

2022

# A HUMAN RIGHTS AGENDA

FOR THE NEXT AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT

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DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

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# FOREWORD

Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 10 million people which mobilises the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. Our vision is of a world where those in power keep their promises to respect international law and are held to account. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and individual donations. We believe that acting in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere can change our societies for the better.

More than 500,000 Amnesty supporters live in Australia. We're ordinary people from all walks of life, standing together for justice, freedom, human dignity and equality.

In 2022, Australians will elect their next government. Elections give voice to the people. Elections are a chance for people to make a statement: what country do we want Australia to be over the next three years and beyond? Who do we want to represent us? And what values do we want our elected representatives to hold?

These are exceptional times. Exceptional times demand exceptional leadership.

The Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis have laid bare the devastating consequences of abuse of power, structurally and historically. These crises may not define who we are, but it has shown us what we should not be. The foundations for a sustainable, post-pandemic society rest not merely on recovery. It requires accountability, human rights, and a reshaping of our relationship to our environment, economy and each other.

Amnesty International is calling on the next Australian Government to put human rights – both here at home and abroad – at the heart of all policy decisions and to re-establish Australia's place in the world as a free, fair and caring country and human rights leader.

Seven decades ago, Australia played a crucial role in developing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. However, Australia today remains the only liberal democracy without overarching human rights protection, and issues of racism, discrimination, children's rights and the right to seek asylum, among others, continue to beleaguer our society.

Human rights offer solutions to these problems.

At their core, human rights are about respecting the dignity of every one of us. Human rights matter because someone's quality of life should not be determined by factors beyond their control – race, gender, socio-economic background, sexuality or age. The work of government is central to whether and how these rights are protected.

The following calls are an agenda for our next government to help Australia better uphold human rights. They are about making an impact on people's lives, for the better. They're about ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander kids get an equal shot at life. They're about giving people seeking refuge the safety they couldn't find at home. They're about us building a country where everyone is treated with respect. They're about pushing Australia to be a global leader when it comes to making the world a safer place for people everywhere.



**Samantha Klintworth**  
National Director  
Amnesty International Australia

# PLEDGE

**We encourage the next Australian Government – irrespective of whoever forms it – to ensure human rights are a bedrock on which domestic and international policy is formed.**

As part of its recommended human rights agenda, Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Legislate a national Human Rights Act;

Increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age;

Invest in Indigenous-led solutions that support children, families and communities to stay strong and together;

Increase the annual refugee resettlement intake to at least 30,000 people;

End the system of offshore detention and accept the New Zealand offer of resettlement;

Provide permanent protection to those on Temporary Protection Visas and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas;

End the indefinite detention of people seeking asylum;

Create a fair and affordable Community Sponsorship Program for refugees;

Proactively raise awareness of the harmful impacts and ineffectiveness of conversion practices on LGBTQIA+ young people;

End non-emergency, invasive and irreversible medical interventions on infants and children with variations in sex characteristics;

Allow individuals to self-identify their sex or gender on identification documents;

Ensure that no legislation privileges religious views to the detriment of LGBTQIA+ people;

Fully fund the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children;



Commit to a dedicated National Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women;

Establish a bipartisan National Anti-Racism Strategy;

Strengthen 2030 carbon emissions target and significantly accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels, including coal and gas;

Increase funding for the Australian Human Rights Commission;

Redistribute all surplus Covid-19 vaccine stocks to low- and lower-middle income countries;

Support, promote, and resource international initiatives that encourage open and non-exclusive vaccine manufacturing licences, including knowledge and technology transfer;

Continue the strong bipartisan support to end the death penalty worldwide and commit funds to support this effort;

Stop supplying arms to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other states where there is an overriding risk that such weapons will be used to commit or facilitate human rights abuses;

Deliver all recommendations of the Brereton Report, develop a permanent international crime mechanism resourced to provide effective access to justice for all those in Afghanistan affected by breaches of human rights carried out by Australian forces;

Allocate at least 20,000 humanitarian places, in addition to the existing program, to those fleeing the Taliban;

Use all bilateral, multilateral, and regional platforms to urge the Chinese government to end any crimes under international law and allow independent human rights investigators unrestricted access to Xinjiang;

Lead the call for targeted multilateral sanctions against Myanmar's military chief Min Aung Hlaing and other senior officials responsible for atrocity crimes.





