

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

IMPACT REPORT

2024



AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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This report describes the 2024 work of the Amnesty International UK Section and the work carried out or funded by the Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust in 2024. Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust meets its objectives primarily by making grants to the Amnesty International UK Section and the International Secretariat of Amnesty International.

👁 Cover: The remains of buildings destroyed by an Israeli bombardment, al-Bureij refugee camp, central Gaza, 24 June 2024 © Eyad Baba/AFP/Getty Images

STANDING UP FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

At a time when human rights are under an unprecedented global attack, the generosity of Amnesty supporters enables us to defend people and communities in the UK and around the world.

The global human rights landscape in 2024 was troubling, but there were also flashes of hope. Throughout it all, Amnesty International collected evidence, took action, held those in power to account, and called out hypocrisy and double standards.

Over the course of the year, we saw multiple human rights crises across the globe, from Gaza to Sudan. Even political leaders around the world questioned the validity of key institutions of international law and human rights protections if they felt it could get them a quick headline.

So in this context your support has enabled Amnesty International to independently and impartially investigate human rights violations at a time when arguably it is more important than ever.

Our work included producing a landmark report on Israel's actions in Gaza and after in-depth research, the findings were unequivocal: Israel is committing acts of genocide against the Palestinian people. We also revealed the Israeli army's deadly violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Elsewhere in 2024, our expert researchers exposed the suffering of civilians in Sudan, the plight of detainees in Syria, repression against pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong and the atrocities of the Myanmar military. It's vital work with a tangible impact.

In the UK, too, human rights have continued to come under attack. As a new government formed and hundreds of new MPs entered the House of Commons, Amnesty International sent out a clear message: a lot needs fixing, and human rights are the answer.



In the UK that included us talking to ministers, MPs and officials about the urgent issues – from the importance of economic, cultural and social rights and protecting the freedom to protest, to the racist impact of predictive policing and more support for British nationals arbitrarily detained abroad.

Although it's vital that we face up to the serious challenges ahead, we should also reflect on the many positive stories that show meaningful change is possible. In 2024, these included protecting press freedom in Northern Ireland, the scrapping of the Rwanda scheme, and the vibrancy of activists around the world and here in the UK – organising and campaigning on the human rights issues that matter to them.

Thank you for supporting Amnesty International UK and helping us to defend human rights for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sacha Deshmukh'.

Sacha Deshmukh
Chief executive, Amnesty International UK

A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Since 1961, Amnesty International has grown from a call to action by our founder, Peter Benenson, into a global movement of more than 10 million people. We defend and promote all the rights enshrined in the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Amnesty International UK is one of the largest international sections in our global movement, with close to 498,000 supporters, members and activists. We provide funding for Amnesty International's work around the world and campaign for positive human rights change globally and in the UK.

HOW WE ACHIEVE CHANGE



INVESTIGATIONS

Our experts on the ground investigate human rights violations by governments and others around the world.



CAMPAIGNS AND ADVOCACY

We encourage and influence governments, political organisations, businesses and individuals to support and respect human rights.



HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION AND TRAINING

We support people to know and claim their rights through education and training.



A POWERFUL MOVEMENT

The power of our global movement of 10 million people is crucial to achieving positive change for human rights.

Amnesty International

STATISTICS

OUR GLOBAL MOVEMENT

60+
YEARS

of fighting for human rights



10+
MILLION

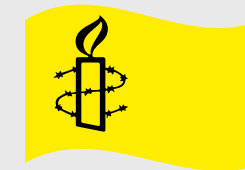
supporters, members and activists worldwide in more than 150 countries and territories, including almost 498,000 in the UK



Amnesty International has a local presence in more than

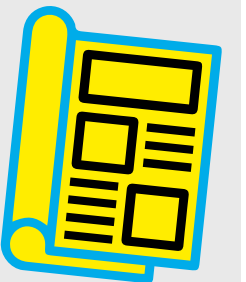
60
COUNTRIES

including 249 groups in the UK



Amnesty International's 2024 report on the state of human rights around the world covered

155
COUNTRIES



ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

MORE THAN

437,000

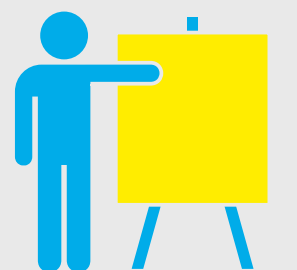
people took action for human rights via the Amnesty International UK website in 2024



MORE THAN

3,100

people participated in Amnesty-led training for human rights activists in 2024



CRISIS INVESTIGATION

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY

The war in Gaza and deepening apartheid and occupation in the West Bank dominated our crisis work in 2024. At the end of the year, we published a landmark report that came to a devastating conclusion: Israel is guilty of genocide against the Palestinian people.



👁 Jabalia refugee camp, Gaza, 1 June 2024. As part of Amnesty's report into genocide we investigated an Israeli air strike on the camp © Omar al-Qattaa/AFP/Getty
Top right: Palestinians at a food donation point in Rafah, southern Gaza, 2 February 2024 © Said Khatib/AFP/Getty

Since the deadly Hamas-led attacks of 7 October 2023, Israel has escalated its decades-long atrocities against the Palestinian people. Its military offensive has killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians and displaced hundreds of thousands more.

During the year we continuously called for a comprehensive ceasefire, and worked to document the extensive human rights violations and war crimes in the Israel-Gaza crisis.

Thanks to your support we were able to collect and analyse evidence using several methods – including digital techniques and survivor interviews – and apply our legal analysis to what we found. This documentation not only informs the international community but also strengthens the case for legal accountability at the ICJ (International Court of Justice) and other judicial bodies.

In February 2024 our work with people on the ground found that Israel was defying an ICJ ruling by restricting humanitarian aid to Gaza, exacerbating a growing humanitarian crisis.

In May we investigated Israeli airstrikes that killed 44 civilians in Rafah, and in September our research revealed the deliberate demolition of homes and the bulldozing of farmland.

