

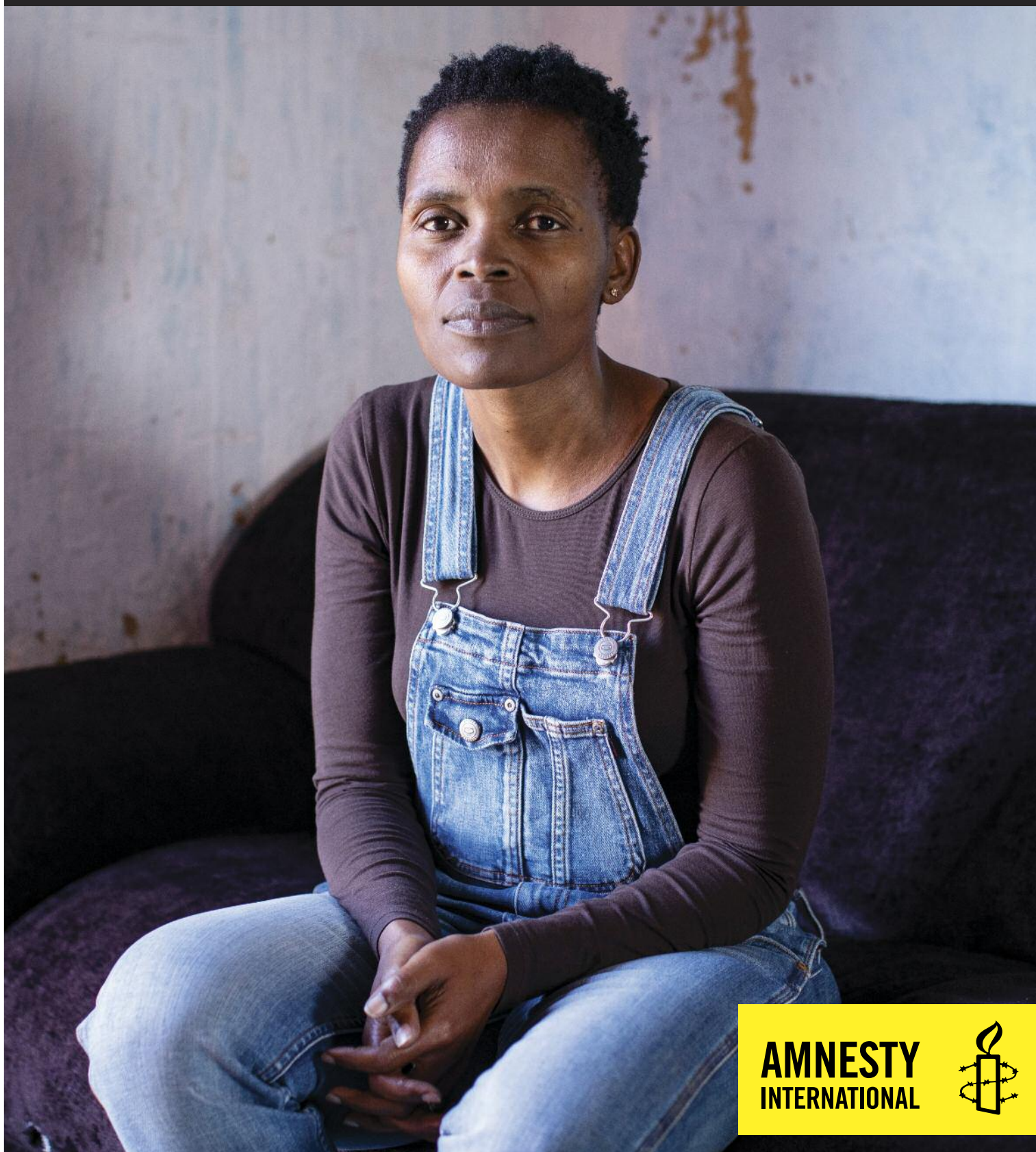
ESSENTIAL KIT
FOR CHANGEMAKERS

TERM 4, 2018

Amnesty International Australia
www.amnesty.org.au

Start Something

HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



TERM 4 2018: HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

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Defend the defenders, write for rights

Never miss an issue

Sign up to receive an email with new school resources at the start of each term and find previous resources at: www.amnesty.org.au/schools

Like this resource?
Tell us about it!

youth@amnesty.org.au

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Cover: Nonhle Mbuthuma from the Xolobeni community in Easter Cape, South Africa. She is helping to lead her community to oppose mining on their land. © AI

Amnesty International is an independent, global movement that campaigns courageously for human rights for everyone. We use our passion and commitment to bring torturers to justice, change oppressive laws and free people imprisoned just for voicing their opinion. We campaign, conduct research and raise money for our work. Our active members, such as school action groups, play a vital role in achieving our aims through writing letters, sending online actions, organising creative awareness-raising activities and fundraising in their communities.

