

Amnesty International UK

# Annual Review 2020



**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



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## About this report

This report covers the human rights campaigns, investigations and educational work sustained by UK supporters of Amnesty International. It includes work carried out in 2020 by the Amnesty International UK Section and some work carried out by the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

Amnesty International UK is a dual organisation, composed of the Amnesty International UK Section (the Section) and the Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust (the Trust). The dual structure enables us to make best use of the funds generously donated by our supporters. Both the Section and the Trust share the goal of securing all human rights for all people in the world, but each has its own Board and rules of operation.

Most of the work described in this report is supported by the Trust, but some is carried out by the Section from membership contributions only.

For more details, see page 25.

# A HEALTH EMERGENCY, A HUMAN RIGHTS CRISIS

**‘The need for Amnesty has rarely been greater’**

## A message from Sacha Deshmukh

As you would expect, Amnesty International UK’s work in 2020 was dominated by the pandemic. When Covid-19 struck, it was quickly clear it was both a health emergency and a human rights crisis. As this review shows, your generous support enabled us to carry out vital work. We helped ensure human rights were at the centre of governments’ responses to Covid-19, challenged pandemic-related abuses, highlighted the plight of health and essential workers, and protected the most vulnerable groups.

Beyond Covid-19, despite travel restrictions and lockdowns, our researchers exposed war crimes by Syrian and Russian government forces, and the civilian casualties of US airstrikes in Somalia. We investigated Saudi Arabia’s abuse of Ethiopian migrants and corroborated the use of banned cluster bombs by Armenia and Azerbaijan. Our work helped ensure Rohingya refugee children received education and documented police violence during Black Lives Matter protests in the USA.

In the UK, we campaigned for refugee families to be reunited, called for justice for a girl killed by the British army, challenged dangerous government bills, and worked to enshrine international human rights treaties in domestic law. And we ended the year with the sending of millions of appeals and solidarity messages during our annual global Write for Rights campaign.

When I became interim chief executive officer of Amnesty International UK in May 2021, I was honoured to join an organisation that has achieved so much. I’m looking forward to continuing to build on these achievements, as the Amnesty movement celebrates its 60th anniversary and looks to the future. My first priority has been to put the building blocks in place to deliver our new eight-year strategy to tackle the root causes of human rights abuses. I want to create an inclusive and rights-respecting culture that allows the brilliant people who work and volunteer for the organisation to thrive.



Sacha Deshmukh at the Amnesty International UK National Conference 2021 © Marie-Anne Ventoura

There are challenges ahead. Events such as the ongoing repression in Myanmar and the clampdown on dissent in Hong Kong show the need for powerful, bold, brave Amnesty International has rarely been greater. With your support, we will rise to the challenge.

Thank you so much for supporting Amnesty International and standing up for human rights in the UK and around the world.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sacha Deshmukh'.

**Sacha Deshmukh**  
Interim chief executive officer,  
Amnesty International UK



# A YEAR IN HUMAN RIGHTS

Amnesty International has many achievements to report for 2020, but we also faced the unprecedented challenge of responding to the Covid-19 pandemic while continuing our work to protect human rights.

## JANUARY

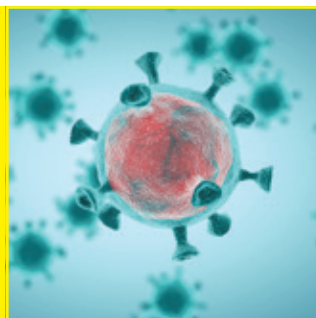
### Educating Rohingya refugee children

The Bangladeshi government announced in January it would offer schooling and skills training to Rohingya refugee children, a key Amnesty International campaign goal. Over the previous 12 months, we published a briefing paper on the issue, launched a global petition urging Bangladesh to act, and held art workshops for children in camps in Cox's Bazar.

## MARCH

### Campaigning during Covid

Amnesty International UK adjusted to life under lockdown. The global Amnesty movement broadened its focus to take in the social and economic inequalities exposed by the pandemic and the human rights implications of governments' responses to Covid-19.



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## APRIL

### Syrian regime officials on trial

In a vital step towards justice for victims of the Bashar al-Assad regime, two former Syrian government officials charged with crimes against humanity were put on trial in Germany in April. Amnesty International played an important role in the case, providing research and testimonies from witnesses. Find out more on page 13.

**‘This trial is a historic step in the struggle for justice for the tens of thousands of people unlawfully detained, tortured and killed in Syrian government's prisons and detention centre.’**

Lynn Maalouf, Amnesty International's Middle East research director

© Charles McQuillan/Getty Images



Robyn Peoples (right) and Sharni Edwards, after marrying on 11 February 2020

## FEBRUARY

### Equal marriage in Northern Ireland

In a landmark moment for LGBTI+ rights in the UK, Northern Ireland's first same-sex marriage took place on 11 February, when Belfast couple Robyn Peoples and Sharni Edwards tied the knot. Amnesty International UK and the Love Equality campaign led the movement for equal marriage in the region, which culminated in 2019's historic law change.

**‘This is a moment Northern Ireland will remember forever – this is the day love became equal in the eyes of the law... This is a historic occasion of which we can all be proud. As of today, Northern Ireland is a more equal, loving and happy place.’**

Patrick Corrigan, Amnesty International UK's Northern Ireland director



A Black Lives Matter protest in Manchester, June 2020

## MAY

### Black Lives Matter

The murder of George Floyd sparked waves of protests around the world. This global outcry against racism challenged individuals and organisations to examine their own actions and make improvements. Like others, Amnesty International UK was forced to confront discrimination and inequality within the organisation and take action to ensure anti-racism becomes central to our human rights work.

© Pat Scaasi/MI News/NurPhoto via Getty Images

## JUNE

### Pride Inside

Lockdown stopped us taking to the streets to mark Pride in 2020. Amnesty International UK hosted the event online instead, with parties, performances, discussions, talks, workshops and music. More than 30,000 people tuned in for the launch show. Find out more on page 10.

## JULY

### Death sentence quashed

A court in South Sudan quashed the death sentence of Magai Matiop Ngong in July because he was a child at the time of the crime. His case featured in our 2019 Write for Rights campaign and more than 765,000 Amnesty supporters around the world took action for him.

## AUGUST

### Hope for migrant workers in Qatar

Labour reforms announced in August could improve conditions for migrant workers in Qatar. The Emir abolished restrictions on them changing jobs without their employer's permission and introduced a monthly minimum wage, plus basic living allowances for some workers. Amnesty International welcomed the reforms, but emphasised that they should be fully implemented.



Stadium construction worker in Doha, 2019

## SEPTEMBER

### Reparations for child survivors

In response to our report on Yazidi children who survived captivity at the hands of so-called Islamic State (IS), the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq publicly endorsed our recommendation that children should benefit from any reparations scheme for survivors of IS crimes.



A Yazidi girl in a camp for internally displaced people in Iraqi Kurdistan, August 2019

## OCTOBER

### Human rights defender freed

Human rights defender Narges Mohammadi was released from an Iranian prison in early October, following calls for her freedom from thousands of Amnesty supporters. Vice president of the Centre for Human Rights Defenders in Iran, Narges was arrested in 2015, and subsequently received a 16-year sentence.



Narges Mohammadi

## NOVEMBER

### Payments to Myanmar military halted

An Amnesty investigation prompted Japanese brewing giant Kirin to suspend dividend payments to its Myanmar-based business partner MEHL, a secretive conglomerate whose shareholders include military units responsible for serious human rights violations.

**This is an important step by Kirin, and shows it is taking its human rights responsibilities in Myanmar seriously. We have repeatedly documented the business links between MEHL and military units directly involved in atrocity crimes against the Rohingya and other minorities in Rakhine, Kachin and northern Shan States. Any company partnering with MEHL risks complicity in these horrors.'**

**Montse Ferrer**, Amnesty International's researcher on business and human rights

## DECEMBER

### Argentina legalises abortion

There was a momentous victory for women's rights campaigners in Argentina in December, when Congress voted to legalise abortion. Amnesty International has campaigned for this since 2013.

