



Free and Equal in Dignity and Rights



Western Regional Conference

November 6-8, 2009 ■ San Francisco Hilton ■ San Francisco, CA

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

When and where is the conference?

November 6-8, 2009

Hilton San Francisco Union Square
333 O'Farrell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102

<http://www.hilton.com/en/hi/groups/personalized/SFDFHHH-AMI-20091106/index.jhtml>

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

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

What is going to happen at the conference?

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

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 October issues of our time. More than 600 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? Who will be attending the conference?

Please join us Friday November 6th at 7pm for an exciting evening of entertainment and education at the world famous Glide Memorial Church! The event will highlight local efforts to support low income communities and focus on the hundreds of services Glide provides to thousands of individuals each week!

Who can I talk to about the conference? For more information call the Western Regional office at 415.288.1800.

How much is the conference?

General registration: AI Member \$40/Non-Member \$50, Student/Senior Citizen/Fixed Income: AI Member \$30/Non-Member \$40

All rates increase by \$10 after October 16th

Are there subsidies available? Yes, please visit the following link to download an application.

<https://takeaction.amnestyusa.org/site/apps/ka/rg/ecreg.asp?c=jhKPIXPCloE6b=5287497&en=buLLQPHLaKUlaPKK9JQlcMIKuLIL5MJJcLXLhPSLgJSJdM6H>

Once you've decided how much you need to raise, start fundraising.

You can: Seek sponsors Collect group membership dues Sell Amnesty International and/or Equal Exchange merchandise (click the link and scroll down to "A Fair Trade Fundraiser"), t-shirts or other items Sign up for a Group Sales table at the conference by contacting the Regional Office at 202.544.0200 *FOR MORE IDEAS AND HOW-TO'S ON BUDGETING AND FUNDRAISING CONTACT THE REGIONAL OFFICE AT 202.544.0200.*

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 was 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