Amnesty International acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which our offices are situated. We thank the elders past and present for their continued custodianship. This always has been and always will be Aboriginal land.

Note from Naomi

Fifteen years ago, a young man named Witek met a young woman named Joanna at a festival in Warsaw, Poland. Joanna had just returned from travelling through Africa, where she'd seen activists organising 24-hour events to write protest letters to governments.

Witek invited Joanna to a meeting of his local Amnesty group, and they decided to organise their own 24-hour letter-writing event. Other Amnesty groups took up the idea and every year since, tens of thousands of people, all around the world, have written millions of letters to combat injustice. It's called Write for Rights – and it's what Term 4 is all about.

In your final Start Something for 2018 you'll find everything you need to take part:

- all the background info about Write for Rights and why it works
- human rights defender cases studies to take action on
- workshops on women human rights defenders and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- template lanterns to decorate your classroom with.

Write for Rights is one of most powerful campaigns I've been part of during my time with Amnesty. More than five decades since London lawyer and Amnesty founder Peter Benenson inspired people to pick up a pen and write for the freedom of others, a handwritten letter is still one of the most powerful tools we have as activists. When thousands of people write the same letter, our voices united cannot be ignored and we change lives for the better.

Congratulations on another amazing Amnesty year – enjoy the summer break and I can't wait to see what we get done in 2019.

Take care, and thank you,
Naomi

National Youth Coordinator
Amnesty International Australia



Good news

INDIA: SAME-SEX RELATIONS DECRIMINALISED

In September, India's Supreme Court decriminalised consensual same-sex relations between adults. The Court's unanimous verdict has upheld the right to equality, privacy, dignity and freedom of expression of all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

MALAYSIA: CARTOONIST ZUNAR ACQUITTED OF ALL CHARGES

The Malaysian authorities have acquitted and dropped all charges against political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar "Zunar" Ulhaque, alongside lawmaker R. Sivarasa and civil rights lawyer N. Surendran. Zunar, a political cartoonist, has been targeted numerous times by the Malaysian authorities as a result of his political cartoons. In 2015 the authorities charged Zunar with sedition after he tweeted criticisms of the jailing of then-opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

TURKEY: TANER RELEASED

The Turkish authorities released Taner Kilic, the Honorary Chair of Amnesty International Turkey, from prison in August. Taner had been thrown into prison in June 2017 on the absurd charge of being a member of an "armed terrorist organisation". He is now back with his wife and daughters – thank you for taking action!

CAMBODIA: TEP VANNY RECEIVES ROYAL PARDON

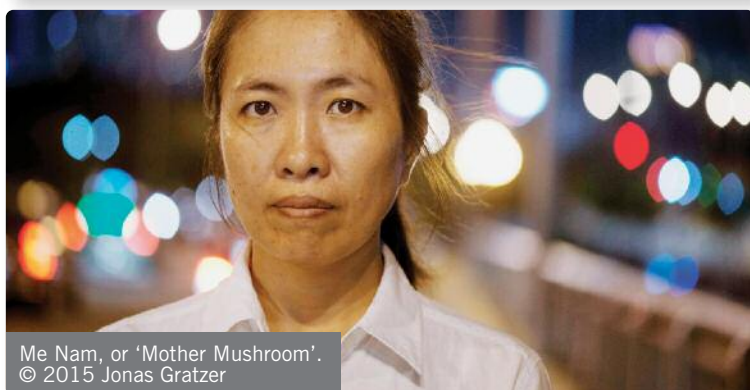
After more than 700 days in detention Tep Vanny, a Cambodian land rights activist, has been released from prison following a royal pardon. Tep Vanny was arrested in August 2016. For almost 10 years, she has defended her community in the centre of Phnom Penh where the Cambodian Government has forcibly evicted thousands of families from their homes.

MOTHER MUSHROOM RELEASED

Nguyễn Ngọc Như Quỳnh, a prominent Vietnamese blogger also known as Mẹ Nấm (Mother Mushroom), was released from prison in October on the condition that she leaves the country. The mother of two had been arrested in 2016 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of "conducting propaganda" against the state.

CHINA: LIU XIA IS FREE

Chinese poet and artist Liu Xia is finally free! After being held under illegal house arrest by the Chinese Government without charge for almost eight years, Liu Xia was allowed to leave China and she arrived in Berlin, Germany, on 10 July 2018.



Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

celebrating 70 years

December 2018 marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Get to know a bit more about the basic freedoms and protections that belong to every single one of us.

WHAT IS THE UDHR?

In 1948, following the horrific events of World War II, country representatives at the United Nations (UN) banded together to create a list of the rights everyone around the world should enjoy. Under the guidance of Eleanor Roosevelt, then-first lady of the United States and a politician, diplomat and activist in her own right, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was born.

