



Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights



Northeast Regional Conference

November 14-15, 2009 ■ Boston University ■ Boston, MA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When and where is the conference?

The conference will be held on the campus of Boston University on Saturday, November 14th. Starting at 9am. As in previous years, we have a full day of speakers, panels, and workshops. We will be filling out the program over the next few weeks, so please continue to check the AIUSA website for details.

Where can I find info about the conference on the web?

The main conference website is www.amnestyusa.org/regional-conferences/northeast

What is going to happen at the conference?

Check out the conference agenda at www.amnestyusa.org/regional-conferences/northeast

Who will be speaking at the conference? Our featured speakers will be:

What key human rights issues will be covered at the conference? Our conference is themed Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights, and will focus on Amnesty International's campaign to demand the full spectrum of rights for all and end human rights abuses that are a cause and a consequence of poverty. Coming after the historic inauguration of President Obama and in the midst of national debate on healthcare, climate change, migrant rights and the global economic recession with severe implications for the poor, this conference will occur at a defining moment for Amnesty International and our global advocacy efforts on important human rights issues of our time.. More than 300 Amnesty International activists and members of the general public are expected. We hope to use the conference to press the new administration for a change of direction on human rights and call on the president-elect to once again make the United States a champion of human rights around the world. In addition to this overarching theme, we will provide specific content sessions and skills training on overarching bodies of work including campaigning with and for individuals whose lives, freedom and dignity are at risk and the full spectrum of rights including economic, social and cultural rights.

What action will conference attendees be taking part in? *Global Write-a-thon* Conference attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a basic and quintessential Amnesty International action-writing letter of solidarity to or letters of appeal for the release of prisoners of conscience and individual defenders around the world.

What's exciting this year?

Workshops this year will include:

- Student Group Organizing
- Human Rights and the Arts
- Journalists at Risk
- New Media
- Crisis in Nepal
- Counter Terror With Justice
- Death Penalty Abolition
- Northeast's Special Focus Case

And many more listed in our Preliminary Agenda!

Who will be attending the conference?

- **Eva Millona**, the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
- **Steven Brown**, the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Rhode Island, where an immigrant detainee died in August 2008
- **Robert Restuccia**, Executive Director of Community Catalyst, which promotes universal health care coverage
- **Eleanor Broh**, a recent Harvard graduate who carried out research on the status of abortion-related laws in Colombia and Nicaragua
- **Dr. Alicia Yamin** of the Harvard School of Public Health
- **Mohamed el-Jahmi** brother of, **Fathi el-Jahmi**, who died in Libyan custody this May after being sent to Amman, Jordan.

Who can I talk to about the conference?

Northeast Office

58 Day Street
 Davis Square
 Somerville, MA 02144
 phone: (617) 623-0202
 fax: (617) 623-2005
 1-866-A-REGION

aiusane@aiusa.org
[Northeast Region Home Page](#)

How much is the conference?

Day-of-conference fees are as follows:

- Regular \$40
- Students \$30
- Seniors \$30
- Limited Income \$30

Are there subsidies available?

Waivers of registration are available to those who need them. Please contact the office to apply.

How can I get there? From North From West From South What is required to vote during the Amnesty International membership resolutions process at the Regional Conference? Exercise your organizational citizenship! Amnesty activists can have a direct impact on Amnesty International's worldwide movement and policy by introducing resolutions. The deadline for submitting resolutions is September 1, with an extension to September 15 for members of registered student groups, each year. Voting on Resolutions at the 2009 Regional Conferences will be by Voting Cards rather than by count of hands. To obtain a Voting Card at the Regional Conference, you must be recorded as a national member of AIUSA (having paid dues to AIUSA or submitted a valid dues waiver in the past year) or be designated as a group representative (one vote per group) and submit a Group Voting Authorization Form. You may become an AIUSA member when you register for the conference, by calling 1-800-AMNESTY or on-site at the conference. or [online](#).

What human rights issues will we vote on?

Resolutions will be made available to members by the National Resolutions Committee (NRC) this fall. Please visit www.amnestyusa.org/resolutions/ for updated information.

How can I help to make the regional conference more eco-friendly?

If you would like to help us make the conference more eco-friendly, please consider taking some or all of the following steps:
Register as a Conference Sustainer for \$65 to help us offset the costs of "greening" our conference planning
Save paper by registering online at
If you are driving, consider carpooling to the conference
Purchase carbon offsets to neutralize the carbon emissions caused by your journey
Use paper from the scrap paper bins throughout the event rather than non-recycled paper
Use the recycling facilities provided by the hotel
Return your name badge and unneeded Amnesty folders after the conference, so they can be reused
Provide us with feedback on ways to make this and future events more eco-friendly