

2019 ANNUAL

GENERAL MEETING

FAIRMONT CHICAGO | MILLENNIUM PARK | CHICAGO, ILLINOIS



MARCH 1ST – 3RD

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL 



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, MARCH 1

REGISTRATION, MEMBER SERVICES, AND GUEST SERVICES

7:30am | International Foyer

Stop by to get your official name badge and swag bag! Our member services team can help you become an AIUSA member or renew your membership.

ACTION ALLEY OPENS

9:00am | Imperial Foyer

The Action Alley is a forum to learn about and take action on human rights issues and current AIUSA priorities. It is a space for AIUSA groups to creatively display their ideas and accomplishments. Past displays have shared particularly successful community events and activities, human rights promotion ideas and techniques, and information on human rights-related topics.

INNOVATION LAB LOUNGE

9:00am | International Foyer

Description coming soon.

AMNESTY HISTORY WALK

9:00am | International Foyer

Walk through the history of Amnesty championing human rights alongside our millions of activists and civil and human rights heroes. Let us know how you'll contribute to our history and our collective goal of ensuring human rights for all.

DISCUSSION LOUNGE

9:00am – 7:00pm | B-1 Level

The Discussion Lounge will provide all attendees the opportunity to sign-up and lead a discussion on Amnesty's campaigns and other relevant human rights topics. Topic choices are decided by attendees. Stop by and sign-up.

AMNESTY MERCH STORE & PHOTO STATION

5:00pm – 8:30pm | B-1 Level

We're excited to announce the return of the official Amnesty Merch Store! Stop by, buy some swag, and strike a pose with your new gear at our photo station.

MEMBER LEADER MEETINGS (Member Only Sessions)

Area Coordinator Steering Committee Meeting

8:30am – 10:30am | Embassy

The Committee will coordinate their meeting and prepare for the local group caucus during this time.

Cogroup Chairs Meeting

8:30am – 10:30am | Ambassador

This meeting is for active Cogroup Chairs who will participate in various continuing education training sessions to further build upon their leadership skills. Meeting sessions will include best practices/lessons learned, peer discussions, as well as Cogroup/staff led trainings.

Country & Thematic Specialists Meeting

10:30am – 2:00pm | Ambassador

This meeting is for active Country and Thematic Specialists who will participate in peer discussions around best practices/lessons learned, as well as Cogroup/staff led continuing education trainings.

Area Coordinator Meeting

10:30am – 2:00pm | Embassy

This meeting is for all current Area Coordinators and people who are potentially interested in the Area Coordinator volunteer role.

DECONSTRUCTING AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

9:00am – 11:00am | Gold

Amnesty International is a global human rights movement, but what does this really mean? In this workshop participants will learn the fundamental framework that shapes the strategy and policies that guide Amnesty International (AI). Nearly 60 years ago, AI demonstrated the power of pen and paper, but now we must demonstrate the power of member-participation. This workshop is for everyone, but especially geared for people new to AI. It has been designed to provide a little bit of history, a little bit of opportunity, and a lot of room for sharing a vision.

NETWORK IN ACTION ALLEY

1:00pm – 2:30pm | Imperial Foyer

Catch up with old friends and meet new people in Action Alley!
Lunch on your own.

AGM ACTION ON ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

2:30pm – 3:30pm | Location TBD

Description coming soon.

BREAK ON YOUR OWN

3:30pm – 5:30pm

Take a break and don't forget to grab dinner! Take advantage of the hotel's location in the heart of Chicago to explore our host city!

OFFICIAL OPENING OF AGM

5:30pm – 6:00pm | Imperial Ballroom

Official AGM Opening Address by AIUSA Board of Directors Chair, Becky Farrar.

TRANSITION

6:00pm – 6:15pm

WORKSHOP BLOCK I

6:15pm – 7:15pm

Breaking Down the Wall – Building Bridges with People in Support of Refugees and Asylum-seekers | Gold

Your voice has power, and in the face of this administration's attacks on marginalized groups, we need activists like you to speak out! We will explore how to more effectively use our voices while taking action, to expand a movement of people building a longer table with refugees and asylum seekers. Break down "walls" and fight hate and xenophobia by integrating conversations and interactions centered on fostering empathy with activism work you enjoy.