The Israeli army claimed it was creating a buffer

ENDING APARTHEID AGAINST PALESTINIANS

In July 2024 the International Court of Justice issued a historic advisory opinion saying that Israel's occupation and annexation of Palestinian territory are unlawful and its discriminatory laws and policies against Palestinians violate the prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid. This chimes with the findings of an Amnesty report in 2022, based on years of research, which detailed the oppression of Palestinian people by Israel. Amnesty is calling on Israel to withdraw its forces from all parts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), including Gaza, and remove all settlers from the West Bank, including the illegally annexed East Jerusalem. We also want Israel to relinquish control over all aspects of Palestinian lives.

zone between Gaza and Israel, but our analysis of satellite imagery and videos taken by soldiers showed as much as 16 per cent of Gaza land had been razed. What we saw amounted to the war crimes of wanton destruction and collective punishment.

In December 2024 we published a landmark report examining in detail Israel's violations of international law. It concluded that Israel had committed, and continues to commit, genocide

against Palestinians in the occupied Gaza Strip. *You feel like you are subhuman: Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza* ran to 296 pages and was the culmination of 14 months of rigorous investigation. It included interviews with 212 people, including Palestinian victims and witnesses, local authorities in Gaza and healthcare workers on the ground.

Our researchers examined an extensive range of digital evidence, such as satellite imagery and online footage from mobile phones. They also considered Israel's claim that it was lawfully targeting Hamas and other armed groups, and that the denial of aid to Palestinians was down to the unlawful conduct of these groups.

WEST BANK – ONGOING APARTHEID

While the world focused on the horror in Gaza in 2024, we also reported on the tragedy unfolding in another part of the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT), the West Bank. Here Palestinians continue to live under an apartheid regime imposed by Israel.

After the Hamas attacks of October 2023 the Israeli army escalated its violence and oppression in the West Bank too. Our researchers found evidence of the Israeli authorities using unlawful force in policing operations, and in the dispersal of Gaza solidarity rallies and protests demanding the release of Palestinian prisoners.

We also found that the army had been blocking medical assistance to Palestinians who had been injured during these protests, and in some cases had shot people who had attempted to help them. There is also evidence of the army standing by and watching when settlers attacked Palestinians.

IMPACT: despite the desperate situation and ongoing human rights abuses in the OPT, we have made progress this year.

- Our report on the genocide in Gaza achieved international headlines with 3,403 articles published in 88 countries in the first 48 hours of its release.
- The report led to MPs in Parliament challenging ministers on the government's policy towards Israel. It is providing a powerful basis for lobbying and activism: at the time of writing, and after much work by Amnesty, the EU has announced it is to review its cooperation with Israel because of the human rights situation in the OPT.
- Almost 100,000 people have joined our call for a ceasefire in Gaza.
- In the run up to the general election, we met with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to discuss Gaza, Israel and the wider OPT, and also with Sir Keir Starmer and the then shadow foreign secretary, David Lammy. The new government's decision on a limited suspension of arms exports to Israel was built on this engagement.



👁 Settlers are escorted in a street march by Israeli soldiers, Hebron, West Bank, 28 September 2024 © Mosab Shawer/Middle East Images/AFP/Getty Images

- Stopping weapons exports to Israel is a campaign priority. In August 2024, alongside other human rights organisations, we took part in a judicial review into the continuing supply of arms to Israel, arguing that the government was breaking international law,

which could mean UK complicity in war crimes. Disappointingly, the High Court ruled it did not have the authority to intervene in the government's policy. But the court action did have an impact, with the UK suspending some arms export licences in September 2024.



👁 A Palestinian home is demolished by Israeli authorities in Al-Jawaya, part of the occupied West Bank © Emily Glick/Middle East Images/AFP/Getty Images

WHY THIS IS A GENOCIDE

- The first treaty to explicitly define and criminalise genocide in international law was adopted by the UN in 1948 in response to the atrocities of the Second World War.
- To prove the crime of genocide you need to prove that one or more acts prohibited by the UN genocide convention have taken place and that they were 'committed with the intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group'.
- We documented Israel's perpetration of three out of the five prohibited acts under the convention:
 - 'Killing members of the group'.
 - 'Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group'.
 - 'Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part'.
- Our conclusions were based on:
 - The destruction of homes, agricultural land

and infrastructure indispensable to the civilian population.

- The mass repeated displacement of Palestinian people under inhumane conditions.
- The deliberate obstruction of life-saving supplies and aid.
- Racist and dehumanising comments from senior Israeli leaders calling for the destruction of Palestinians in Gaza that were echoed by soldiers on the ground.

Scan the QR code to find out more:



EXPOSING ABUSES AROUND THE WORLD

Amnesty International combines on-the-ground research with digital evidence gathering to raise public awareness of human rights violations and persuade governments to act.



👁️ Al-Hol detention camp, north-east Syria
© Delil Souleiman/AFP/Getty Images

Thanks to your support in 2024 we conducted a number of major investigations. These included a report on how thousands of people are being held unlawfully in detention camps in Syria, and exposing the illegal supply chain of weapons to Sudan's civil war.

SYRIA

In Syria we uncovered a human rights crisis in the north-east of the country, revealing that an estimated 56,000 people had been held unlawfully in a series of detention camps and prisons for years.

Most of these people were detained during the final battles with the Islamic State (IS) in 2019 and included 14,500 women, 30,000 children and survivors of IS atrocities among the Yazidi community, a group targeted by IS when it controlled the region.

We documented abuses on a massive scale, including torture and sexual violence, and how thousands had been 'disappeared' and hundreds had died from preventable deaths caused by being held in inhumane conditions. We also revealed how many of the imprisoned women and girls were victims of forced marriages to IS members and many of the boys and young men had been recruited as children to fight for the armed group.

IMPACT: the report made international headlines. As a result of this and of our campaign to raise awareness of the crisis – plus advocacy from others – we achieved:

- A broad amnesty for individuals convicted of 'terrorism' in sham trials, leading to approximately 1,500 people being released or having their sentences reduced. Among those released were women and children victims of IS trafficking.
- Reported improvements in prison conditions for detainees with perceived IS ties, including better access to food and water and communication with families.
- Treatment for tuberculosis in Panorama prison, where deaths had been frequent.
- Enhanced child protection coordination, including finding solutions for children in detention.
- 347 people freed from the al-Hol detention camp near the Iraq border (pictured left).

SUDAN

As well as gathering evidence in the field, our investigations draw on the work of Amnesty's Crisis Evidence Lab, which uses digital methods to support our research – such as analysis of satellite imagery, videos and photos. To highlight the suffering of civilians in the civil war in Sudan, for example, we used satellite images showing how residential areas in Al Fashir, Darfur, had been shelled by the warring factions.



