

PROGRAM BOOK

MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

7:30AM-12:00PM
Lobby

REGISTRATION

9:00AM – 10:15AM
Room 7970

WELCOME & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PRIORITY CAMPAIGN PANEL

Facilitators: Shackelia Jackson, Milena Buyum, Deniz Yildiz, Özgün Özcer, Emily Walsh

At this moment, people all around the world are risking their safety and freedom in order to defend human rights. They're facing harassment, surveillance, attacks, imprisonment, and some are even killed—just for standing up for what is right. Human rights defenders are ordinary people who take a stand against injustice. At this panel, you'll hear from real human rights defenders about their experiences, and learn how together, with your help, we can fight back.

10:00AM – 6:00PM
Lobby

ACTION ALLEY

The Action Alley is a forum to learn about and take action on human rights issues and current AIUSA priorities. Come together with other passionate activists to find points of collaboration as we build our vision of justice, freedom, truth, and dignity for all human beings.

WORKSHOP SESSION I

10:30AM – 11:45AM
Various Locations

LOBBYING 101: SMART LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS – *Room 7220*

Facilitators: Frank Prochaska and Eugene Strowbridge

Learn how to effectively lobby at all levels of government on behalf of human rights reform using tried and true lobbying strategies in this period of increasingly hateful rhetoric. This workshop will include a full tutorial in how to conduct lobby meetings and lobby telephone calls, as well as using social media in targeted ways to engage in legislative advocacy to #AmnestyLobby.

HOW YOU CAN HELP FREE IMPRISONED AMNESTY STAFF IN TURKEY – *Room 7230*

Facilitators: Emily Walsh, Susan Mitchell and Laura Galeano

What if you were arrested just for attending this conference? The Director of Amnesty Turkey, Idil Eser, was recently jailed while attending a human rights training. Learn more about our strategy to free Idil, and how you can help! Gain concrete skills including lobbying and other ways to join our Global Human Rights Defenders Campaign.

#YOUTHPOWERACTION – *Room 7240*

Facilitator: Sam Steed

#YouthPowerAction is about young people in the Amnesty International movement learning about their role in making organizational decisions - decisions that affect their human rights work and experience with the organization. Currently, young people make up a small portion of members active in the governance of the organization. You will learn how decisions are made, and how you can ensure your voice is being heard.

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10:30AM – 11:45AM
Various Locations

FROM CHILD LABOR TO STANDING ROCK: CAMPAIGNING ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS – Room 7310

Facilitators: Jennie Greene and Akriti Panty

Workshop on indigenous rights and BHR campaign strategies – defending defenders and individuals at risk (Standing Rock, Latin American activists, Shell in Nigeria). Related issues including supply chain abuses (labor violation in Indonesia, cobalt in Democratic Republic of Congo) and the role of Business and Human Rights strategies in combating climate change. Takeaways will include strategies for effective campaigning with indigenous communities and building local and student group BHR actions.

YOUTH TRAINING: KNOW YOUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS – Room 7350

Facilitator: Adriana Soderberg

This session is for youth (up to age 24) and is a training by other youth so that we can all know and claim our sexual and reproductive rights (SRR). In this training, we will learn about our rights; how gender, power, and privilege impact our sexual and reproductive rights; and how we can claim our rights in our communities!

ARTS AGAINST ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES – Room 7370

Facilitators: Jim McDonald, Jennifer Nestrud and Akriti Panthi

Enforced disappearances occur in many countries and cause ongoing suffering to victims and families. Workshop participants will learn about disappearances in Mexico, Nepal, North Korea & Sri Lanka from experts and have an opportunity to use the arts as campaigning tools against enforced disappearances - including cartoon-drawing, poetry composition/readings, music and theater.

11:45AM – 12:30PM
Room 7820

LUNCH & ACTIVIST RECOGNITION

12:45PM – 1:45PM
Room 7970

TRENDING TOPICS: BRIEF PRESENTATIONS & DISCUSSIONS ON THE FOLLOWING:

- Organizing & Activism Meetings
- Board Resolution: Replacement of Regional Conferences
- Ways to Engage in AIUSA

2:00PM – 3:00PM
Various Locations

CAUCUSES

- Faculty Advisor Caucus- Room 7350
- Local Group Caucus- Room 7240
- Student Group Caucus- Room 7230

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WORKSHOP SESSION II

3:15PM – 4:30PM
Various Locations

LOBBYING 101: SMART LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS – Room 7220

Facilitators: Frank Prochaska and Eugene Strowbridge

Learn how to effectively lobby at all levels of government on behalf of human rights reform using tried and true lobbying strategies in this period of increasingly hateful rhetoric. This workshop will include a full tutorial in how to conduct lobby meetings and lobby telephone calls, as well as using social media in targeted ways to engage in legislative advocacy to #AmnestyLobby.

AMNESTY ACTIVSIM 101 – Room 7230

Facilitators: Carolina Rivadeneira and Latif Hamzah

Discover the basics of Amnesty International, as well as how to effectively create actions, and build relationships with other grassroots activist in your communities.

#YOUTHPOWERACTION – Room 7240

Facilitators: Sam Steed

#YOUTHPOWERACTION is about young people in the Amnesty International movement learning about their role in making organizational decisions—decisions that affect their human rights work and experience with the organization. Currently, young people make up a small portion of the members active in the governance of the organization. You will learn how decisions are made, and how you can ensure your voice is being heard.

READY, SET GO: FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AMERICA – Room 7310

Facilitator: Naureen Shah

In America, we're confronting an attack on human rights at home and abroad. Learn about AIUSA's crisis campaigns, which take on human rights emergencies and quickly mobilize to fight back. Hear about what you and your community can do to fight back against the Muslim and refugee ban.

THE AMNESTY INNOVATION LAB: HOW CAN WE GROW OUR MOVEMENT – Room 7350

Facilitators: Julie Michel and Emily Walsh

Join the Amnesty Innovation Lab and help grow our movement! Workshop participants will brainstorm creative ways for AIUSA to reach new goals and will develop ideas for experimentation. The Amnesty Innovation Lab is a new high priority program at AIUSA that will provide the foundation to scale up our growth efforts to meet our goal of two million active supporters by 2020. The Innovation Lab will determine the most effective strategies for growing our supporter base through testing and seeks ideas for experimentation from staff, interns, and members.

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3:15PM – 4:30PM
Various Locations

ABUSES AGAINST SOUTH ASIAN MIRGRANT WORKERS – Room 7370

Facilitators: Jim McDonald, Manisha Paudel and James Mutti

South Asian migrant workers in the Middle East have been subjected to forced labor and appalling working conditions. South Asian women migrating to work as domestic workers are sometimes at the mercy of abusive employers, including rape and other sexual abuse. This session will inform attendees about these abuses and provide creative campaigning tools against these injustices, including role-playing and use of social media.

4:45PM – 6:15PM
Room 7970

RESOLUTIONS

Amnesty International is a grassroots membership organization. Any individual member or group of members has an opportunity to impact the mission, method, policy, organization, or allocation of resources. Resolutions are a means by which members can influence policy on a regional, national, or international level. Resolutions may be voted on by individual voting members who have paid dues to AIUSA and by one designated delegate from each AIUSA student or local group.

6:15PM – 6:30PM
Room 7970

CLOSING ACTION