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## DOMESTIC

### Human Rights Act

Human Rights protect us all, ensuring every person in our society is treated fairly and justly, regardless of our cultural background, race, gender, age or belief.

Australia played an important role in developing vital international treaties on human rights. While many of these fundamental human rights are reflected in laws and policies, many gaps remain.

Australia is the only liberal democracy without a bill of rights or an equivalent law that protects the rights of all of its people. This means that many human rights may not be adequately protected and promoted at a federal level, and there is a varying level of protection across states and territories.

We need to ensure the rights of all Australians, including the most vulnerable, are promoted and protected. This includes the right to protest, which allows people to raise their voices to create change and make the world a more fair, free, and just place. A national Human Rights Act would ensure this.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to legislate a national Human Rights Act.

### Indigenous People's rights

Indigenous People are over-represented in many of the most unfavourable national statistics; imprisonment, suicide, youth suicide, mortality –the list goes on. Ensuring Indigenous People can access their rights is central to Amnesty International's goals.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to implement a national youth justice plan that aims to end the over-representation of Indigenous children in the youth justice system by;

Ensuring the Federal Attorney-General recommends each state and territory commit to raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility to at least 14 years of age, in line with international standards, and meet the recommendations of health and legal experts worldwide;

Investing in Indigenous-led solutions that support children, families and communities to stay strong and together;

Getting children who are not sentenced out of prison;

Adequately funding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled legal and other support services and retaining the Indigenous Legal Assistance Program; and

Ending abusive practices in prisons, including by ensuring the relevant recommendations of the Northern Territory Royal Commission are applied nationwide, and by continuing with the implementation of Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture.

**Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to legislate a national Human Rights Act.**



# Refugees and people seeking asylum

Amnesty International recognises the important role Australia has played in resettling vulnerable refugees through the humanitarian program, but we can be doing so much more.

The current humanitarian program is at its lowest in 45 years, with only 5947 visas issued out of a reduced annual program of 13,750 places. This is in stark contrast to countries like the United States, which have committed to increasing their humanitarian intake to 125,000 by the end of 2022.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to increase the annual refugee resettlement intake to at least 30,000 people, prioritising those selected by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees.

**Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to increase the annual refugee resettlement intake to at least 30,000 people, prioritising those selected by UNHCR.**

## TREATING PEOPLE WITH DIGNITY

Amnesty remains deeply critical of Australia's treatment of people who have sought refuge here. Australia's offshore detention regime is inhumane and inefficient. Although Australia will end its arrangement with Papua New Guinea regarding offshore processing by the end of 2021, a new Memorandum Of Understanding was signed with Nauru only this year.

The next Australian Government must end the system of offshore detention and accept the New Zealand offer of resettlement so refugees who have been trapped can finally find safety.

Temporary Protection Visa (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visa (SHEV) holders are recognised refugees, unable to return to their home countries because of the risk of persecution. Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to end the discriminatory practice of these visas and transfer all current holders to permanent protection visas.

All people seeking asylum should be guaranteed access to legal representation while their claims are being processed and should have access to a meaningful appeals process. Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to ensure people who seek asylum in Australia are treated humanely and can have their asylum claims assessed in a timely, fair and efficient manner.

Under Australia's current policy of mandatory detention, people seeking asylum who arrive without adequate documentation are held in immigration detention pending the outcome of their asylum claim. The only way their detention can come to an end under Australian law is for the person to be granted a visa enabling them to remain lawfully in Australia or be removed or deported to another country. Those whose detention cannot be ended in any of these ways must continue to be detained. This can result in a person being subject to a lifetime of detention without charge, trial or access to an effective remedy. Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to make comprehensive amendments to the policy and legislation to ensure that no person is detained in violation of their human rights.

## GREATER TRANSPARENCY

Australia should end dangerous boat pushbacks and ensure Operation Sovereign Borders is subject to the same transparency and accountability requirements we would expect of any government agency. The current situation – where operations at sea are secret, whistleblowers are criminalised, and journalists and non-government organisations cannot visit Australian-funded centres offshore – is unacceptable.

