

PROGRAM BOOK

WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

7:30AM-12:00PM

REGISTRATION

9:00AM – 10:15AM

WELCOME & HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PRIORITY CAMPAIGN PANEL

Facilitators: Bandak Lul

Amidst the greatest refugee crisis since WWII, we are facing discriminatory refugee admissions policies; aggressive deterrence policies at the U.S. southern border that criminalize seeking refuge; and rising anti-refugee sentiment, xenophobia, and Islamophobia. Hear about threats to refugee and asylum seeker rights, their real-life impacts, and how to take action.

8:00AM – 6:00PM

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

LOBBYING 101: SMART LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY TACTICS

Facilitators: Frank Prochaska and Ben Steele

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

Facilitators: Laura Galeano

Recently the Director of Amnesty Turkey, Idil Eser, was jailed just for attending a human rights training. Learn about our strategy to free Idil and how you can help. You'll gain concrete skills to help free Idil, including through legislative advocacy, Write for Rights, the Urgent Action Network, Case Commitments and other ways you can join our global Human Rights Defender Campaign.

#YOUTHPOWERACTION

Facilitator: Sara Schmidt and Katiana Resovich

#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

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

Facilitators: Paul Bugala and Abe Bonowitz

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.

STRADDLING HUMAN RIGHTS: WHOSE VOICE IS HEARD

Facilitator: Navona Carter, Brandee Augustine, Ian Soloman and Lisa Meier

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!

11:45AM – 12:30PM

LUNCH & ACTIVIST RECOGNITION

12:45PM – 1:45PM

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

CAUCUSES

- Faculty Advisor Caucus
- Local Group Caucus
- Student Group Caucus

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WORKSHOP SESSION II

3:15PM – 4:30PM

TARGETING INFLUENCES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facilitators: Amanda Alampi

Everyone wants to do a Twitter sit-in or storm. But do you know how to plan one? Join us to learn about how you can more strategically and efficiently target a key influencer on social media. We'll provide turnkey tips and recommendations to help you get started. We'll also draw on existing Amnesty campaigns to show you how to put theory into practice. Then we'll talk about how we measure and scale those results.

THE IMPORTANCE OF INTERSECTIONALITY AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Facilitators: Nicollette Roe

Learn tools to build intersectional communities that are inclusive of all people and their identities including race, gender, sexuality, religion, ability, language, geography and more. We will focus on what it means to create safe environments and to truly be inclusive rather than "inclusive". The goal is to build actions and events that are mindful of all people and identities.

READY, SET GO: FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN AMERICA

Facilitator: Sheetal Dhir and Ashley Houghton

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.

YOUTH TRAINING: KNOW YOUR SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Facilitators: Anne Olsen and Cecelia Gonzalez

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!

4:45PM – 6:15PM

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