

# 2019 SOUTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE | PROGRAM BOOK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup>

## Registration Opens

12:30pm | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lobby (Atrium)

## Action Alley & Art Space

12:30pm – 6pm | Atrium

Action Alley is a forum to learn about and take action on human rights issues and current AIUSA priorities, and a space for groups to creatively display their ideas and accomplishments.

The Art Space is a place to come and put your creative juices to work! We will have canvas and brushes for you to design a banner for the national banner drop action on November 20th, Universal Children's Day, calling on US government agencies and corporations to stop locking up migrant children. Information on this action and materials will be provided. Feel free to drop in throughout the conference to work on your banner to drop in your community. "Artivism" is an effective way to draw attention to human rights concerns.

## Welcome: Be Bold Act Now: Organize for Human Rights

12:45pm – 1pm | Atrium

## Power Sessions I

1pm – 1:25pm | Various Locations

### Building a Strategy to Win: Using the Midwest Academy Strategy Chart | 214

The Midwest Academy Strategy Chart is considered a gold standard in the field for strategic campaign planning. Whether you're a new organizer or looking to brush up and expand your skills, this power session will give you a solid foundation on analyzing power and organizing effectively.

### Elections 2020: Walking the line of nonpartisanship | 115

The 2020 election year will present many challenges and opportunities for Amnesty activists. This session will provide tools for staying informed and nonpartisan because human rights shouldn't be politicized.

### How to Join Write for Rights to Change Lives and Make New Friends | 114

Write for Rights is our annual letter writing campaign on ten important human rights cases. This year's cases are all youth activists facing abuses. Find out how you can take part and organize fun letter writing events that will help the cases, grow your network and make new friends.

### Sustaining Activism Through Self and Communal Care | 205

As our movement becomes bolder, so must our commitment to self and communal care. Human rights activism can be stressful work and can often lead to secondary trauma. This session will focus on understanding secondary trauma, self/communal care practices, and how such practices can sustain an activist's and community's wellbeing.

### Welcome to Amnesty! | 201

Amnesty International is a global human rights movement, but what does this really mean? What does this movement look like? And where is this movement going? In this workshop participants will learn the fundamental framework that shapes the strategy and policies that guide Amnesty International. This workshop is for everyone! It has been designed to provide a little bit of history, a little bit of opportunity, and a lot of room for getting involved in working for human rights!

## Power Sessions II

1:30pm – 1:55pm | Various Locations

### Elections 2020: Walking the line of nonpartisanship | 115

The 2020 election year will present many challenges and opportunities for Amnesty activists. This session will provide tools for staying informed and nonpartisan because human rights shouldn't be politicized.

### Follow Up! Key to the Next Engagement | 205

Join to learn the anatomy of Follow Up! Here you'll learn the techniques of Before, During, and After to strengthen your follow up skills. These lessons can be tools for your organizing toolbox.

### How to Join Write for Rights to Change Lives and Make New Friends | 114

Write for Rights is our annual letter writing campaign on ten important human rights cases. This year's cases are all youth activists facing abuses. Find out how you can take part and organize fun letter writing events that will help the cases, grow your network and make new friends.

### **Using Power Mapping for Your Organizing | 214**

To create the change we seek, we need to understand the power structures at play. A power map is a strategic tool that, properly done, can reveal power dynamics and leverage relationships and networks.

### **Tactics and Escalation | 201**

Learn how to execute diverse, creative, and strong tactics to build power, build leaders, and apply escalating pressure as part of broader strategies to make lasting change.

## **Lunch**

2pm – 2:45pm | Outside Auditorium

## **Breakout Sessions**

2pm – 2:45pm | Various Locations

### **Art and Poetry Competition Against Enforced Disappearances | 214**

Victims of enforced disappearance are people who have literally been disappeared; from their loved ones and their community. Victims are often never released and their fate remains unknown. Join our art competition to spread awareness of enforced disappearances around the globe with an emphasis on Sri Lanka.

### **Bridging the Movement: Young professionals and Amnesty outside the classroom | 115**

Bridging the gap between student and local groups. This breakout is to prepare student and young professional activists to make groups that better serve their needs.

### **Building a Better Resolution Process | 205**

The National Resolutions Committee (NRC) will host breakout sessions to engage members in a robust, interactive discussion of our Membership Resolutions Process, and the role it plays (or should play) in making AIUSA a truly democratic organization based on shared leadership.

### **Stand Up, Fight Back! Stop the US Government and Corporations from Locking Up Children | 114**

The detention of migrant children is a stark reminder of our nation's hypocrisy in what it strives to stand for – a pillar of welcome and freedom – and what's actually happening – the cruel persecution of kids simply for seeking safety here. Join us for an interactive discussion and action fighting back against the Administration's hateful attacks and rhetoric; and getting corporations out of the business of detaining kids for profit.

