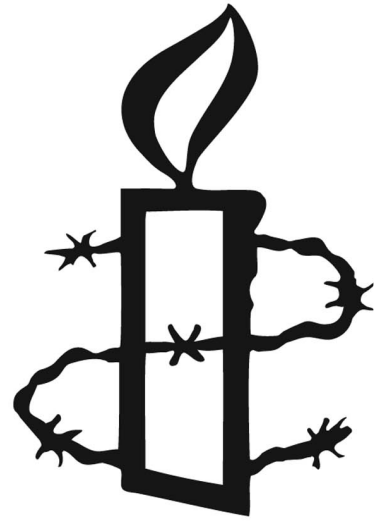


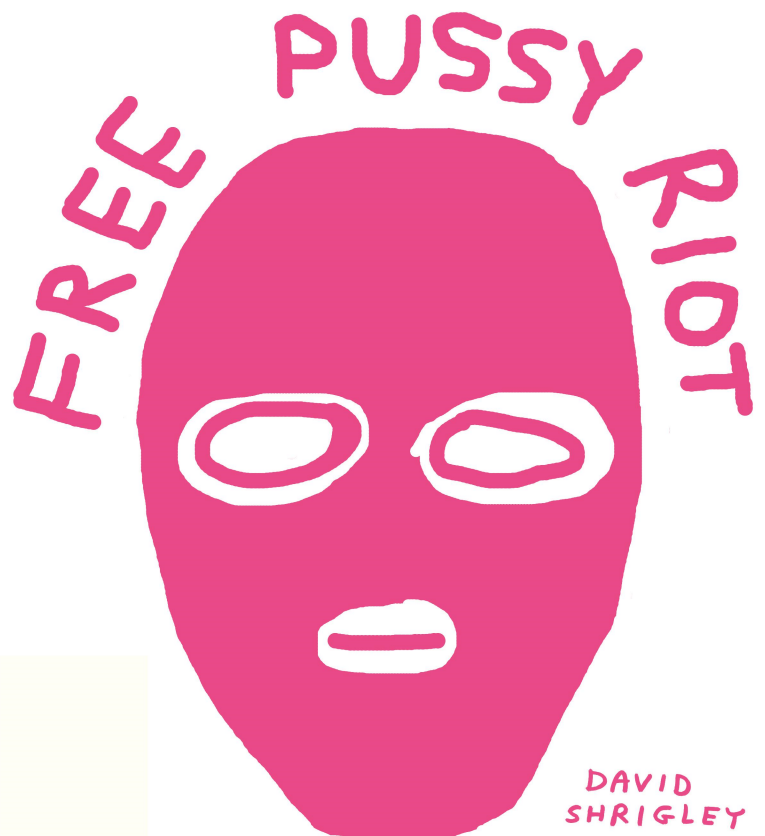
Amnesty International FRESHERS FAIR GUIDE 2013



**MAKE SURE YOUR STALL IS BOOKED
AND YOU HAVE CONFIRMATION
BEFORE THE FRESHERS FAIR**

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**If you need any further support your
friendly freshers team are here to
help you!**

MARTIN, HEATHER & BEN

FRESHERS@AMNESTY.ORG.UK

FACEBOOK.COM/AMNESTY.ACTIVISTA

1. Freshers Pack contents and what to do with them!

Planning Materials/ Committee Resources:

Wall Planner
Human Rights Pub Quiz*
Raise Off Flyer
Fundraising Leaflet*

For Decoration:

Amnesty Balloons
Amnesty Banner
Amnesty Placards
UDHR Poster - A1
'Defy Them' Poster - A3

Things to hand out:

Next Meeting Postcards*
Amnesty Magazines
My Rights Passports
Protect the Human Stickers
Freedom Stickers

Pussy Riot Campaign Materials

Pussy Riot Poster - A2
Pussy Riot Stickers
Pussy Riot Placards*
Pussy Riot Drinks Mats
Pussy Riot Masks

* Available to download as pdfs from www.amnesty.org.uk/fresher

If you need more materials, you can order an extra Freshers Pack by calling our mailing house on 01788 545553 and quoting the product code 'FFPack13'.

