

PROGRAM BOOK

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



2018 NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 27TH ————— BOSTON, MA

REGISTRATION

7:30am | Stone Lobby, GSU

Coffee and donuts will be served beginning at 8am

ACTION ALLEY

8am-5pm | Ziskand Lounge, GSU

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

WELCOME

Eastern Medicine Singers Drum Circle

8:30am-9am | Metcalf Hall, GSU

Welcoming by the “Eastern Medicine Singers Drum Group, An Algonquin Drum Group from Providence Rhode Island. The Eastern Medicine Singers are dedicated to keeping the eastern woodlands American Indian culture alive. The drum is made up of RI, NY, NJ & Southeastern Massachusetts Tribes.

OPENING PLENARY

Nonviolent Resistance in the Global Struggle to Defend Human Rights

9am-9:30am | Metcalf Hall, GSU

Discussion Nonviolent Resistance in Defending Human Rights by Jamila Raqib who is a specialist in the study and practice of strategic nonviolent action and the executive director of the Albert Einstein Institution, which works to advance the research and application of nonviolent action worldwide.

CAMPAIGN PLENARY

Families Belong Together: How We Can Support Refugee Families in Crisis

9:30am-10:30am | Metcalf Hall, GSU

Refugees fleeing danger around the world rely on the kindness of strangers to help them start again. Instead, the administration has punished those seeking safety here—separating and detaining families and forcing many refugees to live in limbo while they wait for a home. This is not the America we believe in. Hear from those trying to rebuild their lives in safety and activists fighting to help make that happen.

Panelists Include:

Ken Mayers,

Sara Bedford

Naureen Shah, Facilitator

WORKSHOP BLOCK I

Focus on Organizing & Activism Skill-Building

10:45am-12pm | CAS Building

ActivismX: Taking Human Rights Activism to the Next Level | CAS 216

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: Amy Gordon, Penelope Halkiadakis and Erika Bulger

Building Peace: Integrating Human Rights into Classrooms | CAS 224

Human Rights and a more just and peaceful world are interdependent, yet the concepts are often misunderstood. Creating a learning community on a foundation of mindfulness, compassionate communication, and appropriate assertiveness supports exploration of the concepts and options for affecting change.

Facilitator: John van Bladel

Growing Our Movement at the Grassroots: Talking Outside the Fannesty | CAS 233

Because Amnesty International is a multi-issue organization, our story can be difficult to tell. This session will serve as a practical deep dive into effective recruitment tactics for student and local groups who wish to grow their membership organically through succinct communication.

Facilitator: Arielle Newton

Lobbying 101: State and Federal Advocacy | CAS 226

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: Ebony McCleave and Stephanie Mellini

Act OUT: Theater as Activism | Metcalf Hall

Join staff and youth members of True Colors: OUT Youth Theater, the nation's oldest Queer Youth Theater troupe, in an interactive workshop that teaches participants how to use personal stories and theater techniques to change hearts and minds in the movement of social justice.

Facilitators: Eli Harrell, Frannie Tracey and Tonesia Jones

Crisis & Rapid Response Campaigning: Winning in Times of Opposition | CAS 211

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: Sheetal Dhir

Hitting the Streets (Non-violent Direct Action Training) | CAS 213

All over the world activists have taken to the streets to demand justice and accountability for ongoing human rights violations. Whether you plan to bring your voice into the streets or have a different role, this workshop is a beginning to educating and supporting each other to raise our voices.

Facilitators: Prachi Rao, Matt Phelan, Samantha Wong, Hannah Jatsch, Baiden Wright and Bilal Choudhry

Poetry & Activism Creative Workshop | CAS 203

A nationally recognized youth poet - Tova Ricardo - will lead participants through a poetry and creative writing workshop by engaging with the issue of gun violence and the concept of home and displacement. Attendees will learn about the necessary co-existence of art and activism, and how liberation is directly linked to self-expression

Facilitators: Tova Ricardo and Khallela Barracks

Running Your Student Group: The Nuts and Bolts of Campus Organizing I CAS 201

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!

Facilitators: Eliza Reddick and Indira Walsh

Youth Training: Know and Claim Your Sexual and Reproductive Rights I Small Ballroom

When our rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up- fight back! In this workshop, youth will join together to learn from a peer trainer and each other about their sexual and reproductive rights and plan how they can defend against the increasing attacks against their rights.

Facilitators: Emily Quinn, Laura Yang and Baaqeyah Muhammad El

WORKSHOP BLOCK II

Focus on Human Rights Topics

12:10pm-1:10pm | Various Locations

Don't Build a Wall - Build a Longer Table: Welcoming Refugees in Your Community I CAS 213

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: Kit O'Connor and Local Group 133

North Africa and the Sahel: Human Rights Overview and Call to Action I CAS B36

North Africa and the Sahel suffer from interconnected crises: migrants and refugees at risk of human rights violations, while human rights are also violated in the name of national security. The workshop offers a coherent regional overview and maps out AI campaign strategies and actions for members.