Speakers: Rebecca Ma and Kit O'Connor

Fighting for Human Rights in My Backyard: State & Local Human Rights Campaigns | Chancellor

Some of our best opportunities to win human rights protections are with the city council and state legislature -- places where you personally can have a huge influence. Get concrete skills on how to plan and execute a local campaign for human rights. Discuss opportunities for state and local activism on gun violence and detention of immigrants.

Speakers: Sheetal Dhir and Emily Walsh

The Intersectionality of Gun Violence: How to Transform the Conversation | Ambassador

Gun violence is an epidemic in the United States, but it does not affect every community in the same way. From gang violence to school shootings to the murder of LGBTQ+ individuals, every issue must be addressed in a way that is relevant and empowering to a specific group. This workshop will aid activists in facilitating discussions about the diverse ways that gun violence impacts their communities and taking peaceful action that leads to change.

Speakers: Emma Green and Mikala Teramoto

Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories: Tourism – Tool of Displacement | Embassy

Israel invests millions to bring tourists to unlawful, Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This bolsters the settlement economy, allowing them to expand, displacing local Palestinian communities. Travel apps, such as Booking.com, Expedia, TripAdvisor, and Airbnb, facilitate those visits and assist the illegal situation. As AIUSA members, come learn how to avoid being complicit in these ongoing war crimes.

Speakers: Edith Garwood, Jennifer Green, and Marya Farah

Using the Human Rights Framework to Create Change on Campus | Cuvee

This is a student-led workshop on utilizing the human rights framework to create institutional and cultural changes on university campuses. Learn how to create successful human rights campaigns on campus based on the experiences of Manchester University students. Examples include: gender-neutral restrooms, adding gender identity as a protected category in the non-discriminatory clause, socially responsible investing, and a #RefugeesWelcome resolution. Participants will be encouraged to identify human rights issues on their campus and generate possible solutions.

Speakers: Caraline Fearheller, Jesse Langdon, Virginia Rendler, Amy Weeks, and Zander Willoughby

Youth Training: Know and Claim Your Sexual and Reproductive Rights | Crystal

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.

Speakers: Emily Quinn, Baaqeyah Muhammed El, and Laura Yang

AIUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOWN HALL MEETING

7:20pm – 8:30pm | International Ballroom

Join the Board of Director members in an interactive space where you can ask them questions and participate in fun activities to get to know them.

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

8:30pm | Crystal

We are AIUSA! Please join AIUSA Friday night as we kick off our Annual General Meeting. We will create our human rights timeline wall, enjoy local delights, and sing the night away with classics and movement favorites! Meet other human right defenders, remember how you joined AIUSA, share your favorite tune, and create the shared story of AIUSA.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

REGISTRATION, MEMBER SERVICES, AND GUEST SERVICES

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CAUCUSES

8:45am – 9:45am

Come network with others, 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 | Ambassador

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 to discuss how to grow your group, how to have effective meetings, and how to take your activism to the next level!

Youth & Student Caucus | Gold

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 stop torture, hold police accountable, and defend women's rights? How can youth build alliances across borders? How can more youth be a part of shaping the future of Amnesty? Be a part of the conversation!

TRANSITION

9:45am – 10:00am

WELCOMING REMARKS & CAMPAIGN PLENARY – ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

10:00am – 11:20am | Imperial Ballroom

Address by AIUSA Executive Director, Margaret Huang, followed by our campaign plenary on Ending Gun Violence.

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 among advocates and community leaders and learn how we can build a human rights movement to end gun violence.

NETWORK IN ACTION ALLEY

11:20am – 11:40am | Imperial Foyer

Catch up with old friends and meet new people in Action Alley!

