

GROUPS NEWS

PUB QUIZ AND NEW BLOG

Amnesty International Queen's University Group will be kicking off the new term this September in style, with stalls at QUB Freshers' Fair at the Students Union on Wednesday 28 or Thursday 29 September. The first meeting of the new term is on Wednesday 5 October at 4pm in the QUBSU club rooms. The meeting will be followed by a human rights-themed pub quiz that evening (venue and details TBC).

You can check out the details and other plans as they develop on the group's Facebook page www.facebook.com/AmnestyQUB or their new blog/website <http://amnesty.society.qub.ac.uk>



The Big Sing



BIG SING AT FIDDLERS GREEN

On Saturday 30 July the Mid Down Group organised the Big Sing event at the Fiddlers Green festival. The event was a huge success with 46 singers attending a one-day singing workshop given by Laura Plummer and followed by a 'scratch' public

performance of songs about peace from around the world. The songs were sung in a range of languages including Hebrew, Arabic, Hawaiian, Croatian and Xhosa. They were joined by singer-songwriter and peace activist Tommy Sands, singer Fil Campbell and Colm Sands. The event raised over £500 for Amnesty.

EVENTS

FRESHERS' FAYRES

As new students arrive on campuses this autumn, Amnesty student groups will be looking out for new members. Freshers' Fayres at a number of Northern Ireland universities will have an Amnesty stall:

**University of Ulster Magee
27 September**

**University of Ulster Jordanstown
29 September**

**Queens University, Belfast
28 or 29 September.**

To confirm the date for the Queen's Amnesty stall, or to find out more about the group, contact Mikael Kristiansen at mikael.kristiansen@qub.ac.uk



- If you would like your group's activities included in the next edition of the Northern Ireland Newsletter, email grainne.teggart@amnesty.org.uk
- If you would like to join a local group see below
- If you would like to set up a new group, contact Philip Nye, Northern Ireland Regional Representative philipnye@btinternet.com

AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

Amnesty International
397 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3GP
Tel 028 9064 3000

REGION	CONTACT PERSON	TELEPHONE	WHEN	WHERE
Belfast	Beatrice Mahoney	028 9045 9553	7.45pm 2nd Monday of the month	Amnesty office, 397 Ormeau Rd
Foyle	Kevin Abbott	07516 070224	1st Wednesday monthly	Wetherspoon Bar, Diamond, upstairs
Mid Down	Pat Ryan	028 4377 0684	8pm, 1st Thursday monthly	Ballydugan Mill
Moyle	David Quinney Mee	028 2076 2959 / 077451 62682	7pm Possibly 3rd Tuesday	Trinity Cottage, the Diamond, Ballycastle
Newry & Mourne	Gerard Bourn	028 3086 0293	8pm, 1st Tuesday monthly	Newry Arts Centre
North Down	Maria Cunningham	028 9127 2648	7.30pm, 1st Thursday of the month	Resource Centre, Bangor
Queen's University	Sara El Solh	07770 357987	3pm every Wednesday term time	Club Room 2 Students Union
University of Ulster Jordanstown	Thomas Redmond	02890 643000	Phone for details	Phone for details
Ulster University Magee	Emma Taylor	07541 644659	Phone for details	Varies – email for details mageeamnesty@hotmail.co.uk

