUELA

Geraldine Chacón

Geraldine Chacón is a young activist and Amnesty member who was imprisoned for four months for her human rights education work in some of the poorest areas of Venezuela, and is still banned from travelling. Geraldine and her mother, Natividad, said the thousands of solidarity messages gave them hope and helped them through difficult times. Amnesty continues to campaign for the case against Geraldine to be dropped and her travel ban lifted.



'I've campaigned for Write for Rights cases before. I never imagined I'd be on the other side of the campaign. I have no words to thank all that Amnesty has done for me.'

Geraldine Chacon

UKRAINE

Vitalina Koval

Leading LGBTI activist Vitalina Koval has been repeatedly threatened and attacked, including at the 2017 and 2018 International Women's Day marches in the city of Uzhgorod. At this year's march, Vitalina and other activists were able to demonstrate safely thanks to improved police protection, something she credits in part to international pressure from Amnesty.



'Today, tomorrow and many days ahead I will spend reading your letters, every one of them. They will be giving me strength and understanding of what I am living for, what's my purpose in this world. I feel all-encompassing love to all of you, I want you to be well and I want any hardships in your life to be bearable, and for you to feel your inner voice guiding you.' Vitalina Korval

VIETNAM

Me Nam

Blogger Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, known online as Me Nam (Mother Mushroom), was released on 16 October 2018 after spending two years in prison for her human rights work. Her release was the result of an extensive campaign by many organisations, including Amnesty. Me Nam and her family went into exile in the US, where she continues to campaign for human rights in Vietnam.



'Thanks for all the efforts of our Vietnamese who live inside and outside and especially Amnesty International and other organisations. It's not just about the freedom for myself and my family. It will be for all the Vietnamese. I think I have a lot of things to fight in the future.' Me Nam

KYRGYZSTAN

Gulzar Duishenova

Gulzar Duishenova campaigns for the rights of people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan to live with dignity and move around freely. During the campaign, Gulzar gave interviews and talks, and took part in the Human Rights Defenders World Summit in Paris. She said the solidarity messages were a huge support. Gulzar achieved a key objective in March 2019, when the government of Kyrgyzstan ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. The authorities must now allocate the necessary resources, set an implementation timeline and fully involve people with disabilities in the process.



'I am grateful for all the support and solidarity from so many of Amnesty International's activists who care about our rights despite being from a different country.' Gulzar Duishenova

IRAN

Atena Daemi

Atena Daemi was jailed in 2016 for criticising capital punishment on social media, handing out leaflets and taking part in a peaceful protest against the execution of a young woman. Since then she has been beaten, pepper sprayed, put in solitary confinement and denied specialist medical care. After Amnesty supporters around the world wrote 700,000 messages and appeal letters for her in last year's campaign, Atena was finally given the medical care she required, as well as a much-needed boost to her morale.



'I am wholeheartedly grateful to Amnesty International and all people around the world who have showered me with compassion and kindness and spared no effort in supporting me.'

Atena Daemi

MOROCCO

Nawal Benaissa

Nawal Benaissa campaigns for social justice and better health services in Rif, a region where many people feel forgotten by the government. She has been harassed, repeatedly arrested, ordered to close her Facebook account; in February 2018 she was fined and given a 10-month suspended sentence. Nawal's sentence was upheld on appeal and the harassment continues. Nevertheless, she says the messages strengthened her determination.



'Amnesty International's adoption of my case... has been like a beacon of light in my way, the light that had been extinguished by the injustices of the state. I now feel I have family everywhere in the world.' Nawal Benaissa

UK

Seyi Akiwowo

Seyi Akiwowo defends the right of women to express themselves freely on social media, without fear of threats or abuse. She herself received a wave of online abuse after a video of her speaking at the European Parliament went viral. Following the campaign, Amnesty secretary general Kumi Naidoo met Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and shared some of the thousands of messages from Amnesty supporters calling for action.