WORKSHOP BLOCK II

11:40am – 12:40pm

Anti-Union Violence & Human Rights Defenders in Central America | Cuvee

Guatemala and Honduras are among the deadliest countries on earth to defend labor rights. 98% of threats and violence against trade unionists are never investigated or brought to justice. Attempting to organize a new union, advocating for fair wages, or negotiating a contract are often met with threats, beatings, kidnappings, and murder. But unionists are building activist networks in both countries to protect rights defenders, expand economic justice, strengthen advocacy channels, and combat impunity.

Speakers: Maria Elena Sabillon

Arts Against Enforced Disappearances in South Asia | Chancellor

Enforced disappearances occur globally and cause ongoing suffering to victims and families. Workshop participants will learn about disappearances (with emphasis on South Asia) from experts and have an opportunity to use the arts as campaigning tools against enforced disappearances - including cartoon-drawing, poetry composition/readings, music and theater.

Speakers: Jim McDonald and Akriti Panthi

Facilitating Human Rights Education Programs on Refugee Crisis at High Schools | Crystal

Learn about a program developed by Amnesty's Chicago local group on the refugee crisis to teach member leaders how to facilitate Human Rights Education (HRE) discussion with students and offer ways students can help in their communities. Two teachers will share their experiences with HRE in their classrooms.

Speakers: Randy Harper, Laura Michalski, Blaine Mineman, and Kevin Zickterman

Humanity at Risk: Climate Change, Artificial Intelligence & the Future of Human Rights | Ambassador

As Amnesty continues to work on individual cases of abuse, we must also begin to address emerging human rights issues that have the potential to wipe out humanity: the destruction of earth's habitat due to climate change and the development of autonomous weapons systems that may someday become smarter and more powerful than people. Amnesty's experts on these topics—Chiara Liguori and Rasha Abdul-Rahim—will join us to discuss the current state of play, Amnesty's policy positions, and our strategies to avert disaster.

Speakers: Zeke Johnson

What's the Deal with Washington State?: End the Death Penalty and Make Progress Towards Unlawful Killings by Police in Your State | Gold

Amnesty's work to abolish the death penalty goes back over 40 years, and in 2017 we saw further erosion of the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment, as Washington State's Supreme Court ruled its death penalty unconstitutional! The same year activists in Washington made big strides to stop unlawful use of police lethal force, by offering a ballot initiative to bring greater accountability to when force is used unlawfully. Hear from key actors from Washington that helped influence and secure this progress and learn tips and tactics to help replicate CJ success in their home states.

Speakers: Katherine Beckett, Leslie Cushman, Katrina Johnson, Laura Nuechterlein, and Krissy Roth

TRANSITION

12:40pm – 12:45pm

ACTIVIST RECOGNITION & NETWORKING LUNCH

12:45pm – 2:00pm | International Ballroom

Join us as we honor some of our very own activists! Enjoy lunch and networking with your fellow human rights advocates from all around the country.

TRANSITION

2:00pm – 2:15pm

WORKSHOP BLOCK III

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Art as Activism | Cuvee

Learn how to create an effective immersive theatre piece that highlights a critical issue affecting the globe, specifically the refugee crisis. Teaching participants how to use art (poetry, theatre, film, etc.) to highlight critical issues affecting the globe. Based on past and upcoming Chicago local group projects, we examine how poetry can teach college students about enforced disappearances and immersive theatre can support refugee resettlement. Art as Activism will also provide an action and awareness plan on how to be a voice of change in this tumultuous period.

Speakers: Cliodhna Joyce-Daly and Andrea Sutherland

Healthcare is a Human Right | Crystal

Article 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights lists medical care as a fundamental human right, and yet, 400 million people worldwide are left without it --- with women, people of color, and those living in poverty disproportionately affected. Join us to learn more about this pressing issue and why it's so important that we take action --- and of course, find out new ways for activists at all levels to get involved.