WHAT DOES IT SAY?

There are 30 articles, or principles, outlined in the Declaration of Human Rights – 30 rights of everyone on this planet. They include the right to seek asylum, the right to freedom from torture, the right to free speech and the right to education.

Article 1 of the UDHR states that: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Despite the Declaration being recognised around the world, the rights within are often difficult to enforce. That is why it's important for people to speak out whenever human rights violations happen and to keep governments and others across the world accountable.



Human rights are:

Universal: they belong to everybody in the world.

Inalienable: they cannot be taken away from us.

Indivisible and interdependent: governments should not be able to pick and choose which rights are respected.



Eleanor Roosevelt unveils a poster of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. November 1949.
© UN Photo

Everyday UDHR

Run the following workshop with your class or action group.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: UDHR Article Cards and Daily Action Cards (see next pages)

Preparation: print and cut out copies of both handouts

- 1** 1. Get into small groups and distribute eight UDHR Article Cards and eight Daily Action Cards to each group. (5 minutes)
- 2** 2. Ask the everyone to match the rights with the examples. That is, which Daily Action Card can be applied to which UDHR Article. (10 minutes)
- 3** 3. Regroup and ask everyone to discuss their answers (10 mins).

Answers should look like this, although there is more than one possible solution for some of the scenarios:

Article 19 – I use social media and say what I think on different topics

Article 03 – I walk freely in my town without fearing for my life

Article 12 – I do not have to disclose my personal life to my teacher

Article 13 – I can go wherever I want in my country freely

Article 25 – I go to see a doctor if I am sick

Article 18 – I speak freely about my beliefs

Article 24 – I play with my friends

Article 26 – I can go to school and study

GOT MORE TIME?

These are just eight of the 30 articles of the UDHR. Create more cards to find ways to link the other rights of the UDHR to everyday activities in your life.



The Sengwer Indigenous community in Kenya have been asking the government to recognise their land rights and to help them protect the Embobut forest. © AI



Gulzar in Kyrgyzstan campaigns for equal access to health services, employment, and infrastructure for women with disabilities. © Svetlana Zelenskaya/Amnesty International

HANDOUT

UDHR ARTICLE CARDS

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL 

ARTICLE 19:

Right to freedom of expression

ARTICLE 3:

**Right to life and to live in
freedom and safety**

ARTICLE 12:

Right to privacy

ARTICLE 13:

Right to freedom of movement

ARTICLE 25:

**Right to a standard of living
adequate for your health and
wellbeing**

ARTICLE 18:

**Right to freedom of thought,
conscience and religion**

ARTICLE 24:

Right to rest and leisure

ARTICLE 26:

Right to education

HANDOUT

DAILY ACTION CARDS

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



I use social media
to say what I think on different
topics

I walk freely in my town
without fearing for my life

I do not have to
disclose my personal
life to my teacher

I can go wherever I
want in my country freely

I go to see a doctor
if I am sick

I speak freely
about my beliefs

I play with
my friends

I can go to school
and study

Defend the defenders, write For rights

Brave people throughout the world campaign to defend human rights each day. Many of the human rights that we personally enjoy are possible because of the efforts of others who have advocated for these rights.

WHAT IS A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER?

Human rights defenders are ordinary people all over the world, working alone or with others to promote and protect human rights. A human rights defender (HRD) may work to protect any of the rights outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sometimes they are working for the rights of individuals, but they may also be promoting the rights of groups, such as women, Indigenous peoples or others who are marginalised or experience discrimination – for example because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS (WHRDS)

Female activists often face the additional challenges of gender-based discrimination, violence and stereotypes that can impact negatively on their ability to not only enjoy their human rights but to be taken seriously as activists as well. Some WHRDs are women, in all of their diversity, working on human rights issues, but they may also be defenders of any gender working on rights related to gender and sexuality. Some examples are an Indigenous woman fighting for her community's rights and against gender-based violence, a woman advocating against torture, an LGBTIQ rights campaigner, a sex workers' rights collective, or a man fighting for the advancement of sexual and reproductive rights.

Many WHRDs break new ground with their work as they challenge power and social norms, but mainstream society continues to ignore their cutting-edge work. Women's rights defenders need special recognition of their work, a safe space to work in, and specific protection to meet their needs.

LEARN MORE

Take Amnesty's 20-minute, self-paced online course, Human rights defenders – a short guide: <https://academy.amnesty.org>

Want to learn even more about human rights defenders? Check out this four-week Massive Open Online Course: www.edx.org/course/human-rights-defenders1



Women's strike held on 8 March in Mexico City to demand the end of violence against women. © AI Mexico



Vitalina Koval (right) with her partner (left) attending Kyiv Pride March, Ukraine, in June 2018. © AI

Who are HRDS?

