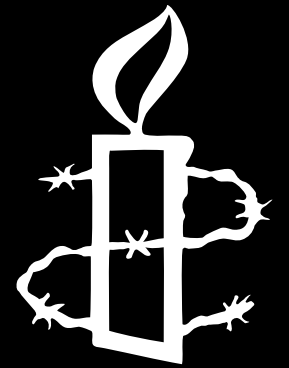


2015

Amnesty International UK
Annual Report 2015





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‘Amnesty International members and activists are my heroes. I want to assure them that this great effort they have shown to me will not be in vain... I promise to be a human rights activist – to fight for others.’

Moses Akatugba, arrested and tortured in Nigeria when he was just 16 and then sentenced to death, was pardoned in 2015 following appeals from Amnesty supporters around the world as part of our Stop Torture campaign

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‘Only when the last prisoner of conscience has been freed, when the last torture chamber has been closed, when the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a reality for the world’s people, will our work be done.’

Peter Benenson, founder of Amnesty International, 1961

INTRODUCTION

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

Human rights begin at home...

2015 will be remembered for the unfolding global refugee crisis and the way in which the world struggled to respond. Europe became a frontline in the crisis and the UK's response became a major focus of our work last year.

We knew about the increasing flow of refugees into Europe, and the dangers they faced in their attempts to reach safety. We were horrified, though, by the sheer scale of the tragedy when search and rescue missions were stopped. The three of us will never forget sitting at the AIUK Section AGM in Warwick and hearing the news that 700 people were feared dead after their boat sank in the Mediterranean.

Amnesty sprang into action immediately, calling on governments to respond. With others campaigning alongside us, our message was heard and search and rescue was restored. The figures are stark. While one in 16 people attempting the crossing in the first four months of 2015 lost their lives, once rescue efforts resumed the death rates dropped to one in 427: still too many but a huge improvement. We were concerned, too, that the UK was not meeting its responsibility for refugees. Taking 20,000 Syrians is a step in the right direction, but nowhere near enough.

Every year the International Secretariat of the Amnesty movement issues a report on the state of the world's human

rights. The report for 2015 warned that governments across the globe were undermining the mechanisms that protect human rights. Worryingly for us, the UK was one of the countries of concern. By failing to respond fully to the refugee crisis on our doorstep, by threatening to repeal the Human Rights Act, by flouting the Arms Trade Treaty through arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the UK not only undermined the rights of people in the UK, but also set a dangerous precedent to the world.

This means that our work had to take a stronger UK focus and through the strategic plan we drew up in 2015 we have decided that it must continue to do so. Human rights exist to protect all of us, all the time. We cannot stand by and see them eroded, here or anywhere else. This is one of the reasons why human rights education is such a priority for AIUK, both here and across the world. By helping people to know and claim their rights we build their understanding. This gives them the skills to stand up for their own rights and those of others, and pass on what they have learned.

Of course, we also have a strong international focus to our work and we saw some major successes in our priority campaigns: Stop Torture, My Body My Rights and Individuals at Risk. We will take a full part in the new global campaigns on people on the move and human rights defenders. We are proud, too, of the financial contribution that we make to the global Amnesty movement where we currently contribute

more than any section to fund the investigations and campaigns that Amnesty undertakes globally.

Amnesty was founded on the belief that if enough of us act together, we will achieve change. Time and again this theory was proven in 2015. Our movement goes from strength to strength: people across the world are working to create a world where human rights protections allow us all to live in safety and dignity.

Good governance underpins all of this. 2015 was a year in which we continued our work to improve the governance of AIUK, in the context of the global standards developed for the whole movement and to reflect changes to company law and other areas of accepted good practice. The aim is to simplify and strengthen our governance arrangements and ensure that the democratic values of the movement remain strong.

We are honoured to lead this organisation and to introduce this report to you. To everyone who has taken action with Amnesty, volunteered, donated or worked for Amnesty over the past year, we offer our heartfelt thanks. Amnesty achieves great things only because of the people who make up this wonderful movement.

Sarah O'Grady, Chair, Amnesty International UK Section
Gareth Davies, Chair, Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust
Kate Allen, Director, Amnesty International UK

ABOUT US

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK

Who we are

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

Our vision

A world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments.

Our mission

To undertake research and action focused on exposing, preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

Our values

- International solidarity
- Effective action for individuals
- Global coverage
- The universality and indivisibility of human rights
- Impartiality and independence
- Democracy and mutual respect.

Strategic direction

Our work in the medium term is framed by our **strategic direction 2011-2016**.

- Pursue and achieve human rights change
- Increase net income
- Raise awareness and educate
- Shape and deliver a more effective global movement
- Build support for Amnesty in the UK
- Become more efficient and effective.



Protest for imprisoned blogger Raif Badawi, London 2015

ABOUT THIS REPORT

Our annual report provides an overview of Amnesty International UK and Amnesty's work, from 1 January to 31 December 2015.

This report aims to show our stakeholders how our organisation is governed, managed and funded, the nature of our work and the extent of our impact. The report covers the combined activity of two legal entities:

Amnesty International United Kingdom Section, a limited company registered in England (number 01735872), which undertakes campaigning work in the UK.

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, a charity registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales (number 1051681), in Scotland with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (number SCO39534) and a limited company registered in England (number 03139939), which funds some of the projects undertaken both in the UK and globally.

We refer to these two entities as **Amnesty International UK (AIUK)**.

Amnesty International UK is one of 68 national entities in the Amnesty International movement. For information on activity elsewhere in the world, please visit www.amnesty.org

How to use this report

There are various active links in this pdf document that can help you navigate through this annual report.

You can click the forward and backward icons to go to the previous or next page.



Weblinks and email addresses

Weblinks or email addresses are active. They are indicated by underlined text eg www.weblink.org

When you click on a weblink it will open a web browser and load the relevant website.

Email addresses will open an email program.

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OUR WORK



We aim to end the abuse of human rights across the world by working in solidarity with the women, men and children directly affected by that abuse. All the work our members and supporters do – from lobbying and media work to fundraising, human rights education and running our organisation – contributes to that goal.

We are part of the global Amnesty International movement. The human rights impact reported here is most often the result of coordinated campaigning by the entire movement, and not of Amnesty UK on its own.

Our top priorities in 2015

Stop Torture – demanding protection from torture for everyone in state custody, through the use of effective safeguards

My Body My Rights – ensuring people can make decisions about their health, body and sexual life without coercion or criminalisation

Save the Human Rights Act – boosting support for the Human Rights Act among the UK public and political parties, and preventing repeal of the Act

Strategic Planning – drawing up a strategic plan for Amnesty International UK, for submission to the annual general meeting of the Section in 2016.

SPOTLIGHT 2015

OUR WORK

You can read about our priority campaigns on the following pages. Here are a few examples of our everyday human rights work.

Campaigning for equal marriage in Northern Ireland

In November, following extensive Amnesty campaigning and lobbying, the Northern Ireland Assembly held a vote on same-sex marriage. While it did not ultimately pass, for the first time a majority of assembly members voted in favour of marriage equality, indicating that Northern Irish politicians are slowly catching up with public opinion.



© Kevin Scott / Press Eye

Exposing indiscriminate attacks in Yemen

We put Yemen's under-reported but bloody conflict firmly on the public, political and media agenda. Amnesty research revealed how indiscriminate attacks by the Saudi-led coalition were destroying hospitals, schools and lives, and unearthed evidence that a British-made bomb was used to destroy a civilian building. We commissioned an expert legal opinion, which concluded that the UK is breaking its own and EU rules, and international law, by continuing to supply arms to the Saudi armed forces in the midst of their bombing campaign.



© AP

Freedom for Shaker Aamer

After 13 years detained in Guantánamo Bay without charge or trial, UK resident Shaker Aamer was finally freed in October. We had campaigned for his release since 2005 but in 2015 we stepped up the pressure, delivering petitions to Downing Street and the White House and working with UK parliamentarians to argue his case with the US authorities.



© Private



Dreams of freedom

Our children's book *Dreams of Freedom*, which combines the words of human rights heroes like Malala Yousafzai, Nelson Mandela and Aung San Suu Kyi with beautiful illustrations from leading artists, was published in March. A drama workshop with Chickenshed Theatre marked the launch of the book, which was described as 'tremendous and moving' by the *Observer*. We produced a teaching pack to accompany the book, for use in the classroom.

625,771
members,
supporters
and activists

#withsyria

We marked the fourth anniversary of the Syrian uprising with candle-lit vigils, urging governments to do more to protect Syrian civilians. We also lobbied the UN Security Council to renew its resolution authorising delivery of aid inside Syria irrespective of the Syrian government's consent. By autumn 2015 more than 5,000 lorry loads of aid had entered Syria, reaching hundreds of thousands of people in desperate need.



Runnymede Amnesty group's vigil in solidarity with Syria

Speaking to Snowden

Two years after he revealed the extent of global mass surveillance programmes, whistleblower Edward Snowden took part in a live Q&A with Amnesty via Skype. The event was timed to coincide with the publication of our report, *Edward Snowden: Two years on*, which traced the impact of his revelations on legal, policy and technological developments linked to the right to privacy. About 1,000 people saw the Q&A online as it happened, and since then more than 65,000 have watched it on YouTube.



Photo courtesy of RADIUS-TWC

FOCUS: INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

Standing up for people whose rights are abused is at the core of Amnesty's mission. Our supporters have the power to make change. That includes helping to release prisoners, change discriminatory laws, compensate victims of abuse, provide moral support and so much more.

We use two basic methods: Urgent Action (UA) aims to protect people in imminent danger of serious abuse. Long-term casework aims to create lasting change in the situation of a person or community. Both approaches depend on our supporters, who send appeals to the authorities, and also direct messages of hope and comfort to the individual or community facing injustice and oppression.