Speakers: Ben Palmquist, Susan Rogers, Georgina Shanley, and Wamia Siddiqui

Human Rights Defenders Under Attack in the Philippines: How You Can Help! | Chancellor

Can you imagine being arrested solely for criticizing the President's human rights record? Having false charges brought up against you to silence your voice? Unfortunately, that is exactly what happened to Senator Leila de Lima in the Philippines. She has been a vocal critic of President Duterte's "war on drugs", which has resulted in the extrajudicial killings of thousands of people. Come and learn how you can help free Senator Leila de Lima!

Speakers: Paul Bloom, Andrew Fandino, Leila De Lima, and Nerve Macaspac

The U.S. Global Killing Spree: How to Stop It | Ambassador

The U.S. government under President Donald Trump has dramatically increased the use of lethal force to kill people around the world, all in the name of fighting "terrorism." But there's been little explanation of who the U.S. is killing, under what legal authority, or how it's making us safer. Using recent reports from Amnesty International about civilians killed by U.S. drones and air strikes in Syria and in Somalia, we'll explain how the U.S. is killing civilians with no accountability. And we'll talk about ways of pressuring the U.S. government to put a stop to it.

Speakers: Daphne Eviatar

U.S. Arms Sales and the Hidden War in Yemen: Campaign Opportunities Ahead | Gold

The war in Yemen has created one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world: close to 60,000 people have died and 3/4 of population are in need of aid. Before the killing of Saudi Arabian journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Turkey, the Saudi Arabia-led coalition's role in the conflict in Yemen was often overlooked, and drew minimum coverage in the media. With renewed attention to the conflict in the media and Congress, activists have an opportunity to seize. This panel will highlight humanitarian crisis and human rights violations by all parties in the war and focus on the profoundly irresponsible role that the United States is playing behind the scenes.

Speakers: TBD

TRANSITION

3:15pm – 3:20pm

WORKING PARTIES ON RESOLUTIONS

3:20pm – 4:55pm | International Ballroom and State Room

Working parties are a space where AIUSA members can come together to discuss and make changes to the resolutions we will be voting on at the voting plenary. Come help us shape the policies that guide Amnesty International's future!

TRANSITION

4:55pm – 5:00pm

Campaign Plenary – Families Belong Together and Free: Supporting Refugee Families in This Time of Crisis

5:00pm – 6:00pm | Imperial Ballroom

Whether it's family detention, separation, pushbacks at the border, or attacks on refugee resettlement, the last two years of xenophobic attacks require resilience as well as innovative and strategic leadership from our movement. When empathy is under attack and refugees and asylum-seekers are vilified by the current administration and in the press, how are rights holders and advocates fighting to keep families together and free on a local, national, and international level?

ART FOR AMNESTY SESSION

6:00pm – 7:30pm | Crystal

Grab some snacks and join us for an entertaining and engaging session on how the arts and pop culture play a role in supporting Amnesty's mission. We'll review previous collaborations with the arts and be joined by some inspiring Chicagoan artists for a Q&A and performance.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 3

REGISTRATION, MEMBER SERVICES, GUEST SERVICES, AMNESTY HISTORY WALK, AND INNOVATION LAB LOUNGE

7:30am | International Foyer

ACTION ALLEY

7:30am | Imperial Foyer

DISCUSSION LOUNGE

7:30am – 10:00am | B-1 Level

AMNESTY MERCH STORE & PHOTO STATION

7:30am – 1:00pm | B-1 Level

POLICY CONSULTATION

8:00am – 9:00am | Gold

This is our opportunity as an Amnesty International section to discuss and create feedback on the policies the International Secretariat and the broader movement are working on. These consultations will help guide our Global Assembly delegates in representing us when they join other sections during the international meeting this summer.

BOARD CANDIDATES FORUM

9:15am – 10:15am | Gold

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

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

10:30am – 11:30am | Gold

Join the Board as they report back from the 2018 Global Assembly and discuss the topics that are being considered at this year's meeting.

TRANSITION

11:30am – 11:40am

VOTING PLENARY

11:40am – 1:15pm | Imperial 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!

CLOSING REMARKS

1:15pm – 1:30pm | Imperial Ballroom