Run the following workshop with your class or action group.

Time: 20 minutes

Materials: whiteboard and markers

Preparation: draw a silhouette of a person on the whiteboard

1. To introduce human right defenders, ask the group to think of people they may know or have heard about in history who have defended human rights. They can be people from their country, community or abroad. For example, Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks, Edward Snowden, etc. Write the names of the men on one side of the silhouette and the women on the other side. (5 minutes)
2. Invite students to come up and write in the silhouette the particular characteristics, roles and abilities displayed by the people they named that makes them a HRD. Reflect with the group what could be the definition of a HRD and write it at the bottom. (10 minutes)
3. Review with the group if they could think of more men than women HRDs, or vice versa, and why that might be. If the result is more men, explore why in general WHRDs are less recognised in society. (5 minutes)

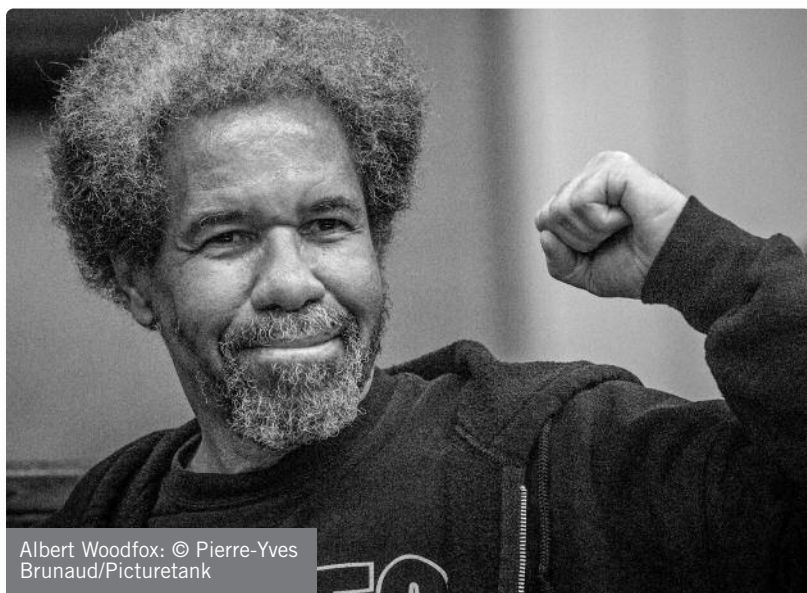


Phyo Aye Aung: © Private



Thank you very much each and every one of you. Not just for campaigning for my release, and the release of other prisoners, but for helping to keep our hope and our beliefs alive.

Phyo Aye Aung in Myanmar, a student imprisoned for peaceful protest; freed in 2016



Albert Woodfox: © Pierre-Yves Brunaud/Picturetank



I'd like to thank our friends at Amnesty International for their remarkable support these last years, culminating just recently in the Write for Rights campaign.