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

UK

Northern Ireland abortion rights activists

In 2018, Northern Ireland remained the only part of the UK where women could face up to life in prison for having an abortion. During the campaign, thousands of Amnesty supporters showed their solidarity with activists for reproductive rights in the region. In July 2019, MPs in Westminster voted overwhelmingly to lift Northern Ireland's ban on abortion. Barring an unlikely restoration of devolved government, this landmark piece of legislation will come into force by 21 October.



'I welcome this change and I am so relieved that women are not going to have to go through what I went through.' Sarah Ewart, Northern Ireland abortion rights activist

UK

Stansted 15

The Stansted 15 are a group of human rights defenders who surrounded a plane in 2017 to stop what they believed was the unlawful deportation of 60 people. They were found guilty of a serious terrorism-related charge and faced the prospect of lengthy prison sentences. Nearly 12,000 Amnesty supporters sent the Stansted 15 messages of solidarity during last year's campaign. We welcomed the decision in February 2019 not to jail them but reiterated our condemnation of the terrorism-related charge, which could undermine the right to protest in the UK.



'We were lifted up by your solidarity during what was the biggest challenge of our lives. People power gets results.' Mel Strickland, Stansted 15

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why can't I post a letter to all the people featured in the campaign?

In some cases it is not safe for the person to receive mail, or the postal service in their country may be unreliable. Also, some prison authorities restrict the amount of mail inmates can receive. In every case, we work with the individual to determine the safest and most effective way to share messages with them. If we suggest a method you cannot use – such as social media – please send a message to another individual in the campaign.

Why can't I send religious cards to some people or mention Amnesty?

It is for the safety of the recipient. In some cases association with a particular faith or Amnesty's human rights work could put them at greater risk.

What counts as a non-religious card?

Cards illustrated with things like snowy scenes, fir trees or robins, or a postcard of your local area. The message 'Seasons greetings' is not religious.

Can I send cards produced by other organisations?

Yes, as long as their work cannot be considered political and the card follows the general guidance on the case.

Why are there only 12 cases?

The 12 cases have been developed after a long process that involved obtaining the informed consent of the individuals featured, planning, strategy development and risk assessment.

What if the email address for the appeal letter doesn't work?

Please send a letter instead. The email may have been switched off because the addressee has been overwhelmed by appeals or the inbox is full.

What if I receive a reply?

Please send a copy to the Individuals at Risk programme, as it will help us assess the impact of the campaign.

- iar@amnesty.org.uk
- IAR Programme, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA

Why is feedback important?

Finding out how many people took part in the campaign, and on which cases, shows us whether our tactics are working or need to be adapted. It also enables us to provide updates about an individual's changing circumstances. Please use the feedback form included in this booklet or visit: [amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback)

Can I work on these cases after Write for Rights finishes?

Yes, in most cases. If you would like to work on a case long term, please let us know so that we can make sure you have the most up to date information: iar@amnesty.org.uk

What else can I do to campaign on the cases of individuals at risk?

You can join our Urgent Action Network, which protects people from torture, helps free people who are wrongly detained and secures access to medical treatment or legal counsel for prisoners. As a member of the network, you will be sent requests – how many is up to you – to take action urgently on behalf of individuals at risk. Find out more at: [amnesty.org.uk/urgent](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent)

Does the campaign really work?

Yes, solidarity is effective. Thousands of letters arriving at a prison tells the prison authorities that the world is watching. And people who have received solidarity messages have told us how it boosts their spirits.

Sending cards and letters individually can be pricey, can I send them all in one go?

Yes, if it is cheaper and easier to send them in one envelope, please do so.

Is it risky to sign my letters and give my address? Will that country refuse to let me visit it in the future?

We have no record of this happening. Thousands of Amnesty supporters sign their letters without experiencing any problems. However, if you have business or other close links with a country or have concerns, you may wish to choose another case or to not give your full name or address (for example, sign a letter 'from Jane, Manchester').

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK

Thank you for taking part in Write for Rights 2019.
We'd love to hear what you did so please fill in this simple form.