You can also order extra copies of these individual items:

Amnesty Banner (SA517)
UDHR Poster – A1 (YA729)
'Defy them Poster' – A3 (SA508)
Pussy Riot Poster - A2 (SA574)

My Rights Passports (ED112)
Protect the Human Stickers (YA863)
Freedom Stickers (YA862)
Pussy Riot Stickers (SA575)

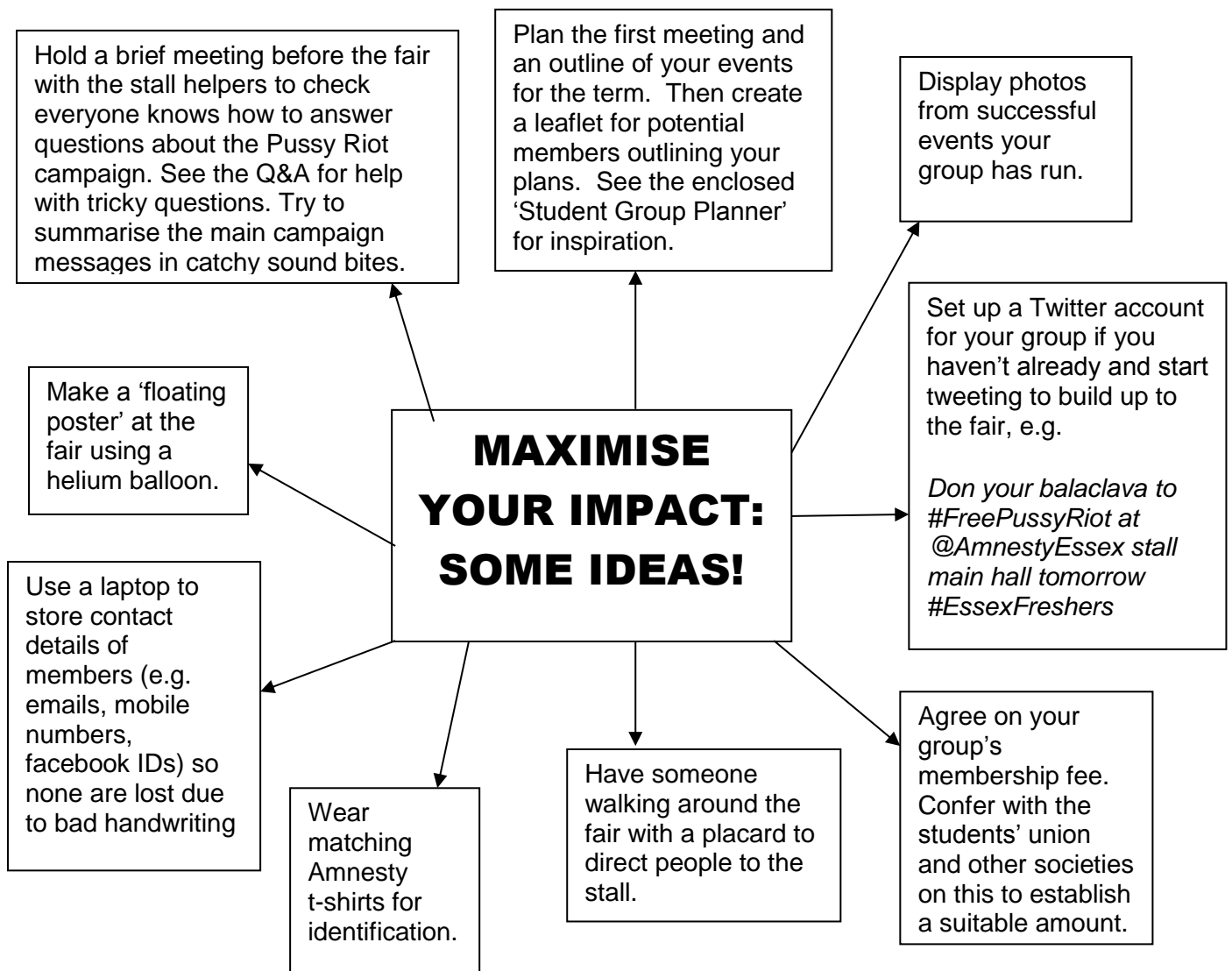
2. Making an impact – some helpful hints

Freshers' fairs are probably the most important day of the year for Amnesty International student groups so it is worth putting a lot of time and effort into planning them.

The fair is great for:

- recruiting new members of your group
- getting students involved in a campaign action
- raising the profile of the group

We've sent you lots of materials but here are some more suggestions on how to make a real impact and be super organised.