👁️ Sudanese army soldiers on patrol, 3 November 2024 © Amaury Falt-Brown/AFP/Getty Images

We also examined hundreds of videos posted online of other clashes and their aftermath, enlarging images so we could see the serial numbers of the weapons that were being used.

By cross-referencing this information with 1,900 shipment records into Sudan, we were able to show that weapons and components were coming from France, the United Arab Emirates, China, Russia, Serbia, Turkey and Yemen – breaking the arms embargo in the region.

The story featured extensively in media outlets worldwide, and in a further bid to bring the issue to global attention, Amnesty met with staff from the US Congress and Senate, the Office of the US Special Envoy on Sudan, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the UN Panel of Experts on Sudan, the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and French-Sudanese parliamentary groups.

IMPACT: as a result, the US government has now sanctioned some companies involved in arms exports to Sudan. We are also using our evidence to urge the UN Security Council to extend the existing arms embargo beyond the Darfur region into the whole of Sudan. Read more about the work of our Evidence Lab, opposite.

MYANMAR

Amnesty continues to expose atrocities carried out by the military junta in Myanmar's civil war, and its persecution of the country's Rohingya community, which reached new heights in 2024.

Drawing on interviews with civilians, and extensive analysis of photographs, video material and satellite imagery, we have documented likely indiscriminate attacks against civilians and non-military buildings and infrastructure.

We revealed that the army had used illegal cluster munitions in an assault in northern Shan state, for example, and fired inaccurate rockets that would inevitably harm civilians in its attack on the settlement of Pauktaw.

We also exposed a deadly supply chain into the country, whereby imported aviation fuel enables the junta to continue its air strikes on civilians.

IMPACT: as a result of this work, the UN has for the first time called on member states to stop supplying Myanmar with aircraft fuel.

And in a further boost for human rights in 2024, the prosecutor's office at the International Criminal Court requested an arrest warrant for Min Aung Hlaing, the Myanmar general who has ruled the country since a military coup in 2021.

BE THERE – SUPPORTING PEOPLE AFFECTED BY CRISIS AND CONFLICT

Our **Be There** programme not only documents people's experience of crisis and conflict in places like Gaza (see page 6) and Sudan (above). It also supports people in their fight for justice.

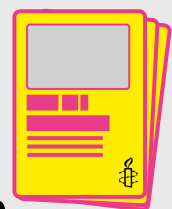
In Lithuania, for example, we have been working with refugees and migrants in a class action against the state, after more than 4,000

people from Iraq, Syria, Sri Lanka, India, Nigeria and other countries were illegally held in prison-like conditions in 2021 and 2022.

Now, in a major step forward for the campaign, the Lithuanian Supreme Court ruled in December 2024 that the lower courts must hear the case.

The Be There programme

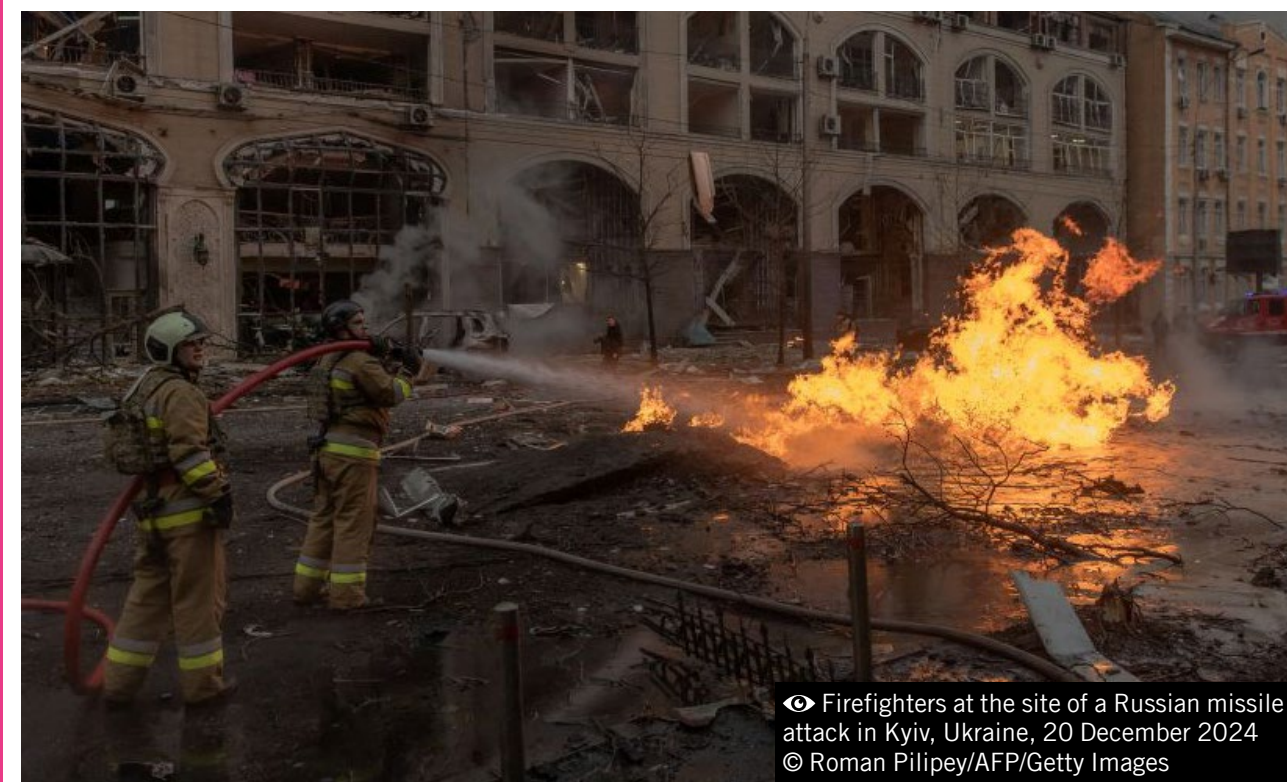
Published
15
REPORTS
AND MAJOR
BRIEFINGS



Carried out
22 FIELD
INVESTIGATIONS



Worked on
human
rights
issues in
74
COUNTRIES



👁️ Firefighters at the site of a Russian missile attack in Kyiv, Ukraine, 20 December 2024
© Roman Pilipey/AFP/Getty Images

UKRAINE

In November 2024 we produced a statement explaining how Russian airstrikes were taking an increasingly heavy toll on children in Ukraine. We explained how children were uniquely vulnerable to blast injuries and used photographs, videos and field research to show how children were suffering from Russia's deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructure.