Urgent Action

Our supporters receive Urgent Action appeals from all over the world and they respond by post, email, fax and text to pressure governments. This could be to stop an imminent execution or deportation, protect prisoners from torture, provide necessary medical treatment or support human rights defenders in fear of their lives. In 2015, the 10,000 supporters

in our Urgent Action Network in the UK took action on 629 cases. The five most common concerns were: freedom of expression, prisoners of conscience, the death penalty, fear for safety and risk of torture. See page 13 for our success stories.

Long-term casework

Our supporters in the UK took action on 96 long-term cases in 2015. Human rights issues included enforced disappearance, torture and ill-treatment, restrictions on freedom of expression, unfair trials and detention, harassment and harsh prison conditions.

Amnesty's International Secretariat (our global HQ) initially investigates these cases, and provides information and suggestions for action so that activists can make a real impact. In the UK, our volunteer country coordinators – dedicated volunteers with specialist knowledge – act as a link between the casework and local groups, offering campaign support, lobbying politicians and raising concerns with embassy officials.

Cases are selected for long-term support because we believe we can make a positive impact on a person's situation and perhaps change the systemic causes of the human rights violation. It can take months, sometimes years, to achieve success, but the persistence of Amnesty supporters does work. See page 14 for our successes.

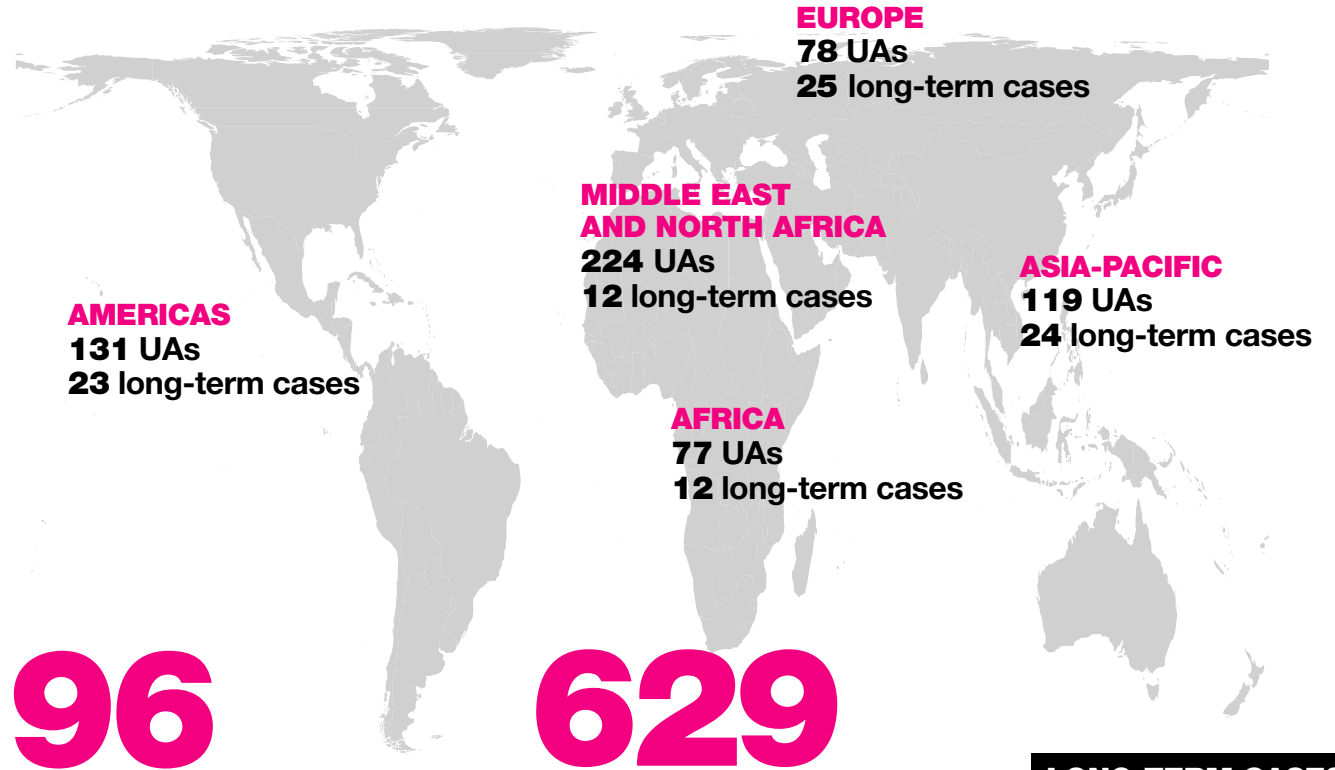


Malaysian cartoonist Zunar thanked everyone for their support by doing what he does best.



‘Then there are the many messages I receive thanks to Amnesty. They warm my heart! They give me energy! It doesn’t matter how many times I am told that support from outside is pointless, I am convinced it is not true.’

Ali Aarrass, Morocco



96

Total number of long-term cases the UK section worked on in 2015

629

Total number of Urgent Actions (UAs) in 2015

LONG-TERM CASES		
Male	61	63%
Female	22	23%
Mixed	13	14%

Write for Rights

Amnesty supporters around the world wrote millions of messages, letters and emails for human rights in November and December.

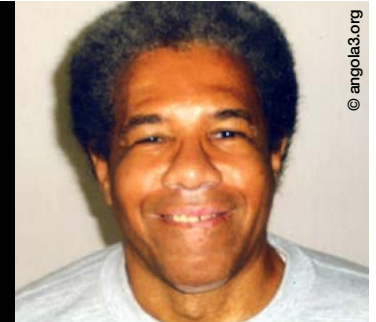
It is part of our annual Write for Rights, the world's biggest human rights campaign. Supporters send direct messages to people whose human rights are being abused, as well as appeals to authorities with the power to remedy the abuse.

More than 3.7 million messages were sent in 2015, some 78,000 of them in the UK. Local groups mobilised the public to get involved through letter-writing sessions, coffee mornings, stalls and other events. On 10 December, when parliament observed International Human Rights Day, 45 MPs and peers joined in the campaign.

This work helps to protect people such as Phyo Phyo Aung, a student protestor locked up in Burma. She told us: 'Receiving letters gives me real inspiration for what we are doing. I have begun to notice that the world is watching and cheering us – we are not alone.'

'Messages from beyond the prison walls have become an enormous source of strength for me as I continue to fight for freedom.'

Albert Woodfox, held in solitary confinement in Louisiana, USA for 43 years before his release in February 2016



© angolias.org

'Receiving letters gives me real inspiration... I have begun to notice that the world is watching and cheering us – we are not alone.'

Phyo Phyo Aung, Burma



© Private

More than **3.7million** people took action worldwide

78,000 from the UK

Urgent Action success

These are cases where we believe our Urgent Actions contributed to a positive difference in 2015. For more information see www.amnesty.org.uk/iar

BAHRAIN

Nader Abdulemam: Released after sentence reduced

Nabeel Rajab: Released on medical grounds (still faces separate charges)

Nafeesa al 'Afsoor: Released

BELARUS

Yury Rubtsou: Released

BRAZIL

Quilombo community, São José de Bruno: Five gunmen detained

BURMA

Four Rohingya leaders: Released

U Sein Than: Released

Thein Aung Myint: Released after sentence reduced

BURUNDI

Bob Rugurika: Released on bail

CAMEROON

Gerard Kuissu: Released

Foudama Ousmane: Received medical treatment

CHAD

Djeralar Miankeol: Released

CHINA

Guo Bin and Yang Zhangqing: Released

Five women's rights activists: Released on bail

CUBA

Danilo Maldonado Machado: Released

Five jailed dissidents: Released

Ciro Alexis Casanova Pérez: Released

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Bienvenu Matumo: Released

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Man arbitrarily deported to Haiti: Returned safely

ECUADOR

Fundamedios: Authorities abandoned plans to shut down the organisation

EGYPT

Peter Greste: Released

Mohamed Fahmy and Baher Mohamed: Pardoned

Yara Sallam, Sanaa Ahmed Seif and 20 others: Prison sentences reduced

Khaled al-Qazzaz: Released

Mohamed Soltan: Released

Azza Soliman and 16 others: Acquittal upheld

Nine Egyptian journalists: Convictions quashed

EL SALVADOR

Carmen Guadalupe Vásquez: Pardoned

EQUATORIAL GUINEA

Celestino Okenve, Antonio Nguema and Miguel Mbomio: Discharged unconditionally

GAMBIA

Alagie Abdoulaye Ceesay: Released

GUINEA

Dogius Koly Théa and Kala Honomou: Released

INDIA

Jaison C Cooper and Thushar Nirmal Sarathy: Released on bail

S Sivadas (aka Kovan): Released on bail

Dalit sisters: Provided with protection

IRAN

Mahdieh Golrou: Released

Salar Shadizadi: Execution postponed

ISRAEL

Mohammed Allan: Released

FOCUS: INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

OUR WORK

KUWAIT

Saleh al-Mulla: Released on bail

Nawaf al-Hendal: Released on bail, charged with 'illegal gathering'

MACEDONIA

Gazi Baba reception centre: Closed

MEXICO

Mario Luna and Fernando Jiménez: Released

NORTH KOREA

Joo Won-moon: Released and returned to South Korea

OMAN

Mahmoud al-Fazari: Released without charge

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Oleg Savvin, Mikhail Feldman and Dmitry Fonarev: Released

SAUDI ARABIA

Souad al-Shammari: Released

Loujain al-Hathloul and Maysaa al-Amoudi: Released

SERBIA

53 Roma families: Demolition of homes suspended; promise of alternative accommodation

SUDAN

Farouk Abu Issa and Dr Amin Maki Madani: Released

Sandara Farouq Kadouda: Released

Yasir Mirghani Abdalrahman and Nasreen Ali Mustafa: Released

Reverend Yat Michael and Reverend Peter Yen: Released

Ferdous Al-Toum: Sentence overturned

SYRIA

Jadi Nofal and Omar

al-Sha'ar: Released on bail

Louay Hussein: Released on bail

SWAZILAND

Bhekithemba Makhubu: Released

THAILAND

Alan Morison and Chutima Sidasathian: Acquitted

TURKEY

Onur Kiliç: Released

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Dr Amer al-Shawa:

Released, deported to Turkey

Mosaab Ahmed 'Abdel-'Aziz Ramadan: Transferred to prison from solitary confinement at secret detention facility

Hamad Ali Mohammad al-Hamadi: Pardoned, deported to Qatar

Dr Mahmoud al-Jaidah: Pardoned, deported to Qatar

Three al-Suwaidi sisters: Released

Yousif Abdulsamad

Abdulghani al-Mullah: Released

USA

Scott Panetti: Granted stay of execution

Rodney Reed: Granted stay of execution

Celia Primero Ismalej and son: Released and granted asylum protection

Bernardo Abán Tercero: Granted stay of execution

Richard Glossip: Granted stay of execution

Kimber Edwards: Death sentence commuted to life imprisonment

Ernest Johnson: Granted stay of execution

VIETNAM

Ta Phong Tan: Released and exiled to USA

FOCUS: INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

OUR WORK

Long-term case success

These are cases where our long-term casework helped to make a positive difference in 2015. Some of these people remain at risk and we continue to work on their behalf. For more information see www.amnesty.org.uk/iar



BURMA
'Unity Five' media workers:
Released
Dr Tun Aung: Released



CHINA
Liu Ping:
Daughter allowed to visit her in prison



EGYPT
Israa al-Taweel:
Released from prison (and from house arrest January 2016)



INDIA
Bhopal communities:
The government increased the numbers of deaths and

injuries for which it was seeking compensation from Union Carbide

INDONESIA
Filep Karma: Released



IRAN
Saman Naseem:
Granted application for judicial review; family able to speak to him after five months of not knowing whereabouts

KENYA
Deep Sea informal settlement: Forced evictions halted temporarily



MEXICO
Claudia Medina:
Charges dropped



NIGERIA
Bodo communities:
£55 million compensation from Shell
Moses Akatugba: Pardoned

USA
Shaker Aamer: Released
Jacqueline Montanez:
Life sentence vacated, awaiting re-sentencing



'I am overwhelmed by all the support and activities done by Amnesty to secure my release.'

Dr Tun Aung, Burma



'I still need your support... the fight for human rights in Papua has not yet finished, the release is only the beginning.'

Filep Karma, Indonesia



'I want to speak to and stand with all of you, carrying on the struggle for justice for everybody who has been oppressed.'

Shaker Aamer, USA

FOCUS: MY BODY MY RIGHTS



Being able to make decisions about our health, body and reproductive lives is a basic human right. My Body My Rights (MBMR) is our global campaign to stop the control and criminalisation of sexuality and reproduction.

In 2015 Amnesty UK focused on Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, where it is illegal to have an abortion in almost all circumstances – even in cases of rape, incest or fatal foetal impairment. We also campaigned for the rights of women and girls in Burkina Faso and El Salvador.

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland has the harshest punishment for abortion in Europe: a woman having an illegal abortion, or anyone assisting her, faces life imprisonment. Abortion is lawful only if there is a risk to the woman's life or of serious long-term damage to her physical or mental health. According to UK government figures, more than 4,700 women and girls – 69 of them under 16 – travelled to have abortions in England and Wales over the last five years. This is likely to be an underestimate.

In June Amnesty made a submission to a judicial review of Northern Ireland's abortion law. It compared Northern Ireland's abortion law with those of other Council of Europe member states and to international human rights standards. The

submission highlighted heartbreaking testimony – published in an Amnesty report the same month – from women who had suffered as a result of the law. Some had miscarriages but were forced to continue a pregnancy with an unviable foetus to full term, with the full knowledge that it would ultimately end in death.

In addition we arranged a high profile series of media interviews with Sarah Ewart, who travelled to London for a termination in 2013 after her first baby was diagnosed with anencephaly, a severe brain malformation. Sarah also took part in Amnesty UK advocacy meetings with Northern Ireland Executive ministers.

In a landmark ruling in November 2015 the High Court in Belfast found that laws governing abortion in Northern Ireland in cases of serious malformation of the foetus and sexual crime are in breach of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. We are now pressing for the court's decision to lead to a change in Northern Ireland's abortion law.

'It was clear to me that if any complication occurred, these people would let me die.'

Lupe, a Spanish woman living in Ireland, who was forced to carry a dead baby for 14 weeks

70% of people in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland want the law reformed

100,000

people watched our online video calling for the Republic of Ireland's abortion laws to be repealed



Republic of Ireland

The Republic of Ireland's abortion laws are arguably even more draconian than Northern Ireland's. Abortion is lawful only where a pregnancy poses a 'real and substantial' risk to the woman's life. The penalty for having an abortion is up to 14 years in prison, and it is even a crime for doctors and counsellors to give women the information they need on how to get an abortion safely. UK government figures show that almost 20,000 women and girls – 152 of whom were under 16 – from the Republic of Ireland travelled to England and Wales for abortions over the last five years.

In October, we released a powerful short film, *Chains*, calling for the Republic to repeal its restrictive anti-abortion laws. It was scripted by *Father Ted* co-writer Graham Linehan and actor Liam Neeson provided the voiceover. To accompany *Chains*, Graham and his wife Helen recorded a moving interview in which they spoke about their personal experience of coping with fatal foetal abnormality.

Both *Chains* and the Linehans' interview generated a great deal of publicity: *Chains* was viewed over 100,000 times on YouTube alone. Our campaign was covered widely across the British and Irish media, and 52,000 Amnesty supporters in the UK signed a petition urging Ireland's Prime Minister to decriminalise abortion.

Helen and Graham Lineham collaborated with Amnesty on a short campaign film calling on Ireland to change its abortion laws.

El Salvador and Burkina Faso

Women in El Salvador who are believed to have broken the country's strict abortion laws face decades in prison. In 2015 we campaigned for an end to the country's criminalisation of abortion, and for the release of 17 women who were imprisoned after suffering from complications with their pregnancies. In a landmark court case, one of these women, Carmen Guadalupe Vásquez, was released in April.

Burkina Faso has one of the lowest rates of contraception use in the world. Forced marriage, although illegal, also remains common. More than 19,000 Amnesty supporters in the UK, including students across the country during freshers' week, signed a petition calling for the president to provide free contraception, improve sexual health information services, and prevent forced marriage.

More than half a million Amnesty supporters around the world (including thousands in the UK) urged the government of Burkina Faso to enforce national and international law against early and forced marriage. In February 2016 the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion announced plans to raise the legal age of marriage for girls to 18 years and to ensure that forced marriage is clearly defined in the criminal code. In its press release, the ministry said it had received correspondence from across the world calling on Burkina Faso to eradicate early and forced marriage.

FOCUS: STOP TORTURE

OUR WORK



The global Stop Torture campaign, launched in May 2014, had some notable successes in 2015. Amnesty UK focused on two countries in particular – Mexico and Nigeria – as well as issues closer to home. Our supporters campaigned for torture victims, raised public and media awareness, and lobbied politicians and government officials. Together, we helped bring about significant progress.

Mexico

Ahead of President Enrique Peña Nieto's visit to the UK in March, Amnesty UK's street action outside the Mexican embassy in London drew attention to the country's appalling record on torture. We delivered a 15,000-strong petition from UK supporters inside a piñata. This featured in over 220 UK and international articles and reports, including on CNN Mexico. Our lobbying helped persuade UK officials and politicians, including the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Scotland, to raise human rights with their Mexican counterparts.

Later in the year almost 20,000 Amnesty supporters in the UK emailed Mexico's Attorney General ahead of a high-level meeting about investigating torture. Subsequently, in August, the Mexican government approved the 'Standardized National Protocol for the Investigation of Torture', which included key

safeguards we had been campaigning for. Although it currently lacks a monitoring mechanism, and there is no guarantee it will be implemented in good faith, it is a positive step.

There was also good news for one of our Stop Torture focus cases. Back in 2012 Claudia Medina Tamariz was tortured and sexually abused until she 'confessed' to drug offences. In February a judge dropped the last remaining charge against her, stating that the sole piece of evidence – a report filed by the marines – was a lie. The judge confirmed that after her arrest Claudia was tortured and sexually assaulted by marines in order to force her to incriminate herself and others.

In June Claudia joined fellow torture victim Ángel Colón on an Amnesty UK-funded lobbying tour of Mexico, which received significant public, political and media attention. 'I am not going to allow even one other woman to be tortured in Mexico. I want punishment for those who tortured me, and that they don't carry on torturing others,' she said.