- It will help us know what worked well for you
- We can tell the cases / families how many activists have taken action on their case
- We can share news of what you did with Amnesty supporters around the world
- Feed back by post (see over) or at www.amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback

Are you (please tick):

- A local group
- A trade union
- A student group
- A youth group
- Taking part in Write for Rights at school or college
- Taking part in Write for Rights at work
- An individual/family member
- Other

Your name

Email address

Please tell us the name(s) of your group(s) or organisation(s)

Did you hold or join a Write for Rights party or event in your area? How successful was it?

- Extremely Very Slightly Not at all

What type of event was it? How many attended?

Did you choose not to take action on some cases? If so, why?

The information you provide will be held by Amnesty International UK Section and Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust (AIUK) to help assess and improve our communications with supporters.

If you are new to Amnesty and willing to receive updates about our work and ways to support us, please tick the box. You can unsubscribe at any time.

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Give us your feedback



Below are all the cases in alphabetical order by country.
Tell us about the **NUMBER** of actions you or your group took.

INDIVIDUAL AT RISK	APPEAL	SOLIDARITY	CREATIVE ACTIONS
<i>Example</i>	13	8	4 solidarity cards were handwritten
BELARUS Emil Ostrovko			
CANADA Grassy Narrows Youth			
CHINA Yiliyasijiang Reheman			
GREECE Sarah Mardini and Seán Binder			
IRAN Yasaman Aryani			
MEXICO José Adrián			
NIGERIA Nasu Abdulaziz			
PHILIPPINES Marinel Ubaldo			
SOUTH SUDAN Magai Matiop Ngong			
UK Children priced out of citizenship			
UK Migrant women			
UK Young trans people			

If you took part in a creative action please give details.

Did you use the website? Please rate it:

Excellent Above average
 Below average Very poor

What did you use the website for?

How useful were the campaign materials?

Extremely Very Slightly Not at all

Which ones were most useful and why?

Return your feedback by 31 January 2020 to:
FREEPOST RLTR-RAXJ-CYRC,
 Amnesty International UK,
 The Human Rights Action Centre,
 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA
 or at www.amnesty.org.uk/writefeedback

Thank you

WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENTS

Every year, groups across the UK host Write for Rights events. Here are some ideas if you'd like to do the same.

- Write for Rights is a good way for people new to human rights action to get involved. You could hold an event at work at lunchtime and ask people to sign action cards or write letters.
- **20 November 2019** is the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. You can mark the occasion by encouraging action on children's cases.
- **10 December** is International Human Rights Day. You can use it as a hook to attract people to the campaign.
- November and December are the season of goodwill: host a celebration with mulled wine, mince pies and all the trimmings, and invite your local community to sign cards.
- Amnesty has made films about some of the cases. Host a screening in your local cinema and ask the audience to sign cards and petitions as they leave.

Want help with your fundraising event?

Our Community Fundraising team is on hand to offer advice and free materials for anyone raising money for Amnesty International UK at their Write for Rights event. To find out more, go to amnesty.org.uk/organise-event or email sct@amnesty.org.uk

Fundraising tips

There are plenty of activities you can add onto your Write for Rights event to cover costs and raise funds for Amnesty. Here are some ideas:

- Team up with a local café, restaurant, caterer or food stall and ask them to donate a percentage of their takings on the day. If you partner with a café or restaurant, you could hold your Write for Rights event there. Alternatively, a food stall could be placed outside your venue with customers invited inside to finish their meal and write some letters or cards. You could even link the food to the cuisine of the country in one of the cases.
- Organise a tea party or bake sale to raise funds while you write. You could ask friends and family to donate their creations. Local shops and supermarkets are often happy to donate sweet treats for fundraising events. For more tips and ideas, see: www.amnesty.org.uk/tea
- Invite a local choir to sing carols outside your venue. Organise a public collection while they perform.
- Set up a present-wrapping stall. Approach local shopping centres and shops as soon as possible to check if they have space. You could direct customers to your Write for Rights event or ask them to write a card while they wait.



Join Amnesty International today to defend human rights

020 7033 1777
amnesty.org.uk/join

 @amnestyUK

 /amnestyUK

If you require this document in an alternative format please contact:

Telephone 020 7033 1777

Email sct@amnesty.org.uk

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The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
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