On the back of these revelations, which were reported in the press, we called for accountability for perpetrators of war crimes and justice for all victims of Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine.

PHILIPPINES

Over recent years our team has contributed to several investigations which detailed the extra-judicial killings and other human rights violations by the Philippines police, including the 'war on drugs' orchestrated by former president Rodrigo Duterte.

IMPACT: as we were finalising this report, we learned of the arrest of Duterte for crimes against humanity, following a warrant from the International Criminal Court (ICC). The ICC had cited our investigations, among other things.

EVIDENCE LAB IN ACTION

Collecting digital evidence to support our on-the-ground investigations is hugely important in defending human rights, exposing abuse and raising the necessary public awareness to pressurise governments to act.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, for example, we gathered videos, photographs and satellite imagery to expose the massacre of at least 56 demonstrators in Goma by Congolese soldiers. Our subsequent report reconstructed the exact sequence of events and identified three army officers who should be investigated.

Using similar methods in **Bangladesh**, we showed how police used unlawful force against student protesters during a state crackdown. Our investigation was cited in the media and by Bangladeshi politicians, pressuring the prime minister to eventually step down. The UN is using this evidence to examine potential crimes against humanity.

In the **Dominican Republic** we documented human rights violations against Haitian migrants by the police and army, verifying 12 videos that showed detentions involving excessive force. Our work gained widespread media coverage with the president of Haiti's ruling transition council referring to it in a speech at the UN General Assembly.



CHAMPIONING RACIAL JUSTICE

In 2024 we continued to build a powerful coalition calling for racial justice and the scrapping of the Prevent anti-terror strategy. At the international level, we revealed the UK was breaching its human rights obligations on race.

In the final weeks of 2023 we produced a major research report on Prevent, the government's discriminatory anti-terrorism strategy. In 2024, on the back of this report, our focus moved to pressurising the government to scrap the policy.

We took our campaign to communities, raising awareness locally. This included producing a video to explain Prevent.

At the national level we continued coalition building with like-minded racial justice organisations. And at an international level

we raised awareness among influential institutions such as the UN.

Under Prevent, people working in universities, nurseries, schools, hospitals and councils, as well as social workers and GPs, must refer to the police people who they think might be drawn to terrorism – even though they have not planned or committed any crimes.

Our research shows that relying on such gut feelings results in disproportionate numbers of Muslim people being targeted.

47%

of children of colour in the UK are living in poverty

We also found that a disproportionate number of neurodiverse people and children factor among Prevent referrals.

Around one third of referrals come from the education sector. With this in mind, in 2024, along with Prevent Watch and Liberty, we produced a *Know your rights* guide to the programme, aimed at university staff and students (illustration from the guide pictured opposite).

INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE

A key piece of work this year was our collaboration with the Runnymede Trust on a submission to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). This showed that government legislation and policy is in breach of key articles of the International Convention for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

The report, which was endorsed by 40 other organisations, showed how disparities facing people of colour across the criminal justice system, health, education, employment and immigration are not improving. Key findings from the report included:

- 47 per cent of children of colour in the UK are living in poverty, compared to 24 per cent of white children.
- Police are 6.5 times more likely to strip search black children, and 4.7 times more likely to strip search black adults, than their white counterparts.
- British Bangladeshi women are over eight times more likely to be unemployed than white British women.

- The health of white British women in their 80s is equivalent to that of black Caribbean and Indian women in their 70s, and Pakistani and Bangladeshi women in their 50s.
- Gypsy, Roma and Traveller people have 10-25 years' shorter life expectancies than the general population.

IMPACT: as a result of our evidence, and that of partner organisations, CERD called for the suspension of Prevent and a review of the policy.

More international pressure came to bear on the UK government with our contribution to a report from the European Commission Against Racism and Intolerance. Again this highlighted concerns over Prevent, directly referencing our research.

REACTION TO THE RIOTS

Following the murder of three girls at a dance class in Southport, there were racially-motivated attacks on people, and their homes and businesses, across the country. Amnesty was swift in its response to the disorder, calling out the dangerous rhetoric of politicians that scapegoat migrants and refugees – and demanding that the government address the root causes of racism, Islamophobia and xenophobia in the UK.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our racial justice work:



SUPPORTING PEOPLE AT RISK

Standing up for individuals and communities enduring human rights abuses and challenging the forces that oppress them have always been central to Amnesty's work. Your support enables us to do this through a combination of urgent appeals, long-term pressure and activities such as our annual Write for Rights campaign.

PATH TO FREEDOM

Right now, around the world, there are British nationals unjustly held in prison. Many are behind bars simply for exercising their human rights. They include Mehran Raoof, who is detained in Iran because of his support for trade unions and workers' rights, and Alaa Abdel Fattah, an activist who is serving a five-year sentence on bogus charges in Egypt. As well as supporting them and their families, our Path to Freedom campaign is urging the UK government to develop a clear strategy to support British nationals arbitrarily detained abroad and pave the path for their release. More than 20,000 people have signed our petition calling for the prime minister to take action.

SURVIVING EVIN

A powerful pop-up exhibition showcased the experience of UK national Anoosheh Ashoori who was arbitrarily jailed for four-and-a-half years in Iran until his release – alongside Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe – in March 2022. Devised by Anoosheh with the support of Amnesty UK, Surviving Evin was

“I think the exhibition is a testament to the ability of the human spirit to endure, to find hope amid despair, to face adversity and to emerge stronger. I hope it reminds everyone who visits of the importance of empathy, understanding and solidarity in our shared humanity”

Anoosheh Ashoori

held at Hoxton Arches in east London in May 2024 (pictured above right). A portable version of the exhibition that Amnesty groups can display in their local areas will be released in 2025.

FLORIANE IRANGIBAYE FREED

Burundian journalist Floriane Irangibaye received a presidential pardon and was released from prison after serving part of a 10-year sentence for criticising the government on the radio. Floriane had been in detention since 2022. Speaking to the media after leaving prison she gave a special mention to Amnesty activists who campaigned for her release.