'I want to thank members of Amnesty International all over the world. More than 300,000 people sent letters about my case.' Claudia Medina Tamariz, Mexico

FOCUS: STOP TORTURE

OUR WORK

Nigeria

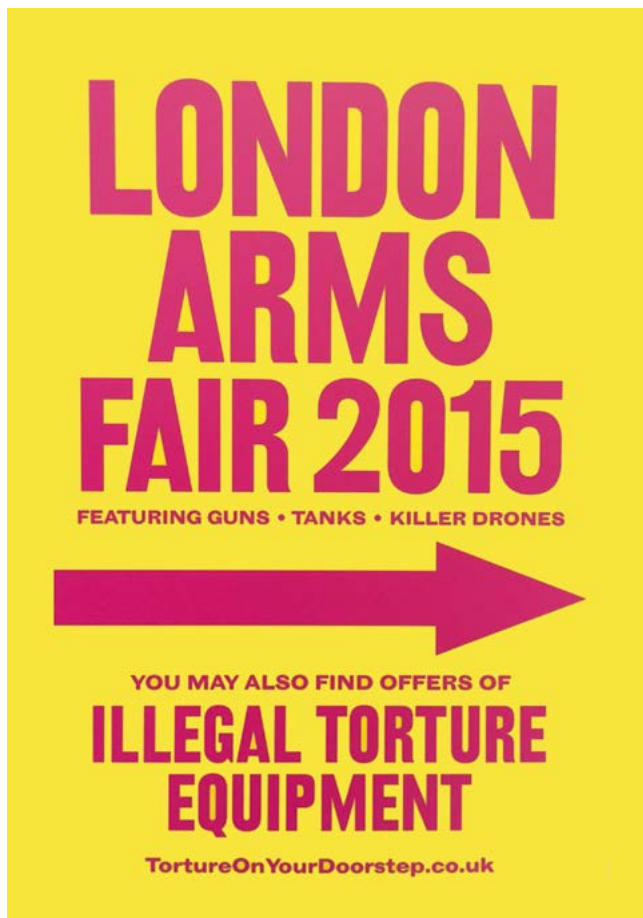
In May, after 10 years in prison, torture victim Moses Akatugba was freed. Moses had been sentenced to death for armed robbery – a crime he says he didn't commit – based on a 'confession' obtained under torture. More than 800,000 Amnesty supporters – including 50,000 in the UK – called for the then Delta State governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan, to commute the death sentence. He pardoned Moses on 28 May.

Supporting survivors

Despite enduring torture and detention after his forcible return to Morocco, Ali Aarrass retains a sense of humour. To show our solidarity with the Belgian-Moroccan, schools across the UK held lessons on Ali's case and the Stop Torture campaign. Pupils wrote jokes, and we picked the 25 funniest, translated them into French, added illustrations, and produced a book for Ali. 'I was moved to know that young people devoted time to do this for me when they could have spent that time for themselves. It's a beautiful gesture,' he said.

23,000

people emailed the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, calling on it to stop torture equipment being illegally advertised in the UK.



Torture trade

In October MEPs voted overwhelmingly to close loopholes in the EU law prohibiting trade in torture equipment, something we have been working for since 2005.

We also called on the UK government to stop the illegal advertising of torture equipment. Our campaign included spoof advertisements (picture left) ahead of the DSEI Arms Fair, where we have regularly found torture equipment being advertised for sale. We subsequently received a letter from a minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills acknowledging the 'very large number of emails... by members of the public responding to Amnesty's "Torture on your Doorstep" campaign, which is evidence of the strength of feeling on the issue.' It also stated that the UK government supported many of Amnesty's recommendations and pledged to work with us. We have to make sure that EU member states agree to the European Parliament's position.

Doctors and torture conference

In January Amnesty UK, the British Medical Association and Freedom from Torture held a conference to explore the ethical and practical challenges facing forensic physicians who work with victims of torture. The London event brought together specialists on medical ethics, torture and its forensic documentation to explore these challenges and what can be done to support forensic health professionals working in this environment.

FOCUS: SAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

OUR WORK

The UK government plans to repeal the Human Rights Act (HRA) and replace it with a 'British Bill of Rights', which could significantly reduce human rights protections. After the May 2015 general election, detailed proposals were promised within 100 days, and then before Christmas. They have since been delayed again, perhaps because the government has realised that repealing the HRA is no simple matter.

Amnesty UK campaigned strongly in defence of the HRA in 2015. Our research showed that repealing the Act is extremely low on the public's lists of concerns – despite the distorted coverage of the issue in much of the media, which has damaged the credibility of human rights in general. The delay has bought time for us to press home the case for retaining the Act.

Changing the narrative

A key part of our defence of the HRA has been to demonstrate how it protects everyone's human rights. Over the year Amnesty UK staff and supporters wrote opinion pieces and letters in the local and national press and gave TV and radio interviews in defence of the Act.

We also highlighted HRA cases that generally receive little publicity. We showed how the Act helped an elderly couple stay together in the same care home, a woman with multiple sclerosis secure more care from her local council, and a child with learning disabilities get support to travel to school. And the Act enabled a legal challenge in Northern Ireland to allow access to abortion in cases of rape, incest or foetal abnormality (see page 16).

Generating support

Securing public and political support for the HRA is crucial. Throughout the year Amnesty UK lobbied MPs (from all political parties) to express support for the HRA. We encouraged supporters to write to or meet their MPs: between us, we contacted 646 out of 650 MPs.

Our supporters in the UK took action through petitions, online actions, and events. More than 89,000 signed a petition in defence of the HRA. Immediately before the election, we ran adverts calling on all the parties to protect the Act. After the election we launched an online appeal to run a full-page



On the day of the general election leaders' TV debate, an advertising van took the Amnesty message to Westminster (left). Later more than 2,000 people signed up to and paid for our crowd-funded newspaper ads (right) in the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* opposing the repeal of the Human Rights Act



FOCUS: SAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

OUR WORK

advert in the *Times*. More than 2,000 people donated to have their names printed under an appeal urging the government not to scrap the HRA – so we ran double-page ads in the *Times* and the *Daily Telegraph* on the day of the Queen's Speech.

We worked with Labour, the SNP, the Liberal Democrats, the Greens, and Plaid Cymru, which all voiced support for the HRA. There is significant opposition to the Act among some Conservatives, but several high-profile MPs within the party have criticised the government's plans. We forged links with many of them and held HRA fringe meetings at the Conservative, Labour and SNP conferences. We also used a Write for Rights event at parliament in December to lobby for the HRA.

In conjunction with the global movement, we wrote a statement highlighting concerns about the UK government's plans that was delivered at a UN Human Rights Council meeting in June.

'The Human Rights Act is for all, not just criminals. Don't believe the lies: one day YOU might need it.' Stephen Fry

Actors, writers, artists and musicians, including Vanessa Redgrave, Juliet Stevenson, Philip Pullman, Terry Jones, Simon Callow, Arthur Darvill, Oona Chaplin, Paterson Joseph, Ryan Gage, Tim McInerney and Indira Varma, joined our campaign. They tweeted, gave interviews, signed petitions and were photographed with 'Save the Human Rights Act' placards.



We worked with Children's Laureate Chris Riddell to produce a children's picture book on the HRA. *My little book of BIG freedoms: the Human Rights Act in pictures* was published in December with a launch event at the British Library.

Highlighting difficulties

We succeeded in demonstrating how difficult and problematic the government would find it to scrap the HRA, which helped to delay the plans to abandon it.

In May we wrote to the British Prime Minister and the Irish Taoiseach warning that repealing the HRA could undermine peace in Northern Ireland. We highlighted how public confidence in the political and policing arrangements which followed the 1998 Good Friday Agreement could be undermined if the European Convention of Human Rights was no longer incorporated into law in Northern Ireland.

We also emphasised that the way in which the Scotland Act is drafted makes it virtually impossible to repeal the HRA without fundamentally altering the settlement in a way that requires the consent of the Scottish government. That consent has already been ruled out.

89,000

Amnesty UK supporters signed a petition calling for the HRA to be saved

FOCUS: REFUGEES

OUR WORK



Europe's greatest refugee crisis since World War II dominated the news agenda in 2015 – and was a major focus for Amnesty UK. Over the year we lobbied governments, raised public awareness and produced reports highlighting the scale of the crisis, presenting evidence and practical policy solutions to EU governments and institutions. We called for increased pledges to resettle refugees, greater access to Europe through humanitarian visas and family reunification, and an easing of restrictions on freedom of movement of successful asylum seekers.

1 million

The estimated number of people arriving in the EU by sea in 2015

3,800

The estimated number of drownings in the Mediterranean in 2015

Don't Let Them Drown

Our high-profile 'Don't Let Them Drown' campaign urged the UK government and the international community to prioritise saving the lives of refugees attempting to cross the Mediterranean, rather than simply policing Europe's borders. It helped to shape the nature of the debate on an emotive issue.

Amnesty research showed how the Italian navy's humanitarian operation, Mare Nostrum, had led to a dramatic decrease in migrant and refugee deaths at sea in 2014. We dispelled the myth that the programme encouraged people to attempt the perilous crossing: refugee and migrant numbers increased after Mare Nostrum ended in October 2014.

In April 2015, on the eve of an emergency EU summit in Brussels, we covered Brighton beach with 200 body bags to draw attention to the scale of the crisis. Local activists came out in force, almost 50,000 people signed our petition, and it made UK and international headlines.

Following extensive Amnesty campaigning and lobbying, the EU finally agreed in May to bolster its search-and-rescue operation in the Mediterranean. This was a significant achievement that saved lives, but we continued to call for a truly comprehensive approach to migration, including providing more safe, legal routes for those seeking international protection. Without this, desperate people will continue to embark on dangerous journeys across the Mediterranean to Europe.

Don't Let Them Drown campaign, Brighton beach © Marie-Anne Ventura

Solidarity with refugees

On 12 September, Amnesty UK played a significant role in the Solidarity with Refugees march in London, with staff, members and supporters joining tens of thousands of demonstrators with placards and banners carrying the message 'Refugees Welcome'. Local Amnesty groups and activists also took part in sister events across the country. Our campaigning and lobbying played an important role in David Cameron's September announcement that the UK would accept up to 20,000 refugees from Syria over the next five years. This was a positive step, but not nearly enough, and we continue to press the UK government to do more.



Amnesty UK also campaigned against the draconian treatment of refugees by European governments. This fed into the European Commission's decision in December to open infringement proceedings against Hungary over its extremely harsh asylum law, which came into force earlier in the year.

Local action

In 2015 local, student and youth Amnesty groups campaigned on behalf of refugees. As well as taking part in the Solidarity with Refugees march in London and across the UK, they wrote letters to local newspapers, collected petition signatures, lobbied MPs, and held talks, concerts, candle-lit vigils and fundraising events.

