

Amnesty International UK

**ANNUAL REPORT
2009/10 SUMMARY**



AN INTRODUCTION TO OUR 2009/10 ANNUAL REPORT

The Amnesty International UK Annual Report 2009/10 can be downloaded from www.amnesty.org.uk/annualreport

In the report you can find out about:

- Our priorities in 2009/10
- Our human rights work and achievements
- The way that Amnesty is structured
- How we are governed and managed
- Our employment policies and practices
- Our environmental impact – and how we seek to minimise it
- Where our funding comes from – and how it is spent
- The difficulties we have faced and the lessons we have learnt along the way

The report covers the period from 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

Here, we provide a very brief summary. We encourage you to read the full report by visiting our website (above). Or you can request a printed copy from our Supporter Care Team: email transparency@amnesty.org.uk or call 020 7033 1777.



Left: Campaigning against the death penalty, London, May 2009 © Simone Novotny Right: Amnesty students on the march, London, November 2009 © Marie-Anne Ventura



FROM THE DIRECTOR THE POSITIVE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

This annual report is a first for Amnesty International UK. We have set out to show in detail the positive difference our supporters made in 2009-2010, building on the commitment and progress we've already made to being transparent and accountable.

Amnesty International is about people. Our supporters – 225,605 of them in the UK – are, of course, key. Without them we wouldn't be able to do our work. Without them we wouldn't exist. Likewise, Amnesty is the talented and tenacious group of staff and volunteers I am proud to work alongside.

And then there are the people on whose behalf we work. They are the people, as individuals or groups, whose shocking situations motivate us to do what we do. And they are the people whose courage in demanding or defending human rights for themselves and others inspires us.

This report tells you how Amnesty International UK is managed, governed and financed – but we devote the largest part of it to our campaigning work. Here, in assessing the impact of our work, we are reminded that it can often take years of steadfast effort before we see real change but also that there are important milestones on the way.

I hope that this annual report provides you with many insights – and many reasons to support us and to work with us. It also gives us a vital opportunity to learn from what we have done well, and from what we could have done better. It is an opportunity we will embrace.

Kate Allen
Director, Amnesty International UK



Kate Allen
Director, Amnesty International UK



12 HIGHLIGHTS TO CELEBRATE

We are a movement of ordinary people who stand up for humanity and human rights. We know that – thanks to the commitment of Amnesty supporters – our campaigns help to bring positive lasting change. Here are just 12 highlights (one for each month during 2009-2010) that we are particularly proud of. You can read about these, and many more, throughout our Annual Report.

APRIL 2009 STOPPING THE TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

Following years of concerted pressure from us and many others, the European Convention Against Trafficking in Human Beings came into force.

MAY 2009 STANDING UP FOR LGBT RIGHTS

In the face of widespread opposition and attempts to ban it, the 2009 Baltic Pride march went ahead peacefully. Marching in solidarity for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights were many Amnesty activists from the UK.

JUNE 2009 LOBBYING TO CONTROL ARMS

140 young activists attended a Foreign and Commonwealth Office conference on the Arms Trade Treaty – enabling them to put their ideas directly to government ministers and shape policy.

JULY 2009 HOLDING COMPANIES TO ACCOUNT

In response to our report, *Petroleum, Pollution and Poverty in the Niger Delta*, Shell entered into a dialogue with human rights activists. A company representative conceded that its activities had contributed to poverty and conflict.

AUGUST 2009 CAMPAIGNING AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY

The US Supreme Court ordered an evidentiary hearing for Troy Anthony Davis, who had been on death row in Georgia for 19 years. This was the first such order in half a century.

SEPTEMBER 2009 PROTECTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Six Gambian journalists, accused of sedition and defamation, were released by presidential pardon. We had been campaigning on their behalf.



Above: Naming, shaming and demanding change, London 2009 © Marie-Anne Ventoura Left: Actor Archie Panjabi backs Amnesty's Stop Violence Against Women campaign © Thomas Birkett

OCTOBER 2009 CAMPAIGNING ON TERRORISM, SECURITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The Sri Lankan journalist Vettivel Jasikaran and his wife Valarmathi were released from prison and acquitted of all charges. They had been in arbitrary detention for 18 months under anti-terrorism laws.

NOVEMBER 2009 A CHANGE TO THE 'NO RECOURSE' RULE

The UK government agreed to set up a pilot scheme so that women previously unable to access refuge provision when fleeing violence would now be able to do so.

DECEMBER 2009 CONTROLLING ARMS

The UN General Assembly, backed for the first time by the US, agreed that an international Arms Trade Treaty would definitely come into being.

JANUARY 2010 SENDING MESSAGES OF SOLIDARITY

By the close of our 2009-2010 Greetings Card Campaign, tens of thousands of morale boosting messages of support and solidarity had been sent to people suffering human rights abuses.