**This is a victory for the women's movement in Argentina, which has been fighting for its rights for decades. Now, people who decide to terminate their pregnancy will have a safe, high-quality service. Today we have grown as a society.'**

**Mariela Belski**, Amnesty Argentina's executive director

# DEFENDING PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD

Standing up for people suffering human rights abuses – and showing them solidarity – is at the heart of Amnesty International's work.

Every year we mobilise hundreds of thousands of supporters across the globe to take action on behalf of people whose rights are being abused. We use two key approaches:

- **Urgent Actions** protect people at imminent risk of serious abuse.
- **Long-term casework** aims to create lasting change.

With both approaches, our supporters send appeals to governments, officials and others in authority by post, email, text message and social media.

## Urgent Actions

When someone is at imminent risk of execution, torture or another serious human rights violation, we inform our global Urgent Action Network. They quickly send letters, emails, text messages and social media posts to the relevant authority. In 2020, more than 10,000 network members in the UK took action on behalf of people facing unfair trials, torture, unjust imprisonment, death threats and other abuses.

Often, the pressure works. In January, Vietnamese human rights defender Tran Thi Nga was freed from prison. The next month human rights activist Joaquín Elo Ayeto was released in Equatorial Guinea after almost a year behind bars following his arbitrary arrest.

In March, dual British-Iranian national Kamal Foroughi finally returned home to the UK after an unfair trial resulted in nine years of detention in Iran. A month later Chinese human rights lawyer Wang Quanzhang, arrested in 2015 for 'subverting state power', was freed after four and a half years behind bars.

Nabeel Rajab, a leading human rights activist in Bahrain, was released on a non-custodial sentence in June after almost four years in prison, while in August, Venezuelan trade unionist and human rights defender Rubén González was released after 21 months in arbitrary detention.

**I want to thank [you]... for the unrestricted support that I received from all of my Amnesty International colleagues.'**

**Rubén González, a trade unionist in Venezuela**



Nabeel Rajab

© NurPhoto via Getty Images

**I thank Amnesty International for your tireless effort in demanding my freedom'**

**Tran Thi Nga, a Vietnamese human rights defender**



Tran Thi Nga and her children

© Private

## Protecting people in a pandemic

In 2020, we launched a series of Urgent Actions for journalists, health workers and others targeted for criticising their governments' handling of the pandemic. In Malaysia, five hospital cleaners were charged with 'unauthorised gathering' after taking part in a peaceful protest over insufficient personal protective equipment (PPE). After our Urgent Action they were told the case against them would not proceed.

Similar action helped to secure the release of Egyptian doctors Ahmed Sabra, Hany Bakr and Ibrahim Badawi, who were detained for criticising their government's Covid-19 response. We also took action for journalist Darvinson Rojas, who was detained for 12 days because of his coverage of the pandemic in Venezuela. He was then released, thanks in part to our campaigning.



Darvinson Rojas

© Private



## Long-term casework

In 2020, Amnesty supporters in the UK took action on dozens of long-term cases, challenging torture, arbitrary detentions, unfair trials and other abuses. There were positive developments in several cases, including that of Yasaman Aryani, her mother Monireh Arabshahi and fellow women's rights activist Mojgan Keshavarz, who were jailed for protesting against forced veiling in Iran. We started campaigning to free them in 2019. The Court of Appeals in Tehran reduced their sentences in February 2020.

We also continued our long-standing work for the release of British-Iranian charity worker Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe. In March, the Iranian authorities temporarily

released her and other prisoners over fears Covid-19 could run rife in the country's overcrowded jails. She was required to wear an ankle tag and stay within 300 metres of her parent's home in Tehran. Her release was

later extended until the end of her five-year sentence in March 2021. But Nazanin then received a new 12-month prison sentence, with a year-long travel ban to follow, for 'propaganda against the system'. We will continue to campaign until she is free for good.



Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe

© Private

## Write for Rights

During Write for Rights – the world's largest human rights campaign – hundreds of thousands of Amnesty supporters around the world send cards, letters, emails, tweets, Facebook and Instagram posts, and other messages of support to people whose rights are being abused. They also send appeals to those with the power to end the abuses.

Millions of messages are sent during the campaign – and they have a real impact. For prisoners of conscience, activists facing threats, and families separated from their loved ones, the messages are powerful reminders that they are not alone. This form of global action raises the profile of cases, providing protection and building momentum towards justice.

The 2020 campaign featured 10 cases, including poets, journalists, environmental defenders and young refugees. Of these cases, we identified four where pressure from the UK could have an added impact and focused our campaigning on them: Saudi women's rights campaigner Nassima al-Sada, METU LGBTI+ activists in Turkey, jailed human rights defender Germain Rukuki in Burundi, and Chilean student protester Gustavo Gatica. Germain Rukuki was released from prison in June 2021, after the appeal court reduced his 32-year sentence to one year. Nassima al-Sada was released in the same month. The LGBTI+ activists in Turkey were acquitted of 'unlawful assembly' in October 2021.

There was progress with the other cases too: Algerian journalist Khaled Drareni, imprisoned for his reporting on the Hirak protest movement, was provisionally released in February 2021. His conviction was later quashed and a retrial ordered. In Myanmar, Paing Phyto Min, a satirical poet and student leader jailed for criticising the military, was freed early from prison in April 2021.



Nassima al-Sada

© Private



METU Pride defenders

© Akin Celiktas



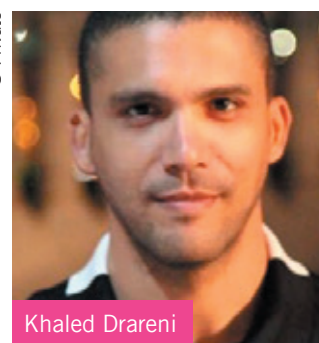
Germain Rukuki

© Private



Gustavo Gatica

© Private



Khaled Drareni

© Private



Paing Phyto Min

© Private

**110,000+** Amnesty supporters in the UK took action during Write for Rights 2020

# STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

To make human rights real, people often need to educate others, organise and protest. But those who defend human rights in these ways may face danger from powerful opponents. Amnesty International UK aims to celebrate the work of human rights defenders and protect them from retaliation.

## Brave Awards

Launched in January, Amnesty International UK's first-ever Brave Awards celebrated inspiring, passionate and dedicated UK activists who campaign for human rights. Supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery, the competition asked members of the public to nominate people who are making a real difference to their communities on anything from LGBTI+ rights to the climate crisis. The four winners were announced on 20 February, the World Day of Social Justice.

### Scotland: Pinar Aksu

When she was 15, Pinar started campaigning to end the immigration detention of children – something she went through herself at a young age. She also raises awareness about other issues people face while seeking asylum and refuge in the UK, such as destitution. As part of the International Detention Coalition Campaign to End Child Detention, Pinar has shared her experience of detention with the Council of Europe and the UN.

### Northern Ireland: Dermot Devlin

Dermot is a disability advocate and founder of My Way Access, an online directory that informs users about the accessibility of businesses. He has worked on disability rights legislation with Northern Ireland's Equality Commission and Human Rights Commission, and with the UN. Dermot also blogs about disability rights, and volunteers with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as vice-chair of its disability advisory group.

## AMNESTY BRAVE AWARDS 2020

### England: Jihyun Park

A survivor of sex trafficking and a forced labour camp, Jihyun escaped from North Korea twice: the first time, she was arrested in China and sent back to face torture and imprisonment before escaping again. Now living in England, she helps North Korean refugees to rebuild their lives, and campaigns for the rights of all North Koreans to live without fear of torture and persecution.

### Young Person Award: Anna Kernahan

Anna, a 17-year-old climate activist, unfailingly participated in weekly climate strikes in Northern Ireland as part of the global Fridays for Future movement. She kept this up for six months: a considerable achievement given that protest laws in the region are stricter than elsewhere in the UK.