In October our Malvern Hills local group, which persuaded its local authority to participate in the government's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, staged a march to demonstrate their commitment to accommodating Syrian refugees in the town. A petition signed by 1,200 local people was presented to Councillor Melanie Barker, who is responsible for housing at Malvern Hills District Council, and the event was covered by the local press and *Channel 4 News*.

In 2015 a group of Amnesty UK activists also founded the Asylum Justice Project to campaign for the just and humane treatment of asylum seekers in the UK. This includes making the asylum system fairer, ending the indefinite detention of asylum seekers and the 'detained fast-track' system, and changing negative public perceptions.

A global emergency

Europe is not the only part of the world affected by a refugee crisis: 2015 saw more than 19.5 million refugees across the globe. Amnesty highlighted the little-publicised refugee crisis in the waters off Southeast Asia. We also drew attention to the political chaos in Burundi, which has led to thousands of people fleeing to neighbouring Tanzania, Rwanda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda.



235km
The length of fences built along
EU borders

MAKING IT HAPPEN: FUNDRAISING

OUR WORK

As a movement of people, it is right that Amnesty International UK is funded by people. Over 72 per cent of the funds we raised in 2015 came from individuals who made either one-off donations or committed, regular gifts to support our human rights work in the UK and internationally.

2015 was also the year when fundraising came under great scrutiny from media and politicians, and criticisms of charity practices led to calls for more regulation and a renewed focus on values and ethics in fundraising. Our fundraising activity adheres to the Institute of Fundraising's Code of Practice and other regulations and laws that govern fundraising activity.

When the media exposed the unethical practices of some agencies that supply the sector, we decided to pause work with tele-fundraising agencies until we could review and strengthen the controls to ensure good practice. This slowed our fundraising progress and we were unable to meet our growth targets, although we did maintain the number of our financial supporters over the year.

In total, we raised £24.9 million in 2015, down 9 per cent from 2014, when we benefited from an exceptionally large legacy. If we exclude legacy income from both years, our fundraising results show a small increase in 2015, to £21.8 million. Funds raised by AIUK enable our human rights work in the UK but overseas as well. As we enter a new strategic period, we are

taking the opportunity to review our fundraising practice in the light of likely future regulation and also the expectations of donors – the people who make our work possible. The UK section is the biggest contributor to Amnesty's international work, in addition to funding all our domestic human rights campaigning and education. It is therefore vital that we are able to increase the number of people supporting us financially and the funds that will enable us to boost our human rights impact.

In 2015 we expanded our in-house street fundraising programme outside of London for the first time and although this took longer to establish than we hoped, our results in the last quarter of the year were above target. Our street fundraisers are proud to work for Amnesty and they are passionate and knowledgeable about human rights. So they were delighted when we became the first charity to bring virtual reality to the streets of the UK in order to give people insight into the work we were asking them to support. Our fundraising campaign highlighted the impact of barrel bombing in Syria by immersing people in a 360-degree view.



Total funds raised in 2015

£24.9m

Number of financial supporters

208,821

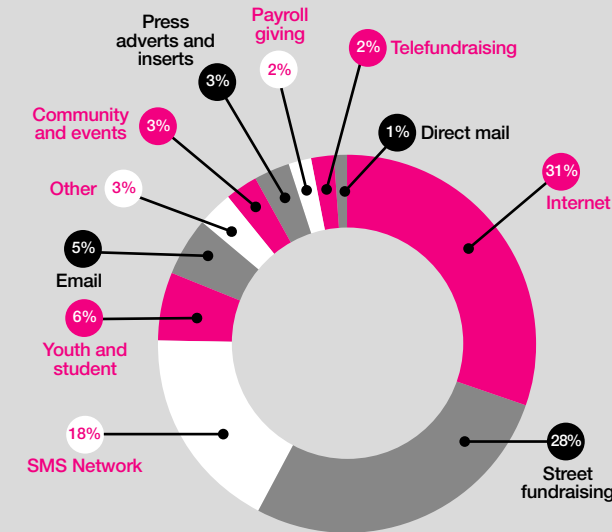
MAKING IT HAPPEN: FUNDRAISING

In addition to donations from individuals, we also benefit from supporters who raise funds by organising events or taking part in sponsored challenges. We also receive grants from trusts and foundations interested in human rights and work with carefully selected corporate partners. We have seven bookshops, raising funds through the sale of donated books and showing our commitment to freedom of expression. We opened a new bookshop in Hammersmith, London, and plan to open more between 2016 and 2020.

Income raised by our supporters
£575,000
 Down 2% from 2014

Income from commercial activities
£787,000
 Up 6% from 2014

Where our new supporters came from in 2015



Income from legacies
£3.1m
 Down 43% from 2014

Corporate relationships

Total number of corporate relationships: 60
 Number of corporate entities donating over £5,000: 6

Corporation	Value	Type
The Cooperative Bank	£218,511	Money
Ecotricity	£15,000	Money
Triodos Bank	£11,258	Money
SOAS	£10,000	Money
DLA Piper	£9,000	Money
Ethical Investment Cooperative	£7,500	Money

All corporate giving above £5,000 is subject to screening by AIUK. All the above were cash, we did not receive any gift in kind over £5,000.

NOTE: We are members of the Public Fundraising Regulatory Association. This is a charity-led regulatory body covering all types of face-to-face fundraising. We are also members of the Institute of Fundraising. We are bound by the Face-to-Face Activity Code of Fundraising Practice, which sets out the regulatory requirements and best practice standards expected from all those parties involved in face-to-face campaigns. More information: www.pfra.org.uk or www.institute-of-fundraising.org.uk

Major gifts
£1.6m
 Same as 2014

MAKING IT HAPPEN: AWARENESS

OUR WORK

Raising awareness about human rights is a fundamental part of our work, helping us to generate support for campaigns, and attract new members and financial supporters. It also increases the public's understanding of human rights, countering the current hostility in significant sections of politics and the media.



Oliver Laughland collects the Amnesty Media Award (digital category) for the *Guardian* website's 'The Counted'
© Kristian Buus/AI

Media work

Working with the media enables Amnesty UK to reach a wide audience. We were featured in more than 7,500 articles – most of them favourable – in publications ranging from the *Guardian* and the *Independent* to the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Sun*. We featured in more than 400 broadcast interviews, including on the BBC, Channel 4 and ITV News. In 2015 coverage of Amnesty in the print, broadcast and digital media reached nearly 77 per cent of adults in the UK with stories about the conflict in Syria, the refugee crisis, the arms trade, and human rights in China.

On many occasions we helped to shape the news agenda, ensuring coverage for issues that would otherwise have remained hidden. For example, demonstrating how western arms have fallen into the hands of ISIS, the extent of human rights abuses in Bahrain, and how Saudi Arabian airstrikes in Yemen violated international humanitarian law.

Journalists play a vital role in uncovering human rights abuses around the world, but their job is becoming ever more difficult and dangerous. Our 24th Media Awards ceremony, hosted by Anita Anand of BBC Radio 4's *Any Answers*, celebrated human rights journalism and honoured the reporters, photographers and film-makers who practise it. We also used the event to pay tribute to the courage of journalists who were killed, imprisoned or threatened over the previous year.



Amnesty films

Over the year Amnesty UK released a series of short films to raise awareness about our campaigns. After Sony Pictures cancelled the release of its North Korea comedy *The Interview* because of a sustained cyber attack, we released *The Other Interview: Life in the labour camps of North Korea*.

Described by ITV News as a 'powerful first-hand account', it featured an interview with a young woman, Park Ji-hyun, who was sent to a prison camp where she faced starvation and torture. The film was viewed almost 91,000 times online and was featured in the *Independent*, Sky News, the *Daily Mail*, the *Guardian* and the *Mirror*, among others.

In October we released two short films highlighting the Republic of Ireland's draconian anti-abortion laws (see page 17).

MAKING IT HAPPEN: AWARENESS

Rocky Horror Show

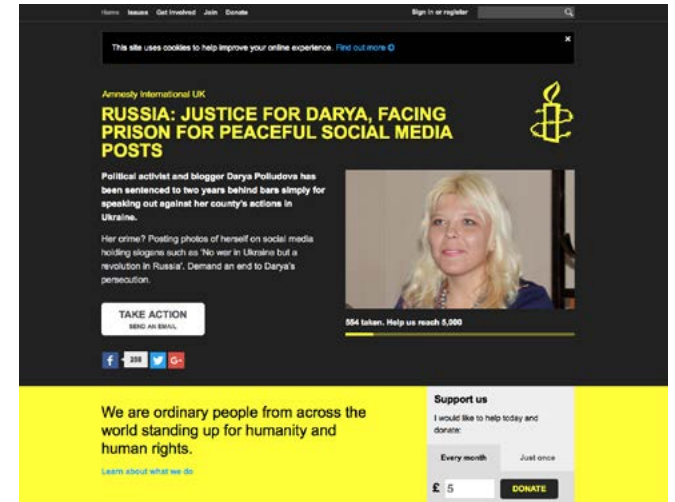
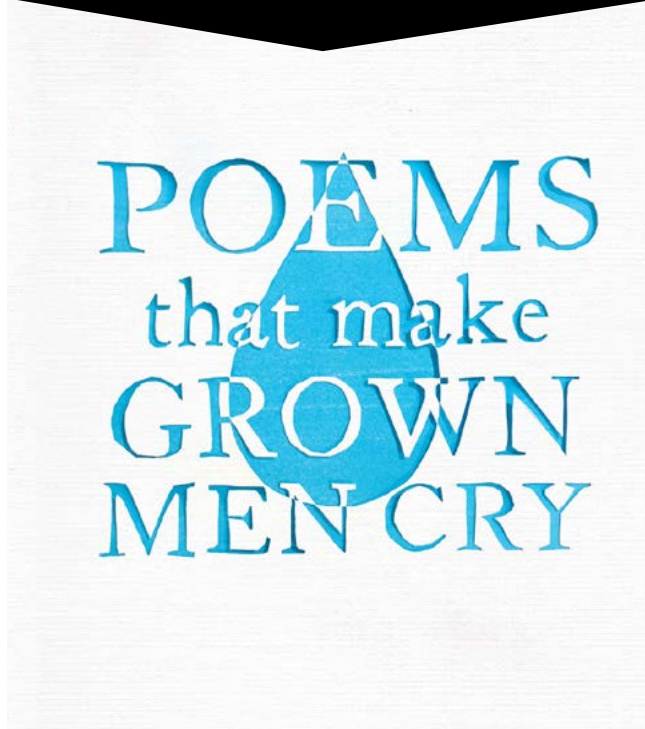
In September a special gala performance of the *Rocky Horror Show* raised over £16,000 for our work, thanks to long-standing supporter Richard O'Brien. Stephen Fry, Adrian Edmondson, Mel Giedroyc, Anthony Head and Emma Bunton all took a turn as 'celebrity narrators' on the night.



