

2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



PROGRAM OF EVENTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23rd

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/MEMBER SERVICES

Opens 7:30am – *Grand Foyer*

ACTION ALLEY

Opens 9am – *Grand Foyer*

The Action Alley is a forum to learn about and take action on human rights issues and current AIUSA priorities.

INNOVATION LAB LOUNGE & PHOTO BOOTH

Opens - 5:30pm – *Lower Level*

In the Innovation Lab Lounge, you can learn more about Amnesty's Innovation Lab- our initiative to grow AIUSA through innovation and testing. In the lounge, you will have the opportunity to learn about ideas we have already tested and how you yourself can participate in the testing process.

MEMBER LEADER MEETINGS (Member Only Sessions)

8:30am - 1pm – *Timberlawn*

National Youth Action Committee Meeting

Meeting of the National Youth Action Committee.

8:30am - 1pm – *Salon A*

Refugee Rights Action Lab

8:30am - 11am – *Salon B*

Area Coordinator Steering Committee Meeting

The Committee will coordinate their meeting as well as the local group caucus during this time.

11am - 1:30pm – *Salon B*

Area Coordinator Meeting

The Area Coordinator Steering Committee will meet with Area Coordinators to discuss plans for 2018. People who are potentially interested in the Area Coordinator volunteer role are welcome to attend.

8:30am - 4:30pm – *Linden Oak*

New Legislative Coordinator Training

New Legislative Coordinators will receive training on their role.

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INTRODUCTION TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA

These sessions are geared towards attendees that are new to Amnesty and for those who feel they need a refresher on activism within Amnesty

9am - 11am – *Brookside A*

Deconstructing Amnesty International

Session to highlight the human rights framework and strategic plan priorities. This workshop is for everyone but especially geared for people new to AIUSA.

11am - 1pm – *Brookside A*

The Nuts & Bolts of Organizing, Campaigning, & Civic Engagement

In this workshop, you will learn how to build your power base and develop an advocacy plan that will achieve human rights goals. Set your activism up for success by laying a foundation for meaningful and engaging work.

2pm - 3:30pm – *Salon C*

AGM ACTION

OFFICIAL OPENING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

5pm - 5:30pm – *Grand Ballroom*

Official AGM Opening Address by AIUSA Board of Directors Chair, Aniket Shah and Secretary-General of Amnesty International, Salil Shetty.

PROGRAM SESSION BLOCK I

5:40pm - 6:45pm – Various Locations

Join Amnesty Leaders to discuss policy questions facing the organization and the human rights movement.

Policy Session I: Climate Change – *Salon A*

Amnesty International is finalizing a policy on human rights aspects of climate change and, based on a 2017 ICM decision, will be exploring how our movement might work on these issues. Join members of the Board's Priorities Subcommittee [PSC] and:

- Learn about AI's draft policy on human rights aspects of climate change;
- Discuss AI capacity for doing work focused on these issues;
- Begin consideration of the strategies AI might employ in carrying out this work.

Policy Session II: Disability Rights – *Salon B*

Amnesty International is finalizing a policy on human rights aspects of climate change and, based on a 2017 ICM decision, will be exploring how our movement might work on these issues. Join members of the Board's Priorities Subcommittee [PSC] and:

- Learn about AI's draft policy on human rights aspects of climate change;
- Discuss AI capacity for doing work focused on these issues;
- Begin consideration of the strategies AI might employ in carrying out this work.

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Policy Session III: Decriminalization of Drugs – Salon C

In 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) was adopted. This human rights treaty is nearing universal ratification. It addresses the human rights of persons with disabilities – some one billion persons worldwide – and obliges States to undertake measures to combat pervasive disability-based stigma, discrimination, and other human rights violations.

- Provide an overview of key concepts arising from the global effort to place disability rights on the human rights agenda
- Highlight AI's current effort to develop a policy on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Test drive one or two exercises from a participatory human rights education manual, *Human Rights. YES! Action and advocacy on the rights of persons with disabilities*, edited by leading human rights educator and long-time AIUSA activist, Nancy Flowers. Copies of the manual will be available, free of charge, for interested activist human rights educators. The session will be facilitated by AIUSA Board Member, Janet Lord, who was engaged in the drafting of the CRPD.

AIUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOWN HALL MEETING

7:15pm - 8:30pm – *White Oak A & B*

Who are the members of AIUSA's Board of Directors? Find out by joining this informal public meeting, open to all members. Ask questions, provide feedback, and get to know the members of the Board.

YOUTH SOCIAL

8:40pm - 10:15pm – *Brookside A & B*

Throughout history, youth have been at the forefront of change. From the streets to the halls of power, and from campuses to community centers and board rooms, youth leaders have lifted up their voices to demand a world where everyone's human rights are respected. How can youth build power to welcome refugees, end gun violence, hold police accountable, and defend women's rights? Share your ideas and strategies, learn from others, and be part of the shaping of the future of Amnesty

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PROGRAM OF EVENTS SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24th

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/MEMBER SERVICES

8am - 5pm – *Grand Foyer*

ACTION ALLEY

Opens 9am – *Grand Foyer*

INNOVATION LAB LOUNGE & PHOTO BOOTH

Opens - 5:30pm – *Lower Level*

DISCUSSION ROOM

11am- 6:35pm – *Outside Salon A*

Sign-up and lead discussions on Amnesty's priority campaigns and other relevant human rights topics.

CAUCUSES

8am- 9:20am – *Various Rooms*

Come network with others with similar backgrounds and experiences, share your ideas for building and sustaining the human rights movement in your area, and develop concrete strategies for addressing the challenges you face as an activist.

Faculty Advisor Caucus – *Brookside B*

Behind every successful student group is a committed faculty advisor! Join us to learn more about AIUSA's Youth & Student Program, Faculty Advisor Network, and Human Rights Education work. This session will provide connections to other educators and tools for supporting youth in learning about and taking action for human rights.

Local Group Caucus – *White Flint Amphitheater*

Local Groups have been at the heart of Amnesty activism since the movement was born. The commitment, dedication, and creativity of Local Group members meeting consistently every month has led to the release of thousands of prisoners of conscience, changes in law and policy, and transformative moments in peoples' lives. Join others whose commitment to human rights runs as deeply as yours.

Youth & Student Caucus – *Brookside A*

Youth and student chapters are the heart of Amnesty's work - and we know this work isn't easy! Have questions? Not sure what to work on? Want to run an idea by us? Join us for one-on-one support from experienced Amnesty organizers.

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WELCOMING REMARKS & HOPE FOR HUMANITY: AMERICA'S REFUGEE STORIES

9:30am - 11am – *Grand Ballroom*

Address by AIUSA Executive Director, Margaret Huang followed by refugee campaign plenary.

What if you lost your home, your family, and your friends? What if you reached the U.S. only to be jailed? There are millions of refugees in the world—and more than half are kids. Hear from families seeking to rebuild their lives in safety, and activists fighting to make the U.S. a country that welcomes refugees.

SNACK BREAK

11am - 11:15am

PROGRAM SESSION BLOCK II

11:15am - 12:50pm – *Various Rooms*

- I. Build Bridges Not Walls: How to Build a Local Movement for Refugees – *White Oak A*
- II. Crisis Campaigning and Rapid Response – *White Oak B*
- III. Diversity is Everyone's Job – *Salon H*
- IV. From COINTELPRO to TigerSwan: Legal and Tech Tactics for Protecting Human Rights Defenders – *Brookside A*
- V. Sneak Peak: AIUSA's Upcoming Report & Campaign on Ending Gun Violence in the US – *Brookside B*
- VI. Stop the Crackdown: How You Can Help Free Prisoners of Conscience Around the World – *White Flint Amphitheater*

I. Build Bridges Not Walls: How to Build a Local Movement for Refugees – *White Oak A*

We need activists like you to build a wave of champions – schools, businesses, faith and community groups – who say NO! to locking up kids and their parents for seeking safety and YES to welcoming refugees. Learn how to initiate resolutions in your community and get “influencers” to support refugees.