**[N]o one is too small to make a difference, and if we take the time to look for them, it is clear that changemakers are all around us. No act is too small to create change. In 2020, let's make every act of humanity count.'**

**Long-standing Amnesty supporter Keira Knightley on the launch of the Brave Awards**

## Urging the UK government to act

During 2020, Amnesty International UK carried out in-depth research on how the UK government could better support and protect those who stand up for human rights around the world. Alongside our partner organisations, we interviewed 82 human rights defenders across seven countries: Egypt, Colombia, Russia, Zimbabwe, the Philippines, Afghanistan and Libya. They told us about the risks they faced because of their work, their engagement with the UK, and how the UK could best support them. The result was *On the human rights frontline: How the UK government can defend the defenders*. Published in February 2021 and based directly on the experiences of the 82 interviewees, the report served as the basis for our advocacy with the UK

**We would like the UK government to be more outspoken and call on our government to respect human rights.'**

**Nonoy Espina, chair of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, who was interviewed for *On the human rights frontline***

government in 2021. In response, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office said that human rights defenders would feature as a priority for action in their new integrated review.



© Jes Aznar/Getty Images



# COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Covid-19 pandemic was both a global health emergency and a worldwide human rights crisis. It forced Amnesty International to rethink its focus, objectives and priorities – as it has for governments, organisations, companies and individuals globally. Over the year, we worked to ensure human rights were at the centre of governments' responses to Covid-19, challenge pandemic-related abuses, and protect the most vulnerable.



© Marco Longari/AFP via Getty Images

A South African policeman enforcing social distancing rules points a rifle at shoppers in Johannesburg, March 2020

The pandemic exposed what those who fight for human rights already knew: privileged lives depend on people in low-paid and precarious employment and those on the health, social care and education frontlines. And those whose lives and rights are least protected – people living in poverty, minority communities, migrants, refugees – face the greatest threats, not only from the virus but also increased deprivation, discrimination and violence.

By September, at least **7,000** health workers had died after contracting Covid-19

## Protecting health workers worldwide

During 2020 we spotlighted the plight of health and essential workers around the world. They continue to play an extraordinary role in the response to the pandemic, but governments have failed to adequately protect them, as our *Exposed, silenced, attacked* report revealed in July. It showed more than 3,000 health workers had lost their lives due to Covid-19 by July 2020 – by September 2020, this figure had risen to 7,000, according to our analysis.

The report highlighted how health and essential workers worked in unsafe environments due to personal protective equipment (PPE) shortages and faced reprisals from the authorities and their employers for raising safety concerns, including arrests and dismissals. Some were even subjected to violence from members of the public.

# COVID-19 AND HUMAN RIGHTS

## Challenging abusive policing

Amnesty International also focused on abusive policing linked to the pandemic. While some limitations on human rights can be justified in a crisis to protect public health or other pressing social needs, many governments went far beyond reasonable and justified restrictions. Far from containing the virus, decisions to arrest, detain, use force, and forcibly disperse assemblies risked increasing contagion – both for law enforcement officials and those affected by police actions.

Our December briefing, *Covid-19 Crackdowns: Police Abuse and the Global Pandemic*, documented cases in 60 countries where law enforcement agencies committed human rights abuses in the name of tackling the virus. In some cases, people were killed or severely injured for allegedly breaching restrictions, or for protesting against

**Security forces all over the world are widely violating international law during the pandemic, using excessive and unnecessary force to implement lockdowns and curfews. The horrific abuses... include Angolan police shooting a teenage boy in the face for allegedly breaking curfew, and police in El Salvador shooting a man in the legs after he went out to buy food.'**

**Patrick Wilcken**, deputy director of Amnesty's Global Issues programme.

detention conditions. We presented comprehensive, practical recommendations for protecting public health without resorting to abusive policing.



© Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images

## Amnesty International UK's response to the pandemic

The pandemic immediately became a major priority for our human rights work in the UK. We concentrated on protecting health, civil rights and vulnerable groups. This included campaigning for:

- Adequate PPE for frontline workers.
- Greater protection for women from domestic abuse – which surged during the lockdowns – and more money for Black, Asian and minority ethnic service providers in England Wales.
- An urgent investigation into the pandemic's disproportionate impact on the health and lives of Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities.
- Limits to surveillance, after the UK government's and the devolved authorities' contact-tracing apps appeared to threaten privacy rights. Our calls were heeded in Northern Ireland: the StopCOVID NI does not share users' personal information with government.
- Monitoring of the police's use of temporary powers. In Scotland, Amnesty UK is part of a Police Scotland group that considers the human rights and equalities impacts of the extraordinary police powers granted due to the pandemic.





The government risked the lives of tens of thousands of older people in care homes in England at the start of the pandemic, an Amnesty report warned

## Care home residents at risk

We also conducted a major investigation into the catastrophe that struck care homes in England. The UK government claimed it threw a ‘protective ring’ around care homes at the start of the pandemic. But it actually made a series of irresponsible decisions that risked the lives of tens of thousands of older people in care homes in England, as a report by Amnesty International UK and Amnesty International highlighted in October. It was widely covered in the press and on television; online, the 32 pieces of media coverage had an estimated 2.4 million views.

The report *As if expendable* showed how, at the start of lockdown, the government decided to discharge 25,000 patients from hospitals into care homes without testing them for Covid-19. Many had the virus, putting care home staff and residents at huge risk. According to official figures, there were 18,562 care home deaths between 2 March and 12 June. But since in most cases tests were not carried out and patients were not even seen in person by a doctor, the real number is likely to be far higher.

The report, which called for an urgent public inquiry, highlighted how the government failed to ensure care homes had the necessary PPE or the ability to properly isolate infected residents. It was only on 7 June that every care home for people aged 65 or over was offered testing. Despite thousands of empty beds, older people

were deprioritised when it came to getting access to hospital care, and had blanket ‘do not resuscitate’ orders imposed on them without due process. Prolonged isolation from relatives, friends and the outside world also had a devastating impact on the mental and physical health of older people in care homes.

■ See also *Be There*, page 11.

### The impact of the report

After the publication of *As if expendable*:

- More than 18,200 Amnesty supporters emailed the Health Secretary to demand a full independent public inquiry.
- The government asked the Care Quality Commission to review the use of ‘do not resuscitate’ orders.
- It also announced plans for a pilot programme to allow visits to care home residents in England.





# BEATING THE LOCKDOWN

The pandemic forced us to be creative in how we run our events in 2020: we found new ways to raise awareness about human rights, show solidarity, and connect with wider audiences.

## Pride Inside

Taking to the streets in July 2020 was not an option, so we moved Pride celebrations online. Alongside the organisations UK Black Pride, ParaPride, Gendered Intelligence and Stonewall, we organised a series of parties, performances, discussions, talks, workshops and music from LGBTI+ activists, performers and artists, all of which were streamed on YouTube. Scissor Sisters singer Ana Matronic, musician Rufus Wainwright, and NHS medic and TV presenter Dr Ranj Singh were among the participants.

The two-week Pride Inside celebrations consisted of more than 30 online events, including daily readings of love letters and stories. Panel discussions and talks covered burning issues such as the impact of the pandemic on LGBTI+ rights, while Ukrainian human rights activist Vitalina Koval and her Polish counterpart Elżbieta Podleśna spoke about the fight for LGBTI+ rights in Eastern Europe. There were also live DJ sets from the likes of The xx's Romy Madley Croft, a queer quiz, and a contemporary vogue dance class.



© Pierre Crom

Vitalina Koval

**Pride Inside is a space for our communities at a time that is particularly difficult for us. Now more than ever, we need spaces to call our own so we can share our experiences, support, find our joy and do some much-needed healing work.'**

**Phyll Opoku-Gyimah**, aka Lady Phyll, UK Black Pride co-founder and executive director

During Pride Inside, **20,000 people** took action for Elżbieta Podleśna, who was being prosecuted by the Polish authorities for her peaceful LGBTI+ campaigning. She was acquitted in March 2021.