© Jake Gavin

Poems That Make Grown Men Cry

Poems That Make Grown Men Cry, published in association with Amnesty, was the highest-selling volume of poetry in 2015: over 16,500 hardcover copies were sold.



3,410,050
people visited our website in 2015

2,399,993
of them were new visitors

MAKING IT HAPPEN: EDUCATION

One of the most effective ways to increase our pool of members and supporters, and raise awareness of human rights more generally, is through our human rights education (HRE) programmes.

By teaching children, young people and adults about human rights we build their knowledge and understanding. This gives them the skills to stand up for their own rights and those of others, and pass on what they have learned.

At the heart of Amnesty's education work are our extraordinary volunteer Amnesty speakers, trainers and teachers.

'Excellent, informative, inspirational, practical. Thank you. You have made me aspire to do more.'

Amnesty teacher training participant

Speakers

In 2015 our 119 Amnesty speakers delivered talks and workshops to more than 19,200 children and young people across the UK. They also collaborated with the Chickenshed Theatre company, which delivered human rights workshops for pupils across London based around our *Dreams of Freedom* book. Chickenshed is now working with children ahead of a 2017 performance of *Dreams of Freedom*, which features the words of human rights heroes like Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Anne Frank, Malala Yousafzai and Aung San Suu Kyi.

Meanwhile Amnesty's Colwyn Bay group worked with our education officer Alice Edwards to provide Amnesty speakers specialised in using *Dreams of Freedom*. Lawyers at the firm DLA Piper created a speakers' toolkit on the Human Rights Act and will soon join our list of school and college speakers.

Trainers

We have 77 volunteer Amnesty trainers, who provided human rights education training for some 1,100 adults in 2015. A key focus last year was helping activists to develop lobbying and advocacy skills ahead of the general election. Trainers now have high quality resources to help them educate people on the Stop Torture, My Body My Rights and Human Rights Act campaigns, refugee rights, and the death penalty.



Brazilian artist Roger Mello illustrates 'Freedom to learn' in our *Dreams of Freedom* book

119 Amnesty speakers spoke to
19,200 children and young people

MAKING IT HAPPEN: ACTIVISM

OUR WORK

Activists make Amnesty UK a powerful movement. Change happens when our thousands of supporters come together to fight for human rights. There are many instances of this: as an individual or as part of a local Amnesty group or network, they mobilise public support, lobby local media and politicians, and raise funds for our work.

625,771

People in the UK support Amnesty

UK map showing Amnesty activist groups

- Local groups
- Student groups
- Youth groups

58*

Student groups took part in our campaigns and raised funds

231

Local groups campaigned and raised funds in their own communities

440*

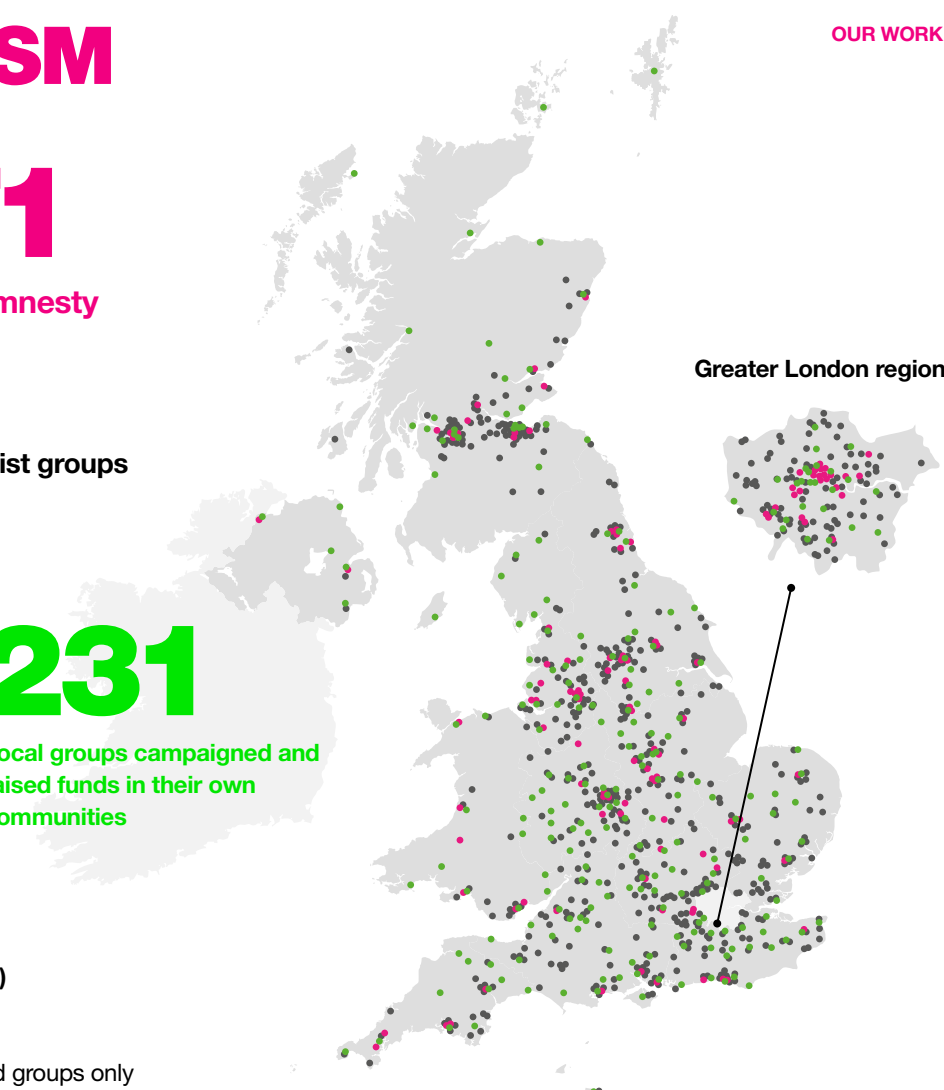
Youth groups (most based in schools) took action and raised funds

*Number refers to paid up and registered groups only



395,873

people took action for human rights through Amnesty International UK in 2015



MAKING IT HAPPEN: ACTIVISM

OUR WORK

CAMPAIGNING NETWORKS

17,745 people defend women's rights through our **Women's Action Network**

15,989 people stand up for children's rights through our **Children's Human Rights Network**. In 2015 they led our campaign calling on the US to ratify the Convention on the Rights of the Child, culminating with the delivery of appeal letters and meeting with the US embassy.

17,500 individuals support Amnesty campaigns and defend workers' rights through our **Trade Union Network**.

7,536 people stand up for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) rights through our **LGBTI Network**. Their high-profile Twitter account helped them almost **double their membership in 2015**. They campaigned for the marriage equality referendum in Ireland and marriage equality in Northern Ireland, and travelled to Riga to show solidarity with Euro-Pride. They've also made Amnesty a part of Prides across the UK.



'It's great to see staff and volunteers working together in genuine partnership and with mutual respect to make a big impact. Think that is something special. And Amnesty at its best.'

Simon Ware, LGBTI network

50 **country coordinators** were in place in 2015. They have in-depth knowledge of human rights issues in particular areas of the world, advise Amnesty groups, give talks and presentations, organise conferences and demonstrations, and lobby politicians and diplomats.

MAKING THE NEWS

In 2015 we appointed seven regional media support officers (all volunteers) to boost the efforts of Amnesty activists to gain coverage in local media. The result was a rise in local papers' reporting on our campaigns. We featured in 384 articles in regional media between September and December 2015, compared with 231 in the same period in 2014.

TAKING URGENT ACTION

16,000 members of our **Urgent Action Network** provide a rapid response to protect people in imminent danger of abuse such as torture, ill-treatment, illegal detention, or lack of access to medical treatment or legal advice for prisoners

105,815 people in our **SMS action network** send texts to defend individuals at risk

MAKING IT HAPPEN: ACTIVISM

OUR WORK

AMNESTY ACTIVISM ONLINE IN 2015

1,563,385

online actions – 86% increase on 2014

In 2015 more than 1.5 million appeal actions were taken via our website, an increase of 86 per cent on 2014 and a new record. The number of online actions has risen each year since we relaunched the website in 2013. The dramatic increase in 2015 results from more confident and effective storytelling. Online actions have real impact and provide a vital source of new supporters to our movement, which will help us to grow over the coming years.