The next Australian Government must ensure transparency and accountability of all aspects of Australia's refugee policy.

**Amnesty International is calling on the next Australian Government to reform the Community Sponsorship Program.**

## REFORMING THE COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Community-led resettlement provides a viable pathway for refugees to rebuild their lives in Australia.

Amnesty International has consistently called for a fair and accessible Community Sponsorship Program to enable broader participation from families, groups and businesses. At more than \$20,000 per person, the cost of the current program is too expensive and bureaucratic for ordinary Australians who want to welcome refugees into their communities.

For Australia to do its fair share in meeting the global need for people seeking asylum, Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to reform the Community Sponsorship Program.

Any new program must be above and beyond any existing humanitarian visa quotas. Ensuring community sponsorship places are additional to Australia's existing humanitarian intake will mean that the government is not merely passing the buck by shifting their responsibility onto the community.



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# LGBTQIA+ rights

The resounding victory of the marriage equality plebiscite showed Australians support inclusion and deplore discrimination.

Yet members of the LGBTQIA+ community continue to face structural barriers that inhibit their ability to participate in society fully.

## CONVERSION PRACTISES

LGBTQIA+ young people are more likely to experience mental health issues, yet Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Change Efforts (SOGICE), or so-called “conversion therapy” programs, continue to be practised in our country.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to work with states and territories to:

Actively raise awareness of the harmful impacts and ineffectiveness of these “therapies”;

Hold an inquiry into their extent, prevalence and harm;

Regulate mental health professionals, counsellors, and school programs to prohibit Sexual Orientation & Gender Identity Change Efforts; and

Support and fund LGBTQIA+ and mental health organisations to boost awareness and support survivors; and

Implement other recommendations, as outlined by the SOGICE Survivor Statement, to address the LGBTQIA+ conversion movement, prevent further harm, and support survivors.

## EDUCATION

Research indicates that LGBTQIA+ children and young people are more likely to experience discrimination, bullying and abuse than other children and young people and are significantly more at risk of suicide, self-harm and mental health impacts as a result. 80% of homophobic bullying involving LGBTQIA+ young people occurs at school and profoundly impacts their well-being and education. LGBTQIA+ children have a right to be respected, included and supported in school and to see themselves reflected in the curriculum.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Ensure children are taught about sexual orientation and gender identity in schools;

Ensure trans and gender-diverse students are given the support they need to thrive at school;

Ensure teachers, counsellors and other staff and volunteers are able to provide that support and fulfil their duty of care to students without fear of being disciplined or fired; and

Amend the Sex Discrimination Act to ensure that religious schools cannot discriminate against students, teachers and other staff.

## ANTI-DISCRIMINATION

Attempts to wind back the rights and hard-fought protections of LGBTQIA+ people must be rejected. Our laws must protect us all, equally. The rights of one group cannot come at the expense of the rights of others.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Ensure that no legislation privileges religious views to the detriment of LGBTQIA+ people;

Amend all anti-discrimination legislation to prohibit religious organisations or educational institutions in receipt of public funding or those providing services on behalf of the government, discriminating in the provision of those services in ways that would otherwise be unlawful;

Ensure no legislation allows doctors, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, and psychologists to refuse treatment to people on religious grounds;

Ensure no legislation removes discrimination protections for LGBTQIA+ people, women, people with disability and others when people make statements which are discriminatory based on religion; and

Commit to including LGBTQIA+ questions in the next census, and, in the meantime, support health and social services to understand the needs of the LGBTQIA+ community.



# **Eradicating violence against women**

## **INTERSEX RIGHTS**

In Australia, people with variations in sex characteristics are routinely subjected to medical interventions without free, prior, informed consent, typically in infancy, childhood or adolescence.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to work with states and territories to:

End non-emergency, invasive and irreversible medical interventions on infants and children with variations in sex characteristics to ensure the full enjoyment of the rights of persons with variations in sex characteristics; and

In consultation with intersex persons and organisations, take other measures necessary to combat inequality, violence and discrimination against intersex people.

