

PROGRAM BOOK

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



2018 WESTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10TH ————— DENVER, CO

REGISTRATION

7:30am

ACTION ALLEY

8am-5pm

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

OPENING PLENARY

8:45am-9:15am | Main Ballroom, Room 5000

Featuring Drum Circle

CAMPAIGN PLENARY

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

9:15am-10:15am | Main Ballroom, Room 5000

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.

Facilitator: Rebecca Ma

WORKSHOP BLOCK I

Focus on Organizing & Activism Skill-Building

10:30am-11:45am | Various Locations

Accessing Your Sexual and Reproductive Rights | Room 2110

Women's Rights are Human Rights - Come lean in and learn about violence and discrimination against women and other marginalized groups. Starting with the basics of understanding gender and sexual identity, Amnesty Sexual and Reproductive Rights Trainers are ready to answer your questions. From looking at existing laws and tracked cases to highlighting current human rights abuses today, you can learn more about the protections and dangers facing women. It is time to take action and you can start today!

Facilitators: Julie Ikeda and Anne Olsen

ActivismX: Taking Human Rights Activism to the Next Level | Room 2015

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, Nani Detti and Onysha Boak

Death Penalty in the Western Region I Room 2115

Ending the Death Penalty has been one of Amnesty's longest running campaign. It is continually inspired and sustained by moments that arise and help perpetrate our work towards abolition. Speakers will address the California strategic campaign and talk about a strategy to sustain movement in USA.

Facilitator: Hilary Naylor

Lobbying 101: State and Federal Advocacy I Room 2121

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: Frank Prochaska and Amanda Armstrong

Running Your Student Group: The Nuts & Bolts of Campus Organizing I Room 1150

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: Sara Schmidt, Caitlyn Nojiri and Abby Hejmanowski

LUNCH

12pm-1:30pm | Joy Burns Center in the Tuscan Ballroom

MYANMAR CRISIS

Mass Atrocities Committed Against the Rohingya in Myanmar: What You Can do to Help

1:45pm-2:45pm | Main Ballroom, Room 5000

Amnesty has documented atrocities committed against the Rohingya population constitute some of the gravest crimes under international law including reports of rape, torture, arbitrary detentions, and unlawful killings of men, women, and children. As a result, over 700,000 Rohingya fled persecution at the hands of the Myanmar military. Join us for a discussion about what the international community's response to this crisis has been and should be and what you can do to help.

Facilitators: Francisco Bencosme and Zeyar Win

WORKSHOP BLOCK II

Focus on Human Rights Topics

3pm-4pm | Various Locations

Don't Build A Wall – Build A Longer Table: Welcoming Refugees in Your Community I Room 2015

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.

Facilitator: Kit O'Connor

End Rape Now! The fight to end rape and violence against Native women I Room 2115

Native women are 2.5 times more likely to be raped than other women in the US; it's a human rights crisis. In this panel and workshop, participants will hear from Native women working to end the violence, AND they will begin to plan how they can help join the work to end the violence.

Facilitators: Pamela Kingfisher and Tarah Demant

From Petroleum to Palm Oil: Business and Human Rights Campaigning | Room 2121

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: Paul Bugala

Write 4 Rights: Help Refugee & Activist Awad Resettle in the US (+ 10 Other Cases) | Room 2110

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: Laura Galeano

CAUCUSES

4:15pm-5:15pm | 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 | Room 1110

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.

Facilitator: Cynthia Gabriel-Walsh

Youth Caucus | Room 1150

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.

Facilitator: Sara Schmidt

SNACK BREAK

5:15pm-5:30pm

RESOLUTIONS

5:30pm-7pm | Main Ballroom, Room 5000

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

7pm-7:30pm

Candlelight vigil reading of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.