



Amnesty International UK activist-led UN Network

- ***Human rights are universal:*** They are underpinned by the instruments and laws of the United Nations (UN).
- One of Amnesty International UK's six priority strategic objectives is to support and defend the international human rights framework.
- In April 2024, we launched an activist-led **UN Network** that furthers this objective.
- The Network **helps activists understand the human rights mechanisms and processes of the UN** so that our campaigning can be more effective.
- We also **campaign on human rights issues related to the work of the UN**. Our current campaign concerns abuse of the UN Security Council veto.

UN Security Council



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The UN Security Council was set up to maintain international peace and security. Ongoing wars in Ukraine and the Middle East are just two examples of the Security Council's repeated failure because of the abuse of the veto held by the five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, UK, US).





Current campaign

Stop mass atrocities

Stop abuse of UN Security Council veto

- We believe that existing international law – such as the Geneva Conventions and Genocide Convention – already renders illegal vetoes cast against credible resolutions aimed at preventing or stopping mass atrocities (i.e. war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide).
- As well as **protesting cases of abuse of the veto** (e.g. Russia's veto of a resolution in November 2024 on Sudan and amendments to a resolution marking the third anniversary of the war in Ukraine; and the US's vetoes of resolutions calling for a ceasefire in Gaza), we are lobbying governments, with help from Amnesty activists round the world, to join Prof Jennifer Trahan's "**ICJ (International Court of Justice) initiative**".
 - The ICJ initiative's aim is to persuade UN member states to put forward a resolution at the UN General Assembly requesting an advisory opinion from the ICJ on the legality of vetoes blocking resolutions aimed at stopping or preventing mass atrocities.
- Our veto campaign is based on a UN code of conduct (the ACT Code of Conduct) agreed by more than 120 member countries.
 - Signatories to this code include the UK and France, which have not used their vetoes for 36 years.

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