

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SAN DIEGO

HILTON LA JOLLA – TORREY PINES

**MARCH 6-8,
2020**

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



PROGRAM OF EVENTS: FRIDAY, MARCH 6

REGISTRATION, MEMBER SERVICES, AND TECH TABLE

7:30am | Main Pre-function Space

Stop by and get your official name badge and reusable water bottle! Our member services team can help you become an AIUSA member or renew your membership. And new to AGM, the tech table will be available for those who may not have smart phone access so that everyone can still connect with other attendees via the app.

PRAYER ROOM

6:00am – 11:59pm | Hospitality Suite 1059

This year, there will be a dedicated prayer and meditation room that will remain open throughout the conference. Prayer rugs and a compass will be provided.

IN MEMORIAM

9:00am – 7:00pm | Main Pre-function Space

To remember our fellow human rights activists who are no longer with us, this space has been set aside. Please feel free to write your message on a candle and glue it to the board. You may also light a tea-light, leave a photo or other type of memorabilia, as a way to honor and remember those who have passed away. All messages will be sent to the AIUSA Archives. Though they have passed, we celebrate their lives and honor their contributions to human rights. Their legacy will live on in our movement and in our hearts.

INTERACTIVE SPACES

Action Alley Opens for Set-up

9:00am | Main Pre-function Space

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. Here are this year's topics:

- AIUSA Programs
- Assault Freedom of Expression and Media in Central Africa Region
- Bahrain Grand Prix
- End Gun Violence Campaign
- Governance
- Human Rights Defenders in South Asia
- Human Rights in the Middle East
- IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility) in Organizing
- Individuals at Risk
- Member Leader Recruitment and Grassroots Legislative Advocacy
- Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL)
- Protests and Police Violence in Hong Kong
- Refugee & Migrant Rights Campaign: Children Seeking Safety
- Women's Human Rights

Activist Activity Room

9:00am – 7:00pm | Hospitality Suite 1102

Are you eager to have experiences of your own creation? Are you inspired to connect with your fellow activists in personal ways? Are you excited to meaningfully engage with other attendees? If so, then the Activist Activity Room is the place for you! The Activist Activity Room will provide ALL attendees the opportunity to sign-up to lead an activity, whether it be a discussion on a human rights topic, a guided meditation, a game of charades, or anything else you would like to do!

Innovation Lab Lounge & Photo Station Opens

9:00am | Fairway Ballroom Pre-function

How do we ensure Amnesty International becomes a larger, stronger and more diverse movement with strengthened capacity to achieve human rights impact? That's what we're exploring through the Innovation Lab. We test new ideas to grow, diversify and engage our movement. We need your feedback and creativity! Visit our Innovation Lab Lounge to learn more!

Amnesty Merch Store

5:00pm – 8:30pm | Main Pre-function Space

Come refresh your wardrobe with some official Amnesty gear!

MEMBER LEADER MEETINGS (MEMBERS ONLY SESSIONS)

Area Coordinator Steering Committee Meeting

8:30am – 10:30am | Location

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

Country & Thematic Specialists Meeting

8:30am – 1:00pm | Location

This meeting is for active Country and Thematic Specialists who will participate in peer discussions around best practices/lessons learned.

Area Coordinator Meeting

10:30am – 1:00pm | Location

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

AGM ACTION

1:00pm – 5:00pm | TBD

Description TBD.

BREAK ON YOUR OWN & NETWORK IN ACTION ALLEY

5:00pm – 5:30pm | TBD

Take a break and catch up with old friends and meet new people in Action Alley!

OFFICIAL OPENING OF AGM

5:30pm – 6:00pm | Fairway Ballroom

Official AGM Opening Address by AIUSA Board of Directors Chair, Janet Lord.

TRANSITION

6:00pm – 6:15pm

WORKSHOP BLOCK I

6:20pm – 7:20pm

Chinese State Surveillance and “National Security” in Xinjiang | Grande Ballroom A

Speakers: Jewher Ilham, Stefan Feldstein, Steven Pieragastini and Suzanne Wright

Uighurs, Kazakhs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in China’s Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region are being harassed, detained and arrested in huge numbers. Speakers will address how and why these groups are being targeted; how China’s use of facial recognition and other intrusive methods of monitoring, in the name of “national security,” facilitate human rights abuses; and what Amnesty International, and AIUSA in particular, are doing to fight back in terms of actions and support for U.S. legislation.

