

# YOUTH GROUP AUTUMN GUIDE 2018

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



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This mailing is also available to download at [www.amnesty.org.uk/youth](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/youth)

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## Welcome Back!

We hope you had a great summer break and are full of energy to get your Amnesty Youth Group off to a flying start this term! This guide will help you plan your activities over the autumn so do invest time in reading it. The information in this guide is for the whole youth group so, if you can, please do share it.

## Contact Details

As a youth group, you are part of a wider network of Amnesty activists such as student (university) and local groups, trade union activists, volunteer country coordinators, Regional Media Support Officers and thematic networks (Children's, Women's and LGBTI) all supported by the Community Organising Team at Amnesty International UK (AIUK).



I am the **Community Organiser (Youth)** and your main point of contact. I am the staff member responsible for supporting and empowering youth groups so do please get in touch with me. I love to hear about your activities so do keep me updated with photos and reports.

**Email:** [anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:anne.montague@amnesty.org.uk)

**Telephone:** 020 7033 1590

**Address:**

Amnesty International UK  
Human Rights Action Centre  
17-25 New Inn Yard  
London  
EC2A 3EA

Let's have a great year!

Anne Montague & the Community Organising Team  
Amnesty International UK.

## **Your Start of term pack - What's in it?**

Your beginning of term pack is full of helpful materials to help you make an impact at the beginning of term. Here's a list of what's in the pack:

### **For decoration**

- Balloons
- Posters
- Placards

### **To hand out**

- Badges
- Stickers
- Tattoos (temporary!)
- 'Not Powerless' postcards (with space to add in your meeting times)
- Universal Declaration of Human Rights Passports
- General Join Amnesty leaflet

### **To Read/Share with members of the group**

- This Guide to the Autumn term!
- September Campaign action
- Resources list

### **Want to order more resources?**

Please see the enclosed Resources Guide containing a list of our resources along with their product codes. You can call our mailing house directly to order materials quoting the relevant product codes.

The number is: **01788 545 553**

## Get noticed, get members

Here are a few quick tips on making an impact at the beginning of the academic year.

- It may be an obvious one but holding an assembly or series of assemblies can significantly boost your membership. Also, can you do a short introduction to Amnesty and your youth group during tutor/form times?
- Show a short video (there are lots to choose from. We can help you with this).
- If your school or college has a club/societies fair at the beginning of term make sure you have a stall and that it looks great (the materials in the pack should help you).
- Find other ways to publicise the group and the first meeting – noticeboards, school website and twitter accounts, distribute flyers over lunchtime or after school/college.
- Plan your first meeting well. Make sure it is well-timed, includes everyone and is fun!
- Make sure everyone knows when and where meetings are held (preferably at the same time and venue).
- Have an idea of the campaigns you would like to focus on during the term. Ask new members for their ideas to make them feel involved.

## Campaigns

### Children's Right to Citizenship

Thousands of children grow up in the UK without British citizenship. Many of them are born here and many have the right to claim it. However, some children are essentially being prevented from registering as British citizens as the government charges a large, profit-making fee - it costs the Home Office £372 to register a person but they charge £1012. We think that this profit element should be removed from the children's registration fee in all cases and that children who cannot afford the fee should not pay at all. We are calling on the Home Office to make these changes.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-office-stop-profiteering-childrens-rights>

## Human Right's Defenders

**BRAVE** Right now, people across the world are risking everything to speak out against injustice. Student leaders, political opponents, teachers, lawyers, journalists, women's rights and environmental activists and many others. But they're being harassed, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for what's right. In 2016, at least 281 of these Human Rights Defenders (HRD's) were killed in 22 countries, including defenders who protected the environment, defended minorities, and opposed barriers to women and lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender (LGBTI) rights. BRAVE is Amnesty International's campaign calling for increased recognition and protection of human rights defenders around the world.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/defenders](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/defenders)

## 'I Welcome' Refugees



Our global refugee campaign, '**I Welcome**', launched in October 2016. The aim of the campaign is that refugees are protected, welcomed and enjoy their human rights, including through strengthened global responsibility-sharing and international cooperation. In the UK, the campaign has a number of strands, both at a national and local level. We are currently particularly focussing on the issue of [refugee family reunion](#) and creating a more welcoming environment for refugees already in the UK.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/refugees)

## Write for Rights 2018



Our annual Write for Rights campaign will run from **November 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>**. As well as asking supporters to write appeal letters to the authorities, this is also the time of year when we ask supporters to write directly to people who have suffered from human rights abuse and those who defend them. The cards offer hope and encouragement to the people who receive them, and make a big impression on police, prison staff and political authorities, which can help to keep the recipients safe.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write)

