

# PROGRAM BOOK

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



2018 MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE  
OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup> ————— ST. LOUIS, MO

## REGISTRATION

7:30am

## ACTION ALLEY

9am-5pm

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

## CAUCUSES

9am-10am | Colonnade Room

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.

### Local Group Caucus

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 Caucus

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.

### Faculty Advisor Caucus

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.

## OPENING PLENARY

End Gun Violence: Centering the Power of the Affected

10am-12pm | Breckenridge Salon A

Welcoming address followed by End Gun Violence: Centering the Power of the Affected campaign plenary.

*Panelists:*

*Maria Pike*

*Marcus McAllister*

*Rev. Sharon Rischer*

## LUNCH

12:15pm-1:15pm | Atrium C

## WORKSHOP BLOCK I

Focus on Organizing & Activism Skill-Building

1:30pm-2:20pm | Various Locations

### **Crisis & Rapid Response Campaigning: Winning in Times of Opposition I Colonnade Salon E**

Learn about Amnesty's Crisis and Rapid Response Campaigns, where we take on human rights emergencies in the US and around the world -- and mobilize to fight back. Learn about why we do crisis campaigns, how to plan a campaign out, and how to execute it effectively.

*Facilitator: Anashua Dutta*

### **Lobbying 101: State and Federal Advocacy I Breckenridge Salon B**

In this workshop, we'll explore opportunities to engage with members of Congress and state elected officials, provide the ABCs of taking legislative action, and practice essential skills for successful lobbying. Attendees will gain hands on experience by contacting their elected officials.

*Facilitators: Kevin Ellison, Mike Wyrick, Kikelomo Idowu*

### **Help Spread the News: Communicating our Message I Colonnade Salon D**

In this workshop you'll meet some of the AIUSA media relations team and learn some basic tips for interacting with your local press. We'll give some insight into the work the media staff does, and how members working with local reporters can help amplify Amnesty's work. Topics covered will include how to engage with the press, tips on writing op-eds and letters, and tips on how to be interviewed.

*Facilitator: Robyn Shepherd*

### **Running Your Student Group: The Nuts & Bolts of Campus Organizing I Breckenridge Salon C**

We choose to be activists because we care about human rights - but how do we build strong groups that can sustain activism for the long-haul? Whether you're an elected leader of your group or a member who is excited about building a powerful team, this session will provide you with tools and knowledge to create healthy, vibrant and active groups on your campus. We will discuss leadership styles and structures, decision-making models for your group, and how to manage group dynamics. You'll leave with a plan for building - and sustaining - a healthy group that takes action for human rights!

*Facilitator: Anthony Goodwin*

## WORKSHOP BLOCK II

Focus on Human Rights Topics

2:30pm-3:20pm | Various Locations

### **ActivismX: Taking Human Rights Activism to the Next Level I Colonnade Salon D**

Human rights activism can take many forms and anyone can be involved in Amnesty's work. But how do we take our work to the next level in a way that is creative and impactful? How can our actions and events not only be "out of the box" but help us recruit new members, get media attention, and move the needle for human rights? This workshop is about generating creative ideas and putting them into action on campus and in our communities.

*Facilitators: Hamzah Latif, Fatemeh Yarali, Asnam El-Beram*

### **Profits over People? Campaigning on US Refugee and Immigrant Detention I Colonnade Salon F**

Strategize on effective tactics you can take on AIUSA campaign on corporate role in US detention of immigrants and refugees, including families, and abuses in for-profit detention centers. Will include background on why people are fleeing from Central America and Mexico.

*Facilitators: Jennie Green*

### **Write 4 Rights: Help Refugee & Activist Awad Resettle in the US (+ 10 Other Cases) I Breckenridge Salon C**

Learn how you can help Sudanese refugee and human rights defender Awad resettle in the US through Write for Rights, our largest annual letter-writing campaign. We'll also discuss strategy on the 10 other cases in this year's campaign -- all women human rights defenders!

*Facilitator: Zeke Johnson*

## RESOLUTIONS

3:30pm-5pm

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

## WORKSHOP BLOCK III

Focus on Human Rights Topics

5:10pm-6pm | Various Locations

### Deadly Force I Colonnade Salon E

TBD

*Facilitator: Krissy Roth*

### From Petroleum to Palm Oil: Business and Human Rights Campaigning I Breckenridge Salon C

Workshop on HR campaign strategies, with focus on defenders and individuals at risk. Issues include extractive industry violations, immigrant detention, settlement goods, supply chain abuses (DRC, Indonesia), assisting the Rohingya. Takeaways include effective strategies for local and student groups.

*Facilitators: Emily Beck & Tresor Bangila*

### Don't Build A Wall – Build A Longer Table: Welcoming Refugees in Your Community I Breckenridge Salon B

In face of the Administration's attacks on refugees, we need activists like you to speak out! Your voice has power, and this session explores local action you can take to build a movement of people uniting to welcome and support refugees in your community.

*Facilitators: Ashley Houghton & Anashua Dutta*

### Who's Watching Who: How Local Surveillance Affects Human Rights I Colonnade Salon F

The rhetoric for safety and national security always includes surveillance. But, what surveillance technologies are being used in our name? How is the government using them? Speakers will answer these questions and discuss strategy to ensure surveillance is used to protect everyone's human rights.

*Facilitator: Allison Reilly*

## CLOSING PLENARY

6:15pm-7:15pm

Candlelight vigil reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.