FEBRUARY 2010 PROTECTING LAND RIGHTS

We delivered a report on human rights abuses to mining company Vedanta Resources at its London head offices. The granting of licences for a new bauxite mine in Orissa, India was subsequently delayed.

MARCH 2010 PREVENTING MATERNAL DEATHS

Working with a coalition of organisations, we successfully persuaded all of the main UK political parties to pledge their support to a Manifesto for Motherhood.

OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

In our annual report we explain how we protect human rights.

WE TELL IT LIKE IT IS

Amnesty International's researchers travel worldwide investigating abuses, interviewing victims, observing trials, meeting prisoners and talking to government officials. We care about the facts. We only publish information when we are convinced of its truth.

WE CAMPAIGN FOR CHANGE

Amnesty International is primarily a campaigning organisation. We work to change the laws and policies that allow human rights abuses to happen. We put pressure on governments and companies across the world to improve their human rights record and accept responsibility when human rights abuses occur.

WE WORK WITH INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

We send appeals to the authorities on behalf of victims of human rights abuse, such as people jailed for their ideas or identity, and those working to defend human rights in dangerous conditions. We also get messages of support through to the individuals concerned.

WE RAISE AWARENESS, EDUCATE AND ATTRACT ATTENTION

We want to create an environment in which everyone understands what human rights are and why they are so important. We raise awareness about human rights – in the media and through the arts and entertainment. Our education materials, films, school speakers and teacher training programmes help to get the message across to younger people.

Across each of these four dimensions, we provide an update on our activities in 2009-2010. We also try to quantify – and to celebrate – some of our achievements.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WORKS ACROSS THE WORLD TO CHANGE THE LAWS, POLICIES, PRACTICES AND ATTITUDES THAT ALLOW HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES TO HAPPEN

ONE EXAMPLE AMONG VERY MANY



© Marie-Anne Ventura

Here's just one case study of our work from our 2009-2010 annual report.

STANDING UP FOR WOMEN WITH 'NO RECOURSE TO PUBLIC FUNDS'

WHY we are making a stand

Many women come to the UK, often legally, in the hope of improving their lives. They may come on temporary work permits, student visas or spousal visas. Some women come to the UK to marry. The 'no recourse to public funds' rule says that a woman in this position (even if she's married to a British citizen) is not entitled to certain state benefits. As a direct consequence, many women find themselves trapped in violent marriages. And, even if they do muster the courage to seek help from the authorities, they are simply turned away.

HOW we are making a stand

Together with our partners in this campaign, including the Southall Black Sisters organisation, we researched and distributed an authoritative report on the issue in 2008. Based on our findings, we held demonstrations at Westminster, we galvanised thousands of our supporters to write letters and send emails, and we encouraged them to hold their own local demonstrations. A high point of the campaign came in November 2009, when more than 200 activists descended on Parliament to lobby MPs for better protection for women.

WHAT has been achieved

In November, the government announced a pilot scheme to fund refuge places for some of the women who are trapped by the 'no recourse rule'. The scheme was due to end in March 2010 but we managed to get it extended to August 2010. In the first three months, nearly 200 women who may otherwise have been turned away received immediate help.

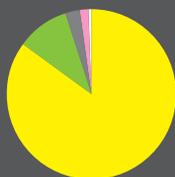
Again, this is just one indicative example of our work. You can catch up on more of these case studies in our 2009-2010 annual report.

MONEY

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Most of our income – 94 per cent – comes from individual members and supporters. This means that, financially, the only people we are truly dependent upon are those individuals who participate in the Amnesty International movement.

Where our money came from (£000s) 2009-2010



Subscriptions, donations and legacies ¹	£19,724	85%
Additional giving (raffles, companies, events, bookshops, etc)	£2,348	10%
Trading	£642	3%
Grants ²	£322	1.5%
Investment income	£103	0.5%

TOTAL £23,139

¹This figure includes Gift Aid

²Includes £10,000 of government funding to education projects

WHERE DOES IT GO?

With every pound we spend, we aim to get one step closer to fulfilling our mission – by undertaking research and action which can prevent and end grave abuses of human rights, by increasing awareness of these rights, and by encouraging more people to join our movement.

How we spent our money (£000s)

Investing DIRECTLY in our human rights work	2009-2010	
Finding out what's happening (research)	£6,790	29%
Campaigning, raising awareness and educating	£7,932	34%
Encouraging more people to take action	£1,789	8%
Investing INDIRECTLY in our human rights work		
Encouraging more people to become supporters, members and funders	£4,717	21%
Raising additional funds	£1,487	6%
Sustaining our systems of governance	£373	2%
Total	£23,088	100%

Note: Each of the figures in the table includes the direct costs entailed and a proportion of central or indirect costs (eg personnel, training, and administration).

A fuller explanation of our finances, including our approach to fundraising, our supplier relationships and our financial controls, can be found in our annual report. Download it now from www.amnesty.org.uk/annualreport