PROGRAM BOOK

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

2018 SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 27TH ——— NEW ORLEANS, LA

REGISTRATION
7:30am
Coffee will be served beginning at 9am

ACTION ALLEY
9am-6pm I Art Gallery 1st Floor
The Action Alley is a forum to learn about and take action on human rights issues and current AIUSA priorities.

OPENING PLENARY
9:30am-10:10am I Auditorium 1st Floor
Opening Ceremony and an Amnesty Welcome.

WORKSHOP BLOCK I
Focus on Organizing & Activism Skill-Building
10:15am-11:30am | Various Locations

From Petroleum to Palm Oil | Room 220

Human Rights Defenders, educating the public about the way in which corporate action can intensify attacks on defenders and other vulnerable populations in the U.S. and developing world.

Lobbying 101: State and Federal Advocacy | Room 101B
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.

Running Your Student Group: The Nuts & Bolts of Campus Organizing | Room 102
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!

Write 4 Rights: Help Refugee and Activist Awad resettle in the US (+ 10 other cases) I Room 213
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!

CAMPAIGN PLENARY
Centering the Power of the Affected
11:45am-1pm
Nearly 100 people die every day due to gun violence. Government inaction means that despite making the headlines, gun violence remains an everyday reality — especially for many communities of color. The government must protect our right to life and help end gun violence. Join us for a powerful discussion.

LUNCH
1pm-2pm I Auditorium

CAUCUSES
2pm-2:45pm | 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 I Room 102
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 I Room 101B
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.

RESOLUTIONS
3pm-4:30pm I Auditorium
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 II
Focus on Human Rights Topics
4:45pm-5:45pm I Various Locations

AIUSA's Ending Gun Violence Campaign + YOU! | Room 220
Ending Gun Violence is the human rights goal to address gun violence in the United States. Join AIUSA's campaigner Victoria Coy to engage the recent report, learn about the action, and connect your community to the fight to end gun violence! You will walk away with skills, talking points, and next steps for the EGV campaign.

Take Action for Families Torn Apart by the U.S's War on Refugees | Room 101B
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.

North Africa and the Sahel: Human Rights Overview and Call to Action | Room 213
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.

Taking Action on US Arms Transfers and Middle East/North Africa Human Rights Violations | Room 214
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.

The US Global Killing Spree -- and How to Stop It | Room 220

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.

CLOSING ACTION
6pm I Auditorium 1st Floor
Ending Gun Violence 2nd Line + Hot Brass Band