II. Crisis Campaigning and Rapid Response – *White Oak B*

In these tough times, crisis campaigning on human rights presents a unique challenge. What's the best way to get visibility, be strategic, and be innovative when there's so much going on? This session aims to empower attendees with the tools they need to create campaigns that will be heard above the noise and will result in significant human rights impact.

III. Diversity is Everyone's Job – *Salon H*

This workshop is set to build on 2017 DEI workshop for members. We will again engage members in breaking down barriers pertaining to DEI. Providing a safe space to address these issues when it comes to effectively recruiting and conducting AI campaign work.

IV. From COINTELPRO to TigerSwan: Legal and Tech Tactics for Protecting Human Rights Defenders – *Brookside A*

Surveillance tactics, legal mechanisms, and law enforcement accountability are inextricably linked in our political discourse as we navigate shrinking spaces for protest and privacy freedoms in the Digital Age. Tapping wisdom from seasoned advocates against government over-surveillance, this workshop covers a diversity of tactics for protecting Human Rights Defenders' freedoms. With examples from targeted communities of color, participants will learn about building sound legal support and security cultures in their community.

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V. Sneak Peak: AIUSA's Upcoming Report & Campaign on Ending Gun Violence in the US – Brookside B

On average, 93 people in the U.S. are killed with guns every day. That's over 33,000 lives lost per year. Gun violence is a human rights crisis and Amnesty is joining communities and coalition partners to help stop it. We'll launch a report and campaign later this year that use the human rights framework to understand the problem and press for new solutions. In this session, you'll get a preview of the report's findings and the opportunity to help us shape the campaign strategy.

VI. Stop the Crackdown: How You Can Help Free Prisoners of Conscience Around the World – White Flint Amphitheater

Can you imagine being put in jail solely because of what you believe in - even just for believing in human rights? Unfortunately, this happens to people every day all around the world. Amnesty calls them "prisoners of conscience" and demands their immediate release. In this session, we will hear from former prisoners of conscience about the most effective ways to free them, and what we can do to ensure the US government helps.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: PHILIP ALSTON & AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL USA AWARDS CEREMONY

1pm - 2:30pm – *Grand Ballroom*

Keynote Address by Philip Alston, United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

The Sister Laola Hironaka Award - The Sister Laola Hironaka Award is designed specifically to highlight the work of local AIUSA groups. A tireless advocate with a compassionate smile, Sister Laola's activism and leadership is exemplified in many of the local groups that are organizing for human rights every day.

The Ladis Kristof Memorial Fellowship for Human Rights Advocacy - Each year, in Ladis Kristof's honor, one exceptional AIUSA student activist receives the Kristof Fellowship for his or her outstanding efforts on behalf of human rights. The Fellowship promotes a deeper understanding of human rights work, strengthens the Fellow's advocacy skills, and further prepares her or him to be an effective life-long activist.

WORKING PARTY ON RESOLUTIONS [lunch boxes provided during sessions]

2:40pm - 3:55pm – *Salon A - C*

Join us for lunch as we work on the resolutions proposed for this year. Be sure to bring your voting cards and help shape the organization's policies through the AIUSA resolutions process. Boxed lunches will be served to all conference attendees.

PROGRAM SESSION BLOCK III

4:05pm - 5:45pm- *Various Rooms*

I. BHR: Being a Human Rights Defender on Business and Human Rights – *White Oak B*

II. Build Bridges Not Walls: How to Build a Local Movement for Refugees – *White Oak A*

III. Decolonize NOW: Indigenous Rights are Human Rights – *White Flint Amphitheater*

IV. Diversity is Everyone's Job – *Salon H*

V. State Sponsored Killings: Impacts of Systemic Racism on the US Death Penalty and Killings by Police – *Brookside B*

VI. The Rohingya Crisis: History and Developments – *Brookside A*

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I. BHR: Being a Human Rights Defender on Business and Human Rights – *White Oak B*

How do we address attacks on defenders including indigenous peoples, labor rights and environmental activists, when violations involve corporations? What works, and what doesn't? How can we be more effective Human Rights Defenders in our communit(ies)? We'll explore how Amnesty tackles corporate accountability and defends the defenders in this skills-building workshop to build a stronger grassroots movement, through techniques including power-mapping, but guided by participants' interests.

