

Write for Rights 2020 – Frequently Asked Questions

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

In some cases, it may not be safe for the person to receive mail, or the postal service in their country may be unreliable. Also, some prison authorities limit 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 that you are unable to 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 and robins, or a postcard of your local area. The message 'Season's 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.

How are the 10 cases chosen, and why do four of them have a 'Special UK Focus'?

The 10 cases are carefully picked to have maximum impact: they have been developed after a long process that involved obtaining the informed consent of each individual featured, planning each action, developing a strategy and assessing the risks. On all the cases, we map out what action activists can take to achieve the changes we want to see. This year, we have identified four of our cases for a 'Special UK Focus'. For these four, we consider that a surge of UK-wide activism will pressure our UK authorities to use their influence and can make a huge and immediate difference.

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

Please send a letter instead. The fax and 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

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/write-for-rights

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: sct@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

Does this 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 and strength.

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.

Can I send my letters to the AIUK office?

Because of Covid-19 we are unsure when we will return to the office. Please send your letters to the addresses given.

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').

I don't feel comfortable hosting a Write for Rights event because of Covid-19. What can I do?

Your safety is paramount, and all events must follow the government guidelines. Please follow the latest government guidance on <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>