



INTERNATIONALIZE

**BANNED
BOOKS
WEEK**

& HUMAN RIGHTS

FOR LIBRARIANS & BOOKSELLERS

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



FOR LIBRARIANS & BOOKSELLERS

During *Banned Books Week* Amnesty International directs attention to the plight of individuals who are persecuted because of the writings that they produce, circulate or read. Recognizing the relationship between the freedom to read and the freedom to create, Amnesty International joins with the American Library Association and others to raise awareness about censorship and the right to freedom of expression. *BBW* events seek to emphasize human rights and freedom of conscience while addressing the real-life cases of people imprisoned for their expression as well as books and other cultural materials that have been banned, challenged, suppressed, or censored in the United States and abroad.





ACTIONS FOR LIBRARIES & BOOKSTORES

ADD HUMAN RIGHTS TO BANNED BOOKS WEEK DISPLAY

As you already know, a great way to raise awareness about Banned Books Week and inspire community members to engage on their own time is to set up a book display in your library or bookstore. Consider the recommendations, below, as well as the Amnesty International materials available on this year's website.

- **Add Human Rights to your Banned Books Display** – whether your display is online or in person, consider ways that you can add human rights and information about these cases to your display.
- **Ensure that several books by authors who have been imprisoned for their writing are added** to your standard Banned Books Week display. See the booklist of titles available on the Amnesty International website for ideas. The act of making available the words of silenced authors may provide a disincentive to those who might jail authors in the future.



NEW 2025 BBW BOOKMARK!



- **Include information about this year's cases within the display** and let your audience know how they can take action to support these writers, journalists and artists. The online toolkit includes a graphically appealing printable case sheet for each featured case and includes a shortened link and QR code where visitors can learn more about the case and take action. Add the case sheets to your display that will best resonate with your community.
- **Put current fliers and bookmarks on the display** so people can use them to learn more. Bookmarks can be ordered online or printed from pdf file available on the website.
- **Order free bookmarks from AIUSA** by filling out the Banned Books Week bookmark order form at:
<https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/order-your-bookmarks/>
- Post your display on social media, and be sure to tag:

@AMNESTYUSA

HOST AN EVENT

Partner with Amnesty International
Community or Student Groups

Amnesty International activists organize actions and events in their communities and at their colleges and schools throughout the year. Amnesty's Local Groups, Student Groups, and Virtual Action Teams are great partners if you would like to co-host an in-person or virtual event. These groups would almost certainly enjoy the opportunity to collaborate with their local library.

As you might imagine, there are many ways to partner with local Amnesty International organizations – reach out to them and ask how they'd like to be involved.

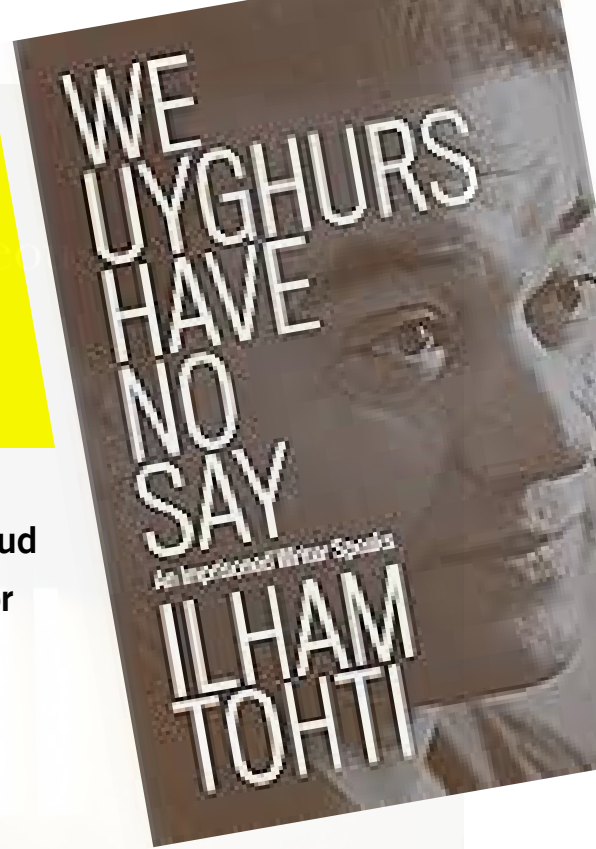
One simple way to involve local Amnesty International groups is to invite them to contribute to the book display. If permissible, they can add petitions associated with each case and advertise their local group activities.



In communities around the country local or college libraries, bookstores, or community organizations have partnered to host Banned Books Read Aloud events and local Amnesty International groups have been invited to add information about current focus cases to the event. A read aloud event is a creative way to raise awareness on the issues at the heart of Banned Books Week.

PLAN A READ ALOUD EVENT

- Consider whether you want to co-plan a read aloud event with a local Amnesty International group or whether you'd like them to simply contribute to the event.
- Amnesty International groups can contribute to read aloud events by:
 - Sharing information about this year's focus cases
 - Reading the words written by this year's focus cases or sharing their visual creations
 - Setting up an Amnesty International table where folks can learn more about human rights, the current cases, and take action
 - Supporting your event



Don't know where to find a local Amnesty International group?
Reach out to:

[Communitynetworks.aiusa.org](https://www.communitynetworks.aiusa.org)

Post your event on the Amnesty Events Calendar:
<https://www.amnestyusa.org/take-action/events/>



SPREAD THE WORD

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT INTERNATIONAL CENSORSHIP AND HUMAN RIGHTS BY:

- Ordering and distributing this year's Banned Books Week bookmarks
- Posting on Social Media – Ideas & graphics are available on the website.

VISIT THE CURRENT BANNED BOOKS WEEK WEBSITE

Be sure to click through
to this year's website:

[https://www.amnestyusa.org/
campaigns/banned-books/](https://www.amnestyusa.org/campaigns/banned-books/)

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In 2013, ALA honored Amnesty International USA with an Office of Intellectual Freedom award recognizing AIUSA's approach to Banned Books Week that focuses on the "logical consequences ... that follow when governments are allowed to censor" noting that "beyond the removal or burning of books comes the removal and physical harm to authors, journalists and others."

