

PROGRAM BOOK

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

7:30am
East Foyer

REGISTRATION & 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.

9:00am – 9:30am
Gymnasium

OPENING SESSION

9:30am – 10:15am
Gymnasium

PANEL: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS: UNDER ATTACK

Speaker: Shackelia Jackson, Moderated by 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.

WORKSHOP SESSION I

10:30am – 11:45am
Various Locations

AMNESTY 101 – Room E115

Facilitator: Todd Schwarz

LOBBYING 101: SMART LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP – Room E117

Facilitator: Anita Teekah

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.

50 YEARS OF PALESTINIAN DISPOSSESSION AND ISRAELI WAR CRIMES IS ENOUGH! – Room 200

Facilitator: Edie Garwood

Tough, but exciting workshop that will attract quite a few people – especially youth. Workshop will use interactive exercises and conversation to promote effective advocating for issue that 1) is contentious, 2) seems hopeless. Effective AI lobbying techniques will be covered, but also how to think like a 'negotiator': setting a goal, creating an area for compromise while still advancing on our case, and developing relationships for follow up. Run by facilitator, an issue expert and an AIUSA LC.

YOUTH TRAINING: KNOW YOUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS – Gymnasium

Facilitator: TBA

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!

PROGRAM BOOK

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

10:30am – 11:45am
Various Locations

HOW YOU CAN HELP FREE IMPRISONED AMNESTY STAFF IN TURKEY – Room E115

Facilitators: Emily Walsh, Laure 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.

DRONES 2.0: HOW TO PROTECT CIVILIANS & STOP UNLAWFUL KILLINGS BY THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION – East Wing E211

Facilitator: Daphne Eviatar

News reports indicate that President Trump has increased the rate of lethal strikes, including via drone, leading to an increase in killings of civilians. We are also deeply concerned that the President may loosen the already insufficient policy restrictions on the use of force put in place late in the Obama administration. In short, this is a life or death crisis. In this workshop, you will learn how you can take effective action to help stop unlawful killings and protect civilians from President Trump's expanded forever war.

HOW TO BUILD AN AMERICA THAT WELCOMES REFUGEES – Room E116

Facilitator: Kit O'Connor

Are you incensed by how media and politicians vilify refugees, instead of showing compassion? Join the I Welcome Campaign to fight the demonization of some of the world's most vulnerable. Learn about U.S. obligations in the global crisis and how you and your community can support refugees through local resolutions.

11:45am – 12:30pm
Gymnasium

LUNCH, ACTIVIST RECOGNITION, MUSLIM GIRLS MAKING CHANGE

Muslim Girls Making Change (MGMC), a youth slam poetry group created by Kiran Waqar, Hawa Adam, Lena Ginawi, and Balkisa Abdikadir, is dedicated to social justice through poetry. Tired of having their voices ignored by older generations, they turned to slam poetry to be heard and to make a change. Since forming, these girls have competed at international levels, won numerous awards, performed nationwide, and have led several local and national initiatives.

12:45pm – 1:45pm
DAMC 421

BOARD DISCUSSION

2:00pm – 3:00pm
Various Locations

CAUCUSES

Faculty Advisor Caucus- Room E116

Local Group Caucus- East Wing E211

Student Group Caucus- DAMC 421

PROGRAM BOOK

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

WORKSHOP SESSION II

3:15pm – 4:30pm
Various Locations

#YOUTHPOWERACTION – ROOM 200

Facilitator: Benya Kraus

#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.

LOBBYING 101: SMART LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS IN THE AGE OF TRUMP – ROOM E117

Facilitator: Anita Teekah

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.

FROM SUMATRA TO STANDING ROCK: DEFENDING DEFENDERS AND INDIVIDUALS AT RISK CAMPAIGNING ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES – DAMC 421

Facilitator: Joshua Kennedy

Workshop on indigenous rights and BHR campaign strategies – defending defenders and individuals at risk (Standing Rock, Chinese labor conditions, 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.

STOP UNLAWFUL KILLINGS BY POLICE: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE US AND JAMAICA – EAST WING E211

Facilitator: Sarah Hamilton

Human Rights Defender Shackelia Jackson's brother Nakiea was killed by police in Jamaica. There has been no accountability for his death. That's true of countless other killings by police in the country—and in the United States as well. The Guardian estimates that 1,093 people were killed by police in the US last year, disproportionately affecting people of color. Furthermore, an Amnesty International USA report found that every US state falls short of restricting the use of deadly force by police in line with human rights standards. This crisis of killing must stop. Hear firsthand from Shackelia about her brother's story and what you can do to help stop these killings.

PROGRAM BOOK



NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

3:15pm – 4:30pm
Various Locations

READY, SET GO: FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN TRUMP'S AMERICA –E115

Facilitator: Sheetal Dhir

In Trump's 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.

HOW TO BUILD AN AMERICA THAT WELCOMES REFUGEES – E116

Facilitator: Kit O'Connor

Are you incensed by how media and politicians vilify refugees, instead of showing compassion? Join the I Welcome Campaign to fight the demonization of some of the world's most vulnerable. Learn about U.S. obligations in the global crisis and how you and your community can support refugees through local resolutions.

4:45pm – 6:15pm
DAMC 421

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

CLOSING ACTION: CANDLE LIGHT READING OF THE UDHR