Albert Woodfox, freed after 43 years in solitary confinement in Louisiana, US

WHAT IS WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

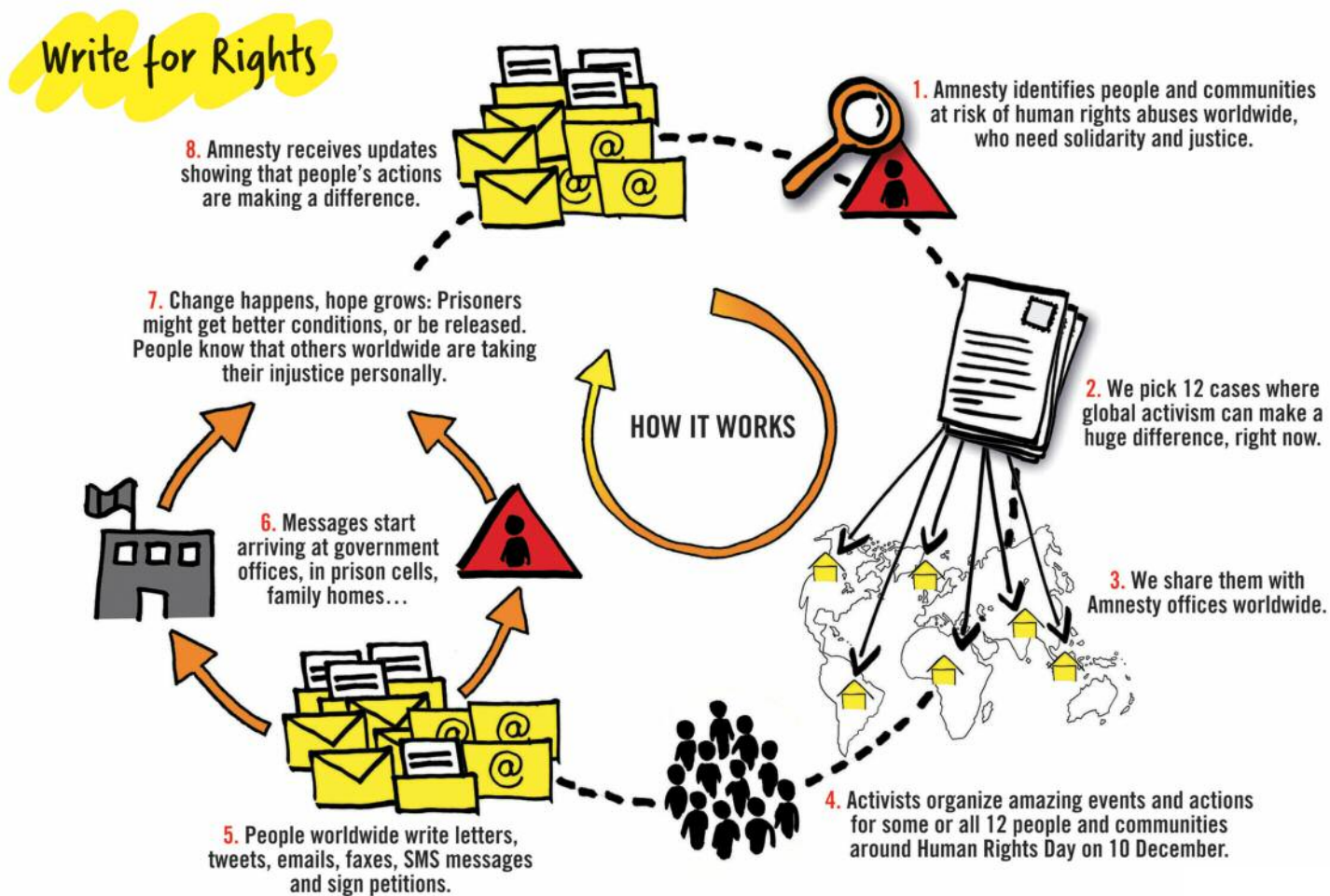
Sometimes a signature can change someone's life. That's the premise of Write for Rights, Amnesty International's global letter-writing campaign.

Our letters, words and petitions put pressure on authorities to take immediate action, so that those who carry out human rights abuses will be brought to justice, and people unjustly imprisoned walk free again. It doesn't take much to sign a petition, send an email or write a letter but it could make a world of difference to those who need your help.



WATCH

Write for Rights explained in 45 seconds:
<https://youtu.be/q5cfj0jGAXU>



DOES IT WORK?

You bet! Your words are more powerful than you might think. Imagine you are one of the government officials that has the power to stop human rights abuses. Imagine you're at your desk and a hundred letters arrive, then a hundred more ... soon, thousands have arrived asking you to put an end to the human rights abuses happening on your watch.

In addition to opening prison doors, letters to officials can improve the conditions for people who are still in prison. As letters begin to flood in, prison authorities realise that there are people around the world who know this person is imprisoned and are concerned for his or her wellbeing.

The letters you write for Write for Rights help save lives every year. They improve conditions for people in prison, and they send hope and courage for those who need it most.

MAKE YOUR WORDS COUNT: TIPS FOR LETTER WRITING

- Always be polite.
- Follow the instruction and information provided, and avoid any mention of religion, including religious holidays, or politics.
- Let them know who you are, and mention that you are a student
- If you have a personal connection to the country or issue, feel free to include it.
- Emphasise how the person you are writing to has the power to make a difference.
- Be brief – one page at the most. Sometimes just a few well-crafted sentences can be the most effective.

ACT NOW >>**KEY**

... = Strong emotive language

President = Formal respectful language

STAND UP FOR WHRDS

1. Ask your class or action group to all write a letter to the authorities on behalf of the people unfairly imprisoned (case studies on the next page), and join Amnesty's global movement in calling for their immediate release.
2. Once you've written to the country authorities, you can also make a card and write a personal message of solidarity to the person in prison, to help keep their spirits up.
3. Collect your class or action group's letters and send them together to Write for Rights, GPO Box 968, Hobart TAS 7001 by 31 January 2019 at the latest. You can also drop them off at an Amnesty action centre near you.