3. Pussy Riot Campaign Action



Background

Amnesty International's position on freedom of expression:

- The right to freedom of expression is essential to and interrelated with the realization and exercise of all human rights, but it is not absolute and may be subject to certain restrictions to ensure that it does not conflict with the rights of others, such as the right to be free from discrimination.
- International human rights standards provide a framework for how law and policy should strike the balance between maximum protection of freedom of expression and respect for the rights of others.
- The arbitrary persecution of peaceful political activists and artists, such as Pussy Riot, constitutes a gross abuse of the right of freedom of expression.

Pussy Riot's Russia

Vladimir Putin's return as President in May 2012, following widely criticized elections, led to a surge in popular protest and demands for greater civil and political freedoms, particularly around his inauguration. The result was a clampdown on the rights to **freedom of expression and association**. Protests were frequently banned and disrupted. New laws were adopted, often without public consultation and in the face of widespread criticism, which introduced harsh administrative and criminal penalties that could be used to target legitimate protest and political and civil society activities, and to restrict foreign funding for civic activism. Human rights activists and journalists are particularly at risk of harassment and physical intimidation.

Other aspects of Russia's human rights record

Torture and other ill-treatment is frequently alleged to have taken place in many areas of the country. Enforced disappearances and extrajudicial executions have been reported in the North Caucasus. Furthermore, amendments to various laws and the creation of a Public Monitoring Commission have done little to address these issues; in some cases, loopholes have facilitated an increase in the use of torture and other ill-treatment.

According to independent estimates, there are almost no centres which can provide some support to victims of **domestic violence** in Russia. Only 23 centres operate specifically as shelters for victims of domestic violence for all 140 million Russians. Moreover, these services are usually only accessible to those who are officially registered as residing in the particular region. Moscow's only shelter, in a city with a population of over ten million inhabitants, provides space for only a dozen women.

Discrimination on grounds such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion or political affiliation remains widespread. In 2012 discriminatory legislation targeting LGBTI individuals was introduced in several regions and proposed at the federal level. A law banning "propaganda of sodomy, lesbianism, bisexuality and transsexuality among minors" came into force in St Petersburg in April 2012. Similar laws were also introduced in Bashkiria, Chukotka, Krasnodar, Magadan, Novosibirsk and Samara regions, and tabled before the State Duma. A number of public LGBTI events were forbidden and participants dispersed by police.

Across Russia, LGBTI individuals and members of various minority groups continue to face attacks. Such attacks are not effectively investigated by the authorities, and the perpetrators are often unidentified.

Who are Pussy Riot?

Pussy Riot is a Russian feminist punk band. Started by students from Moscow State University, the band has played spontaneous 'guerrilla' gigs in locations across the city. Their music and performances are designed to criticise what they see as the repressive and sexist condition of Russia under President Vladimir Putin.

Since its establishment in 2011, Pussy Riot has conducted several performances in public places such as Moscow underground, Moscow Red Square and on the roofs of buses. In media interviews the group members have stated that they protest against, among other things, stifling of freedom of expression and assembly in Russia, unfair political process and fabrication of criminal cases against opposition activists.

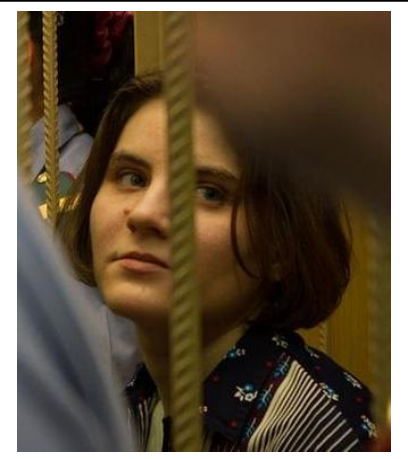
Nadya Tolokonnikova, Maria Alekhina and Ekaterina Samutsevich are three members of the band who were arrested after playing a 40 second protest performance in Christ the Saviour Cathedral on February 21st 2012. They sang a 'Punk Prayer' calling on the Virgin Mary 'become a feminist' and 'banish Putin'.