© Floriane Irangibaye

© Tchandrrou Nitanga/Getty

SASHA SKOCHILENKO RELEASED

In August 2024, Aleksandra (Sasha) Skochilenko was among 16 human rights defenders and activists released from prison in Russia and Belarus as part of a prisoner swap with the USA, Germany, Norway, Slovenia and Poland. Nearly 20,000 Amnesty supporters wrote to the Russian embassy in London calling for her release during the Write for Rights campaign in 2022.



© Sasha Skochilenko

© Private



© Neth Nahara

© Private

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Write for Rights is the world's biggest letter-writing campaign, with more than 4.6 million actions taken by Amnesty supporters around the world in 2024. In the UK, we focused on three priority cases: Oqba Hashad, an Egyptian student detained without trial; Professor Şebnem Korur Fincancı, who has been targeted by the Turkish authorities because of her human rights work; and Ana de Silva Miguel (aka Neth Nahara), an Angolan TikTok star jailed for criticising the government. More than 21,000 Amnesty UK supporters called for the latter's freedom – and, on 1 January 2025, she was released after receiving a presidential pardon.

PROTECTING PROTEST AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression and the right to protest are under attack. It's why Amnesty International UK's campaigns, expert investigations and massive public engagement are more important than ever.



Journalists Trevor Birney (third from left) and Barry McCaffrey (fourth from left) with supporters outside the Royal Courts of Justice, London © Marie-Anne Ventura/AI

BOOST FOR PRESS FREEDOM

In 2024 we achieved a significant breakthrough in our work to protect press freedom in the UK. In a landmark case, a British court ruled that the police unlawfully spied on two Northern Ireland journalists, breaching their human rights. We backed the case and have been supporting the two journalists, Trevor Birney and Barry McCaffrey.

In 2018 Birney and McCaffrey were arrested and their offices raided after they investigated police collusion in paramilitary murders.

Following their arrest, thousands of Amnesty members sent messages of support to the pair. And after a Belfast court found the search warrant was unlawful, a five-year investigation began into police conduct.

IMPACT: in December 2024 the Investigatory Powers Tribunal, which is the only UK court that can investigate secret police surveillance, ruled that the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and the Metropolitan Police unlawfully spied on Birney and McCaffrey in a bid to uncover their sources.

PSNI surveillance of journalists, lawyers and others is now being investigated by the KC-led McCullough Review, an independent inquiry which includes Patrick Corrigan, Northern Ireland director of Amnesty, among its group of experts and stakeholders.

THE RIGHT TO PROTEST

The UK has a long history of street protest, from the anti-slavery movement and the suffragettes to demonstrations against South Africa's apartheid and climate marches. But this freedom is under attack. In recent years, the government has passed two draconian laws to clamp down on the right to peacefully protest in England and Wales – the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 and the Public Order Act 2023.

The anti-protest crackdown has also reached our courts. In July 2024, climate protesters received record sentences for their civil disobedience.

We are campaigning to maintain the right to freedom of protest in the UK. And hundreds of thousands of people agree. Along with fellow campaigners at Greenpeace we handed in 200,000 signatures in December 2024, calling for the government to scrap the anti-protest laws.

REPRESSION IN HONG KONG

With the rise of authoritarian governments around the world, freedom of expression is increasingly under attack in many countries. Amnesty was forced to close its Hong Kong offices in 2021 because of the Hong Kong government's intensifying crackdown on dissent, but the UK office continues to campaign for human rights in the region.

The need for this work has never been greater. In March the Safeguarding National Security Ordinance, otherwise known as Article 23, was introduced, creating new crimes and giving police and government sweeping powers to crack down on activism.

During the consultation period in the run up to the legislation, Amnesty submitted its analysis of the proposals to the Hong Kong government. We concluded that the powers went against Hong Kong's human rights obligations.

After the Article 23 law was passed, we published expert analysis of its effects on both Chinese and non-Chinese individuals, and urged states to ensure that trade or investment agreements with China or Hong Kong contained explicit human rights safeguards.

In 2024 we welcomed Foreign Secretary David Lammy's call for the release of UK national Jimmy Lai on a visit to China. Lai is the founder of a pro-democracy newspaper who has been imprisoned since 2020.

But we are also urging the foreign secretary to work to secure the release of Lai's fellow prisoner of conscience Chow Hang-tung detained by the Hong Kong authorities.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our protect the protest work:



UK RIGHTS — OUR WORK ON THE HOME FRONT

Amnesty International UK set out a long to-do list for the new Westminster government, which confirmed its commitment to human rights when it came into power. Successes this year included the scrapping of the Rwanda Bill and progress on truth and justice in Northern Ireland.



👁 An Amnesty supporter makes her views clear at an anti-racism march in London © David Tramontan/SOPA/LightRocket/Getty Images



👁 An Amnesty campaigner protests against the Rwanda Bill in Westminster, London © Marie-Anne Ventura/AI

In the UK there has been a significant rollback in human rights protections in recent years. From the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act to the Troubles Act, our fundamental rights have been chipped away, often in contradiction of the UK's obligations under international law.

The 2024 general election was the chance for a reset, and as the nation prepared to go to the polls, we campaigned for our next leaders to be elected on a mandate that included ambitious and progressive protections of rights.

Ahead of the election, we had produced our own human rights manifesto in the form of recommendations for the new UK government.

We also worked with other justice organisations to guide journalists and other commentators on areas of human rights policy that they should scrutinise when interviewing politicians.

The main party manifestos allowed us to see the impact of our advocacy work. Labour included five Amnesty issues in its manifesto. The Conservatives excluded any reference to leaving the European Court of Human Rights and, for the first time since 2002, there was no threat to the Human Rights Act. The Liberal Democrat manifesto included 20 of our manifesto issues.

After Labour came to power in June, and with your support, we continued to keep human rights front of mind in Westminster.

We ran a petition to remind Prime Minister Keir Starmer of his pre-election pledge to put human rights at the centre of everything his government

does. The new minister for human rights responded to the action, stating: 'We are fully committed to the protection of human rights both domestically and internationally.'