End Rape and Violence Against Native Women and Girls | Grande Ballroom B

Speakers: Keely Linton, Pam Kingfisher and Tarah Demant

Rape and violence against Native women and girls is a national epidemic. In this session, participants will hear from Native women and activists, who will share their experiences and discuss victories, challenges, and the path ahead. Participants will learn how they can work at the state/federal level to help end the violence.

New Tech & the Forever War: The Threat to Human Rights | Grande Ballroom D

Speaker: Daphne Eviatar

The United States went to war in Afghanistan following the September 11, 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, DC. Since then, it’s expanded that war to at least eight different countries, and increasingly sophisticated technology, including unmanned aerial vehicles – “drones” – is making it easier, both practically and politically, for the U.S. to remain at war indefinitely. While the U.S. already employs fighter jets and drones, it is also supporting development of lethal autonomous weapons – also known as “killer robots” – which could decide for themselves who to kill, how and where. This workshop will explore how the U.S. reliance on rapidly-developing technology encourages endless war that threatens the human rights of us all. And it will explain how activists can urge U.S. lawmakers both to rein in use of the current weapons systems, and to prevent autonomous weapons from making wars even more deadly, endless and out-of-control than they already seem to be.

Separation, Detention, and Deportation: How U.S. Immigration Policies Threaten Access to Healthcare |

Grande Ballroom E

Speakers: Denise Bell, Denisha Jenkins, Kate Clark, Lora Randa and Penelope Halkiadakis

As the U.S. administration implements discriminatory policies against people seeking safety in the U.S., we must consider their impact on the health of targeted communities. Experts have highlighted the profound harm caused by family separation and the detention of asylum-seekers. In collaboration with Physicians for Human Rights and local immigrant rights groups, join us in exploring the health impacts of these policies on the lives of immigrants and asylum-seekers, and the advocacy and community response to them.

Social Media and Activism | Scripps I

Speakers: Alison McQuade

Are you using social media to boost your activism? Are you giving your audience the best content? Find out at the Social Media and Activism session.

Under Siege: The Persecution of Human Rights Defenders Around the World and What You Can Do to Support Them! | Scripps II

Speakers: Andrew Fandino, Gavrilah Wells, Katilyn O'Shaughnessy and Laura Galeano

Human rights defenders (HRD) around the world are routinely the target of death threats, smear campaigns, imprisonment, sexual violence, torture, and even assassination. Since 1998, over 3,500 human rights defenders have been killed worldwide. In 2018 alone, 321 human rights defenders were killed. Come and learn about very concrete ways that you can help protect Brave human rights defenders in such countries as Colombia, Saudi Arabia, and the Philippines.

AIUSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS TOWN HALL MEETING

7:30pm – 8:30pm | Grande Ballroom C

Come meet the organization's board of directors and learn about the governance of AIUSA. This is a great opportunity to ask them questions!

BUILDING TOGETHER! – AMNESTY SOCIAL & ACTIVIST AWARDS CEREMONY

8:45pm – 10:00pm | Paterre Garden

Join us for our 55th AGM Kickoff! We'll start off the night by honoring some of our very own activists; then we'll enjoy music and snacks! Join us to for the chance to connect and celebrate with your fellow human rights advocates from all around the country.

PROGRAM OF EVENTS: SATURDAY, MARCH 7

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CAUCUSES

8:30am – 9:45am

Deconstructing Amnesty | Grande Ballroom D

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.

Local Group Caucus | Scripps I

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 & Student Caucus | Scripps II

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.

TRANSITION

9:45am – 10:00am

WELCOMING REMARKS & CAMPAIGN PLENARY – ENDING GUN VIOLENCE

10:00am – 11:30am | Fairway 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.