TOP ONLINE ACTIONS

Amnesty International UK
TWO SISTERS TO BE RAPED AS PUNISHMENT – DEMAND JUSTICE

Their eyes do not deceive you. An unrelenting advance...
This sentence was handed down in punishment after...
130,000 taken. Help us reach 362,942

TAKE ACTION
SIGN THE PETITION

362,942
actions

Amnesty International UK
PARAGUAY: PREGNANT 11-YEAR-OLD GIRL DENIED MEDICAL HELP

A young girl in Paraguay was taken to hospital in April after she complained of stomach ache...
134,378 taken. Help us reach 125,097

TAKE ACTION
SIGN THE PETITION

125,097
actions

Amnesty International UK
SAUDI ARABIA, FREE RAIF BADAWI

It's almost a year since Raif Badawi was flogged in public...
1,023,763 taken. Help us reach 1,119,779

TAKE ACTION
SIGN THE PETITION

119,779
actions

302,696 
Facebook fans at the end of 2015

TOP POSTS

Sisters to be raped as punishment: demand justice reached 2.7m people

103 years ago today the Titanic sank. 2014: 3,400 people drowned in the Mediterranean. The equivalent of more than 2 Titanics reached 2.7m people

I stand for equal rights. We're all human. All equal reached 2.1m people

195,683 
followers at the end of 2015

TOP TWEETS

Solidarité. Paris stands together. (image via @ianbremmer) #CharlieHebdo 6,535 retweets

Equivalent of 5 passenger planes full of people have drowned last week alone <http://amn.st/6010frwe> #DontLetThemDrown 3,077 retweets

On Weds Saudi Arabia condemned #CharlieHebdo as 'cowardly attack'. Today they flogged Raif Badawi for encouraging free speech. 3,075 retweets

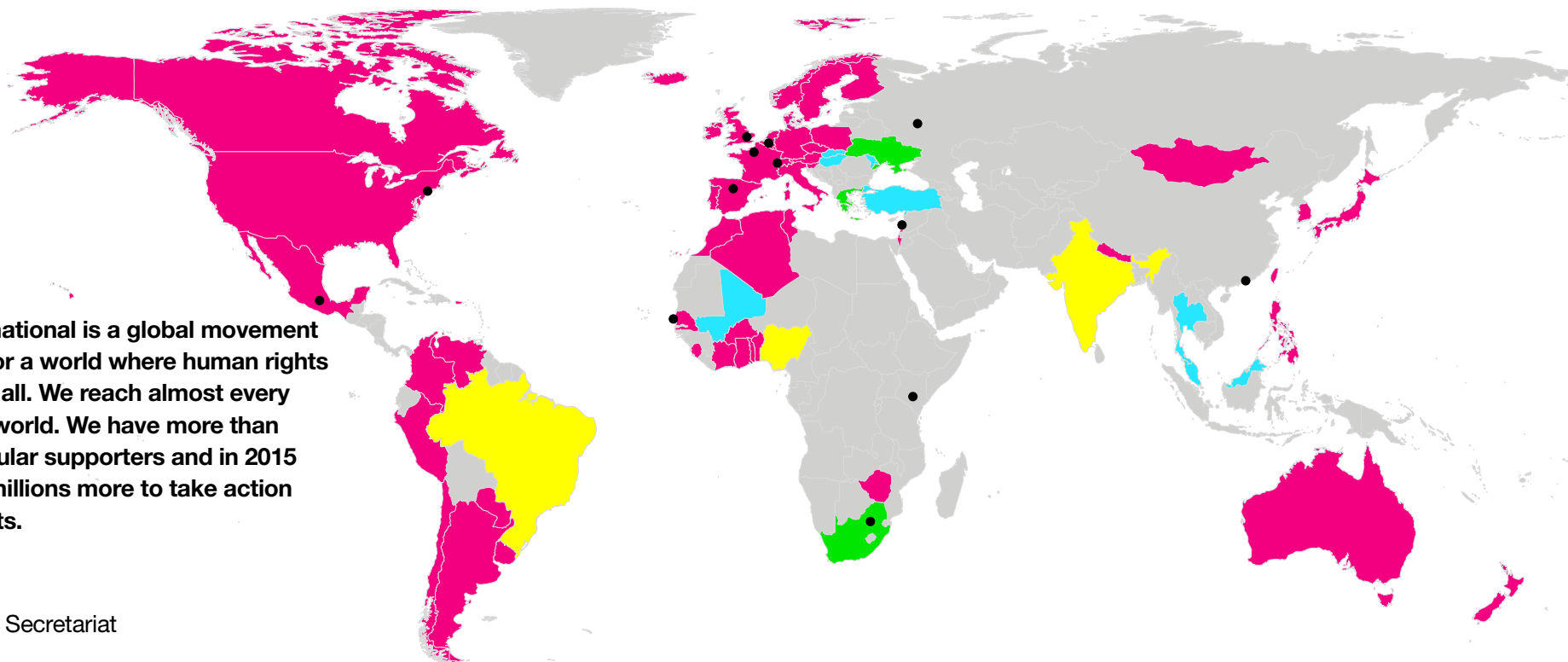
PART OF A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

OUR WORK

Amnesty International is a global movement campaigning for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all. We reach almost every country in the world. We have more than two million regular supporters and in 2015 we mobilised millions more to take action for human rights.

Key

- International Secretariat
- Structures
- National offices
- Sections
- Entities managed by the Secretary General



We also have more than 90,000 international members and supporters in 120 countries and territories around the world where Amnesty has no physical presence.

PART OF A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

Amnesty UK is one of the largest national sections in the global movement, and we work in a concerted and coordinated manner with our colleagues around the world. Amnesty is committed to deepening its work in the global South and East to make our work for human rights bigger and more influential in global terms.

The International Council Meeting (ICM), which takes place every two years, is the movement's highest decision-making body. It elects the International Board to continue its work between meetings, setting movement-wide policy and defining the global governance rules for all Amnesty sections.

Authority for conducting the daily affairs of the global movement is delegated to the International Secretariat. Amnesty UK, like other national sections, can influence the development of policy by participating in ICMs and the deliberations of the International Board.

£7m

AIUK's grant to the international movement in 2015

International Council Meeting 2015

Delegates from Amnesty sections gathered in Dublin in August to take key decisions for the future of the global movement at the International Council Meeting (ICM) 2015. Perhaps the most important item on the agenda was to agree our strategy for the next five years. Five strategic goals were adopted (see diagram).

Another major decision was to advocate for decriminalisation of all aspects of sex work that do not involve coercion, exploitation or abuse. This is based on evidence and the real-life experience of sex workers, some of the world's most disadvantaged people, that criminalisation makes them less

safe. We reached this position after consulting widely, including with sex workers, survivor and abolitionist groups, HIV agencies, women's and LGBTI rights activists, indigenous women's groups, anti-trafficking groups and leading academics.

The ICM also decided to replace the system for assessing how sections contribute financially to the international movement with a new model. We also decided to develop a comprehensive analysis of the impact of austerity measures on human rights and review our policy on the detention of migrants.



STRATEGIC GOALS

CHANGING OUR ORGANISATION. CHANGING THE WORLD.

1. RECLAIMING FREEDOMS <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human rights defenders are safe and supported• People know their rights and can claim them• People can claim rights to speak out, organise and challenge injustice	2. SECURING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Less identity-based discrimination and violence• More progress towards gender and LGBTI equality• Economic, social and cultural rights are a reality in people's lives	3. RESPONDING TO CRISES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abusers held to account and victims can secure truth, justice and reparation• Better protection and help for refugees• Better protection for civilians through international and regional action	4. ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stronger accountability at national level (especially for Goals 1-3)• Reinforced regional and global machinery to tackle failures at national level	5. MAXIMISING OUR RESOURCES AND ENGAGEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bigger, stronger, more diverse movement with stronger capacity to achieve human rights impact
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PART OF A GLOBAL MOVEMENT

OUR WORK

Working in partnership

India

We work to support human rights defenders (HRDs) challenging abuses in India's coal-mining areas, as part of a joint project with Amnesty India. In 2015 we held a workshop for HRDs in Chhattisgarh state, launched a website to enable them to report abuses, and set up an SMS response system so they can contact Amnesty India, activists, lawyers, journalists and others if they need urgent help.



Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone

In 2015 we secured support for the community-led human rights education (HRE) work of Amnesty sections in Burkina Faso and Sierra Leone from the Department for International Development (DfID) Aid Match scheme. This will help the two sections to build on their earlier successes in addressing gender inequality through HRE, by encouraging communities to take the collective decision to end female genital mutilation and early and forced marriage. In mid-2016 we will launch a public appeal to raise a target of £400,000 for this project. If we achieve this, DfID will match it pound for pound.

Israel

We staged a fundraising evening for Amnesty Israel at the Human Rights Action Centre in London, which was attended by around 50 potential donors. Chef, cookery writer and restaurateur Yotam Ottolenghi staged a pop-up restaurant, and Amnesty Israel director Yonatan Gher gave a moving speech on his section's work. The event raised £13,000.

Nigeria

Amnesty Nigeria was launched in October 2015 and to help it boost its profile, Amnesty UK press officer Eulette Ewart spent three months working with its staff in Abuja. Eulette helped to build relationships with national and international journalists, run press conferences, prepare PR events, produce press releases, set up social media accounts, and develop a media strategy.



'The government usually does not listen to us, nor does it do anything for us. However, wherever there is pressure from people outside, things work in our favour.'

Bhagwati Bhagat, human rights defender

© Makepeace Sithou/AI India

Amnesty activists in Abakaliki, Nigeria © Oladotun Fadeyiye Muiyiwa

OUR ORGANISATION

OUR ORGANISATION



Amnesty International UK is one of 68 national entities that make up the global Amnesty movement (see page 33). Members and supporters play a vital role in our campaigns and provide the major part of our income. We have a main office in London, and smaller offices in Edinburgh and Belfast.

Legal structures

Amnesty International UK comprises two separate legal entities: the UK Section and the Charitable Trust, which are autonomous but work to a common vision.

Amnesty International United Kingdom Section is owned and controlled by its members and undertakes our human rights campaigning and trading activities, and some of our fundraising.

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust is a registered charity. It funds global activity concerned with human rights research, monitoring and education, and promoting public support for human rights. It also part-funds similar projects undertaken by the UK Section.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Amnesty International UK Section

Section board of directors

The board of directors consists of volunteers responsible for the overall performance of the Amnesty International UK Section and for providing strategic direction, effective governance and leadership on behalf of our members. The board meets at least eight times a year, and members sit on a range of committees, sub-committees and working groups, details of which can be found at www.amnesty.org.uk/governance

The board is accountable to the Amnesty International UK Section membership through the AGM, the primary decision-making forum for the Section.