Facilitator: Ken Mayers

The US Global Killing Spree – and How to Stop It I CAS 211

Since President Trump took office, the number of civilians killed by US military strikes has skyrocketed. President Trump has secretly changed the rules that govern who the US can kill, expanding what was already an illegal global "war on terror" to kill thousands more people, including many civilians, with drones, jets and Special Forces, all with no accountability. Using video, victims' stories & more, we'll brainstorm how to stop this underreported US killing spree in our name.

Facilitator: Daphne Eviatar

From Petroleum to Palm Oil: Business and Human Rights Campaigning I CAS 224

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

Facilitator: Joshua Kennedy

Taking Action on US Arms Transfers and Middle East/North Africa Human Rights Violations I CAS B18

Country/thematic specialists connect US arms transfers and HR violations and war crimes in MENA countries including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Libya and Iraq, and explain legal tools for challenging transfers. Activists shape a grass-roots campaign to change US policy and punish war crimes.

Facilitators: Geoffrey Mock and Sabina Henneberg

Torn Apart At The U.S. Border: How You Can Help Free & Reunite Refugee Families I CAS 233

We've all read about how this Administration is punishing families -- by separating or detaining children and their parents -- simply for seeking safety here. You have the power to stop these cruel practices. Learn about some of the families affected by these policies and how you can take action to make a difference in their lives, whether it's by pressuring ICE or your members of Congress.

Facilitator: Naureen Shah and Sheetal Dhir

Reviewing the fight for legal abortion in Argentina | CAS 226

This panel will review the recent fight in Argentina over legalizing abortion at 14 weeks--a law which ultimately failed in the Senate but galvanized a movement. I am the country specialist for Argentina and I will seek to bring AIUSA staff and other speakers together to discuss the movement

Facilitator: Debbie Sharnak and Cora Fernandez Anderson

Write 4 Rights: Help Refugee and Activist Awad resettle in the US (+ 10 other cases) | CAS 216

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: Andrew Fandino and Zeke Johnson

LUNCH

1:10pm-1:50pm | Small Ballroom, GSU

ACTIVIST RECOGNITION

The Power of Activism with Guest Speaker, Dhondup Wangchen

1:55pm-2:30pm | Metcalf Hall, GSU

Activists in Action Video, Keeper of the Flame Award Presentation and guest speaker Dhondup Wangchen. Dhondup Wangchen is a Tibetan filmmaker and former AI prisoner of conscience, who was sentenced to six years imprisonment for his involvement in making a film that expressed Tibetan attitudes toward the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the Dalai Lama. He was imprisoned for "inciting separatism" after a secret trial by Xining City Intermediate Court. Amnesty International Local Group 133, Somerville, MA worked for many years advocating for his release and led in numerous actions placing pressure on the government of the People's Republic of China, one of these actions was Get-on-the Bus!

PANELS

2:45pm-3:45pm | Various Locations

Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Human Rights | Metcalf Hall, GSU

Artificial intelligence is a powerful technology that can have a transformative effect on many aspects of life—from transportation to manufacturing to healthcare and education, as well as the justice system, policing, and the military. Artificial intelligence can increase efficiency, find new insights into diseases, and accelerate the discovery of novel drugs. But with misuse, intentional or otherwise, it can harm people's rights. This panel explore the social implications and human rights risks of artificial intelligence – and the framework interventions needed to ensure human rights are protected. Amnesty International Silicon Valley Initiative Director Danielle Cass will moderate the dynamic conversation with panelists Meredith Whittaker, co-founder and director of AI Now Institute at New York University, and Mathias Risse, faculty director of the Harvard Kennedy School Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.

*Panelist include:
Meredith Whittaker
Mathias Risse
Danielle Cass*

Russia's Human Rights Crisis: Beyond the Headlines, Beyond Collusion | Small Ballroom, GSU

Allegations of improper contacts between President Trump and President Putin have recently dominated headlines in the U.S. Press. Yet behind coverage of Russia's reach abroad, the Kremlin continues its assault on human rights at home. Human rights defenders, independent journalists, LGBTI activists, and many others face constant harassment and pressure simply or doing their work. This panel will highlight some recent human rights trends in Russia and explain how you can help brave Russian activists make their country a better place.

*Panelists include:
Joshua Rubenstein.
Anastasia Karimova
Natalia Arno
Daniel Balson*

CAUCUSES

4pm-5pm | Various Locations

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 | Small Ballroom

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.

Student Group | Metcalf Hall

Calling all Youth & Student Activists! The caucus is our space to network, share ideas, and learn from each other. We'll also be weighing in on AIUSA's Youth Strategy. Come share your ideas for where Amnesty's Youth & Student activism is headed!

RESOLUTIONS

5pm-6:30pm | Metcalf Hall

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!

CLOSING ACTION

6:30pm-7pm | Marsh Chapel Plaza

Candlelight vigil reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.