

# CAMPUS BULLETIN

## SEMESTER 1, 2019: WOMEN DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

*Hi campus activists,*

You did some pretty amazing things last year. As we get ready to take on 2019, I wanted to remind you of the amazing wins you helped make happen in 2018:

### **You saved lives**

On 10 October – World Day Against the Death Penalty – the Malaysian Government announced that it planned to fully abolish the death penalty. This built on years of advocacy in Malaysia, including with former opposition members who are now in power. In the days that followed, the death penalty was also found to be unconstitutional in the state of Washington, US, making it the 20th abolitionist state in the US.

### **You changed lives**

In February, Teodora del Carmen Vasquez was finally freed from jail in El Salvador, when a court reduced her outrageous 30-year sentence. She had already spent a decade behind bars after having a stillbirth, which led to her being accused and convicted for having an abortion – illegal in El Salvador. From petitions to protests, we had been campaigning for Teodora to be freed since 2015.

### **You created equality**

Last September India decriminalised consensual same-sex relations between adults. The verdict has upheld the right to equality, privacy, dignity and freedom of expression of all people in India, regardless of their sexual orientation. The court added that any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation is a violation of fundamental rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution.

But there is always more to be done.

2018 was big. 2019 is going to be even bigger! We're really excited about what campus groups will achieve for human rights this year and the leadership and skills you bring to our movement. Semester 1 and O Week are just around the corner and in this campus bulletin you'll find everything you need to know about what's coming up:

- All you need to know about Brave, our campaign to defend people who are persecuted for defending human rights.
- Get to know four incredible human rights defenders we'll be featuring at O Week.
- The basics to get your group off to the best start possible in 2019.

I can't wait to see what you get up to in 2019. Please always reach out to the crew in your Amnesty action centre with any questions, ideas and feedback.

2019 – Let's do this. :-)

Naomi,

Amnesty International Australia

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# KEY DATES

SEMESTER 1, 2019

**The first half of 2019 is full of dates that you can build events and partnerships around.**

## 8 March: International Women's Day

Since 1975, 8 March has been a rallying point for people worldwide to celebrate women's achievements while also highlighting serious systemic inequalities. Women and girls may have scaled unimaginable heights in politics, science, arts, sports and business, but the fight for their basic human rights is ongoing. Nowhere is this plainer than in women's struggle for their sexual and reproductive rights, and the right to live free from violence and harassment. With the popular Times Up and #MeToo campaigns leading a turning point in history to stop violence and abuse of women, International Women's Day is more important than ever.

**You could: Hold events in support of the incredible women human rights defenders of the Brave campaign (see inside for more info) and attend an International Women's Day rally in your city.**

## 28 May: Amnesty's birthday

Since 1961 we have grown from a single office in London to a global human rights movement of over 7 million people in more than 150 countries and territories.

Amnesty has grown from seeking the release of political prisoners to upholding all human rights. Our work protects and empowers people – from abolishing the death penalty to protecting sexual and reproductive rights, combating discrimination and defending refugees' and migrants' rights. We speak out for anyone and everyone whose freedom and dignity are under threat.

Fifty-eight years of human rights activism – sounds like a great reason for cake!

**You could: Arrange a film screening on campus (with cake) or have an Amnesty birthday party on the campus lawns (with cake).**



## 27 May - 3 June: National Reconciliation Week

Amnesty International is committed to reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – including acknowledging the wrongs of the past, addressing current inequalities and working together for a better future. National Reconciliation is built around two significant dates: 27 May acknowledges the 1967 referendum in which Australians voted to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people counted in Australia's census and to give the government the ability to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and 3 June is the anniversary of the the Mabo decision when the High Court of Australia overturned 'terra nullius'. These events changed Australia for the better. However, we still have a long way to go in addressing inequalities and reconciling the past.

**You could: Partner with the Indigenous Learning Centre on your campus for an event and participate in Reconciliation Week events in your city.**

Want to know what's happening at Amnesty? Keen to try something new, but want some training first? You need the Online Activism Planner: everything about current campaigns, dates, suggestions for activities, workshops and trainings. Please check it regularly for updates. You can use it in a group meeting, or print it out to keep handy.

# 0 WEEK 2019: Support women defending human rights

**Around the world, women are leading the resistance. They're challenging discrimination, the death penalty, and forced eviction from their homes. For their courage, they are being imprisoned, harassed, persecuted and threatened. We must stand with human rights defenders worldwide – and do all we can to keep them safe from harm.**



## Meet four brave women who need your support:

Geraldine Chacón empowers young people in her home city to stand up for their rights. She was an Amnesty activist on her university campus. But she's being hounded by the authorities just for trying to make her country a better place. Tell authorities in Venezuela to stop harassing Geraldine.