- **Name:** Nadezhda 'Nadya' Tolokonnikova
- **Age:** 23
- **Arrested:** 4 March 2012
- **Occupation:** Philosophy Student
- Permanent resident of Canada, married to dual Canadian-Russian citizen
- Mother of 1 (Gera)



- Maria Alekhina (25)
- Arrested: 4 March 2012
- Occupation: Journalism Student & Poet
- “For me, this trial only has the status of a ‘so-called’ trial. And I am not afraid of you. I am not afraid of lies and fiction, of the thinly disguised fraud in the sentence of this so-called court. Because you can only take away my so-called freedom. And that is the exact kind that exists now in Russia. But nobody can take away my inner freedom.” *Maria during the August 2012 trial*



- **Name:** Ekaterina Samutsevich –
- **Arrested:** 15 March 2012
- **Occupation:** Computer Programmer
- **Released:** 10 October 2012
- Ekaterina was at the Cathedral on the day of the Pussy Riot performance, but was prevented from participating in the protest by the church security guards. Like Maria and Nadya she was convicted of ‘hooliganism on the grounds of religious hatred’ in August 2012.
- However, Ekaterina was released on appeal a few months later, with a two year suspended sentence, since she didn’t actually perform in the cathedral.

“He’s a patriarch, and patriarchal leaders know how to deal with other powerful men. Look at the number of oligarchs who’ve ended up in exile, and of course Khordokovsky is in prison. What Putin didn’t expect was to be challenged by a group of young women who’ve named themselves after their vaginas.” – Joan Smith on Pussy Riot

Punk Prayer and Aftermath

On **21 February 2012** several members of the Pussy Riot group walked into Moscow's main Orthodox Cathedral with their faces covered in balaclavas. They performed a protest song titled 'Virgin Mary, redeem us of Putin' which called on Virgin Mary to become a feminist and banish Vladimir Putin. It also criticises the dedication and support shown to Putin by some representatives of the Russian Orthodox Church.

Pussy Riot's performance came as part of the broader political context of anti-Putin protests and protests against unfair elections in Russia and **led to a wide debate on blogs, social networks and media**. On February 26th members of Pussy Riot were put on wanted lists charged with Hooliganism motivated by religious hatred. When Nadia, Maria and Ekaterina were identified and arrested Amnesty International declared them prisoners of conscience.

Shortly afterwards the press secretary of President-elect Vladimir Putin called the protest despicable and said it would be followed up "with all the necessary consequences". However, several officials, including the Minister of Justice, Speaker of the Upper House of the Russian Parliament and the Head of the Presidential Council for Human Rights spoke against the three women's imprisonment.

More than **200 Russian cultural figures**, well-known writers, musicians and actors, among others, signed an **open letter in support** of Nadya Tolokonnikova, Maria Alekhina and Ekaterina Samutsevich, calling for their release. (The letter went on to collect over 50,000 signatures.)

Initially, a representative of the Orthodox Church called for mercy for the protestors and in June 2012, a group of **Orthodox believers** sent an open letter to Patriarch Kirill, the leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, **asking for mercy** for the three arrested women.

Subsequently however Church representatives have called for harsh punishment and for the women to be prosecuted for inciting religious hatred. The leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, patriarch Kirill referred to the Pussy Riot's performance as "scoffing at a shrine" and expressed deep sorrow over the fact that their actions were being justified by others, including Orthodox Christians. Pussy Riot themselves deny that the protest was motivated by religious hatred.

"Our attitude toward religion, and toward Orthodoxy in particular, is one of respect, and for this very reason we are distressed that the great and luminous Christian philosophy is being used so shabbily. We are very angry that something beautiful is being spoiled." It still makes us angry and we find it very painful to watch."
An extract from Nadya's closing statement at the August 2012 trial

Pussy Riot's protest performance was a peaceful expression of their political beliefs. The song that was performed criticises President Putin and the senior clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church. However, it did not provoke hostility, discrimination or violence in relation to their followers or any other group. Amnesty International believes that the women's protest was legitimate, if offensive, and should not be treated as a criminal matter.

Trial & Sentencing

Pussy Riot's case was heard over the summer of 2012 and was dogged by controversy and allegations of wrongdoing. During the hearing Nadya Tolokonnikova admitted to participating in the 'punk prayer' in Christ the Saviour Cathedral but refused to plead guilty to hooliganism. Maria Alekhina and Ekaterina Samutsevich called their charges unsubstantiated.

There were several procedural violations including the women's legal team claiming that the women had very little time to prepare for the trial and were unable to see all files prior to the trial. The judge also turned down most of the defence witnesses while the defence lawyers were rarely allowed to question prosecution witnesses. In addition during the protests which accompanied the trial, the groups' peaceful supporters were harassed and many detained and reportedly ill-treated by police, while their opponents were allowed to demonstrate and express their views in the streets unhindered.