### **When guns are part of domestic abuse: how to campaign to end gun violence against women in Louisiana | 201**

Gun violence is a domestic violence (DV) issue: 55% of all women killed by intimate partners in the US were killed with a gun; perpetrators use guns to control their partners. In this session, activists will learn from Louisiana DV advocates and survivors about Amnesty's recent report and how we can all work to end gun/domestic violence in Louisiana and across the South.

### **Youth Training: Know and Claim Your Sexual and Reproductive Rights | Auditorium**

When our rights are under attack, what do we do? Stand up- fight back! In this workshop, youth (14-24 yrs) 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.

## **Poster Presentations (in presentation order)**

2:50pm – 3:50pm | Auditorium

### **Your Actions Change Lives: Write for Rights Victories You Helped Make Possible**

Celebrate the people you have helped by writing letters during Write for Rights, our largest annual global campaign - people like Phyo Phyo Aung, a youth activist and prisoner of conscience who was freed from prison in Myanmar.

### **Inclusive Organizing to increase impact**

The focus is on applying Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (IDEA) in our organizing and activism. As a diverse movement that fights for the human rights of everyone, we have to make sure we walk the talk in the work we do and the way we work together to accomplish our goal.

### **Foundation Building at Amnesty International USA**

Overview, Purpose and Highlights of the Door-to-Door Fundraising Program.

### **Numbers Matter: Why Facts & Figures are Key to Abolishing the Death Penalty in Florida**

This is designed to be a short presentation on the facts and figures pertaining to the death penalty and why the practice is not only always wrong, but simply not working, especially in Florida.

### **Celebrating Urgent Action Network and Case Commitment Victories**

Come see how you and our global movement have contributed to case successes throughout the years, including the release of prisoners of conscience and better conditions for human rights defenders. Participants will learn how they can engage with cases and lend their voices to future successes.

### **Looking for a Resource and an Inspiration? Meet Grassroots Leaders who are Making an Impact for Human Rights**

This presentation will highlight the many ways in which our member leaders are making an impact for human rights. Questions that will be answered: Who are the member leaders within the Member Leadership & Training (MLT) unit? How can I connect with member leaders as resources? What are some success stories?

## **Community Caucuses**

3:55pm – 4:40pm | Various Locations

### **Local Group Caucus | 214**

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 | Auditorium**

Young people have been at the heart of Amnesty activism since the movement was born nearly 60 years ago - and continue to be at the forefront of change! From high school halls to the halls of power, from dorm rooms to boardrooms, and from classrooms to community centers, youth leaders are lifting their voices to demand a world where everyone's human rights are respected. The Youth Caucus is the space for young people to come together to share challenges, brainstorm ideas for action, and learn more about Amnesty and running effective chapters. Come caucus with your peers, get one-on-one support for your group, and help shape the future of the organization. Note: We value and respect our faculty advisors, educators and other adults allies in their work with young people, but hope to have this space for youth and students to connect directly with one another.

## **Human Rights Discussion Groups**

4:45pm – 5:15pm | Various Locations

### **Detention and Trauma: Children Caught Up in the Politics of US and Israel | 201**

The session will examine parallels between violations by the US government against asylum-seeker, refugee and migrant children at the US border with Mexico, and the Israeli government's violations as an occupying power against Palestinian children.

### **Outsourcing Responsibility: Holding the Defense Sector Responsible for Human Rights Violations | 115**

We will give an overview of Military, Security and Policing and Business and Human Rights campaigns (from Hong Kong to extractive industries) and focus in on "Outsourcing Responsibility" campaign targeting governments and weapons producers involved in the sale of weapons to human rights abusers and how you can take action.

### **The Climate Crisis & Human Survival: What Can We Do? | Auditorium**

In this session, we will discuss the scope of the climate crisis (how bad it is now, how bad it could get and how it impacts human rights); what Amnesty's solutions are; and your creative ideas for how we can best campaign to protect our planet.

### **The Human Rights Crisis in Venezuela: What is Happening and What We Can Do to Help | 114**

The Venezuelan refugee crisis is second in size only to Syria. It is the largest ever forced displacement on our doorstep in the Americas. In this session, we'll talk about how the human rights crisis has led to record levels of displacement and what Amnesty members can do to help.

### **What would Eleanor Roosevelt say? Are human rights still universal and indivisible? | 205**

In July, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced a new Commission on Unalienable Rights, which purports to distinguish between the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and what it describes as "ad hoc rights" articulated in subsequent years.

## **Activists Recognition & Keynote - "No Home for Children: The Detention and Treatment of Children Seeking Safety in the United States"**

5:20pm – 5:50pm | Auditorium

Keynote Speaker: Denise Bell

## **Closing Action: End Child Detention Banner Drop**

6pm | Outside