HUMAN RIGHTS & THE 2016 ELECTIONS
RAISING YOUR VOICE
DEAR AMNESTY ACTIVIST,

In our 2016 Elections Toolkit, we promised additional resources to help you make human rights a focus of the 2016 presidential and vice-presidential debates, and promote a human rights agenda for the next President of the United States.

This second toolkit will help you raise the profile of human rights in public discourse during the months ahead, while keeping out of the partisan politics of election campaigns. Our goals for this toolkit are to:

• Provide guidance on what Amnesty representatives (including AIUSA groups) can and cannot do in relation to the 2016 debates
• Educate candidates, media, friends, family and neighbors about human rights
• Build the movement of human rights supporters, by asking others to get involved
• Amplify our message through your powerful social networks

As a non-partisan human rights organization, we are independent of any political party, candidate or ideology. We take no position on who should be elected to the U.S. Presidency or Congress, but we do have strong beliefs about what they should do once elected. Amnesty International continues its vital human rights work throughout this election season and will propose a human right agenda for the next administration.

For more information on the broad range of Amnesty’s campaigns and programs, check out our website: amnestyusa.org. Have questions? Contact us at: grassroots@aiusa.org.

Thank you for your commitment to human rights.

Mike O’Reilly
Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Advocacy
Amnesty International USA
In order to get human rights on the agenda for the upcoming presidential debates, we need your help. During each debate, we are asking members to tweet these important questions to the moderators and networks to ensure human rights topics are discussed each debate night. In the next section, you’ll get a quick download on each topic and can see some sample questions.

**HERE’S THE TWITTER FORMULA:**

| Hi [@moderator], Let’s ask the candidates: What role should the US play in promoting respect for human rights globally? #DebateHumanRights |
| Hi [@moderator], Please ask candidates: How would you improve accountability for police use of #lethalforce? |
| .[@moderator], Let’s ask candidates: How would you address the Guantánamo detention camp? |
| .[@moderator], Ask candidates: How would they strengthen the US focus on global women’s issues? |
| Hello [@moderator], Please ask: How would you address the global refugee crisis? |

Remember, you only have 144 characters! We’ll be retweeting and monitoring member questions using the hashtag #DebateHumanRights throughout the election season and on debate nights.

### ELECTION DEBATE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Sept 26</td>
<td>Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY</td>
<td>Lester Holt, NBC, @LesterHoltNBC, @NBCNews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice Presidential</td>
<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>Longwood University, Farmville, VA</td>
<td>Elaine Quijano, CBS News, @Elaine_Quijano, @CBSNews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Oct 9</td>
<td>Washington University, St. Louis, MO</td>
<td>Martha Raddatz, ABC, Anderson Cooper, @ABC; @AndersonCooper, @CNN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential</td>
<td>Oct 19</td>
<td>University of Las Vegas, Nevada LAS VEGAS</td>
<td>Chris Wallace, FOX News @FOXNews</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES AND QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBALLY

Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in many countries are targeted and attacked by authorities, instead of being supported and seen as critical interlocutors in the struggle for human dignity, fairness, equality, respect and autonomy – all bedrocks of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR). The treatment of HRDs is also a critical indicator of the health of a country's civil society space. The work of HRDs is essential to building human rights-respecting communities and ensuring that States respect, protect and fulfill human rights, and where this is not the case, holding States accountable for their actions.

Questions to Candidates
• What role should the U.S. play in promoting respect for human rights globally?
• How would you address the issue of harassment, threats and imprisonment of human rights defenders around the world?

2. PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES

More than 65 million people have to date have been displaced by war and persecution. With more than 21 million refugees worldwide, 51% of whom are children, today's refugee crisis is the largest since the Second World War. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees has designated 1.15 million of the most vulnerable refugees as being in need of immediate resettlement. Wealthy countries like the United States currently host a tiny percentage of the world’s refugees. The U.S. commitment to raise the total refugee acceptance rate in 2017 to 110,000 spaces is commendable, but these numbers are far from enough. The U.S. has the capacity and the responsibility to do more. Only 1% of the global refugee population is even considered for candidacy for resettlement in the U.S. Refugees are subject to the highest level of security checks of any category of traveler to the U.S., and they undergo an arduous, extensive screening process that takes almost two years.

Questions to Candidates
• How would you address the global refugee crisis?
• What is your position on the number of refugees resettled in the U.S.?
How would you ensure the U.S. and other countries comply with their obligations not to return asylum seekers to situations in which they would be at risk?
3. ENSURING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

Under international law, all people have the rights to due process, to equality before the law and to peacefully protest, all of which are in jeopardy because local governments are failing to ensure police are not placing people's lives in danger. The UN has developed a code of conduct for law enforcement officials that sets out strict human rights safeguards for the use of force. These standards provide that law enforcement should only use force as a last resort and that the amount of force used must be proportionate to the threat encountered and designed to minimize damage and injury. The shooting deaths of unarmed individuals and African American men, and the heavy-handed policing tactics used in response to the largely peaceful protests that followed some of those incidents, have brought forward a long overdue national conversation on race, policing, and justice.

Questions to Candidates

• How would you address the fact that no U.S. states currently comply with all international standards governing the use of lethal force by law enforcement officers?
• How would you improve transparency and accountability regarding the use of deadly force by police and the deaths of civilians in police custody?

4. SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

All people have the right to a fair trial and the right to be free from arbitrary detention, as guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the U.S. has ratified. Despite this, dozens of men are still held at Guantánamo, most without charge, including several who have been cleared for transfer out of the detention camp. Many public officials are arguing that Guantánamo should remain open indefinitely as a permanent offshore prison, potentially to take new detainees.

Question to Candidates

• How would you address the detention camp at Guantánamo and U.S. obligations under international law?
4. SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS

Stopping Torture

From 2002 to 2008, the CIA ran secret detention sites where it violated both international and domestic prohibitions on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. In the current climate of anti-Muslim fear-mongering and politically driven rhetoric in response to acts of terrorism, some public officials are proposing a revival of the use of torture. One reason torture is still on the table is that the Obama administration failed to bring charges against anyone for the abuses that occurred in the CIA program.

Question to Candidates

• How would you prevent the use of torture?
• Does the U.S. have an obligation to investigate & punish those responsible for torture?

5. WOMEN’S RIGHTS

Women’s rights are an essential component of universal human rights. They reflect the fact that men and women have very different experiences - and the fact that women and girls often face gender-based discrimination that puts them at increased risk of poverty, violence, ill health, and a poor education. Violence against women is often perpetrated with impunity, and is part of the broader attempt to silence the voices of women and girls. Violence against women is antithetical to female empowerment, and it presents a serious threat to the stability of communities throughout the globe.

Question to Candidates

• If elected, what specific actions would you take to stop gender based violence against women domestically and internationally?
• What steps would you take to further strengthen the Office of the Ambassador for Global Women’s Issues?
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE 2016 ELECTIONS

Amnesty International is a non-partisan human rights organization that neither supports nor opposes any political party, candidate, government, or political ideology. Amnesty International does not seek to influence elections. Because Amnesty International USA (AIUSA) is classified as a “public charity” -- 501(c)(3) -- by the Internal Revenue Service, there are restrictions on the organization's activities in relation to elections and partisan activities. Here are some guidelines to help you navigate these restrictions and carry out your work as an Amnesty activist during the 2016 election year.

• Do not oppose or support candidates while acting in Amnesty's name. This includes both explicit and implicit opposition or endorsement of candidates. If someone can potentially infer from your message, post, tweet, graphic, etc. that you support or oppose a particular candidate, this is problematic and harmful to our organization. When representing Amnesty International, you cannot attack or approve of candidates’ positions.