## Human Rights in the UK

We believe that it's crucial that we keep fighting for fundamental and hard-won rights here at home and there are a range of human rights issues to consider within the UK. We will be particularly focussing on campaigning to preserve human rights during the Brexit process as well as our Toxic Twitter campaign which tackles online abuse against women.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/human-rights-uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/human-rights-uk)

## Fundraising

It's a new school year so it's time to start planning your fundraising activities! See below for a great example of fundraising by the amazing Croydon High School Amnesty Group and details on how to send us the money you raise.

### Croydon High School Amnesty Group

**Croydon High School Amnesty Group** raised **£253.41**

last year. They were mostly focused on awareness raising, but they were able to work in some really exciting fundraising ideas in their events.



Croydon High School Amnesty Group's Sing4Rights Event

One of the most impressive events they organised was 'Sing4Rights'. This event was held in the school hall and featured two staff teams, who called themselves the 'Rockers' and the 'Rappers' taking to the stage in fancy dress to entertain the school by answering music-based quiz questions, rocking and rapping to the words of Langston Hughes' Freedom Poem and engaging in a lip-sync battle. All the questions and songs were linked to human rights.

### Send us the Money you Raised

If you have raised money with your Amnesty Group in the last year and haven't got around to sending those funds to Amnesty International UK, now's the time to do it! We have some great campaigns coming up in the next few months, including the 2018 edition of the annual Write for Rights campaign. We rely on support of individuals and groups like you to fund this important work.

To send us money you have raised, you can send a cheque to 'Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust' to Community Organising Team, Amnesty International UK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA' or make a BACS payment using the details below:

Account Name: Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust

Account Number: 65054172

Source Code: 08 02 28

Let us know when you make a donation and what you did to raise the money you're sending us by emailing [richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk).

## Bits & Pieces

### School Speakers

Don't forget that you can book one of our fantastic volunteer Amnesty school speakers. They run free human rights workshops, lessons, assemblies or whole day events in your school. For a list of school speakers in your area please follow the link below.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/speakers](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/speakers)

### Youth Advisory Group – Recruitment open soon!



Each year we recruit a small group of Amnesty youth group members to give us their views on our work such as our campaigns, mailings, website and how we can get more young people involved in Amnesty. We will be welcoming applications for this year's group very soon. You will be sent a separate email about this so look out for it. It really is an amazing opportunity for

youth group members make new friends, build confidence and provide a youth voice within Amnesty International UK. Former members have gone on to take on roles such as members of the Student Action Network Committee, Chair of the Annual General Meeting and member of the AIUK Board.

### Youth Conference 2019



After the success of Youth Conference 2017 we are hoping to hold another one in early 2019. Watch this space for news.

### National Conference & AGM: 13-14<sup>th</sup> April 2019 - Nottingham

Bookings for our annual National Conference and Annual General Meeting will soon be open and we'll let you know when. This is for all our members (not just youth groups) to come together to learn about current campaigns, hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops, meet staff and fellow Amnesty members. Youth Groups are increasingly playing a key role and have full voting rights alongside our local and student groups. It's a great experience for youth group members and we can't recommend it highly enough! [Here is a short film](#) to give you a flavour of what it's like.

# Important Practical Stuff

## Re-affiliations

We are reinstating our regular affiliation process. This means that you will get reminders when your annual affiliation is due. We'd hate you to drop off our mailing list so please do re-affiliate as soon as you get your reminders.

## Monthly Emails

We send youth groups monthly mailings. If you aren't receiving them do please check your junk or clutter folder. If you think the emails aren't getting through the school firewall please talk to your school's IT person. Please get in touch if you have any concerns about your monthly emails.

## Sharing information with your youth group members

We actively encourage information we send in our mailings to be shared with other members of the youth group so that everyone feels empowered and involved in decisions about the group's activities. However, we endeavour to make the content of our mailings suitable for a 14+ age group so do please check the content before sharing.

## Safe-guarding

At Amnesty International UK our priority is to enable children and young people to engage with us in a safe way. We have created a safe-guarding page on our website. Please do have a look if you are interested in finding out more about our safe-guarding policy.

[www.amnesty.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/safeguarding-children-policy)

## Data-Protection

To help groups and activists understand their responsibilities when it comes to data protection, we have prepared a set of guidance which can be downloaded.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/data-protection-guidance-for-groups>