© Marta Frej

**While Pride festivals and marches are postponed, it is incredible to still join together to show the world that Pride is a state of mind, not just a series of events.'**

**Joseph Williams**, ParaPride executive director

## The Secret Policeman's Ball Unlocked

Our Secret Policeman's Ball comedy extravaganza also shifted online in 2020. In June, we teamed up with Deborah Frances-White, from the acclaimed Guilty Feminist podcast, to stage three shows. Available to watch on our YouTube, Facebook and Twitter channels, they featured a mix of short films and Q&As, as well as a broadcast of 'We Know Where You Live, Live!', our Secret Policeman's Ball show from 2001. *Derry Girls* star Siobhan McSweeney, stand-up Nish Kumar, actor Juliet Stevenson, and Goodness Gracious Me cast members Meera Syal, Sanjeev Bhaskar and Kulvinder Ghir were among the famous faces who took part. The shows encouraged viewers to join Amnesty and support our human rights work.



# BE THERE

Amnesty International's Be There programme supports people affected by crisis and conflict. Launched in 2019, it brings together the crisis response and refugee and migrant rights work led by our International Secretariat. This strategic programme aims to prevent the development of crises and conflicts, protect people as they flee, and enable them to build new lives safely and with dignity.

## Protecting the environment and indigenous peoples

We also challenged intensifying threats to the environment. In July, our From forest to farmland report and campaign revealed how cattle illegally grazed in protected areas of the Brazilian Amazon have entered the supply chain of the world's largest meat-packer, JBS. They have driven land seizures, violence and threats against indigenous peoples and other traditional residents of reserves.

In response, a Brazilian federal prosecutor said they would investigate our findings, a former independent auditor confirmed it had called out JBS for claiming its operations were deforestation-free, and a top European investment firm dropped JBS from its portfolio. JBS said it would introduce a new system to effectively monitor its cattle suppliers by 2025, although we called for one to be put in place by the end of 2020.

Alongside this work, we highlighted the potentially devastating impact of Covid-19 on indigenous communities in Brazil, campaigned for greater protection for them, and highlighted the stories of those who were denied dignity in death.



© Gabriel Uchida

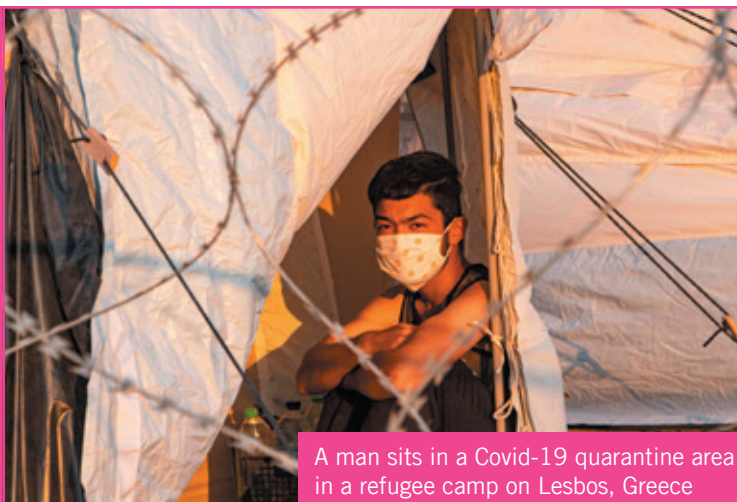
An Indigenous man looks at cattle near Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau territory in the Brazilian Amazon, where ranching is driving deforestation

**JBS has been aware of the risks that cattle illegally grazed in protected areas may enter its supply chain since at least 2009. JBS failed to implement an effective monitoring system... It needs to make good on the harms caused and promptly put in place systems to avoid this happening again.'**

**Richard Pearshouse**, Amnesty International's head of crisis and the environment

## The impact of Covid-19

Our experience of carrying out research remotely and our global connections within the Amnesty movement and with local organisations allowed us to quickly adapt when the pandemic struck and severe travel restrictions were put in place. Over the year we continued our research, campaigning and advocacy work. Much of our focus was on vulnerable groups who are disproportionately impacted by Covid-19: people caught up in conflicts, refugees and migrants, indigenous peoples, older people, and protesters suffering an escalation of police abuses.



© Nicolas Economou/NurPhoto via Getty Images

A man sits in a Covid-19 quarantine area in a refugee camp on Lesbos, Greece

# BE THERE: RESPONDING TO ARMED CONFLICT

Amnesty International responded to armed conflicts across the globe in 2020. Alongside our work exposing war crimes and crimes against humanity, we focused on two groups who are particularly vulnerable during crises: children and elderly people. In the process, we helped to persuade the UN to extend an arms embargo and the US military to investigate allegations of civilian casualties, while verifying human rights violations and pushing for justice for victims.

© Mohammed Abdulsamad/The Walking Paradox

## Focus on children: Nigeria

The report *'We dried our tears'* exposed how a generation of children in northeast Nigeria have suffered war crimes and crimes against humanity by Boko Haram and widespread torture and unlawful detention by the Nigerian military. It prompted a review of a flawed programme, bankrolled by international donors, that claims to reintegrate former alleged fighters, but overwhelmingly leads to the unlawful detention of children and adults. Children in an internal displacement camp who featured in our research regained access to education after two years without schooling. The International Criminal Court also concluded a preliminary investigation into the situation in northeast Nigeria, paving the way for a full investigation, something which we have long called for.



A classroom in Borno, northeastern Nigeria, where only 25 per cent of children are in school, according to Unicef

**Amnesty's involvement has made the actors, particularly state actors, be alert and conscious that the world is aware of the situation on the ground.'**

Nigerian human rights defender, commenting on *'We dried our tears'*

## Focus on children: Iraq

Our report *Legacy of Terror* revealed the physical and mental health crisis facing almost 2,000 Yazidi children who have returned to their families after being held captive by so-called Islamic State. The UN refugee agency's special envoy Angelina Jolie spoke at length about the report's findings and recommendations at a UN Security Council briefing, while the Kurdistan Regional Government publicly endorsed one of our key recommendations to ensure children benefit from reparations schemes. We also joined the global Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict network as an associate member.

## Focus on older people: Rohingya

At the start of the pandemic, Amnesty International interviewed older Rohingya people in refugee camps in Bangladesh. This research revealed how they were being left behind in the humanitarian response to Covid-19, despite being among the groups most at risk. It also highlighted the dangerous lack of access to even basic health information. In recognition of our expertise on this issue, we were invited to sit on a World Health Organisation panel that shaped guidance for older people and Covid-19.



An older Rohingya man at a refugee camp in Bangladesh

## Focus on older people: Nigeria

Published at the end of the year, our report *'My heart is in pain'* showed how older people have been an overlooked casualty of the decade-long conflict in northeast Nigeria. They have suffered atrocities at the hands both Boko Haram and the military, while humanitarian efforts consistently treat them as an afterthought.

**When Boko Haram has invaded towns and villages, older men and women have often been among the last to flee, leaving them particularly exposed to the armed group's brutality and repression – amounting to war crimes and likely crimes against humanity. This has included torture, being forced to witness killings and abductions of their children, as well as looting resulting in extreme food insecurity.'**

Joanne Mariner, Amnesty's director of crisis response

© Amnesty/Reza Shahriar Rahman





Soldiers gather at a training site in South Sudan

## South Sudan

An Amnesty investigation revealed multiple violations and ineffective monitoring of the UN's arms embargo on South Sudan. Our researchers discovered newly imported small arms and ammunition, unapproved military use of armoured police vehicles, and the presence of child soldiers. We called for the arms embargo, which was due to finish on 31 May, to be renewed and strengthened. The UN Security Council voted to extend it for another year.

**“We really appreciate all of your work at Amnesty. We wouldn't have been able to push this forward without your efforts. Your expert briefing was really important.”**

**A UN Security Council delegation** discussing the renewal of the arms embargo against South Sudan

## Nagorno-Karabakh

Amnesty experts corroborated the use of banned cluster bombs in the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the Nagorno-Karabakh region. This research added weight to our call for both sides to respect international humanitarian law and prioritise the protection of civilians which was subsequently reflected in statements from both countries.



The son of Almaz Aliyeva holds a photo of his mother who was killed by cluster munitions launched by Armenian forces in October 2020

## Somalia

An Amnesty investigation unearthed evidence that US military air strikes in February 2020 killed two civilians and injured three more in Somalia, the latest casualties in a secretive decade-long fight against the armed group Al-Shabaab. In response to our research, campaigning and advocacy work, the US military announced the start of a quarterly public report on their investigations into allegations of civilian casualties resulting from their operations.