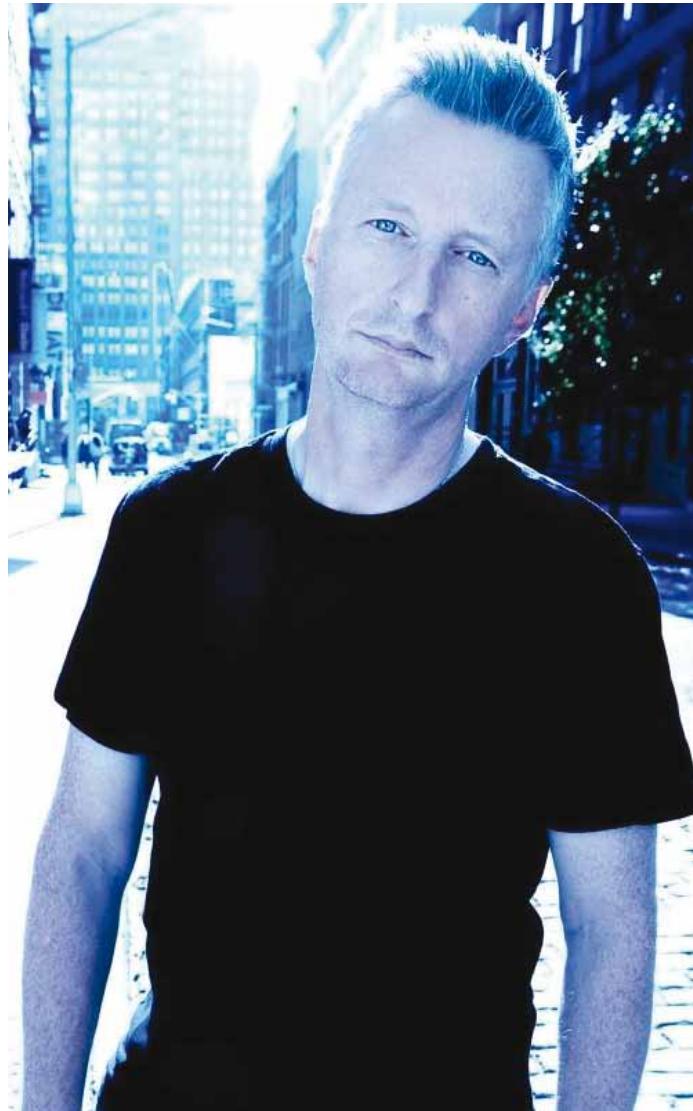


**CHILD ABUSE INQUIRY
DECISION EXPECTED
HUMAN RIGHTS AT
FEILE AN PHOBAIL
ULSTER UNIVERSITY
AWARD FOR AMNESTY
DIRECTOR**

AMNESTY NORTHERN IRELAND NEWS

AUTUMN 2011

Celebrating 50 years of Amnesty at Belfast Festival at Queen's



**BIANCA JAGGER AND
BILLY BRAGG** will be headlining two Amnesty events at the Belfast Festival at Queen's in October, as celebrations to mark Amnesty International's 50th anniversary year continue apace.

A prominent human rights campaigner for the last 30 years, Bianca Jagger will deliver the Amnesty International Annual Lecture on 28 October, at the Festival.

Born in Nicaragua, Bianca Jagger has worked on a wide range of human rights issues, including with Amnesty on campaigns against torture, the death penalty and violence against women.

In 1981 she helped rescue 40 captured refugees from a US-backed death squad in Honduras, challenging the heavily armed men with the shout: 'You will have to kill us all!' The incident was a turning point in what, for the previous decade, had been a life lived in the celebrity spotlight.

For Amnesty International's 50th anniversary, Bianca Jagger reflects on the human rights revolution which has brought fundamental change in the world

since the Second World War, and which in 2011 has combined the power of social media and public protest to challenge repressive regimes in the Middle East and North Africa. For Bianca Jagger, this is an unstoppable revolution because it embodies the simple demand of people everywhere to be treated with dignity.

Singer-songwriter Billy Bragg brings his guitar to Belfast for a special Amnesty International night of songs of freedom and protest on 27 October.

A renowned campaigner, Billy Bragg will be mixing his own memorable back catalogue with personal favourites from artists such as Woody Guthrie, and will explain the back-story to the songs.

**TICKETS FOR BOTH
EVENTS ARE AVAILABLE VIA
www.belfastfestival.com**

Billy Bragg (left)
and Bianca Jagger
(right) will lead
Amnesty's birthday
celebrations at the
Belfast Festival.



**IS YOUR BANK
FUNDING
CLUSTER BOMBS?**

ULSTER BANK owner the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) and other UK high street banks – including Barclays and Lloyds – are continuing to invest in companies which produce cluster munitions, one year after the treaty that bans cluster bombs entered into force. Cluster bombs wreak appalling death and destruction. They are made up of many small bombs that spread far and wide, killing and maiming anyone in the area. Ninety-eight per cent of all cluster bomb victims are civilians – and a third of those are children.