IMPACT: in September 2024 we worked with the new Attorney General on an important rights initiative that will affect all government policy. Under the new rules Whitehall lawyers have to advise ministers on whether policies they are proposing are both lawful and in line with the UK's human rights obligations.

SUPPORTING REFUGEE RIGHTS

Amnesty has long advocated for a fairer asylum system and campaigned against the government's Rwanda scheme. This aimed to send people seeking asylum in the UK to live in Rwanda rather than resettle them here. So it was a significant win when the new government announced it would scrap the policy in July 2024.

Earlier in the year we had been successful in holding off implementation of the bill, working in partnership with Liberty and Freedom from Torture. This included briefings to opposition parties and members of the House of Lords which resulted in amendments, parliamentary defeats for the government, and delays to the bill.

We also welcomed Labour's plans to amend the 2023 Illegal Migration Act, which largely closed the UK to people seeking refuge from war and persecution – as well as its announcement that the Bibi Stockholm barge would no longer be used to house people seeking asylum.



👁️ Amnesty promoted human rights at the Labour Party Conference in Liverpool, September 2024
© Marie-Anne Ventoura/AI

“Victims have waited long enough for justice for our husbands, brothers, sisters, and children”

Martina Dillon, whose husband Seamus was killed in Northern Ireland in 1997, is campaigning to know the truth about his death

However we were disappointed in the government’s proposed replacement law, the Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill. This will pursue the same harmful approach of previous governments – prioritising prevention, deterrence, punishment and enforcement, rather than upholding our international responsibility to provide asylum for refugees.

We will continue to advocate for a fair and humane asylum system that includes:

- setting up safe routes so more people can avoid dangerous journeys at the hands of people smugglers
- making the UK’s asylum system fair and efficient
- working with other countries to share responsibility for providing asylum.

TROUBLE FOR THE TROUBLES ACT

Our work to defend human rights across the UK in 2024 also includes specific campaigning in the nations and regions.

In Northern Ireland there were important wins in our campaign for accountability for human rights violations during the Northern Ireland conflict. As well as advocacy and campaigning, we also continued to support victims fighting to scrap the widely opposed Northern Ireland Troubles (Legacy and Reconciliation) Act. This unjust legislation denies the rights of victims to truth, justice and reparations.

IMPACT: in 2024 great progress was made in the Northern Ireland courts. A victim-led legal

challenge to the Troubles Act, in which Amnesty UK was involved, saw the Belfast courts ruling that core provisions of the act are not compatible with human rights and are unlawful.

But there is more work to do. We want to see the Troubles Act repealed and replaced. The Labour party in opposition committed to this, but in government has challenged the court rulings to the UK Supreme Court. Our fight continues to ensure victims’ rights are vindicated.

MORE RIGHTS IN WALES

In Wales we have invested more in campaigning, urging the Welsh government and other public bodies to put human rights at the heart of everything they do.

This includes advocating for a new Welsh Human Rights Bill to strengthen protections against discrimination, and for stronger everyday rights in areas like housing.

We also made a submission to the Welsh parliament’s Equality and Social Justice Committee’s inquiry into social cohesion, urging the Welsh government to make good on its commitment to incorporate human rights into Welsh law.

EQUALITY FOR TRANS PEOPLE

While Amnesty International UK works to advance human rights, it is important that we also fight to preserve what we already have.

So we submitted a legal argument to the Supreme Court in a landmark Scottish case on how the Equality Act is meant to treat trans people.

We argued that trans people have a right to be recognised in their legally acquired gender in order to enjoy the full spectrum of human rights. The judges ruled that the legal definition of a woman under the Equality Act 2010 did not

include trans women with a Gender Recognition Certificate. This was disappointing and there are potentially concerning consequences for trans people.

But the long and complex ruling makes it clear that trans people have a right to protection from discrimination and harassment.



👁️ A message to our leaders illuminates the Houses of Parliament just before the controversial Troubles Act was passed in September 2023 © AI

JUSTICE
FOR ALL
TROUBLES’
VICTIMS.
LET THEIR
FAMILIES HEAL.

EVERYDAY RIGHTS FOR EVERYONE

In 2024 Amnesty International UK continued its drive to make economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) part of UK law. We produced a major report on the state of ESCR in Britain and worked with partners on a rights-based approach to ending homelessness and poverty.



HOME IS A HUMAN RIGHT

👁️ Amnesty's campaign to make affordable housing a human right lights up the Angel of the North © AI

Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) are rights that affect daily life, such as the right to food, education, healthcare, housing and work. They are based on the UN's International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which the UK has signed up to, and are often referred to as 'everyday rights'. Crucially, however, and unlike some other human rights in this country, they are not part of UK law.

In 2024 Amnesty continued its campaign to change this and for ESCR to be incorporated into legislation. Such a move would create a means for holding the government to account if it failed to fulfil its ESCR obligations – for example in providing a decent education.

BROKEN BRITAIN

ESCR is a priority for Amnesty International UK, so to better understand where ESCR is lacking, in 2024 we organised a significant consultation with communities across the country who face poverty and inequality in their everyday lives, plus the grassroots organisations that support them.

Our research consisted of 24 workshops with over 300 people across England, Scotland and Wales. The resulting report which we produced painted a picture of a broken Britain with little or no social safety net, and showed how ESCR were being eroded for many people whose voices are not often heard by our leaders.

Common themes in the interviews included a call for reform of the NHS, more effort to protect children from the effects of inequality, and more action to put 'humanity' back into politics and end the discrimination and divisive rhetoric that demonises some groups.

While we intend to do more research in the near future, our report findings already inform our ESCR advocacy in the UK.

A HOME IS A HUMAN RIGHT

We continued our work to make affordable housing a human right protected in UK law. This included producing the hard-hitting cinema trailer *Before Our Eyes* with actors Olivia Colman and Adrian Lester. We also made a submission to parliament which advocated legal and policy reforms to provide universal access to housing.

We partnered with the charity Groundswell to support 71 people, many who had experience



👁️ Adrian Lester and Olivia Colman starred in our harrowing short film about the housing crisis

of homelessness, to produce the *Ending Homelessness Together* charter.

This set out clear actions for government, including better financial support for people experiencing homelessness, and involving those with lived experience in policymaking. More than 16,600 people signed the subsequent petition supporting the charter.