<p>Formal title and address of recipient</p>	<p>Lic. Felipe Calderón President of the Republic Residencia Oficial de 'Los Pinos' Col. San Miguel Chapultepec Mexico D.F., C.P. 11850 MEXICO</p>	<p>Introductory statement that outlines purpose of the letter</p>
<p>Salutation (greeting to recipient)</p>	<p><u>Dear President Calderón:</u></p>	
<p>Statement of the desired outcome of the letter</p>	<p>I am writing to express my grave concern over the treatment of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú, Indigenous women who were mistreated by Mexican soldiers in 2002. Although they were brave enough to report the attacks to the authorities, no one has been brought to justice.</p> <p><u>I respectfully urge you to investigate this case and do what you were asked to do by the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.</u></p> <p><u>I call on you to ensure there is a swift <u>investigation</u> into the mistreatment of Inés Fernández Ortega and Valentina Rosendo Cantú. I urge you to acknowledge the state's responsibility for identifying the people who committed the crimes, to apologise to the victims and their families and to grant adequate compensation to the victims. <u>Finally, I ask you to transfer all cases of human rights violations committed by members of the military to courts of law.</u></u></p>	<p>Description of the specific action required to meet the desired outcome</p>
<p>Complimentary close</p>	<p><u>Thank you for your attention to these urgent matters.</u></p>	
	<p>Sincerely Alex Citizen</p>	<p>Your signature – remember, it is more powerful than you think</p>

ATENA DAEMI, IRAN**FREEDOM FROM TORTURE AND INHUMANE TREATMENT**

Like so many, Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. She's written Facebook and Twitter posts criticising the country's execution record. She's handed out leaflets. And she's taken part in a peaceful protest against the execution of a young woman. Simple actions which sadly, in Iran, take great courage. Incredibly, for these activities Atena has been sentenced to seven years in jail.

Her trial was a farce – it took just 15 minutes and she was convicted on trumped-up charges, including “colluding to commit crimes against national security”. In prison she's been beaten, pepper sprayed and forced into solitary confinement, but she continues to fight for human rights. Earlier this year, she went on hunger strike and her health has deteriorated.

Atena's imprisonment is just one cruel example of Iran silencing peaceful activism. Dozens have been imprisoned, and many others face surveillance, interrogations and drawn-out prosecutions, forcing them into silence.

Address your letter to: The Head of the Judiciary, Iran.

Key point for your letter: Urge him to release Atena Daemi immediately and unconditionally.



Atena, an anti-death penalty campaigner imprisoned in Iran.
© Private

NONHLE MBUTHUMA, SOUTH AFRICA**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LAND RIGHTS**

Nonhle Mbuthuma won't back down. She's leading the fight for her community against a mining company which wants to mine titanium on their ancestral land. “When you take my land, you take my identity,” she says.

Nonhle is part of the Amadiba traditional community, an Indigenous People with communal rights to land on South Africa's Eastern Cape. Around 5,000 people may be forcibly evicted if the company is allowed to mine the land. They could lose their homes, livelihoods and whole way of being.

Nonhle founded the Amadiba Crisis Committee to unite people across five villages to push back. Since then, she has been continually intimidated and threatened and even survived an attempt to kill her. Another community leader was shot dead in 2016 and Nonhle was next on the ‘hit list’.

She believes the threats are an attempt to silence her and force her to flee her land. But she's determined to resist. As she says: “This land was my grandmother's, who inherited it from her grandparents. What am I going to leave for my children? Mining is not an option.”

Address your letter to: The President of South Africa

Key point for your letter: Urge his government to protect Nonhle Mbuthuma and investigate the harassment and intimidation targeted at her.



Nonhle Mbuthuma from the Xolobeni community in Eastern Cape, South Africa. © AI

GERALDINE CHACÓN, VENEZUELA**HARASSED FOR EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE**

Geraldine Chacón always wanted to defend other people. Aged nine, she dreamed of being a lawyer. At 14, she stood for her local youth government. And at university, she started a network of Amnesty International activists pushing for change. As her mum says, “Any injustice she saw, she fought against.”

This passion inspired her to work for an organisation which empowers young people in some of the poorest areas of Caracas, her home city. But then, in February 2018, this young, enthusiastic member of her community was arrested in her home by armed officials.

The authorities wrongly linked her with “resistance” groups they accused of organising violent anti-government demonstrations. In fact, her persecution is part of a wider government crackdown on those who criticise the authorities and stand up for human rights during the current Venezuelan crisis.

After four months jailed in appalling conditions, Geraldine was conditionally released in June 2018. But she can't leave the country and her case is still open – so she could be arrested again at any time for no reason. She and many peaceful activists here face daily intimidation, just for trying to make their country a better place.

Address your letter to: Attorney General, Venezuela

Key point for your letter: Tell him to close the case against Geraldine and give her unconditional freedom, so she can keep on standing up for young people in Venezuela.



© Fabiola Ferrero/
VII Mentor Program



When I first lit the Amnesty candle, I had in mind the old Chinese proverb: 'Better light a candle than curse the darkness'.