In March the UK passed a new law banning the production, use and trade of cluster munitions. Yet RBS, which is majority-owned by the UK government, recently agreed a US\$80 million (£49 million) loan to US companies that produce cluster munitions or their components.

An international treaty banning the use, production, stockpiling and transfer of cluster munitions (the Convention on Cluster Munitions 2008) entered into force in August last year. It has the support of 109 countries, including the UK.

A new YouGov opinion poll commissioned by Amnesty found that nearly eight out of ten people in Britain (78%) said RBS should not be allowed to provide loans to cluster-munitions producing companies.

Amnesty International is calling on the banks to disinvest from these companies and we are calling for the UK government to better regulate UK financial institutions to ensure that investment in cluster munitions is prohibited.

TAKE ACTION
www.amnesty.org.uk/rbs



The tail section of a cluster munition used in Libya earlier this year © AI

Child abuse inquiry may see autumn decision

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S campaign for an independent public inquiry into historical institutional child abuse in Northern Ireland has won further backing from the Northern Ireland Executive which has set early autumn as a timeline for a decision.

The announcement made by the First and Deputy First Ministers in July was welcomed by Amnesty, which said it was crucial that any inquiry established was fit for purpose, with the independence and powers to deliver truth and justice.

For decades, many hundreds of children suffered physical, sexual and emotional abuse in children's homes and other state- or church-

run institutions caring for children.

Amnesty has been campaigning alongside the abuse victims for over a year and has submitted proposals for an inquiry to ministers ahead of an Executive meeting which is due to decide on the issue this autumn.

Margaret McGuckin of Survivors and Victims of Institutional Abuse told Amnesty: 'We want the Executive to be in no doubt what the requests of victims are when they come to make their decisions

We want a fully independent public inquiry into past abuses suffered by children in institutions across Northern Ireland.

'We want a redress system to run in parallel to the inquiry. We want counselling and other services put

in place for victims. And we want a public apology for what was done to us. We now look to Executive Ministers to make good on their promises to us.'



John Meehan, Jon McCourt and Margaret McGuckin from the abuse survivors group hand over their Inquiry submission to junior ministers Jonathan Bell and Martina Anderson © Michael Cooper

AMNESTY MAKES ITS MARK AT FEILE AN PHOBAIL 2011

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL contributed to this year's Feile an Phobail festival at St Mary's University College in Belfast with a panel discussion on Human Rights and Journalism, an exhibition and a film screening.

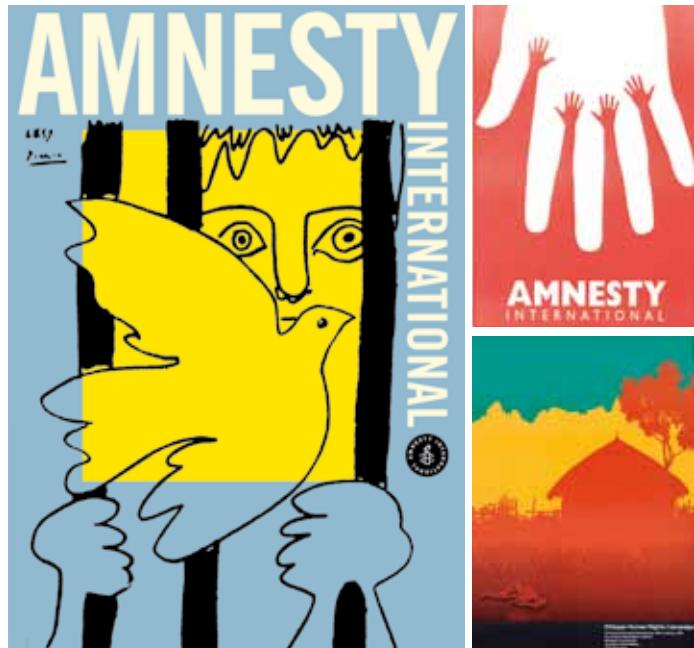
Participants in the journalism panel included Eamonn McCann (recipient of the 2011 Amnesty International Nations and Regions Media Award), Rebecca Black of the *Newsletter*, photojournalist Kevin Cooper and Bob Miller, chair of the Belfast and District Branch of the National Union of Journalists. A large audience turned out to hear their views on press freedom, the importance of investigative journalism and the Saville report.