## Syria

Our investigators documented 18 cases – most in January and February 2020 – where Syrian or Russian government forces, or both, targeted medical facilities and schools in northwest Syria. Such attacks amount to war crimes. The findings were published in the *'Nowhere is safe for us'* report, which also urged the UN to renew a vital aid lifeline for civilians in the region.



Damaged medical equipment in a residential area of Idlib, Syria after a Russian bombing in January 2020

The report quickly had an impact. There was a rare request from the German mission for Amnesty International to brief the Security Council, while the US and UK missions both referred to the report and shared it on social media. The aid corridor was renewed for one year.

**“Excellent reporting by Amnesty on northwest Syria. These are conditions that the coronavirus can exploit with a vengeance.”**

**UN Syria Commission** tweet about *'Nowhere is safe for us'*

## Ethiopia

Our Crisis Evidence Lab confirmed that scores – and probably hundreds – of people were killed in a massacre in the town of Mai-Kadra in western Tigray state on 9 November. It examined and digitally verified photos and videos, confirming the images were recent and geolocated them to Mai-Kadra using satellite technology. This prompted huge media coverage and our detailed press release was cited by UN bodies.

# BE THERE: REFUGEES

In 2020 Amnesty International helped to develop a set of principles to protect refugees during the pandemic, made progress on community sponsorship programmes worldwide, and highlighted the abuse of migrants in the Middle East.

## Principles for protecting refugees during the pandemic

During the pandemic many countries took a particularly tough approach to refugees, people seeking asylum, and migrants, often ignoring their human rights obligations. In response, Amnesty International contributed to the development of a set of 14 legal principles for protecting refugees and migrants during Covid-19. The principles are designed to inform and guide the actions of governments, support international organisations, and help with advocacy and education.

Entitled *Human mobility and human rights in the COVID-19 pandemic: Principles of protection for migrants, refugees, and other displaced persons*, the principles cover issues such as equal treatment and non-discrimination, the right to health, and the right to information. They were developed under the auspices of the Program on Forced Migration, Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University; the Migration and Human Rights Program, Cornell Law School; and the Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility. More than a thousand international experts endorsed the document.

## Community sponsorship

Community sponsorship involves ordinary citizens helping refugees to reach and settle into a new country. Programmes vary around the world, but 'sponsors' generally have to raise funds, enter into an agreement with their government and secure accommodation before refugees arrive.

Amnesty International supports community sponsorship schemes around the world – and in 2020 we made significant progress.

Amnesty International Argentina secured a significant two-year grant to continue its collaborative work with a local community sponsorship network. Amnesty International Australia's My New Neighbour campaign mobilised dozens of communities to make submissions to a government review of the current Community Sponsorship Program, while Amnesty International Ireland established a partnership with a network of organisations to support the development of – and resources for – new community sponsorship groups. Meanwhile, the New Zealand government committed to funding a community sponsorship scheme for another three years, for which the local Amnesty section had campaigned extensively.



A Rohingya refugee camp in Bangladesh, where the pandemic has made life even more precarious

## Exposing abuse of migrants

An Amnesty investigation exposed the plight of thousands of Ethiopian migrant workers who – having been expelled from Yemen by the Huthi authorities – suffered horrifying treatment in Saudi Arabia. They were chained together in pairs, forced to use their cell floors as toilets, and confined 24 hours a day in unbearably crowded cells. After we published our report, the Ethiopian Ministry of Foreign Affairs indicated its willingness to repatriate the migrants. Within days, the European Parliament adopted a resolution on the situation, including our main findings and replicating many of our recommendations. The Ethiopian government later pledged to repatriate 1,000 migrants a week. Repatriation flights began in January 2001 and have continued intermittently since then.

# BE THERE: POLICING PROTEST

In 2020, we used innovative digital techniques to investigate, verify, analyse, and share information about police and security force abuses against protesters globally. Over the year, we launched four innovative multimedia websites that used videos, photos, 3D reconstructions, animations, data visualisations, maps, and expert testimonies to present our research in fresh ways and engage new audiences. Our investigators also confirmed the killing of protesters in Nigeria.

## **Smokescreen**

This investigation by Amnesty International and SITU Research used 3D reconstructions to show how Iraqi security forces intended to kill or severely maim dozens of protesters when they fired military-style grenades directly into crowds on the streets. Between October 2019 and March 2020, these grenades are known to have mortally wounded at least two dozen protesters in the Tahrir Square-Jimhuriya Bridge area of Baghdad.

## **Black Lives Matter**

In this interactive map, Amnesty International documented 125 events of police violence across the USA during Black Lives Matter protests between 26 May and 5 June. These acts of excessive force were committed by members of state and local police departments, National Guard troops and security force personnel from federal agencies. Beatings, the misuse of tear gas and pepper spray, and the inappropriate and, at times, indiscriminate firing of less-lethal projectiles were among the abuses documented.

We were subsequently invited to offer advice at an online event attended by more than 1,500 police chiefs from across the USA. Our research on the police use of tear gas against protesters in Philadelphia was covered by local media outlets and fed into a *New York Times* investigation. Philadelphia's police commissioner also issued a moratorium on the use of tear gas.

## **Tear gas: An investigation**

This interactive website analyses the misuse of tear gas against protesters by police and security forces across the globe. Launched on 11 June, the anniversary of the start of the Hong Kong Police Force's months-long barrage of tear gas against peaceful demonstrations, it used open-source investigative methods to verify and highlight the misuse of tear gas.

The website initially covered almost 80 events in 22 countries and territories, and has since expanded. It was praised by three UN special rapporteurs, members of the UN Human Rights Committee, and MEPs, and later won a prestigious Webby Award for the best activism website worldwide.

## **A web of impunity**

This website shared the results of our investigation into the unlawful killing of protesters by security forces in Iran in November 2019, when demonstrations erupted across the country following the government's sudden fuel price hike. In an effort to hide the true scale of the killings, the authorities shut down the internet. But we painstakingly uncovered the details of 304 people who were killed and shared some of their stories on the site. We continue to call for an international inquiry into the killings.

## **Investigating police brutality in Nigeria**

An on-the-ground investigation by Amnesty International confirmed the Nigerian army and police killed at least 12 peaceful protesters at two locations in Lagos. The killings occurred in Lekki and Alausa, where thousands were protesting against police brutality as part of the #EndSars movement. Government officials and the military initially denied that anyone had been killed. We used evidence gathered from eyewitnesses, video footage and hospital reports to confirm the killings, which took place between 6.45pm and 9pm on 20 October. The authorities set up a judicial panel to investigate. In November 2021 it reported that the military had indeed shot and killed unarmed citizens.



An #EndSars protest in the city of Ikeja

© Olukayode Jaiyeola/NurPhoto via Getty Images



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK'S CRISIS WORK

Amnesty International UK continued to support the work of Syrian human rights defenders in 2020, including in a historic trial. We also responded to developing crises in Myanmar and Hong Kong.

## Syria

Over the year, we provided Syrian human rights defenders, activists and organisations with advice, training and workshops on a wide range of issues, including strategy, communications, fundraising, strategic litigation and security.

In April, there was a major step forward in the long-running campaign for justice for victims of the Bashar al-Assad regime, when a landmark trial started in Koblenz, Germany. Two former Syrian intelligence officers, Anwar Raslan and Eyad al-Gharib, were charged with crimes against humanity for their role in the torture of detainees in Damascus. It was a historic moment – the first time Syrian officials accused of committing crimes under international law had faced trial.

In February 2021, al-Gharib was found guilty and sentenced to four and a half years in prison. This was a huge victory for all the Syrian victims, witnesses, investigators, campaigners and lawyers who worked on this case. Without them the trial would not have been possible. A verdict against Raslan, who is a more senior figure than al-Gharib, is expected in September-October. Similar cases against Syrian regime officials are also underway in Austria, Sweden and Norway.

Amnesty International UK played a vital role in the Raslan and al-Gharib trial. Over the years, we have provided the Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression and the Syrian Centre for Research and Legal Studies – the two lead Syrian organisations involved in the case – with extensive advice, support and training. We also provided the judge with important reports and witness testimonies from Syria-based witnesses.