TRANSITION

11:30am – 11:40am

WORKSHOP BLOCK II

11:40am – 12:40pm

Dark Side of Global Connection: Confronting US Complicity in Torture and Repression | Grande Ballroom D

Speakers: Adem Carroll, Aydin Anwar, Michael Kleinman and Simon Billenness

Examining US complicity with repressive systems, this panel explores how activists promote transparency and accountability along with corporate social responsibility. Experts will examine technology firms' relationships to authoritarian governments, the overall impact of Facebook on human rights abuses, problematic supply chains in Southeast Asia and Africa, while shedding light on the global arms trade impacting civilians from Yemen to Libya. How does shareholder activism intersect with Amnesty's work? How can we as consumers be more conscious global citizens and at least do less harm?

Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories: The Detention and Trauma of Children | Grande Ballroom A

Speakers: Alicia Koutsoulieris, Brad Parker, David Kerr, Denise Bell and Edie Garwood

This session examines how Israel routinely detains Palestinian children in the West Bank as young as five years of age and systematically processes those 12 and above in military courts, instead of civilian court. 75% of kids report ill-treatment during arrest or interrogation. Many are imprisoned in Israel, rarely able to see their parents, and increasing numbers are held in solitary confinement. Learn how you can stop your tax dollars from supporting this policy.

Killing in Our Name in the USA | Grande Ballroom B

Speakers: Cepheus “Uncle Bobby” Johnson, Kanya Bennett, Krissy Roth, Mona Cadena and Shujaa Graham

Attendees will hear from policy experts and impacted people on the status of the death penalty and killings by police and the role that race plays in both, learn why the system is broken, what reforms have succeeded and what you can do to get your state's criminal justice system to better respect human rights.

The Climate Crisis and Human Survival: What Can We Do? | Grande Ballroom E

Speakers: Alejandro Del Pino, Vibha Venkatesha and Zeke Johnson

The climate crisis is real, urgent and already destroying lives. Without immediate action, it will get much worse. In this participatory session, we'll discuss the science behind the climate crisis, who is responsible, the disproportionate impact on people already facing discrimination and marginalization, and what we can do to stop it. We'll focus on solutions, including the concept of Climate Justice, and celebrate the leadership of Indigenous Peoples, youth and front-line communities.

Women's Rights are Human Rights | Scripps I

Speakers: Dr. Nicole Novak, Kelly Johnson and Wamia Siddiqui

This workshop will engage attendees to learn about pressing advocacy issues surrounding sexual and reproductive rights going on today both on a national level surrounding access to abortion and women's healthcare, as well as right here in California, seeking compensation for those affected by a lesser-known sterilization program that affected thousands of low-income, POC women. Learn how to engage and empower your communities and take action to support abortion access across the country.

Youth, Power, Action! Strategy, Tactics and Planning for Amnesty's National Week of Student Action | Scripps II

Speakers: Frank Prochaska, Maria Solano Arauz and Sara Goldschmidt

Nationwide, youth activists are planning for National Week of Student Action! This interactive, hands on session will focus on building core organizing skills that will not only prepare your group for National Week of Student Action, but give you skills that will strengthen your work year round. You'll learn about campaign strategy, power mapping, and choosing effective tactics, and have a plan NWSA and other actions you can take in your community.

NETWORKING LUNCH

12:45pm – 2:00pm | Parterre Garden & Grande Ballroom C

Enjoy lunch and networking with your fellow human rights advocates from all around the country.

WORKSHOP BLOCK III

2:15pm – 3:15pm

Build Bridges – Not Walls, Nat Jails: Taking Action and Mobilizing in Your Communities to Fights to Protect the Rights of Children Seeking Safety | Grande Ballroom A

Speakers: Antonio Martinez, Ph.D., Charlene D'Cruz, Charanya Krishnaswami, Denise Bell, Diego Zavala and Rebecca Ma

Attendees will hear from policy experts and impacted people on the status of the death penalty and killings by police and the role that race plays in both, learn why the system is broken, what reforms have succeeded and what you can do to get your state's criminal justice system to better respect human rights.

Making an Ending Gun Violence (EGV) Impact in Real Time | Grande Ballroom B

Speakers: Ernest Coverson

This session will examine various local programs that has proven to reduce gun violence. We will then demonstrate how members can campaign in their communities to support these type of programs in their communities via legislation.