Nadya, Maria and Ekaterina were convicted of 'hooliganism motivated by religious hatred' on the 17th of August 2012 and were sentenced to 2 years in penal colonies. Ekaterina's sentence was later reduced and suspended when it was argued that she did not participate as she was obstructed by security guards within the cathedral.

Parole Hearings

On the 24th and 26th of July 2013 Russian appeal courts turned down Nadya and Maria's respective applications for parole. Nadya was told she was to remain in prison partly because she refused to admit guilt for "hooliganism". Earlier in the year the authorities had rejected applications by Nadia and Maria for an early release to take care of their young children.

"The Russian authorities should realize that times have changed – it's impossible to gag free speech and emasculate civil society. Russia is a major player on the world scene and to keep its standing the authorities must adhere to the country's obligations to defend and promote human rights." - Natalia Prilutskaya, Amnesty International's Russia team

Take action for Pussy Riot at your Freshers Fair

1) Photo Petition

- Ask people to pose for a photo holding the 'Free Pussy Riot' placards enclosed in this pack and wearing masks or balaclavas.

Tell them you'll upload the photos to your Amnesty society's Facebook group as well as to the AIUK Pussy Riot Flickr group. Email them the link so they can join your Facebook group and tag themselves.



2) Gather signatures for the petition calling for the release of Maria and Nadezhda

- The petition is enclosed in this guide (skip forward 2 pages) and can also be downloaded from www.amnesty.org.uk/fresher

Make sure you print enough copies for the whole fair, and keep a blank one on hand in case you need to photocopy more on the day.

- **Please send completed petitions to:**

Hannah Shaw, Student Manager
Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre,
17-25 New inn Yard
London, EC2A 3EA.

NB: The deadline for
sending in your petitions
is **Thursday 31st**
October

3) Tweet updates throughout the day

- Update your group's Twitter feed throughout the day, promoting your stall and campaign action.

e.g. Join celebs including Radiohead, Adele and Yoko Ono and take action for #PussyRiot with @BathAmnesty today

- Make sure you follow your SU and use any hashtags they're using for the fair or freshers-related activities (e.g. #EdinburghFreshers)



After the Freshers Fair

4) Upload photos to Facebook and the AIUK Pussy Riot Flickr group (see the digital tips in section 5)

- Create a photo gallery in your Amnesty society's Facebook group and upload the photos you took at the fair. Encourage group members to tag themselves and friends, and to use their photo as their profile picture.

5) Send a welcome email to new members

- As soon as possible after the fair send out an email to people who signed up at the fair.
- Don't forget to include:
 - Time, date and venue for the first meeting
 - A link to your Facebook group and Twitter – ask them to join/follow and invite their friends to join too
 - A link to the photo gallery – ask them to tag themselves and other people they know



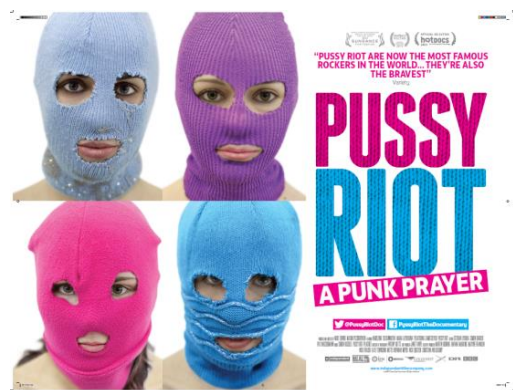
6) Send us your petitions

- Don't forget to send us our petitions by the deadline on **Thursday 31st October**.

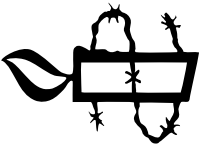
Ideas for further actions:

There are lots of options for follow up actions which you could use in your first meeting or later in the term. Here's a few of our favourites but feel free to come up with your own:

- 1) Organise a 'Free Pussy Riot' **FLASHMOB** with placards, balaclavas and brightly coloured clothe (see our Q&A for guidance on suitable locations for actions).
- 2) Arrange a **SCREENING** of the **documentary** 'Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer' which will be available on BBC iPlayer from 15th October, and shown on BBC4 on 22ND October (these dates may change – we'll let you know if they do).
- 3) Put on a **GIG** to raise awareness about the Pussy Riot case and celebrate freedom of expression.