FIGHTING POVERTY

We also continued our work with the Growing Rights Instead of Poverty Partnership (GRIPP) to address poverty as a human rights violation, and amplify the voices of those affected by poverty.

Our work with GRIPP, Groundswell and other partners has informed our submission on ESCR in the UK to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights – the body which monitors government compliance with the international treaty governing these rights.

Scan the QR code to find out the story behind *Before Our Eyes*:



TEACHING AND LEARNING

Our education work goes from strength to strength. It encourages awareness and respect for human rights among people of all ages and ultimately it helps build a stronger Amnesty movement.



In 2024 our human rights education (HRE) work reached record numbers of people.

Online learning through Amnesty's Human Rights Academy continued to grow, with courses now available in more than 30 languages.

These cover a range of issues, from freedom of expression to indigenous people's rights, and vary in length from 15 minutes to 15 hours. They are also available as an app on your phone.

CLASS ACT

We continued our work with teachers and schools to bring human rights into the classroom. Our TeachRights initiative is a broad package of support for teachers, providing them with free classroom resources, human rights and campaign news, learning events and training.

We provide education toolkits for the Write for Rights campaign, for example. These are designed to encourage children and teachers to

“The Amnesty teaching programme gave me the confidence to have complex conversations in the classroom”

Jake Rose-Brown, teacher and co-founder of A Day of Welcome, which educates children about refugees and forced displacement

Our online courses are available in

30+ LANGUAGES



not only understand more about human rights, with specific examples drawn from around the world, but to write letters of support for those experiencing abuses.

This year we also set up our Teacher Mentoring Programme, after a successful pilot in 2023. This aims to develop teachers as human rights leaders as well as help them bring about changes where they work.

In 2024 we worked with five teachers. Projects they developed included tackling misogyny at school, human rights education through humanities subjects, and creating lessons that were LGBTI+ inclusive.

We also trained the leader of the Asylum Speakers Programme, which supports refugees to go into schools and corporate settings to talk about their experiences, and foster a more welcoming culture for people seeking asylum. This project reached more than 20,000 people in 2024.

COACHING

Our Youth Activism Coaches programme trains activists to support the creation of youth groups

in colleges and schools. These coaches raise awareness of human rights among the students and help them set up their groups and develop their first campaigns.

This year we trained 30 students from six colleges. Two colleges delivered projects on sexual harassment, one worked with food banks in their area, and one has been encouraging students to sign a Gaza ceasefire petition.

And as children returned to school in September,

Amnesty produces education toolkits to bring human rights into lesson plans in schools around the world © Amnesty International Togo

we published a book on child's rights, with a preface by actor and activist Angelina Jolie. To support the launch of *These Rights are Your Rights* we commissioned research showing that 83 per cent of British children aged eight to 15 know little or nothing about their rights, and 74 per cent of UK parents want their children to learn about human rights in schools.

Our education work in the UK

41,000 PEOPLE



took part in Amnesty's human rights education activities

21,000 PEOPLE

used Amnesty's resources



30 STUDENTS

from

6 COLLEGES



completed Amnesty's new Youth Activism Coaches programme

The number of people annually reached through human rights education activities in 2024

INCREASED BY 84%



BUILDING A HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Amnesty UK is helping to build a powerful and diverse movement that can change attitudes and prompt change around the world. Throughout 2024 we provided a comprehensive range of training, courses, resources and programmes for our activists and local communities.



👁 A member of Amnesty's Anti-Racism Network at a Gaza solidarity march, 2024 © Marie-Anne Ventoura/AI



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Amnesty groups in the UK

Our movement is the foundation of all of Amnesty's work and power, and over the past year we have been strengthening those foundations, adding additional support to local, youth and student groups, and expanding into new communities.

Our geographic groups – in communities, schools and universities – engage with local people, organisations and MPs across the country, ensuring a wider understanding of human rights concerns, and that these are raised at the highest levels of UK decision making.

Our student work on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, for example, trained hundreds of young people in protest rights, media engagement and campaign strategy, and supported activists who were disciplined by their universities for legitimate campaigning. This included connecting some students who had been arrested with legal support.

IMPACT: our student-led campaigns secured major wins: Queen's University Belfast has agreed to divest from companies operating in the illegal Israeli settlements, and several student unions have committed to stock Palestinian produce in their stores. Following our intervention, two universities have also dropped disciplinary action against student activists.

Amnesty UK offers numerous courses, training and resources to help our activists develop the skills, knowledge and attitudes they need to take action on human rights. They include Rise Up, a fully funded training course for 16-24-year-olds interested in achieving social change.

SPECIALISTS AND NETWORKS

We have international specialists in our Country Coordinator forum and Anti-Death Penalty project, who lead our country-focused advocacy and campaign work in the UK.

Our networks, which campaign on specific aspects of human rights, continue to support marginalised UK communities. They include our Trade Union Network, Rainbow (LGBTI+) Network, Feminist Network, Children's Human Rights Network, and our recently launched Disabled People's Human Rights Network. Our Anti-Racism Network leads our grassroots work on Prevent (see page 14) and in 2024 provided support and advice to hundreds of people.

In 2024 our Feminist Network produced a substantial report on women's rights around the world, leading us to reach new areas of the feminist movement in the UK, and make more connections globally.

The network also ran a campaign on women's rights in Afghanistan, which included hosting an international webinar in December. This work is a great example of the value of our networks to the Amnesty movement. The campaign has not only led to better understanding of structural issues when it comes to women's rights, but concrete support for Amnesty, raising funds and exposure for country-based rights defenders around the world.

📣 **Rise Up has given me many new skills and the confidence to be a young activist** 📣

Jack Littlefair, who recently completed the Rise Up training

WINNING HEARTS AND MINDS

A key part of Amnesty's work is to increase the number of people who understand and champion human rights. And that means changing attitudes on the political front and among the public.



1 MILLION
followers on social media

32.1 MILLION
reach on social media*

34 MILLION
visits to [amnesty.org.uk](https://www.amnesty.org.uk)

87%
of the UK public are aware of
Amnesty International UK

* The total number of users who saw our content on one of our social media platforms



👁 Aline Ushindi and her baby Nadine are among 6.9 million people displaced by fighting in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This photo was part of the photojournalism winning entry at the Amnesty Media Awards 2024, by Hugh Kinsella Cunningham

The outcome of the 2024 general election not only brought in a new government but signalled a change of heart from our leaders when it came to human rights.