• Emphasize AI’s impartiality. For 55 years, we have worked to protect human rights in countries around the world in a nonpartisan way. When engaging with candidates or the public, be sure to clarify that Amnesty is a nonpartisan organization that does not support or oppose any political candidate or party.

• Clarify our nonpartisan approach. Use this disclaimer on any Amnesty International materials distributed in the context of elections: “Amnesty International USA is a nonpartisan, 501(c)(3), international human rights organization registered in New York. AIUSA neither supports nor opposes any political party or any candidate for public office. Amnesty International does not seek to influence elections.”

• Keep your political views separate. If you maintain an account on social media that identifies you as a representative of Amnesty International, that account should reflect the positions of the organization and not contain politically partisan information. If you wish to represent Amnesty on social media, then you should have a dedicated Amnesty-affiliated account that is separate from your personal account. You should not post, tweet, retweet, or share anything through your Amnesty account that suggests Amnesty endorses or opposes candidates for public office. You are free to engage in political activities in your personal capacity, as long as these actions do not give the impression that they represent the organization’s views, and as long as you don’t use Amnesty resources to do so (e.g. an Amnesty computer, laptop, mobile device or phone, or from an Amnesty office).

• Don’t use your group’s social media pages to support or oppose a candidate, and don’t act in the name of Amnesty in support of or opposition to candidates (i.e. campaigning, volunteering, partisan voter registration, etc.). You are free, of course, to support a candidate or political party in your private capacity as an individual, but please don’t wear Amnesty clothing or identifiers while you volunteer for a candidate or engage in other partisan political activities.

• What you do for one candidate as Amnesty, you should do for all. We pose our questions to candidates of all political parties (and we don’t evaluate or comment on candidates’ responses.) If we wish to invite a candidate to a public forum, we must invite all participating candidates in a specific election.

• Maintain a wide scope of issues. Amnesty is not a single-issue organization, and we have an interest in hearing candidates’ views on a wide range of human rights issues. Spotlighting one issue or a narrow range of issues that separate candidates may be perceived as a partisan litmus test of support or opposition.

• Don’t seek pledges from candidates. Regulations prohibit public charities from asking candidates to promise to support a particular issue if elected. In other words, don’t ask questions that can only be answered with yes/no or imply a correct answer. Instead, ask open-ended questions that give candidates the ability to explain their position on an issue.

• Ask, but don’t debate. The debates are a good opportunity to highlight the issues we care about. We can ask candidates at an open forum what their views are on a particular human rights issue but don’t comment on their response or seek to debate with them. Opposing or supporting a candidate’s answers could be seen as intervening in an election.
RESOURCES

ELECTIONS TOOLKIT:
WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/ELECTIONSTOOLKIT
TIPS FOR UTILIZING SOCIAL MEDIA:
HTTP://BIT.LY/28MWNYL

REFUGEE TOOLKIT:
WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/REFUGEETOOLKIT

AMERICA I BELIEVE IN - TOOLKIT AND RESOURCES:
WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/IBELIEVE

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK:
HTTP://WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/OUR-WORK/CAMPAIGNS/INDIVIDUALS-AT-RISK

STOPPING TORTURE:
HTTP://WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/OUR-WORK/ISSUES/TORTURE

AMERICAN TORTURE STORY TOOLKIT:
WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/PDFS/AMERICANTORTURESTORYTOOLKITFALL2015.PDF

SECURITY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRAM:
WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/OUR-WORK/CAMPAIGNS/SECURITY-WITH-HUMAN-RIGHTS

ENSURING POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY:
HTTP://WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/OUR-WORK/CAMPAIGNS/LETHAL-FORCE

ENDING MASS INCARCERATION AND PROLONGED SOLITARY CONFINEMENT:

ABOLISHING THE DEATH PENALTY
HTTP://WWW.AMNESTYUSA.ORG/OUR-WORK/ISSUES/DEATH-PENALTY