© Thomas Lohnes/AFP via Getty Images

Activist Wafa Mustafa sits between images of victims of the Syrian regime, holding a picture of her father, at a protest at the trial in Koblenz, June 2020

© Private

Amnesty has always been a great supporter of us and played a key role in the trial... Amnesty prepared lots of reports with testimonies from witnesses inside Syria. Amnesty is a trusted and reliable organisation, so its reports were taken into account. From them, the judge saw what happened in Syria in 2011-12, the forced disappearances, torture and killings in the detention centres.'



Anwar al-Bunni

Anwar al-Bunni, Syrian human rights lawyer

## Myanmar and Hong Kong

Amnesty International UK also responded to other crises around the world as they developed, including the vicious crackdowns on protesters in Myanmar and Hong Kong. Our work focused on supporting human rights defenders and amplifying their messages, pressuring the UK government to take action, and keeping the global media spotlight on the situations.

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK

During 2020 Amnesty International UK called for justice for a girl killed by the British army in Northern Ireland, challenged dangerous government bills, campaigned for safe access to abortion services, and worked to enshrine international human rights treaties in domestic law.

## Challenging impunity

Over the year we supported calls for an independent investigation into the 1976 killing of a 12-year-old girl by a British soldier in Northern Ireland. In 2011, the Ministry of Defence apologised for the killing, but no one has been held accountable. Our campaign video, in which we interviewed witnesses to the shooting, was viewed 213,000 times online. We continued this work in 2021, challenging the UK government's proposals for a de facto amnesty for human rights abuses arising from the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland.

We also campaigned against two controversial UK government bills involving similar issues of impunity. The first was the Overseas Operations bill, which sought to restrict prosecutions against British soldiers for offences committed overseas. It would have damaged the reputation of the UK's armed forces, undermined basic principles of access to justice, and sent out conflicting messages internationally. The bill passed into law in 2021, but only after the government removed the presumption against prosecuting soldiers for serious abuses, such as crimes against humanity, after five years.

We were less successful with the Covert Human Intelligence Sources bill, which received Royal Assent in May 2021. We argued that it would allow government agencies such as MI5 and the police to authorise serious crimes, including torture and murder. We saw this in Northern Ireland, when handlers allowed undercover agents in paramilitary organisations to torture and kill to keep their cover intact.

**Witnesses to the death of my sister know what happened that day – my sister was an innocent girl murdered by the British army. The truth cannot be concealed any longer. We need an investigation – there must be justice for Majella. The truth must out. My family deserve accountability for what happened.'**

**Michael O'Hare**, brother of Majella O'Hare



## Ensuring access to abortion

In October 2020, a year after abortion was decriminalised in Northern Ireland, Amnesty International UK highlighted how women trying to access services in the region face a 'postcode lottery' that leaves many in a vulnerable and dangerous position. The Northern Ireland Health Minister failed to commission abortion services, leaving local health trusts – already under extreme pressure due to the pandemic – to provide services without additional funding or resourcing.

Earlier in the year, the government approved measures allowing women in England to take both abortion pills at home as part of the Covid-19 response. We called for the measures to be extended to other parts of UK and made permanent.

## Strengthening human rights law

In partnership with other organisations, including Shelter Scotland and Nourish Scotland, we campaigned for seven UN human rights treaties to be enshrined in Scots law. This would ensure the rights contained in the treaties – which include the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination – were legally enforceable in Scotland. As part of the campaign, we met with representatives from Scotland's political parties. The Scottish Greens, Labour, the Liberal Democrats and the SNP all made manifesto commitments to enshrine rights treaties in Scots law to a certain degree and the Scottish government promised to bring the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law. Our next step is a wider public campaign to ensure the commitments are put into practice.

**We have huge momentum and support for this from civil society... if we succeed in Scotland, perhaps we can build on this to ensure that human rights are protected across the UK.'**

**Naomi McAuliffe**, Amnesty International UK's programme director for Scotland

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK: REFUGEES AND MIGRATION

Throughout 2020, Amnesty International UK campaigned on behalf of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. We urged the government to allow refugee families to reunite and helped football clubs to engage with refugee women and girls. We also reflected on our five-year refugee campaign.

## Campaign evaluation

An independent evaluation found that our I Welcome refugees campaign, which ran from 2016 to 2020, had a positive impact, but also found areas for improvement. It said:

- People who fled conflict and persecution directly benefited
- Refugees had a leadership role
- The Football Welcomes initiative was successful
- Activists drove innovative, strategic and relevant actions
- Opposition parties, but not the Conservatives, supported our calls to enable refugee family reunification
- Creative campaigning reached millions of people
- Local media work led to new public conversations around refugees
- Our supporters were engaged.

For the future, the evaluation recommended greater local political activity, support for grassroots work, and collaboration, and setting clear learning opportunities and review sessions from the start. It also urged us to listen more to people directly affected by the issues, address their concerns, and give them and activists a bigger role. We will apply these recommendations in future campaigns.

## Football Welcomes

The pandemic meant football was suspended in April 2020, when our annual Football Welcomes weekend was due to take place. But many clubs – including Leicester City, Chelsea and Aston Villa – still took the opportunity to voice their support for the initiative, which celebrates the contribution refugees make to the beautiful game and their local communities. We also produced a guide to help coaches, clubs and their foundations, county FAs and others set up football sessions for refugee women and girls. The guide was based on extensive research with clubs and refugee women footballers.

## Refugee casework

Amnesty International UK assists with the legal cases of people seeking asylum, victims of trafficking, and others who need international protection in the UK. We don't directly represent individuals, but instead act as an independent third party, providing information and analysis on the human rights situations in countries from where people have fled. We also submit reports tailored to specific issues raised in individual cases – and broader test or guidance cases – to assist immigration officials and judges.

In 2020, we intervened in 22 cases, two of which – one seeking to prevent the return of asylum seekers to Spain another concerning people suspected of involvement with the Oromo Liberation Army in Ethiopia – set important precedents. Our work helped the head of a human rights organisation who was jailed, a volunteer medic who was kidnapped by a militia group, and a journalist who documented human rights abuses, among others. All three have now claimed asylum in the UK.

## Families Together

As part of the Families Together coalition, we mobilise the public to call for reform of the UK's strict family reunion rules, which separate many refugees from their loved ones. In 2020, we kept up the pressure on the UK government, with supporters writing to the Prime Minister. In September, 70 actors, singers, comedians, authors and artists – including Michaela Coel, Olivia Colman and Adrian Lester – signed a letter to him, calling for action. More than 20,000 people also signed the open letter calling for changes to the rules.

**There are children in the UK right now who have fled war and persecution and have no hope of seeing their parents and siblings again. We should be offering them support and compassion. A simple change to the rules could be transformational.'**

**Gary Lineker**, Match of the Day presenter and former England striker



# EDUCATING PEOPLE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Ensuring people know, value and can claim their rights is a vital aspect of Amnesty International's work. Our education programme works with children, young people and adults in the UK and globally. Here are some of our key projects from 2020.

## Working in schools

The UK's schools were closed for much of the year, our volunteer school speakers continued to inspire young people to take action for human rights. In online sessions and face-to-face workshops, they reached more than 7,500 pupils and students across the UK, covering issues such as human rights law and refugees and asylum seekers.

## Working with teachers

Amnesty International UK's workshops and training programmes provide teachers with the knowledge, skills and resources they need to teach human rights. In 2020, Amnesty Teachers – who have completed a one-year certification course – delivered human rights education to more than 4,600 students. They also taught 353 of their colleagues about human rights. Our education team provided online training for university students who are studying to become teachers.

**It has been a great opportunity to share ideas with other professionals... The sessions and resources will help me to make changes to the curriculum... as well as develop school policy to challenge discrimination.'**

**Amnesty Teacher course participant**

## Teaching resources

In March, Amnesty International UK launched a set of bitesize lessons to help parents and teachers educate children and young people about human rights-related issues. We also developed Reading Rebels, a monthly book club (with paying membership) for children aged 5-7 that uses stories to explore values like kindness and fairness.