Search online to find out how to make your own Pussy Riot balaclava using an old hat or a pair of colourful tights: <http://tinyurl.com/nypj35s>



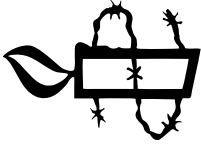
We, the undersigned, call upon the Russian Prosecutor General to respect and uphold the right to freedom of expression in the Russian Federation, and ensure that Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina are immediately and unconditionally released. While they remain incarcerated, they must not be ill-treated by prison staff or inmates and must be allowed regular contact with their families and legal teams.

Please send completed petitions to:
Hannah Shaw, Student Manager
Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA
www.amnesty.org.uk/pussyriot

PLEASE USE CAPITALS

Name	Street address	Town	Postcode	Signature	Email / telephone*

*By giving us your details, you are also requesting updates about Amnesty's work and the work of Amnesty Groups in your area. If at any time you prefer not to receive updates from Amnesty, please tell us: www.amnesty.org.uk/contact.



FREE PUSSY RIOT

PLEASE USE CAPITALS

Name	Street address	Town	Postcode	Signature	Email / telephone*

*By giving us your details, you are also requesting updates about Amnesty's work and the work of Amnesty Groups in your area. If at any time you prefer not to receive updates from Amnesty, please tell us: www.amnesty.org.uk/contact.

4. Pussy Riot Q&A

1. Would it in Amnesty's view have been preferable for Pussy Riot to stage the protest outside the Church so as to avoid impinging on Russian churchgoer's freedom of practise of religion?

Even if Pussy Riots action was calculated to shock and was known to be likely to cause offence, the women left the Cathedral when requested to do so and caused no damage. The entire action lasted only a few minutes, if not less than a minute, and caused only minimal – if any – disruption to those using the Cathedral and others visiting. However provocative, it did not seriously interrupt on anyone's freedom to practice their religion.

The women's protest performance was legitimate, if offensive and should not be treated as a criminal matter which means that the women should not have been prosecuted.

2. Did Pussy Riot impose of the right of others during their protest performance in the church?

The protest was a peaceful expression of their political beliefs. Their message was anti-clerical and political (anti-Putin) and in line with the broader political context surrounding the anti-Putin protests at the time.

The song that was performed criticises President Putin and the senior clergy of the Russian Orthodox Church. However, it did not provoke hostility, discrimination or violence in relation to their followers or any other group.

3. Are there limits to freedom of expression?

There are occasions when free expression can be legitimately punished (e.g. hate speech in the Rwandan Genocide) but not here.

4. Was it a fair trial?

There were several procedural violations including the women's legal team claiming that the women had very little time to prepare for the trial and were unable to see all files prior to the trial. The judge also turned down most of the witnesses of the defence while the lawyers of the defence were rarely allowed to question prosecution witnesses.

In addition during the protests which accompanied the trial, the groups' peaceful supporters were harassed and many detained and reportedly ill-treated by police, while their opponents were allowed to demonstrate and express their views in the streets unhindered.

5. Why was Ekaterina released?

Ekaterina was given a 2 year suspended sentence as a result of her not participating in the protest performance, as she was prevented from doing so by church guards. During the beginning of the trial the women were represented by a legal team that represented all three women's case as one. However on Ekatarina's request she received a separate lawyer who argued the case that she had merely been present in the Cathedral rather than actually participating in the stunt. This resulted in the ruling that she was given a 2-year suspended sentence rather than a prison sentence.

6. Have there been any other instances of cases in Russia where individuals have been charged with 'Hooliganism on the ground of religious hatred'?

To our knowledge this is the only case where this sentence been used.

7. What is Amnesty going to do next?

We are going to continue campaigning on their behalf calling for their immediate release.

8. Student action and stunts

While we encourage Amnesty supporters to continue to take action and campaign on the case we would not encourage you to stage a protest in a place of worship, since this could cause offence or be counterproductive. Our target in this campaign is the Russian prosecutor general, not religious groups.