Vitalina Koval works hard to support local LGBTQI people in her community but she faces violent attacks and intimidation by far-right groups in Ukraine. Tell Ukraine to protect activists defending women's and LGBTQI rights.

Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. Her simple and peaceful actions – posting on social media and handing out leaflets – were used as "evidence" to sentence her to seven years in prison. Tell Iran: Atena Daemi must go free today.

Nonhle Mbuthuma is leading the fight for her community against a mining company that wants to mine titanium on their land. But she's being harassed and threatened. Tell South African authorities to protect Nonhle.

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

Stand in solidarity with Nonhle, Atena, Vitalina and Geraldine -- call on the authorities in their countries to respect human rights, and protect human rights defenders.

**1. SIGN AND COLLECT action cards for these incredible human rights defenders at an 0 Week Stall. Your action centre has printed cards to sign.**

**2. SNAP a selfie with a poster of Geraldine at your 0 Week and share to social media with [#AmnestyOnCampus](#) [#StandWithGeraldine](#)**

**Tip: Print a group sign-up sheet for your stall and encourage people to join Amnesty on campus!**



Previous page: Pavitri Manjhi.  
Top: Geraldine Chacon.  
From left: Vitalina, Atena and Nonhle

# MAKE IT AN O WEEK TO REMEMBER!

**O-Week is the best opportunity you'll have all year to get new people involved in Amnesty on campus – so it's really important to make your O-Week activity as engaging, bright and fun as possible.**

## The basics for an O Week to remember

- Have fun: It might seem obvious but be sure to have fun! It can be daunting for new students to approach a stall. If they see you smiling, laughing and generally being the awesome people that you are – they are more likely to want to be a part of your group
- Roles and responsibilities: make sure you and your group know what is going on. Who is taking photos? Who is looking after the sign-up sheet? Who is in charge of handing out freebies. Who is making sure everyone has sunblock on? Teamwork is essential!
- Theme it: We're talking Twitter and social media – and that means emojis. Get creative, keep it colourful and make it something that people will cross the lawns to get a closer look at.
- Set a Goal! How many actions do you think you can get done during O-Week? 500? 800? Set a target for the team and work out how you're going to reach it. Look at ways to keep a tally and make it visual. A clock maybe (times up for twitter) ...
- Food! Cupcakes, lollies and other goodies are always a hit (be sure to mention what contains nuts/gluten/dairy etc)
- Merchandise: who doesn't love a good Amnesty totebag, highlighter, or stickers. These are things that students will use throughout the year and remind them that your group exists! Ask your community organiser to hook you up.
- Music: though not actually a giveaway, a killer upbeat spotify playlist is a must
- Info: be sure to include a pamphlet/handout that has all your details on it. Email, social media details, convener name and even time and day of meetup if you have that established. Make sure you have a way for new people to sign up.
- And remember ... TAKE PHOTOS! We're keen to use these photos on the website and social media – keep your hands steady and check 'Taking Photos At Events'

## O Week - check. What's next?

O Week is just the start of Amnesty activism for 2018. Leading a campus group is a big role. It can be challenging but it's such a rewarding way to be involved in Amnesty International, and will be one of the best things you'll do at university, promise! These basic steps can help you start Semester 1 on the right foot.

## BEFORE YOUR FIRST MEETING

- Decide on a date for your first group meeting of the year! A doodle poll is a great way to select a date: just list a few dates and times in the poll, then ask members to vote. The most popular date is when you host your first meeting!
- O Week provided your group with the opportunity to find new members. Divide the phone numbers from the 'sign-up' sheet you had at your stall between existing group members. Ask your current members to call or text an invite to each person on their list about your upcoming meeting.
- Think of some other ways to promote your group – is there a bulletin board on campus? Let people know they are welcome to join you for a meet and greet! Make sure you save all your contact details of your members somewhere, including any new faces at your meetings, so you can let them know when the next one is happening.
- Get social! Use your group's facebook page to create events, invite friends and share engaging content!

## Plan for Semester 1

- Working on one or two campaigns per semester might be better than doing everything (also – at some point you'll probably need to go to classes). Think about tactics that could help further that campaign. Maybe your group is interested in MP engagement or hosting an event.
- Are there things you need to do to make sure your Amnesty group is affiliated to the Students' Association or Clubs Association? Make sure you know what is expected of clubs on your campus.
- Know someone else involved in a club on campus? Have a chat to them about tips and tricks they have for a successful club on campus.

## Visit [www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au) for more resources

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of this land and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. This land always was and always will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander land



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