

Lisa Annese



Member for 6 years

I first joined AIA in February 2019 as an external member of the Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing Committee and was elected to the National Board in October 2019. In that time, I focused on the governance and resilience of the movement, supporting the National Director and her team to deliver on the strategy and the important work of defending human rights. I have sit on the International Nominations Committee and I Chair the Executive Remuneration Committee. I have worked tirelessly over my career on matters relating to equity and justice for marginalised groups, with a special focus on gender equality, anti-racism and LGBTQI+ inclusion across the government, private and NGO sectors. I am presently the CEO of Chief Executive Women where I advocate for gender equality for women in all their diversity. For almost 10 years, I was the CEO of the Diversity Council Australia where I oversaw seminal research, education, communications, and advocacy focused on creating an inclusive labour market for all, regardless of identity. I have served on Attorney General's Respect at Work Council & NSW Women's Advisory Council and am also on the Board of Women for Election Australia.

Reason for nominating:

I am a considered, thoughtful, and ethical person that cares deeply about human rights. I have participated in AIA in many ways, from the local (Manly) group to the National Board. I am a lifelong champion of diversity and inclusion and able to listen to multiple perspectives and take on board a variety of views informed from a breadth of lived experiences. A successful movement is also a safe, respectful, and inclusive movement and I uphold those values and behaviours. I would bring all of this to AIA's democratic processes and take the role of GMV most seriously.

Faith De Savigné



Member for 15 years

I have been an active member of the Eastern Suburbs Group for many years. In that time, I have participated and helped organise talks, screenings, book launches, protests, Writes 4 Rights as well as adding to our an annual letter writing tally.

Reason for nominating:

I want to become more involved by being able to vote and have some say in the policies and areas that Amnesty wants to consider and focus on.

Tori Edwards



Member for 20+ years

Tori is a social justice lawyer and now Deputy CEO in an advocacy organisation. She has spent her career in the not-for-profit sector delivering legal services and campaigning for systems change for those experiencing disadvantage. She has been involved in Amnesty International Australia and a member for more than 20 years, including two periods on the NSW Branch Committee (now the Activism Leadership Committee).

Tori believes strongly in the power of the people-driven movement that is AIA, and our ability to collectively mobilise for positive change in the advancement of human rights.

Reason for nominating:

I have long-term knowledge of the evolution of AIA's governance as a member of a period of much change in our membership structure and approach to activism. With my career in the not-for-profit sector as a social justice lawyer, and now Chief Operating Officer, I am passionate about good governance and keen to contribute to guiding the organisation on key issues as a GMV.

Ajoy Ghosh



Member for 5 years

"I am serving on the National Board and have done so since 2020. With increasing ethnic and religious conflict, governments beating the drums of war, a rise of misinformation and disinformation and de-funding those holding them to account, human rights advocacy is facing its biggest threat in recent history.

As a board member I am committed to the good governance of AIA ensuring the organisation is sustainable and will be in a good position to endure the upcoming political and financial challenges.

As a member I am deeply committed to AIA's human rights agenda with a particular expertise in privacy, cyber security and artificial intelligence. I am keen to deepen the way our Australian activists work with Amnesty Tech to further our digital rights globally and locally."

Reason for nominating:

As a member of the National Board I am very familiar with the operations of AIA and our upcoming challenges.

Silvia Greco

Member for about 10 years

I have been an activist with Amnesty for a bit more than ten years, starting in my local Eastern suburbs group and now also as regional president for NSW.

I love working with Amnesty activists and seeing the great energy for positive change that we can generate.

Reason for nominating:

I like to contribute to Amnesty's work. Adding a contribution to governance coming from practical activism is important in our grass root movement.

Giles Gunesekara



Member for 35 years

I have been a member of Amnesty International since 1990 and have held a lifelong ambition of a world where human rights exist for everyone.

I was a Director and Treasurer of the Amnesty International Australia National Board from 2010 to 2017 and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee and Remuneration Committees. I also served on the Global Reserves Committee for Amnesty International in addition to the NSW Regional Council.

In January 2023, I was awarded an Order of Australia medal (OAM) for service to social welfare and to the community. I have been honoured with a Fellowship from Monash University for my distinguished service to business and the community and have received an Outstanding Alumnus award from Oxford University for creating an innovative, sustainable business that significantly contributes to social impact.

I hold numerous Volunteer Not-for-Profit Directorships ranging from International Aid, Human Rights, Climate Action, Disabilities, Education, Arts and Sports. I am on Advisory Boards for the United Nations for Climate & Health and Sustainable Finance.

Reason for nominating: I bring to this role a practical knowledge of governance and grassroots activities that Amnesty is actively engaged in, as well as an understanding of the operation of the National Board of Amnesty International Australia and AI globally.

Needeya Islam



Member for 2 years

I am a long standing Amnesty supporter who has been active in the NSW ALC and as a Gaza rep since early 2024. I am passionate about human rights and social justice.

Reason for nominating: We have had a busy and productive 2024 and I would like to be more involved with the Amnesty and human rights community.

Gabe Kavanagh



Member for 20 years

I am an experienced campaigner, strategist, and leader committed to human rights and social justice. I have spent almost two decades driving change in unions, advocacy organisations, and community movements.

I am currently the Divisional Secretary of Public Health at the Health Services Union. I coordinated national campaigns for early childhood educators and higher education workers, combining organising, industrial, and political strategies for lasting impact.