## Working with activists

In 2020 our training programme for Amnesty activists and local groups moved online, focusing on issues such as climate justice, women's rights, and Covid-19.

Around 10,000 people enrolled on our Defending Dignity: The Universal Declaration of Human Rights course. This massive open online course (MOOC) was delivered via the FutureLearn education platform. It proved so popular that we will be re-running it in 2021. We also piloted Amnesty Live, a series of online education events covering issues such as Black activism and police brutality. Some 1,100 people registered to attend these events, which will continue in 2021.

**It was a wonderfully organised and informative webinar. The speakers were excellent, as was the host. Lots of relevant info shared and ideas for continuing actions.'**

**Amnesty Live attendee**

In 2020:

- Our school speakers reached 7,500+ children and young people in the UK.
- Amnesty Teachers delivered human rights education to **4,600+ students** and taught **353 of their colleagues** in the UK.
- **10,000 people** enrolled on our Defending Dignity course.

## Global human rights education

Despite the pandemic, Amnesty International ran 167 human rights education projects in 67 countries during 2020. These projects engaged over 2 million people in more than 212 countries and territories. A key part of this was the Human Rights Academy, an online resource providing free quality human rights education. It continued to expand in 2020, offering 84 courses – 28 more than in 2019 – in 25 languages. Other significant projects included:

- Amnesty Benin repurposing 53 of its education clubs in schools and colleges to provide hard-to-reach communities with information on Covid-19.
- Amnesty Uruguay producing webinars about the right to privacy and healthcare during the pandemic.

In 2020, Amnesty International's education projects engaged over **2 million people** in more than **212 countries and territories**.

# LOOKING AHEAD

Amnesty International UK has ambitious plans for protecting and promoting human rights in 2021 and beyond.

## Theory of change

During 2020 we produced a new 'theory of change' for Amnesty International UK. It articulates how we believe we will make change happen over the 2022-30 period. Outlined in the *Time for change* document, the theory:

- Examines attitudes to us as an organisation, our brand, strengths and weaknesses, as well as the wider human rights context;
- Describes our current theory of change and proposes a new one that seeks to achieve three long-term outcomes: changing attitudes to human rights, building a powerful movement, and achieving human rights victories;
- Outlines the tools, resources and strategies we can use to meet our objectives;
- Looks at how we can put the new theory of change into practice.

The theory was developed following consultations with staff, activists and supporters. It also draws on a wide-ranging review of evaluations of our work over the last five years, analyses of our audiences, and assessments of the human rights sector, as well as the strategy of the global Amnesty movement.

## A strategic plan for 2022-30

Alongside the theory of change, we developed a comprehensive strategic plan for Amnesty International UK for 2022-30. It recognised we must do two things to achieve deep, lasting change and succeed in placing human rights at the heart of our society: take a long-term approach and focus more strongly on the root causes of human rights abuses.

The goals of the strategic plan are the three long-term outcomes identified in the theory of change. The plan sets out six priority issues for Amnesty International UK:

- Economic, social and cultural rights
- Anti-racism
- Freedom of expression
- Human rights frameworks
- Individuals and communities at risk
- Human rights crises

The plan also noted three additional issues – climate justice, digital technology and corporate power – affect all six priorities and must be taken into account in our work.

## KNOWLEDGE ► POWER ► CHANGE



### PRIORITY ISSUES to win human rights victories



### THEMES that cut across all our priority issues



## Our priorities for 2021

This year, Amnesty International UK work will focus on five key areas.

### 1 Human rights campaigns

This will involve:

- Challenging legislative threats to human rights in the UK, such as the government's Overseas Operations Bill;
- Supporting Syrian human rights defenders;
- Supporting refugees, including by seeking a judicial review on family reunion and challenging the government's new immigration policies;
- Working on human rights issues related to Covid-19 and care homes, including calling for a public inquiry;
- Delivering our youth strategy, providing our Rise Up course for young activists, and launching a new children's rights book with Angelina Jolie;
- Campaigning for a bill of rights for Northern Ireland and the incorporation of international human rights treaties into Scots law.

### 2 Becoming an anti-racist and inclusive organisation

This will include training for staff and activists, and recruitment for a new racial justice role in the organisation. The aim is for Amnesty International UK to become a more diverse, inclusive and effective anti-racist organisation.

### 3 Preparing for the next strategic period

This will include developing an operational plan for our strategy for 2022-30.



Rise Up participants were joined by Kate Green MP (grey top) to urge the government to Stop the Rights Raid, October 2021



© Shapecharge/Stock

### 4 Maintaining, building and diversifying the movement in the UK

This will include:

- Prioritising the implementation of our youth strategy, with a focus on issues such as increasing youth leadership at board level and elsewhere;
- Aiming to provide community organising training for 250 activists;
- Celebrating Amnesty International's 60th anniversary by highlighting the importance of our activism over the past six decades;
- Focusing on anti-racism work, including scoping the development of an anti-racist network;
- Running an online version of Football Welcomes for a month, with the aim of securing the participation of 200 football clubs and encouraging activists to connect with their local teams.

### 5 Prioritising fundraising and building financial resilience

This will include prioritising fundraising when making decisions about how we use our time and resources.

## Next year and beyond

The pandemic, climate emergency and global threats to human rights mean Amnesty International is more needed now than ever before. With the help of our supporters, we will focus on the five priority areas outlined above in 2021. This vital work will provide a strong foundation for our strategic plan for 2022-30, enabling us to make lasting change and put human rights at the heart of our society.