II. Build Bridges Not Walls: How to Build a Local Movement for Refugees – *White Oak A*

We need activists like you to build a wave of champions – schools, businesses, faith and community groups – who say NO! to locking up kids and their parents for seeking safety and YES to welcoming refugees. Learn how to initiate resolutions in your community and get “influencers” to support refugees.

III. Decolonize NOW: Indigenous Rights are Human Rights – *White Flint Amphitheater*

In Standing Rock and beyond we've seen Indigenous Peoples' rights trampled on across the country. Such rights violations are rooted in a history of European and U.S. colonization still at work today. This panel will feature Native American activists fighting for their human rights. We'll hear from activists fighting environmental degradation and violations of sovereignty; from Native American women fighting to end epidemic levels of violence and fighting for justice; and how we, as human rights activists, can be sure we approach our work from a decolonized lens.

IV. Diversity is Everyone's Job – *Salon H*

This workshop is set to build on 2017 DEI workshop for members. We will again engage members in breaking down barriers pertaining to DEI. Providing a safe space to address these issues when it comes to effectively recruiting and conducting AI campaign work.

V. State Sponsored Killings: Impacts of Systemic Racism on the US Death Penalty and Killings by Police – *Brookside B*

In the US, the application of the death penalty and unlawful killings by police feels anything but arbitrary for communities of color disproportionately impacted. Despite the right to life and freedom from discrimination, the US continues to execute, maintains relaxed laws allowing police to use deadly force, and federal data collection laws go unenforced. Join us for a panel discussion featuring people with first-hand experience in this abusive system and learn how to fix it.

VI. The Rohingya Crisis: History and Developments – *Brookside A*

The Rohingya are an ethnic minority in Myanmar who have been driven from their homes, watched as their villages were burned, raped, killed, and left to the fates as they struggle to survive as refugees in Bangladeshi camps. This panel will provide some history and background to this human rights crisis, a description of the work that Amnesty International has been doing, and what action can be taken.

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BOARD CANDIDATES FOURM

5:40pm - 6:40pm- *White Flint Amphitheater*

A unique opportunity to meet and greet the candidates running in this year's Board of Directors election.

DINNER ON YOUR OWN

6:40pm - 7:45pm

There will be a local food truck in the hotel parking lot.

GIVE A HOME COMES TO AGM: LIVE MUSIC PERFORMANCE

8pm - 9:45pm – *Grand Ballroom*

On September 20th, 2017, Amnesty International and Sofar Sounds hosted 103 intimate “living room” shows across the United States, and over 250 shows around the world in support of refugee rights. The music spanned multiple genres and incorporated mainstream and independent acts, including artists who are former refugees. Step inside this experience as we revisit the groundbreaking event and bring “Give A Home” to you.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION/MEMBER SERVICES

8am - 5pm – *Grand Foyer*

ACTION ALLEY

Opens 9am – *Grand Foyer*

INNOVATION LAB LOUNGE & PHOTO BOOTH

Opens - 5:30pm – *Lower Level*

COFFEE AND THE GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

8am - 9 am – *Salon C*

Join the Board for coffee and tea as they report back from the 2017 International Council Meeting and discuss the new Global Assembly being held this year.

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VOTING PLENARY

9:10am - 10:30am – *Grand Ballroom*

Members vote on resolutions intended to shape Amnesty policy and practice. All are welcome, only members may vote. Don't forget to bring your voting card!

BUILDING BRIDGES: HOW TO ENGAGE OTHERS WHEN THE WORLD FEELS DIVIDED & CLOSING REMARKS

11am - 12pm – *Grand Ballroom*

How do we talk to our neighbors and our families about human rights in this divisive social and political climate? This panel will discuss the fundamental threats to human rights in our current political climate and provide clear strategies and values-based messaging tools from activists on the ground on bridging the divide in public discourse so that we can effect real change for all people in a time of crisis.

END OF AGM 2018

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