Peter Benenson

GET CREATIVE

Write for Rights is all about shining a light on the work of courageous human rights defenders – so this year brighten up your classroom with a Write for Rights lantern! You could even make some to share with your family – and get the whole family to take part too.

1. Download the lanterns template from [amnesty.org.au/write-for-rights-activist-resources](https://www.amnesty.org.au/write-for-rights-activist-resources)
2. Print your lanterns out (make sure you print them single sided and in colour). You need two sheets to make a lantern.
3. Get folding!

You could also:

- Share a lantern with each classroom, along with actions for students to take.
- Ask your school principal to keep a lantern on their desk. Grab a photo of them with the lantern and see if you can get it in the school newsletter.

SHORT ON TIME?

On the next pages you'll find petition sheets for each of these cases. If you are short on time, you can use these to collect as many signatures for these four cases as you can.



Amnesty International Japan hold a 'Shine a light' event at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. December 2012. © AI Japan



Letter writing event in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, December 2016. © Marieke Wijntjes / AI



Activists collect signatures for Write for Rights around Lomé, Togo. December 2017. © AI

Dear Head of the Judiciary in Iran,

I urge you to release Atena Daemi immediately and unconditionally, and to quash her sentence and conviction. She is a human rights defender who has done nothing more than peacefully campaign against the use of the death penalty in Iran. She is a prisoner of conscience who has been imprisoned for seven years solely for peacefully exercising her right to freedom of expression, association and assembly.

Atena Daemi has been in poor health while imprisoned. Therefore, I call on you to ensure that she is granted access to the specialized medical care she requires outside prison. She must be released today.

Yours sincerely

Like so many, Atena Daemi dreams of an end to the death penalty in Iran. She writes Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram posts, hands out leaflets, and joins peaceful protests.

Incredibly these simple actions were used as “evidence” to sentence her to seven years in prison.

Her trial took just 15 minutes and she’s faced violence and degrading treatment behind bars.

It’s one more cruel example of Iran silencing peaceful activism.

Tell Iran: Atena Daemi must go free today.

NAME	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	MOBILE	DATE OF BIRTH

Published: 4 October 2018

All personal information you provide will be collected, stored and used in accordance with our privacy policy: www.amnesty.org.au/privacy. We may use the information you provide to let you know about our campaigns and activities.

**Return all petitions to your local Amnesty Action Centre or post to Brave Campaign, GPO Box 968, Hobart TAS 7001.
For more information visit amnesty.org.au or call 1300 300 920.**

WAR-980



DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Tell us who collected this petition _____



Dear President of the Republic of South Africa

I urge you and your government to protect Nonhle Mbuthuma, the Amadiba community leader in the Eastern Cape. She is a peaceful human rights defender standing up for her community to protect the land they rely on.

Please also conduct a full and proper investigations into the harassment and intimidation targeted at her and other activists as they stand up to the actions of the mining company Transworld Energy and Mineral Resources (TEM).

Yours sincerely

Nonhle Mbuthuma is leading the fight for her community against a subsidiary of an Australian mining company which wants to mine titanium on their ancestral land.

But she's being harassed and threatened, and has even survived an attempt to kill her.

Someone is trying to silence her, but she won't back down: "When you take my land, you take my identity."

Tell South Africa to protect Nonhle.



NAME	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	MOBILE	DATE OF BIRTH

Published: 4 October 2018

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For more information visit amnesty.org.au or call 1300 300 920.

Tell us who collected this petition _____

WAR-984



DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

Dear Attorney General, Venezuela

I urge you to formally close the case against Geraldine Chacón and grant her unconditional freedom. She is a peaceful human rights defender who has not advocated violence at any stage. Geraldine was arrested, detained in appalling conditions for four months and intimidated solely on the basis of her peaceful work with young people in Caracas.

Though conditionally released in June 2018, she can't leave the country and could be arrested again at any time for no reason. A passionate and active young member of society should be celebrated, not silenced.

Yours sincerely

Geraldine Chacón always dreamed of defending others. That's why she helps empower young people in her home city to stand up for their rights.

But she's being hounded by the authorities just for trying to make her country a better place.

They imprisoned her for four months and banned her from leaving the country.

Her case still isn't closed so she could be arrested again at any moment, with no warning.

Tell Venezuela to stop harassing Geraldine.