I have deep governance experience, having served on the Board of Amnesty International Australia (2011–2022, Chair 2019–2022), the NSW Rape Crisis Centre, and the Women's Electoral Lobby.

I have extensive experience with Amnesty International, which started at high school by writing letters for prisoners of conscience in Myanmar. Since this time I have been a member of my University group, the NSW Branch Committee, the National Board, a delegate to four International Council meetings and much more in between. I am particularly passionate about refugee and women's rights campaigns. My full CV can be reviewed at: linkedin.com/in/gabe-kavanagh-4428ba6b

Reason for nominating: I am eager to bring my expertise in advocacy, governance, and movement-building to Amnesty's General Meeting, ensuring we remain a powerful force for human rights. I know how critical good governance is to ensuring Amnesty International Australia is a strong organisation. I believe a strong and engaged membership is key to Amnesty's success. I will contribute my expertise in governance, strategy, and advocacy to help shape Amnesty's future. I would be honoured to represent our movement at the AGM.

Carol King



Member for 19 years

I am the Chair of the Activism and Membership Committee (AMC), a committee of the Board of Amnesty International Australia (AIA) with almost 20 years of involvement as a member, activist, local group convenor, and experience in AIA's governance at local, regional and national levels.

Before joining the AMC, I was Secretary of the NSW region from 2008 – 2014, and President from 2014 – 2018. I was a member of AIA's Governance Committee, a committee of the Board of AIA from 2014- 2016, a member of Preparatory Committees for AIA's AGMs, and an elected voting member at most AGMs since 2008. At the local level, I was the Convenor and co-convenor of the Newcastle Amnesty Group from 2007-2012. I have experience in mobilising and organising for campaigns, and in stakeholder consultations with members around campaigning priorities. Key campaigns I have been involved in include the Stop Violence Against Women Campaign and the campaign to end internet censorship in China. I have a strong interest in the rights of First Nations Peoples, women and children, and refugees. Living with an acquired disability, I understand vulnerability and how important it is to be heard.

Reason for nominating:

Amnesty International is unique: a large international movement, powered by members, activists and supporters, working collaboratively across campaigning and decision-making forums. We rely on that People Power to achieve outcomes in our work of drawing attention to human rights abuses and injustice everywhere they exist and bringing pressure to bear on governments and societies. To be a General Meeting Voter at an AGM is an opportunity to engage respectfully and to listen and hear one another so that we make wise decisions that enable us to achieve human rights outcomes.

Peter King



Member for 15 years

I have been involved with Amnesty International Australia for almost 20 years and a member for approximately 15 years. I have served on the NSW Branch Committee (now Activism Leadership Committee) including a term as Treasurer.

From 2007-2012 I was involved with the Newcastle Amnesty Group, organising and supporting local group events for fundraising and awareness raising for key campaigns. I remain interested and engaged in the work of AIA and keep up to date on campaign work and the challenges the movement faces.

Reason for nominating:

The participation of members in shaping the future direction and priorities of Amnesty is vital for a grassroots movement. As a General Meeting Voter, I will bring to the AGM a genuine concern for AIA, and a commitment to the human rights activism of the movement in the fight against human rights abuses and injustice, both domestically and internationally.

Penelope McKinley-Rodgers



Member for 1 year

As the Port Macquarie group convenor, I'm committed to standing up for human rights, dignity, and true equity. My work has always centred on advocacy, community care, and collective action because I believe real change starts locally. As someone living in a regional area, it's easy to feel disconnected from bigger movements, but I believe we all have a responsibility to push for justice and hold power to account.

For years I've worked alongside people facing systemic barriers - supporting women's safety, housing access, and standing with those navigating hardship and crisis. Through both frontline and advocacy roles, I've seen first-hand the impact of deep care, solidarity, and action. I believe in the power of showing up, speaking out, and making sure our communities are part of the fight for a fairer world.

Reason for nominating:

I want to be a General Meeting Voter as a representative from a regional community, and also because it would be a privilege to be part of the process envisioning the bigger picture of Amnesty's work.

Lee Rhiannon



Member for 1 year

In the 1990s I worked with AID/WATCH. I was a co-founder and director for six years. Much of our work involved examining human rights abuses in bilateral and multilateral aid projects. I periodically consulted with Amnesty staff for advice on our investigations. For 18 years I was a Greens MP. In that time I received occasional briefings from Amnesty staff about their campaigns. We used the information Amnesty supplies for parliamentary speeches and to inform some parliamentary committee work. In 2018 I ended my work as a parliamentarian. Since then I have volunteered with various organisations that organise campaigns promoting human rights and democracy in Asian countries. In undertaking this work I have regularly drawn on Amnesty country reports to provide me with up to date information. I used this information to inform my work on high level commissions investigating human rights abuses in the Philippines and Kashmir. I visited those countries to undertake investigative work. In Australia I work with groups promoting respect for human rights in Bangladesh, India, Palestine and the nations where Kurdish people live. Amnesty report have been invaluable for this work also.

Reason for nominating:

I wish to become more involved in Amnesty activities and I understand that being a voting member will assist this endeavour. It will provide an opportunity for me to work collectively with other members in making decisions that will help to determine Amnesty's priorities and direction. I strongly respect Amnesty's internal democratic processes. I believe my own experience would assist me to bring an informed position to the decision making of General Meeting Voters, and would bring a qualitative judgement to this work.