Morning Workshops

Organizing Student Groups
This workshop will offer advice, tips and strategies on how to organize a successful AI group in your high school. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of AI’s mission and what student groups can do. Participants will learn strategies to creative activism and how to fully engage members and the greater community around you. Oftentimes groups on campuses or in communities compete with each other for membership – learn how to make your AI student group stand out and be visible and active. You will learn skills related to planning, delegating, coalition building, assessing and taking advantage of local resources, and overall promotion of AI. You will learn skills related to planning, facilitating effective meetings, recruiting and retaining members, event planning & fundraising, mobilizing your peers and community to take action.

Organizing & Sustaining Local Groups
This workshop will offer advice, tips, and strategies on how to organize a successful AI local group. Participants will leave with a clear understanding of AI’s mission and what local groups can do. Participants will learn strategies to creative activism and how to fully engage members and the greater community around you. We will discuss best practices for local group organizing, from recruitment, retention, event planning and more.

Faculty Advisors Workshop
Faculty Advisors are an integral part of Amnesty’s membership structure and this workshop will help foster the important community of FAs. The workshop will address issues faced by student group advisors at all levels and will
include a break out session into high school and college level. We hope to use this workshop to address challenges when organizing student groups and to discuss successful best practices.

**Public Narrative: The Art of Story Telling to Mobilize Activism**
Why do you fight for human rights? As a leader in the Amnesty International movement, your voice and your story matters, and when you tell your story you can motivate others to take action. Come learn about the many reasons your fellow activists are called to be a part of something bigger than themselves, craft your own story, and develop your ability to recruit new leaders who can help our movement grow stronger than ever.

**Rock the Vote! Raising Our Voices in the Halls of Capitol Hill**
Speak out for human rights in the halls of Congress and state capitals! An important role that human rights activists play is to establish contact with our local officials and educate them on important human rights issues. This workshop will introduce you to AI’s Legislative Program and provide the ABCs of building effective working relationships with your Members of Congress and other elected officials. Learn how you can be effective in bringing the International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA), Guantanamo - ending illegal U.S. detention, and Defending Freedoms Initiative to the agenda on Capitol Hill!

**Human Rights & Theatre Arts**
The Bergen County Academies Student Group (located just outside of New York in northern New Jersey) will lead an
An interactive workshop on creating street theatre and using theatrical techniques and visual arts techniques to articulate issues for your community. Led by student members of Artists for Amnesty, this interactive workshop will focus on ways of bringing the upcoming "My Body My Rights" and "Torture" campaigns to visual and kinesthetic life. A strong physical/visual component added to any action can create a new way of understanding a subject. You will be given specific tools for taking text based ideas into the mediums of dance, theatre, street theatre, guerrilla protest, living murals and other forms of visual protest and peaceful presentation.

**Strategic & Creative Campaigning**
Developing public actions that will engage your members and the greater community that you live in can be challenging. However, when you have the right pieces in place then an action can speak a thousand words, raise awareness, and bring in new members! This workshop will provide you with the tools for knowing how to organize a good, solid action that will be effective, and have positive results that will help us to achieve the human rights victories that we work for.

**Think Globally, Act Locally: Organize a Global Write-a-Thon in your Community**
From South Korea to South Dakota, from Portugal to Peru, and from Canada to Croatia, Amnesty International activists around the world join forces to Write for Rights during the Global Write-a-Thon in early December. Last year’s Write-a-Thon resulted in more than 600,000 actions taken on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders and others at risk of human rights abuses. A celebration of International Human Rights Day on December 10, the Write-a-Thon is a fantastic opportunity to engage people in your
school or local community in easy-to-do activism that has an impact. When political activist (and Write-a-Thon case) Femi Peters was released from prison in Gambia, his son thanked Amnesty, saying: "I wanted a laptop for Christmas, but I got my father back—the biggest Christmas present ever." Join us in this interactive session where we’ll provide the tools you’ll need to build a Write for Rights event in your community that will attract new audiences to AI’s human rights work.

**Welcome to AIUSA’s Case Dossier System**
You do not have to be an Apple Genius to figure this workshop out however, you do have to have the dedication & motivation to longterm casework. Case Dossiers are an integral part of many local groups’ activism and AIUSA is advancing our system for how we support local groups work on this front. This workshop will present the beta version of the online system, provide training on usage (signing up, reporting back, getting case updates, etc.). Join us and let us know what desired design functionality would help your group’s work. This feedback will be incorporated into the new system that will be launched towards the end of the year.

**#winning-Building Our Movement and Winning Human Rights Victories**
Building a movement for human rights requires relationships, recruitment and leadership development. In this workshop, participants will learn the strength of a distributed leadership model of organizing and explore how this model enables human rights victories. Participants can expect an active session where we explore the connections among and between members, groups, member leaders and staff, and
share strategies for building a strong team in your group, your state, and your organization.

**Why the Core Standards, and Why they Matter**
The 2013 International Council Meeting recently passed a resolution defining Core Standards for the movement. AIUSA, in conjunction with the International Secretariat, has committed to a governance review process which will also include aligning ourselves with these standards.

Please join us for an initial discussion about the Core Standards, the governance review process, and why both are important.

**Article 4 and Global Human Trafficking**
Article 4 of the Universal Declaration states that “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.” What is Human Trafficking and how does corporate responsibility and basic foundations of human rights connect to this issue? For over a decade AI has exposed the multiple human rights violations that relate to Article 4 such as conflict mining and forced labor. In this workshop participants will gain a foundational understanding of Article 4 and learn about the implications of global human trafficking around the world.