Not Someone Else's Problem: Lobbying for Women's Rights in Afghanistan | Grande Ballroom D

Speakers: Alice Dahle and Daniel Balson

President Trump and Democratic presidential candidates have committed to ending U.S. military presence in Afghanistan. As the Taliban and Afghan war lords vie to fill the power vacuum, Afghan women, refugees, and human rights defenders stand the most to lose. By supporting targeted development and diplomacy efforts, the U.S. government can defend human rights in Afghanistan. This will not happen, however, without sustained pressure from constituents. The event will discuss this dynamic and offer lobbying strategies for Amnesty members to push for change.

Standing with Human Rights Defenders in Sri Lanka | Grande Ballroom E

Speakers: Akriti Panthi and Jim McDonald

Human rights defenders in Sri Lanka are increasingly under attack. They include Fr. Elil Rajendran (harassed for organizing a commemoration of Tamil war dead), Sandya Eknaligoda (threatened for demanding justice for her disappeared husband, Prageeth Eknaligoda, and for the thousands of other disappearances), and Ruki Fernando (an internationally respected activist detained for his human rights work). Workshop participants will learn the current challenges they face and will brainstorm strategies to provide international support and solidarity.

The Impact of an Amnesty International Volunteer: From Buenos Aires to the Halls of the U.S. Congress | Scripps I

Speakers: Jonathan Fantini-Porter, Mary-Evelyn (Mev) Porter and Nestor Fantini

Amnesty International volunteer Mary-Evelyn Porter, Professor Nestor Fantini (former POC), and Jonathan Fantini Porter, a former U.S. Congress and White House staffer, portrayed in the 2019 Amnesty International-produced documentary “Life, Love, & Liberty,” discussing the successful work of an AIUSA Amnesty volunteer that led to Nestor’s release and a son who many nicknamed the “Amnesty Kid.”

Young and Rising: Building Leadership at AIUSA | Scripps II

Speakers: Baaqeyah Muhammad El, Benya Kraus, Lora Randa, Penelope Halkiadakis and Vibha Venkatesha

In 1961, Peter Benenson spoke out for the rights of two Portuguese students. Shortly afterwards, a group of young people established AIUSA. Young people have been at the forefront of Amnesty’s work from the beginning, making up a majority of AIUSA’s activist base. Join youth members from Amnesty’s Board of Directors, Nominations Committee, and the Global and National Youth Collectives as we explore how young people are leading AIUSA’s bigger, bolder and more inclusive movement.

WORKING PARTIES

3:20pm – 5:15pm

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!

Working Parties I | Grande Ballroom C

Working Parties II | Grande Ballroom D

TRANSITION

5:15pm – 5:30pm

CAMPAIGN PLENARY – All People Deserve Safety and Freedom: The Path Forward in the Fight for Refugee Rights

5:30pm – 6:30pm | Fairway Ballroom

Speakers: Basel Moussily, Denise Bell and Rebecca Ma

Under the Trump administration, we’ve witnessed attack after attack on long-standing protection systems for people seeking safety in the US. This election year will be a defining moment for our country’s humanity. Hear about organizing and activism from families and individuals affected by Trump’s attacks on refugee protections, and the advocates fighting along their side. We will discuss how to move beyond constantly being on the defense when refugee rights are under attack to organizing and advocating for solutions that safeguard our protection systems for people seeking safety.

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POLICY CONSULTATION

8:00am – 9:00am | TBD Location

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.

Strategic Planning Plenary

9:00am – 11:15am | TBD Location

AIUSA is working on creating its next strategic plan starting 2021. We'd love to hear from everyone on how we should be doing human rights work and what our organizational priorities should be. This is a great opportunity to share your thoughts and participate in the decision making on the organizations work moving forward. We look forward to hearing from you!

GLOBAL ASSEMBLY

11:15am – 11:30am | TBD Location

Join the Board as they report back from the 2019 Global Assembly and discuss the topics that are being considered at this year's meeting.

TRANSITION & SNACK BREAK

11:30am – 11:40am | TBD Location

First come, first served light snacks will be provided.

VOTING PLENARY

11:40am – 1:45pm | TBD Location

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

1:45pm – 2:00pm | TBD Location

Closing Remarks by AIUSA Board Chair Janet Lord.