## **GENDER IDENTITY DOCUMENTS**

Most Australians take their identity documents for granted. For many transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people, having their birth certificate correctly state their gender means everything. But right now, many transgender people are forced to undergo invasive “sex reassignment surgery” before being able to correct their birth certificates.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to work with states and territories to:

Allow individuals to self-identify their sex or gender on identification documents, including birth registration;

Remove the current requirement for an individual to have undergone “sexual reassignment surgery” before a reassignment of sex in the person’s birth record; and

Enable parents to choose how they are recorded on a birth or adoption registration.

Violence against women is one of the most prevalent human rights abuses in Australia. As a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Australia has committed to take action so that women can live free from violence. However, current funding for specialist legal services, service providers and primary prevention programs is inadequate to address and remedy the violence.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women experience disproportionately high rates of violence resulting from more than two centuries of colonialism, dispossession and discrimination.

Trans women and gender diverse people also experience violence at greater rates than the general population.

To ensure that everyone can live free from violence, Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Work with the states and territories to fully fund the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children;

Commit to a dedicated National Plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women;

Increase funding for Family Violence Prevention Legal Services and other specialist legal services, service providers, social housing, and primary prevention programs;

Introduce paid domestic violence leave for all Australian workplaces; and

Introduce a national definition of domestic violence that includes coercive control behaviours.

## **Eliminating racism and discrimination**

Every person should be free to live without fear and abuse, whether they are of Asian, African, Indigenous, Muslim or Jewish background or are part of any other religion or cultural minority.

Yet, in the past few years, we have witnessed an increase in discriminatory behaviour towards sections of our community based on their ethnicity or religion. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have continued to face racism and discrimination for centuries.

With racial inequality firmly in the spotlight, now is the best time for Australia to act.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to establish a bipartisan National Anti-Racism Strategy to halt the rising tide of hate and promote social cohesion at all levels of Australian society. It must work towards equality in policing, health care, housing, education and employment.

### **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Over the last year, Amnesty International has worked with nursing graduates from refugee and migrant backgrounds who have first-hand experience of the disadvantage they face to obtain professional registration with the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, despite having successfully completed their tertiary education in Australian institutions.

Amnesty International calls on the next Government to remove these barriers in employment resulting from arbitrary and discriminatory English language tests, and ensure everyone has an equal employment opportunity.

## **Human rights education and advocacy**

Properly funded and resourced human rights education would allow individuals and communities to better understand their rights and responsibilities.

Human rights institutions such as the Human Rights Commission must be funded appropriately, and charities and not-for-profits should be able to advocate for justice and equality without fear of repercussions.

Australian school children should be taught their rights from a young age so that children can stand up for the rights of themselves and others.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Progressively increase funding for the Australian Human Rights Commission;

Commit to a transparent and open process to appoint Human Rights Commissioners;

Include human rights education in the new F-10 Australian Curriculum and fund human rights education in all Australian schools; and

Reject attempts to penalise and deregister charities for fulfilling their mandates and holding the powerful to account.



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# Covid-19: End global vaccine inequality

Covid-19 presents the greatest human rights challenge of a generation. While the development of effective vaccines has provided hope to many, how governments like Australia's respond now will determine the lives of billions worldwide.

So far, the vaccine roll-out has been massively skewed towards wealthy countries. Vaccine developers have monopolised intellectual property and blocked technology transfers, in some cases selling vaccine doses almost exclusively to the highest bidder. Meanwhile, in countries like Australia, the government has been buying up available vaccine doses at rates far greater than what's required to fully vaccinate the Australian population. Combined, this has meant predictable – and artificial – vaccine scarcity for the rest of the world.

We need world leaders to work together and commit to ambitious targets that will see the maximum number of people around the world vaccinated as soon as possible while ending the monopoly big pharmaceutical companies hold over life-saving vaccines.

