

YOUTH GROUP AUTUMN GUIDE 2023

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Contents

Page

Welcome Back	2
Contact details	2
What's in your Start of term pack?	3
Get noticed, Get members	4
Campaigns	4
Fundraising	5
Bits & Pieces	5-6

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

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

- 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
- About Amnesty leaflets

To Read/Share with members of the group

- This Guide to the Autumn term

Want to order more resources?

Please email activism@amnesty.org.uk

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 social media 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

Write for Rights 2023



Our annual Write for Rights campaign will run from **November 1st to December 31st**. 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-for-rights

Protect the Protest

Throughout history, people coming together in protest has changed the world for the better. From stopping wars, winning human rights victories and standing up against racism - protest has been a powerful tool for achieving change.

But now, right across the world, this precious right is under attack and deserves to be protected from people in power who fear change and don't want to be held to account.

Over the coming year, Amnesty will be campaigning to reverse anti-protest powers in the UK, regulate the trade in policing and security equipment which can be used to torture protesters across the world and telling the story of why the right to protest should be respected, protected and valued. To find out more about the campaign and the issue go to:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/protecttheprotest>

To sign up for email alerts go to: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/help-protect-the-protest>

Fundraising

It's a new school year so it's time to start planning your fundraising activities! Amnesty International UK is a grassroots organisation made up of individuals and groups of ordinary people who share one thing: a passion for human rights. The vast majority of the funds we need to pay for research, campaigns and education work come from contributions from people like you –not from big businesses or government grants. You can help support this important work exposing human rights abuses and fighting for justice by organising a fundraising event with your youth group. All contributions, no matter how small, make a difference. So, whether you organise a small bake sale during your lunchbreak or a massive talent show in the evening after school, you'll be funding work that saves lives, changes unjust laws and helps raising awareness of human rights across the world. To speak to someone in our fundraising team about your youth group's fundraising plans email:

fundraise@amnesty.org.uk

Bits & Pieces

School

Don't forget that [you can book one of our fantastic volunteer Amnesty school educators](#). Engaging with local activists is a great way for school students to learn about human rights and action for a rights-respecting society. Connecting with local activists gives your school the opportunity to immerse your pupils in human rights education for a lesson, workshop or assembly.

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.

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](#).