5. Digital Tips



Before the fair

- Set up a Twitter account for your group if you haven't already
- Follow @AmnestyStudent and @AmnestyUK - we'll follow you + retweet your best bits
- Follow your Student Union on Twitter (again, make your tweets ridiculously retweetable so they start following you!)
- Use #AmnestyFresher on all your tweets so we know what you're all up to
- If your uni is using a hashtag for the fair or freshers-related stuff (e.g. #durhamfreshers) use it on all your tweets too
- Familiarise yourself with <https://bitly.com> to shorten URLs for your tweets
- Start tweeting to build up to the big day, e.g.
Don your balaclava to #FreePussyRiot at @AmnestyEssex stall, main hall, tomorrow #EssexFreshers
- Remind everyone who's running the stall to tweet during the day

After the fair

- Tweet about the day's events, e.g. *"Thanks all who came to #AmnestyFreshers #BirminghamFreshers – see you at first meeting, Tues at 7pm in the SU"*
- Make new people you met at the stall feel special by tagging them in your tweets, e.g. *"Thanks @Kritika (our new @AIUK_Bristol member) cool placard pic #bristolfreshers #amnestyfreshers*
- Build up to your first meeting with reminders of the time and venue and all the exciting reasons they should attend.
- Eventually create a personalized signature for your email address which features a link to your Facebook and Twitter accounts (WiseStamp for example is free)



At the fair

- Take photos of people with the 'Free Pussy Riot' placards and masks. Tell them you'll upload the photos to your Facebook group and will email them the link so they can tag themselves. Make sure you get their email address!

After the fair

- Create a photo gallery on your Amnesty society's Facebook group and upload the photos you took of people at the fair.
- Send a welcome email to your new contacts as soon after the fair as possible and include:
 - a. A link to your Facebook group and ask them to join it and invite their friends
 - b. Ask them to tag themselves in the photo gallery
 - c. Ask them to change their profile picture to their placard photo and tag your group in it.



- After the fair we'd also like you to upload your photos to our AIUK Pussy Riot Flickr group containing photos from all the student groups around the UK.
- Make sure when taking the photos that **each person is happy for their photograph to be uploaded to Flickr and shared with Amnesty supporters.**
- To upload them:
 - a) Go to <http://www.flickr.com/groups/2278681@N21/>
 - b) Click 'Join this group' (you will be prompted to sign in or create an account, if you haven't already)
 - c) For each photo click 'Upload' then 'add a description' to give the photo a caption (e.g. the person's name and group). Click 'add to groups' and select the 'AIUK Pussy Riot' group you have just joined
 - d) Click 'upload photo' to finalise the process

6. Countdown to Freshers Fair – Checklist

1 MONTH TO GO.....

- ☐ Book stall at Freshers Fair
- ☐ Make sure you've given the Amnesty Freshers Team a delivery address for your Freshers pack (email freshers@amnesty.org.uk)
- ☐ Find volunteers to run your stall
- ☐ Book a room for your first meeting (and the rest of term if possible)

1 WEEK TO GO.....

- ☐ Check you have received your Freshers Pack
- ☐ Order any extra materials needed
- ☐ Ensure your group's Facebook, Twitter and email accounts are up and running
- ☐ Read information about Pussy Riot campaign and make sure other volunteers are briefed too
- ☐ Organise a planning session with all volunteers to organise a rota, fill in first meeting postcards, make any other materials you may want for your stall (e.g. balaclavas) and make sure everyone knows what will be happening on the day

1 DAY TO GO.....

- ☐ Get a kit together with everything you'll need on the day – pens, bluetac, sellotape, camera, laptop, batteries/charger, etc.
- ☐ Make photocopies of the petition and your sign-up sheet, making sure you take a blank copy of each on the day for emergency photocopying runs!
- ☐ Draft a welcome email to send out to new members after the fair
- ☐ Remind volunteers of their slots on the rota and make sure they have your phone number (and vice versa) in case of problems on the day.

THE BIG DAY!

- ☐ Get there early to make sure your stall is up and ready to go before the crowds descend!
- ☐ Set up your stall, making use of the materials supplied in the Freshers Pack. Make sure you've checked your SU's rules on use of items such as balloons and stickers
- ☐ Update your Twitter and Facebook profiles throughout the day
- ☐ Collect signatures and get people to pose for photos with Pussy Riot materials
- ☐ Make sure new members' details are taken down correctly – use a laptop if possible
- ☐ Enjoy it!

AFTER THE FAIR.....

- ☐ Send out a welcome email to members as soon as possible
- ☐ Upload photos to Facebook and Flickr (see digital tips in section 5)
- ☐ Send paper petitions back to us by THURSDAY 31ST OCTOBER.
- ☐ Have a great term!