To achieve this, Amnesty International is calling on the next Australian Government to:

Redistribute all surplus Covid-19 vaccine stocks to low- and lower-middle income countries. Key to this is renewing the contract with AstraZeneca to produce vaccines domestically;

Put measures in place, including legislation, to prevent vaccine developers from impeding access to Covid-19 vaccines;

Support, promote, and resource international initiatives that encourage open and non-exclusive licences, including knowledge and technology transfer and temporary waivers on intellectual property rights;

Make public funding to companies transparent and conditional on companies sharing intellectual property, knowledge and technology, joining global vaccine supply and technology sharing mechanisms, and publicly disclosing disaggregated costs of research, development, production, marketing, distribution and all other relevant data in a timely and accessible fashion;

Allow contractual flexibility regarding delivery terms to ensure that those most at risk globally get access to the vaccines in a timely manner, in particular where sudden Covid-19 outbreaks require urgent responses; and

Publicly disclose terms and conditions of agreements with vaccines developers, including funding, advance purchasing and purchasing agreements.

**We need world leaders to work together and commit to ambitious targets that will see the maximum number of people around the world vaccinated as soon as possible while ending the monopoly big pharmaceutical companies hold over life-saving vaccines.**



# Human rights and the climate crisis

The climate emergency is a human rights crisis of unprecedented proportions. It is already wreaking havoc on the lives of millions of people, deepening inequalities and discrimination, threatening the enjoyment of most of our rights and the future of humanity.

At the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Australia was the only country among advanced economies that refused to strengthen its 2030 emissions target. The Australian Government was one of the main blockers of global momentum to reduce emissions by resisting calls for a phase-out of coal. It also did not join the 100 countries that signed on to a new Global Methane pledge.

Pressure – both domestic and international – is mounting on Australia. The Glasgow Climate Pact has called on countries to strengthen their 2030 climate targets in 2022 to limit warming to 1.5°C – a matter of survival for many vulnerable communities.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to return to the United Nations climate summit next year with a stronger 2030 target. This is a matter of human rights and justice for the world's most vulnerable communities, who have contributed little to the causes of climate change but are hit first and hardest by its impacts.

Australia cannot rely on offsetting emissions from the continued burning of fossil fuels through carbon markets and unproven carbon removal technologies or through changes in land use that may carry grave human rights implications, such as reducing the land available for growing food. Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to significantly accelerate the phase-out of fossil fuels, including coal and gas.

While recognising that Australia's climate finance has been all in the form of grants and has given appropriate priority to adaptation, it has only contributed a relatively small amount towards that shared goal of US\$100 bn per year. Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to follow other countries in significantly increasing its contribution. Importantly, we strongly advocate that the Government recommence its contributions to the Green Climate Fund, noting that this has been a consistent request from our Pacific neighbours.



## Death penalty

Amnesty International opposes the death penalty in all cases without exception, regardless of the nature or circumstances of the crime; guilt, innocence or other characteristics of the individual; or the method used by the state to carry out the execution. We campaign for the total abolition of capital punishment.

Whatever form it takes – hanging, lethal injection, beheading, stoning or electrocution – the death penalty is a violent punishment that has no place in today's criminal justice system.

In December 2020, Australia was among the 77 countries that co-sponsored the UN General Assembly resolution calling for the establishment of a moratorium on executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to continue the strong bipartisan support to end the death penalty worldwide and commit funds to support this effort. This strategy should include stepping up efforts to lobby countries that retain the death penalty, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region and those with whom Australia has close ties.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to raise the abolition of the death penalty as a priority human rights issue through bilateral and multilateral engagements, including during countries' Universal Periodic Review.

## Arms trade

In recent years, the Australian Government has approved the sale of arms manufactured in Australia to dozens of countries where horrific human rights abuses have been committed. These countries include Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, which have engaged in a war in Yemen where they have committed war crimes, including targeting hospitals, school buses and markets with airstrikes.

Australia's defence exports approval process is disturbingly opaque; there is no obligation to release information on what arms are being approved and arms are not traced beyond Australia's borders.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Stop supplying arms to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and other states where there is an overriding risk that such weapons will be used to commit or facilitate violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law; and

Reform the defence exports approval process to ensure transparency on what is being approved, tracking of arms once they leave Australian shores and accountability when Australian-manufactured arms are used to commit or facilitate violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law.

**Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to raise the abolition of the death penalty as a priority human rights issue through bilateral and multilateral engagements, including during countries' Universal Periodic Review.**





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## INTERNATIONAL

**Human rights must underpin Australia's bilateral and multilateral engagements here in the region and globally. In particular, as an important regional player, Australia is well placed to help create a more secure and stable region, where human rights are protected and respected and lead in the protection of some of the region's most vulnerable populations.**

### **Afghanistan**

Australia's engagement in Afghanistan from 2001 to 2021 has deeply impacted human rights in that country. The Brereton Report found evidence of grave human rights violations by Australian special forces soldiers, including the alleged executions of 39 Afghan civilians and prisoners. In Australia, journalists have had their houses and offices searched, and others have been threatened with prosecution for reporting on these violations.

Since the Taliban took over Afghanistan on 15 August 2021, Amnesty International has reported numerous human rights abuses, including the violent repression of peaceful protests, attacks against human rights defenders and journalists, denying women and girls their right to education, and the unlawful killing of ethnic minorities.

**Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to allocate at least 20,000 humanitarian places, in addition to the existing humanitarian program, to those fleeing the Taliban.**

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Deliver all recommendations of the Brereton Report, develop a permanent international crime mechanism resourced to provide effective access to justice and ensure appropriate compensation is made to all those in Afghanistan affected by breaches of human rights carried out by Australian forces;

Allocate at least 20,000 humanitarian places, in addition to the existing humanitarian program, to those fleeing the Taliban;

Consider all Afghan women and girls as prima facie refugees on the grounds of high risk of gender-based persecution;

Reform the Community Sponsorship Program, including by making it more affordable and additional to the current humanitarian intake, so that people can sponsor refugees from countries such as Afghanistan;

Provide permanent protection visas to those from Afghanistan in Australia on temporary visas; and

Continue to provide aid to Afghanistan and demand a commitment from the Taliban to uphold human rights treaties.

## China

The Chinese Government has continued to increase repression to stay in power in Xinjiang, Tibet, Hong Kong and across the country. As a result, it views the global defence of human rights as an existential threat. It has systematically attempted to reframe human rights at international institutions, including the Human Rights Council, opposing the universality of human rights as “Western values.”

Amnesty International’s research has concluded that the Chinese government has committed crimes against humanity in Xinjiang. These crimes have separated people in Australia from their families in Xinjiang, many of whom have had no contact with their loved ones for years.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Use all bilateral, multilateral, and regional platforms to urge the Chinese authorities to end any crimes under international law immediately and other human rights violations, allow independent human rights investigators unrestricted access to Xinjiang and dismantle the system of discrimination and persecution of ethnic minorities in Xinjiang;

Work in concert with other countries to call for the immediate release of all those arbitrarily detained in Xinjiang;

Fast-track applications for Uyghur families, particularly children, to enter Australia for family reunification purposes; and

Ensure that Uyghurs, Kazakhs and other minority groups fleeing repression from the Chinese government are provided with consular and other appropriate assistance, regardless of their immigration status.

## Myanmar

The human rights and humanitarian crisis in Myanmar has continued to remain dire since the coup in February 2021. Without meaningful, united action from the international community, including ASEAN countries, the military has continued to arbitrarily detain, torture and kill protesters and civilians both in the context of coup crackdowns and armed conflict and severely restrict the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

While the rights of all those in Myanmar are under attack, minority groups have been specifically targeted by the military. The Rohingya population continues to be denied their fundamental rights, forced to live under apartheid conditions, with around 126,000 being held in internment camps since 2012. Nearly one million Rohingya refugees continue to live in threadbare camps in Cox’s Bazar, Bangladesh, after fleeing Myanmar, and the future of roughly half a million Rohingya children hangs in the balance.

Amnesty International calls on the next Australian Government to:

Use its position in multilateral forums – mainly through ASEAN and the United Nations Security Council – to lead the call for targeted financial sanctions against Myanmar’s military chief Min Aung Hlaing and other senior officials responsible for atrocity crimes against all ethnic minorities, including the Rohingyas;

Call for the United Nations Security Council to urgently refer the situation in Myanmar to the International Criminal Court to ensure those responsible for atrocity crimes are brought to justice, as well as to impose a comprehensive global arms embargo on Myanmar; and

Provide protection for those at risk in Myanmar and offer those currently in Australia the ability to remain on humanitarian grounds.





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Amnesty International shines a light on human rights abuses, wherever they occur, and encourages our movement of 10 million people across the world, to speak up for justice.

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