The Poster Power exhibition – the pick of Amnesty posters from the past 50 years – had a prominent position at the festival entrance hall. It featured designs by Picasso and Miró, as well as a range of photographers and graphic artists.

Feile an Phobail also provided an opportunity to see *When They are All Free* – the BBC documentary showing how Amnesty International grew into the world's biggest non-governmental human rights organisation.

AMNESTY GROUPS

If you would like a DVD of *When They are All Free* to watch in your group, contact rosie.moore@amnesty.org.uk



Top: Amnesty posters. Bottom: Human Rights and Journalism panel © Simon Graham/Harrison Photography.

AMNESTY DIRECTOR RECEIVES AWARD FROM ULSTER UNIVERSITY

KATE ALLEN, director of Amnesty International UK, has received an honorary doctorate of law from the University of Ulster.

The award marked Amnesty's 50th anniversary, as well as Kate Allen's work as leader of over 250,000 Amnesty members in the UK.

Receiving the doctorate at a ceremony at the Millennium Forum in L'Derry, she said:

'The honour which the University bestows upon me today, is really an honour for all our members, the people who inspire me every day, and who this year celebrate the 50th anniversary of our movement for human rights.'

She also paid tribute to the university: 'I want to pay particular tribute to the University of Ulster for its important role, not just in this community but throughout the world, where it is viewed as a leader in so many fields.'

'To pick just two examples, through INCORE, the University's International Conflict Research Institute, and the University's Transitional Justice Institute, UU has made and continues to make a major contribution to building a more peaceful and just world.'

'Staff and students at this university have taken the bitter



Kate Allen with Professor Richard Barnett, left and Pro-Chancellor Jeremy Harbison, right, of the University of Ulster, at the University's Magee campus in L'derry

experiences which have buffeted the people of Northern Ireland over recent decades and turned

them into opportunities for learning how to make the world a better place for all.'

RIGHTSNI New Human Rights blog

A NEW human rights blog for Northern Ireland has been established by Amnesty International and other local rights groups and university academics.

The new website, RightsNI.org went live in late August and will be an online home for commentary and debate about human rights issues in Northern Ireland and around the world. Its founding editor is Dr Vicky Conway of Queen's University Belfast.

Issues covered so far include the Amnesty International Poster Power exhibition, the burning of olive groves by Israeli settlers and the Northern Ireland legal aid dispute.

TRAINING ON SPEAKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

THERE ARE three spaces left for volunteers on the free training day for techniques on speaking to young people about Amnesty's work.

The day will be held on Saturday 24 September in NICVA, Duncairn Gardens from 9.30am to 4.30pm. The training aims to enable you to reach young people right across Northern Ireland, inspire young people to set up Amnesty youth groups, and introduce teachers to human rights education.

If you are already speaking to young people about Amnesty's work, or would like to in the future, then this training day is also for you. It will help you:

- Discover a range of teaching methods and resources
- Share good practice and ideas
- Gain confidence in speaking to young people
- Give a presentation and receive feedback.

REMAINING PLACES

will go fast and will be given on a first-come-first-served basis. Email lisa.buddin@amnesty.org.uk to secure your place.

ELECTION CAMPAIGN UPDATE

DURING the 2011 Assembly election campaign, Amnesty International asked MLA candidates to have their photo taken with an 'I Vote for Justice' placard to pledge support for certain key issues – justice for victims of trafficking and institutional child abuse, and a commitment to international human rights.

Amnesty is delighted that many candidates from the five main parties did just that.

Amnesty will be following up with the elected MLAs during this term and will provide regular updates on this work on these pages.

TO STAY UP-TO-DATE with Amnesty's work on trafficking, institutional child abuse, international human rights and other related work, go to <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/ni>