The new prime minister Keir Starmer was quick to express his support for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and offered a cast-iron commitment that the UK will never leave the European Convention on Human Rights.

Later in the year, at the Labour Party conference in September, two government ministers spoke at an Amnesty event about the importance of rights and our role in defending them.

Going forward, however, our work with politicians will not be plain sailing. While the current government has a more positive attitude than its predecessor, there is still much to be done to keep human rights front and centre in Westminster.

We are disappointed, for example, in Labour's U-turn on its promise to repeal the Northern Ireland Troubles Act (see page 22). And its proposed Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill advocates the same harmful approach to people seeking asylum as the previous government.

PUBLIC PROFILE

This year we began a new way of tracking public attitudes to Amnesty, with a view to getting clear data on how best to engage with people. The tracking revealed that we are the leading human rights organisation in terms of awareness, with 87 per cent of the UK public having heard of us.

We continue making great progress with our profile among the general public. In 2024 on social media and in the traditional press and broadcast outlets, our work was much more visible compared to the previous year, and we ranked second in media coverage among all UK charities with 32,615 pieces of coverage.

A large amount of coverage concerned our response to events in the Occupied Palestinian Territory plus our work for refugee and migrant rights.

This public awareness has translated into more action for human rights. As well as gaining greater visibility and digital engagement for our work, more than 185,000 took at least one action in 2024, while the total number of actions on our website for the year was over 437,000.

EVENTS

One way we can spread the word about Amnesty's work is by putting on relevant events. This year we launched our first human rights festival, Amplify, which included music, film screenings and a live recording of the Guilty Feminist podcast.

Meanwhile, our annual Amnesty Media Awards, which celebrate human rights journalism, are a way to encourage increased coverage of rights, as well as rewarding the courage and skill of reporters and photographers. The 2024 awards were held in London and livestreamed to a global audience.

GOVERNANCE

Amnesty International UK – funding our human rights work

Amnesty International UK operates in the UK as 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 no. 01735872). Each entity is governed by its own Board.

The Charitable Trust fulfils its objectives by funding a range of charitable activities, in the UK and internationally, to support the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and various international treaties. It does this primarily through grant making to the UK Section, the International Secretariat of Amnesty International and other Amnesty International Sections in countries around the world.

The UK Section delivers the bulk of Amnesty International's human rights activity in the UK. It is primarily funded by grants from the Charitable Trust, with further income from membership subscriptions, and from sources such as our online and high street shops.

The work featured in this review was carried out by the UK Section, or by the International Secretariat supported by grants from the Charitable Trust.

For full audited accounts of both entities for the year ended 31 December 2024, see: [amnesty.org.uk/finances](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/finances)

Registered office:
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA

Please note that from August 2025 Amnesty International UK's new registered office will be: Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW

The Board of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

Helen Horton, chair
Nabila Hanson, vice-chair (currently on leave of absence)
Stuart Penny, vice-chair
Andy Townend, treasurer
Duaa Abdulal
Abdul Abid
Sophia Adams Bhatti
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Dallan Cuniffe, director of data, finance and infrastructure
Andrea Jones, director of fundraising – mass market
Kerry Moscogiuri, director of campaigns and communications
Marion O'Donnell, director of major funding partnerships
David Prince, director of people and culture

Names are accurate as of June 2025.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

to protect human rights in 2025 and beyond



£1,080

could fund vital equipment for a crisis investigator (satellite phone, bulletproof vest and helmet).



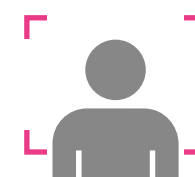
£2,100

could fund hostile environment and first aid training for a researcher.



£11,000

could fund a trip to gather evidence to amplify the voices of the vulnerable – for example, older people or people with disabilities affected by conflict.



£30,000

could fund training for four volunteers in our Digital Verification Corps to harness open-source information and images to advance human rights fact-finding.



£90,000

could fund a short documentary film informing the public on human rights issues – for example, about child soldiers in Iraq.

THANK YOU

In a time of conflict and crisis, with people's human rights under threat, the generosity of our close community of activists and supporters is vital. Amnesty International will continue to 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. That means our work is only possible thanks to the solidarity and commitment of people like you. Thank you for being part of our movement.

MONEY MATTERS

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust

Total 2024 expenditure **£24,547,000**



£9,915,000

Grants to the Secretariat of Amnesty International and other Amnesty International sections for human rights work



£6,180,000

Raising funds and other trading activities



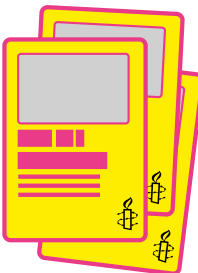
£6,000,000

Grants to the UK Section for human rights work



£1,728,000

Investment into activist recruitment



£724,000

Production and distribution of human rights publications and campaigning materials

Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

Total 2024 expenditure **£16,205,000**

WINNING HUMAN RIGHTS VICTORIES

£1,501,000

Protecting and developing the legal frameworks that underpin human rights

£829,000

Campaigning for effective action to address human rights crises

£751,000

Economic, social and cultural rights

£741,000

Supporting people at risk: defending the rights of people, their families and their communities. The women, men and children we campaign for have all experienced human rights abuses first hand

£651,000

Racial justice

£621,000

Freedom of expression

£416,000

Hong Kong human rights

£250,000

Contribution to global movement

BUILDING A POWERFUL MOVEMENT



£2,367,000

Activism in the community

INCREASING KNOWLEDGE AND CHANGING ATTITUDES



£2,155,000

Includes human rights education, advocacy, raising the profile of human rights and the work of Amnesty International UK, and encouraging more action for human rights from the public

INVESTMENT IN ACTIVIST RECRUITMENT



£1,478,000

RAISING FUNDS AND OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES



£4,445,000

www.amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust

The Human Rights Action Centre

17-25 New Inn Yard

London EC2A 3EA

Please note that from August 2025 Amnesty
International UK's new registered office will be:

Peter Benenson House

1 Easton Street

London WC1X 0DW

Contact sct@amnesty.org.uk



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Charity registered in Scotland no.SC039534.

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Registered office as shown above.

**AMNESTY
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