**Challenges and Opportunities in Ending Marginalization of Myanmar's Rohingya People**

The 2013 Colby College Oak Human Rights Fellows, Mya Nandar Aung (Nandar) and Maung Maung Than (Tony), will
discuss the political, religious, and social marginalization of the Rohingya people in Myanmar. The workshop will aim to address questions such as, What are the major challenges and the most promising opportunities in granting the Rohingya basic rights and citizenship? What needs to change about Myanmar’s government to gain equal rights for the Rohingya and how can this change be achieved? What are the social and religious obstacles that stand in the way of equality for the Rohingya? What is the international community’s role in addressing the situation of the Rohingya?

Profile of the Oak Fellows:
Maung Maung Than (Tony) and Mya Nandar Aung (Nandar) are human rights practitioners from Myanmar. This fall, they are serving a four month fellowship in Maine as Colby College’s 2013 Oak Human Rights Fellows. In Myanmar, they’ve worked with the United Nations High Commission on Refugees (UNHCR) to protect the rights of the stateless Rohingya people in western Myanmar. Their work also includes partnerships with various organizations to encourage Buddhist-Muslim reconciliation. Tony is Rohingya and Nandar was born to a Muslim father and a Buddhist mother. Tony and Nandar work together to uphold universal human rights in the Myanmar context.

Afternoon Workshops

Death Penalty
Delivering a convincing message on death penalty abolition requires appealing to both minds and hearts. First, there will be some introductory discussion about death penalty basic facts, demonstrating how we can appeal to the mind. Then
an emotionally compelling story is presented by a person directly affected by capital punishment, showing how we can appeal to the heart. Finally, we work with the attendees on how to organize an event that will appeal both to an audience’s minds and its hearts.

**Defending Human Rights Defenders**
Since 1961 Amnesty International has worked to release over 45,000 prisoner of conscience from around the world and we have defended thousands of individuals and communities at risk. Learn how AI works worldwide to stop torture, end disappearances, and raise awareness on these cases, how research is gathered, what defines a prisoner of conscience, what defines an individual at risk, and what is the difference. This workshop will feature former prisoner of conscience Jitman Basnet, a human rights lawyer and journalist from Nepal. Jitman was the subject of one of AI's Urgent Action Appeals. In 2002 he was kidnapped by the Maoist rebels and tortured. Through this workshop you will be inspired to work on Urgent Action Appeals and know that your activism does make a difference! Learn how you can turn these appeals into actions that will engage your community.

**Special Focus Case**
Warning! Making a Film Can Land You in Prison! That’s what happened to Tibetan filmmaker, Dhondup Wangchen. This father of two children was arrested for his involvement in making a film that expresses Tibetan attitudes toward the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the Dalai Lama. He was sentenced to six years imprisonment for “subversion of state power.” Join us in this workshop as we learn about Dhondup’s case and the struggle for freedom of expression.
in China. Learn how you can campaign for Dhondup’s release and how you can help other people at risk through Amnesty International’s Campaign for Individuals at Risk.

**Getting Ready for the Olympics: Human Rights in Russia**
As the Olympic torch arrives in Moscow ahead of the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Amnesty International is launching a worldwide campaign to highlight Russia’s increasingly deplorable human rights record. In this workshop you will learn about AI’s human rights concerns and develop an action plan that you can take back to your community to raise awareness on the escalation of human rights violations taking place.

**The Power of Us: For Women's Rights Worldwide**
As sexual violence against women in India makes headlines, reproductive rights under siege in the Americas gain global attention, and the women of Afghanistan sound the alarm for the future of their human rights, the AIUSA women's cogroup and women's program are speaking out and taking action against women's human rights violations in the US and around the globe. Learn how your activism can harness the power of us - to make an impact for women's human rights worldwide.

**Business and Human Rights**
Access to judicial remedy is one of the major problems facing corporate accountability advocates. When victims of corporate human rights abuses can’t effectively engage with the legal system to hold corporations accountable or remedy
the abuses, it creates an environment of impunity. This session will include a presentation of three AI case studies that highlight the barriers to justice that victims face, and will explore how advocates can act to ensure that impunity is overcome.

**Your Pen and a Palestinian Village**

What can you do to defend the human rights of Palestinians who live under Israeli military occupation? Join us for a report back from Sunjeev Bery, who participated in an Amnesty International research mission to the occupied West Bank earlier this year. You will learn about Nabi Saleh, a Palestinian village in this year’s “Write for Rights” spotlight. You will also get an update on the Gaza Students campaign, in which AIUSA members are urging Israel to stop blocking Palestinian students in Gaza from accessing universities in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. We will share ideas and get ready for a busy Fall in defense of human rights.

**Is This Security? Islamaphobia, Drones and Guantanamo**

In this workshop, we'll connect the dots between Islamophobia, Guantanamo and drones, and empower ourselves to end human rights violations in the name of national security. In addition to learning the human rights substance, we'll focus on a key skill to educate the public and achieve change: media activism! We'll learn how to write effective, strategic op-eds and letters to the editor and get them placed!
“Hot Topics in Human Rights”
Amnesty International is a global movement of people fighting injustice and promoting human rights. How Amnesty works on exposing human rights violations and seeking accountability from those who violate human rights is a process that involves a global perspective with an international strategy. In this workshop participants will have the opportunity to look back at the year 2013 and come to understand AI’s positioning on Syria and armed intervention, North Korea, Chelsea Manning, whistleblower Edward Snowden, immigration, and more.

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