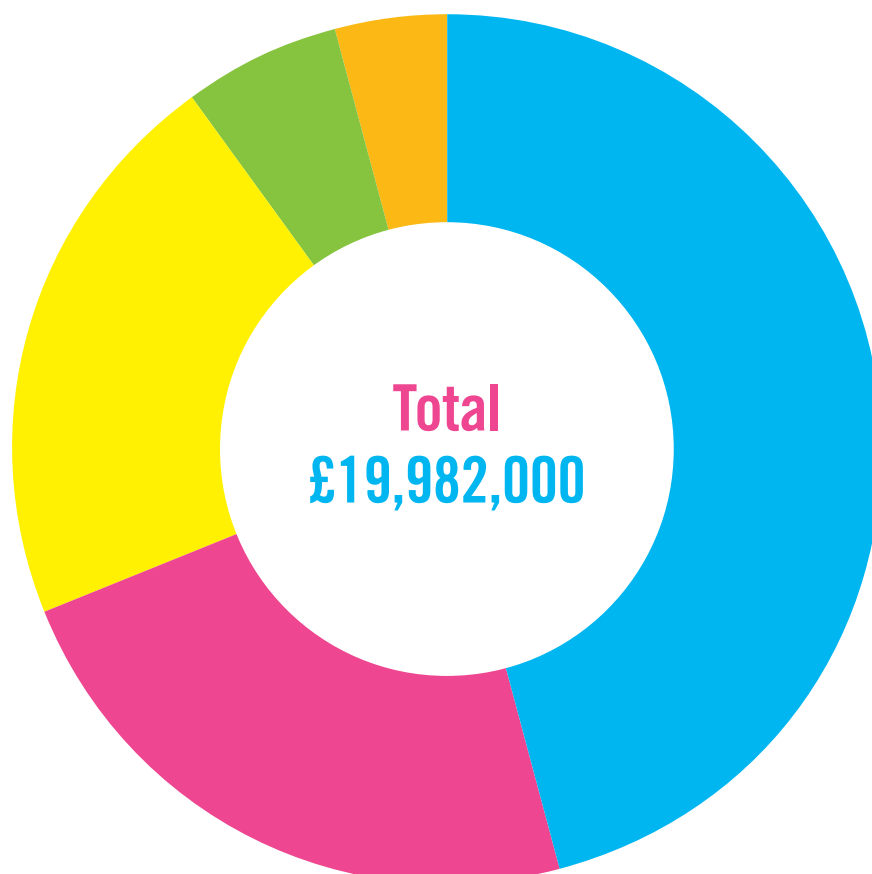


# WHERE THE MONEY GOES

How we spent our money in 2020

## Financial activities

– Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust



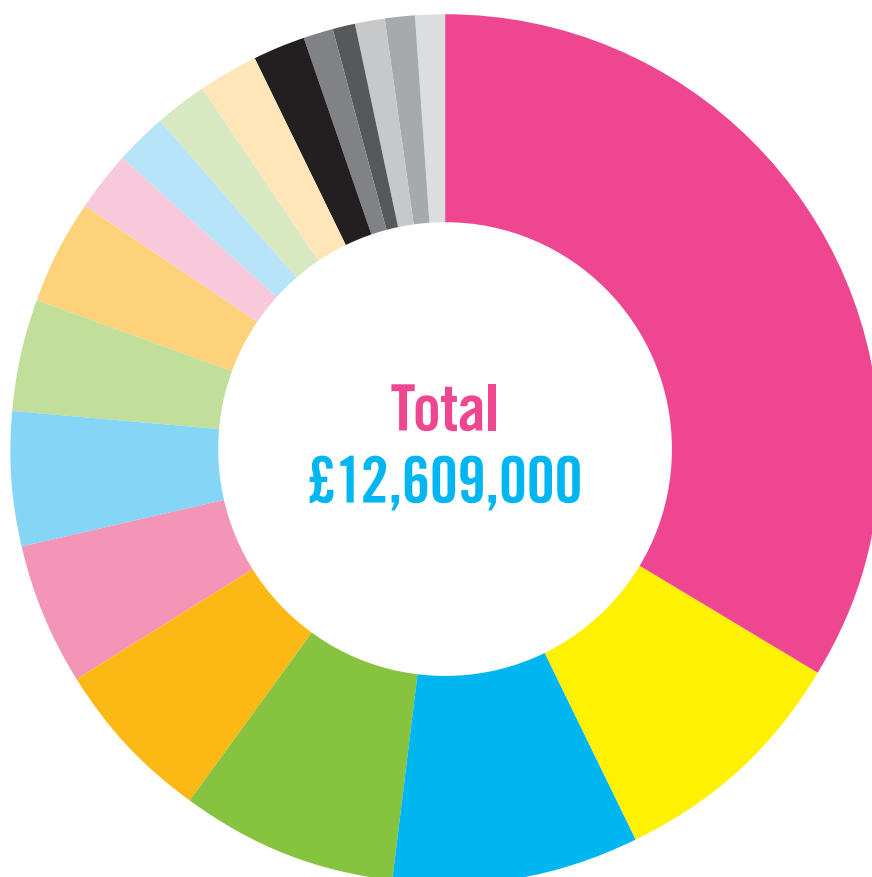
## Promoting human rights £000s

- **£9,236** **Research into and relief of human rights** Amnesty International UK's contribution to the global movement to fund international work. Also includes DfID funded work.
- **£4,517** **Raising funds and other trading activities**
- **£4,206** **Grants to the UK Section**
- **£1,189** **Investment into activist recruitment**
- **£834** **Production and distribution of human rights publications and campaigning materials**

## How we spent our money in 2020

### Financial activities

#### – Amnesty International United Kingdom Section



### Promoting human rights £000s

£4,214	Raising funds and other trading activities
£1,196	Production and distribution of human rights publications and campaigning materials
£1,186	Investment into activist recruitment
£1,004	Campaigns and activism support
£749	Policy
£656	Media
£645	Nations and regions
£524	<b>Human rights education</b> Promoting and delivering Human Rights Education in the UK through producing teaching resources, offering professional development to educators, providing speakers for schools and delivering activist skills training to supporters.
£504	<b>Refugees and asylum</b> Ensuring that the rights of refugees and migrants are protected from the grassroots community level to the national policy level through community and events, policy and awareness raising.

£313	Amnesty in the community
£290	Human Rights Act
£284	<b>Individuals at risk</b> Standing up for real people, their families and their communities. The women, men and children we campaign for have all experienced human rights abuses first hand.
£231	Country campaigning
£207	Youth Activism
£174	<b>Grants to AI Sections</b> This is contribution to the European Institutions Office and an additional contribution to the IS.
£131	<b>Human rights defenders</b> The Brave Campaign – empowering young human rights defenders with the skills and knowledge to create change and protect human rights in their communities.
£103	Security and human rights
£102	Corporate and social responsibility
£96	Women's human rights

# OUR FINANCES AND LEGAL STRUCTURE

## Amnesty International UK Funding our human rights work

Amnesty International in the UK is part of the worldwide Amnesty International movement. In the UK there are two distinct but related legal entities: Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust ('the Charitable Trust'), a charity registered in England and Wales (no 1051681) and Scotland (no 03139939), and Amnesty International United Kingdom Section ('the UK Section'), a limited company (company number: 01735872). Each entity is governed by its own Board.

The figures presented in this report are for the aggregated financial activities of these separate legal entities in 2020, presented for illustrative purposes only.

The Charitable Trust fulfils its objectives by funding a range of charitable activities, in the UK and internationally, to promote the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various international treaties. It gives most of its grants to the UK Section and the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

The UK Section is responsible for the bulk of our campaigning, education and advocacy work in the UK. It is primarily funded by its membership subscriptions and by grants from the Charitable Trust. Some of the work featured in this review was carried out by the UK Section.

For full audited accounts of both entities for the year ended 31 December 2020, see:

**[amnesty.org.uk/finances](https://amnesty.org.uk/finances)**

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London EC2A 3EA

## The Board of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

Eilidh Douglas, Chair (*resigned 7 June 2021*)  
Sharon Lovell (E), Vice Chair (*resigned 7 June 2021*)  
Meredith Coombs, Treasurer  
Thomas Chigbo  
Abigail Tuxworth-Grant  
Lisa Warren  
Senthoran Raj  
Thomas Harrison  
Helen Horton  
Lucy Blake  
Thomas Sparks (*resigned 8 May 2020*)  
Daren Nair (*resigned 2 March 2021*)  
David (Hugh) Sandeman (*resigned 28 April 2021*)  
Susan Jex (*resigned 7 June 2021*)  
Barbara Giezek (*resigned 7 May 2021*)

## The Trustees of Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust

Nicolas Patrick, Chair (*resigned date TBC*)  
Gareth Davies, Chair (*resigned 1 February 2020*)  
Lisa Warren\*  
Nicholas Vogelpoel  
Meredith Coombs\*  
Livia Aliberti (*resigned 1 February 2020*)  
Amie Ibrahim Brown  
Eilidh Douglas\* (*resigned 7 June 2021*)  
Deborah Charnock  
Andrew Lines  
Emma France (*resigned 1 February 2020*)  
Frederica De Silva (*appointed 11 July 2020*)

*\* member of the Board of Amnesty International  
United Kingdom Section*

## Senior Management Team

Kate Allen, Chief Executive (*retired 2021*)  
Tim Hancock, Director of Chief Executive's Office  
Kerry Mosconi, Director of Supporter Campaigning  
and Communications  
Rosie Chinchin, Director of Fundraising  
Louise Harris, Director of Corporate Services (*resigned  
May 2021*)



# WE NEED YOUR HELP

to protect human rights in the 2020s

## How your money could help

**£1,500** could contribute to the annual cost of delivering training to teachers in human rights education, linked to the relevant curriculum area for schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

**£3,000** could cover the cost for 10 Amnesty International researchers to attend online hostile environment awareness training.

**£14,000** could fund 2 missions to be carried out in crisis zones.

**£30,000** could help us obtain crucial data (such as satellite imagery) to gather key evidence for our investigations.

**£50,000** could fund activities of the Digital Verification Corps – working with 6 Universities globally to train up the next generation of human rights investigators who in turn contribute key input to Amnesty's open source investigations.

# WE ARE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

We are Amnesty International. We work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

As a global movement of over 10 million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

We investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilise the public, and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.

Our vision is a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

In 2020 the coronavirus pandemic and the upsurge of anti-racist protest, first in the USA and then around the world, highlighted the inequalities that threaten human lives and human rights. In this crisis, Amnesty International is defending the most vulnerable. Your continued support is needed now more than ever.

## Contact us

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