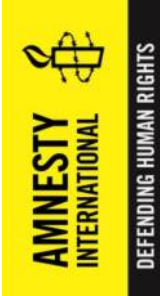
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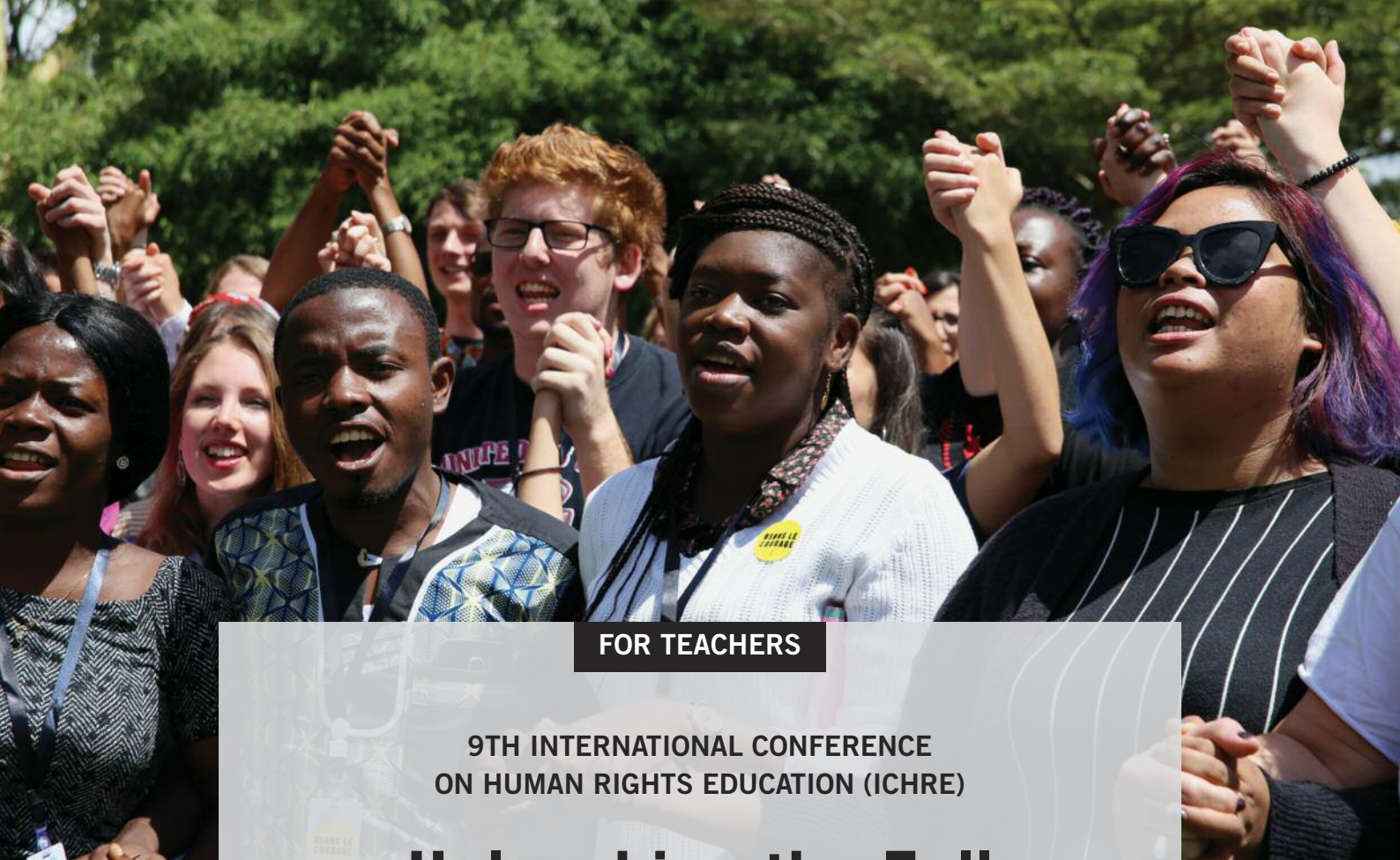
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Return all petitions to your local Amnesty Action Centre or post to **Brave Campaign, GPO Box 968, Hobart TAS 7001**.
For more information visit amnesty.org.au or call 1300 300 920.

WAR-986





FOR TEACHERS

**9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ON HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (ICHRE)**

Unleashing the Full Potential of Civil Society

**26–29 November 2018
Western Sydney University, Parramatta South Campus**

Join hundreds of Australian and international HRE experts, practitioners, decision makers and thought leaders from government, civil society, academia and the private sector to discuss how human rights education can develop and strengthen civil society.

Much work has been done to improve education on human rights globally, but there is still work to do to embed these principles into everyday thinking and civil society.

This will be the 9th International Conference on Human Rights Education (ICHRE), a series of dialogues on human rights education as a means of promoting democracy, the rule of law, justice, and intercultural and social harmony.

- Learn about the latest research, practices and trends in human rights education (HRE).
- Participate in thought-provoking and practical paper and workshop presentations.
- Strengthen practical skills through HRE workshops.
- Share information and experiences on HRE.
- Engage with a grassroots movement which is dedicated to improving HRE.
- Foster contacts and networks and explore partnerships and collaboration.

REGISTER NOW: WWW.ICHRE2018.COM.AU