Amnesty International UK Section board members as at 31 December 2015



Sarah O'Grady
(Chair)



Ruth Breddal
(Vice chair)



Meredith Coombs
(Treasurer)



Jeremy Paul Allen



Cris Burson-Thomas



Adrian Couper



Eilidh Douglas



Stuart Hathaway
(resigned 14 January 2016)



Tom Hedley



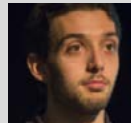
Harrison Littler



Tracy Newton-Blows



Hannah Perry



Tom Sparks



Hugh Whitby
(resigned 16 December 2015)

Board sub-committees (composed of board members, non-board members and specialist staff) provide updates, advice and guidance on aspects of the Section's performance. These sub-committees are:

- Active Membership
- Finance (which also acts as our Audit Committee)
- International Issues
- Joint Consultative Committee
- Human Resources

For more about the sub-committees, see www.amnesty.org.uk/subcommittees

All board members are non-executives. Under the Amnesty International UK constitution no staff members or office-based volunteers may serve on the board. The board periodically carries out a skills audit and may decide to supplement its skills and expertise by co-opting up to three additional members.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Governance reform

Over the year the board continued work on a review of the Section's main constitutional document, its Articles of Association. The aim is to simplify and strengthen our governance arrangements and ensure that the democratic values of the movement remain strong.

The Section's 2015 AGM agreed a number of amendments updating our constitution to reflect changes to company law and other areas of accepted good practice. It also agreed that the review's second stage should include a wide-ranging consultation with members on outstanding issues, with a view to updating the Articles of Association at the Section's 2016 AGM.

The consultation, which took place in autumn 2015, attracted 4,180 responses. In conjunction with the recommendations of the Governance Task Force, the consultation helped the board to compile a set of special resolutions to be considered by members at the Section's 2016 AGM. More information is available in the members' section of the Amnesty UK website: www.amnesty.org.uk/2015Review

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust

The Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust is governed by its trustees, who are the directors and members. Trustees are generally very familiar with human rights and Amnesty's work and bring expertise in key aspects of charity governance.

Trustees are appointed by the UK Section's board, but they are appointed as individuals and not as representatives of the Section. In 2015 three of the seven trustees were also serving members of the UK Section board. All trustees must work in the best interests of the Trust when carrying out their duties, and must disregard any conflicting interests from their other activities.

The trustees meet at least three times a year, and may also sit on a number of committees and working groups. The trustees appoint some of their members to serve on two standing sub-committees (composed of trustees, supporters, and specialist staff) which are joint sub-committees of both the Trust board and the UK Section board. These sub-committees provide detailed scrutiny of policies and performance, and are:

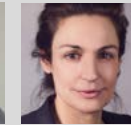
- Finance (which also acts as our Audit Committee)
- Human Resources.

For more information, see www.amnesty.org.uk/governance

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust board of trustees as at 31 December 2015



Gareth Davies
(Chair)



Livia Aliberti



Meredith
Coombs



Emma France



Tom Hedley



Bridget Lindley
(deceased)



Sarah O'Grady

Bridget Lindley, a Trustee of Amnesty International Charitable Trust for the last two years, died on 2 March 2016. As part of the governance team, she brought her considerable legal skills, passion for human rights and sound judgement, all delivered with warmth and humour. Bridget will be sorely missed.

The Trust's objectives and activities are broadly aligned to those summarised in the Charity Commission's guidance publication RR12: The Promotion of Human Rights. All its activities focus on delivering human rights benefits to specific individuals and the public in general.

All the trustees give their time without any form of remuneration.

OUR PEOPLE

177 Paid employees
(full- and part-time)

in our London, Belfast and Edinburgh offices and managing
6 of our 7 bookshops

153.3

Permanent staff (full-time equivalent)

Approximately

52 300

Volunteers
in our offices

Volunteers in
our bookshops

145,000

Hours contributed by volunteers

All statistics correct as of 31 December 2015

All staff of Amnesty International UK are on joint contracts of employment between the Section and the Charitable Trust.

Amnesty UK pays above the living wage, which is calculated to meet the basic cost of living in the UK.

Gender and pay grade of staff members

Grade*	Female	Male
Total	61%	39%
A and A2	50%	50%
B	63%	37%
C	70%	30%
D	59%	41%
E and above	47%	53%

*E and above are the most senior pay grades

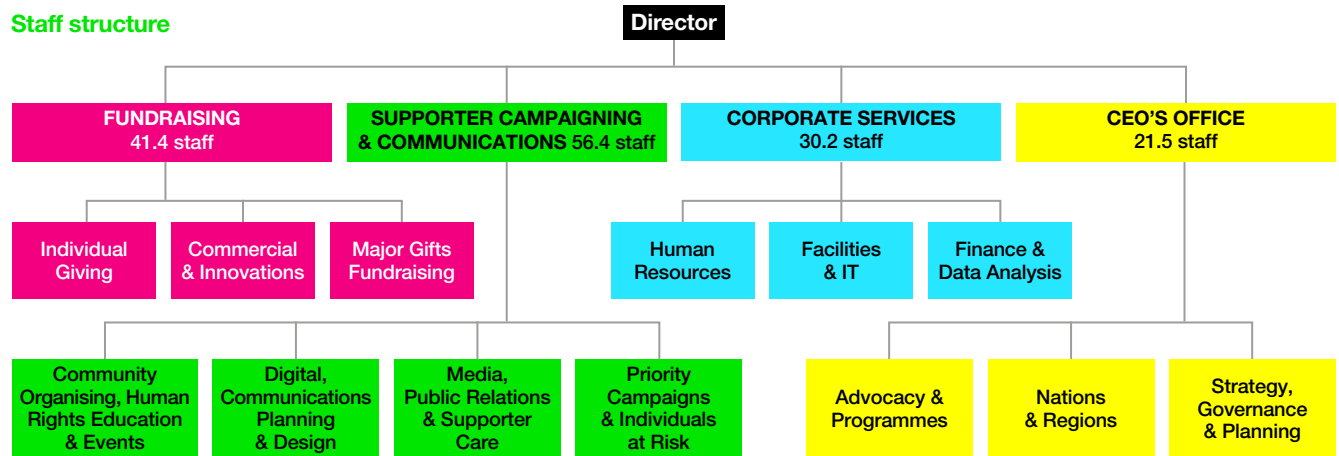
Ethnicity and pay grade of staff members**

18.4% of our workforce have declared themselves to be BME

Grade*	Asian	Black	White	Chinese/ Mixed/Other
Total	9.8%	3.4%	81.6%	5.2%
A and A2	30.8%	0	69.2%	0
B	5.9%	14.7%	67.6%	11.8%
C	15.4%	0%	80.8%	3.8%
D	3.4%	1.7%	89.7%	5.2%
E and above	5.9%	0	94.1%	0

** Only includes staff members who have declared their ethnicity

Staff structure



OUR POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Our policies and practices are designed to maintain our effectiveness and efficiency while being mindful of our social and environmental impact.

Feedback

We value the views of our stakeholders and have invited and recorded feedback since 2009. Feedback is reviewed and assessed by the Feedback Oversight Panel, which comprises the director, the director of Supporter Campaigning and Communications, the director of Fundraising, the head of media, PR and supporter care, the supporter care manager, and a board member. The panel identifies and recommends actions to the senior management team where appropriate. Feedback is collated monthly and reviewed on behalf of the Section's board by the Activism Sub Committee.

In 2015 Amnesty International UK received 4,154 pieces of feedback: 783 of these were positive comments, predominantly about our campaigns and policies, notably our actions to protect two Indian sisters due to be raped as punishment for their brother's 'crime'. We also received positive feedback on our in-house street fundraising team. We received 1,223 pieces of negative feedback, predominantly about our stances on abortion, the Human Rights Act and the refugee crisis. In addition, we received 1,112 complaints, mainly about the Amnesty sex work policy, our dealings with Cage, and in-house telemarketing.

The Lobbying Act

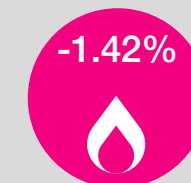
The Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act – commonly known as the Lobbying Act – came into force in 2014. It limits expenditure on any public campaigning that could be seen as seeking to influence election outcomes. We opposed the act because we believe the act seriously risks inhibiting the work of charities and NGOs.

However, in April 2015 we registered Amnesty International UK Section as a 'non-party campaigner' with the Electoral Commission. This enabled us to campaign on all the human rights issues we wanted to during the general election campaign. As a matter of principle, we do not campaign for or against political parties or candidates.

Environmental impact

Our gas usage dropped in 2015, but our electricity and water usage both rose. This increase was due to a difference in the number and type of conferences hosted at the Human Rights Action Centre. We recycled 100 per cent of our waste.

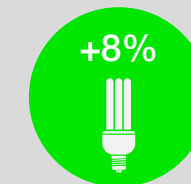
ENERGY CONSUMPTION



GAS

62.23 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2015

63.25 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2014



ELECTRICITY

235 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2015

217.2 metric tonnes of CO2 emissions in 2014



WATER

2048 m3 in 2015

1793 m3 in 2014

OUR FINANCES

The financial information in this report is extracted from the pro-forma combined accounts of two legal entities, the Amnesty International United Kingdom Section and the Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust, for the year ended 31 December 2015. Both entities have unqualified audit reports.

The summarised financial information may not contain sufficient detail to allow for a full understanding of Amnesty's financial affairs. Further information about the structure, governance and relationship between the entities and the full annual financial statements of both Amnesty entities can be found online at www.amnesty.org.uk/finances

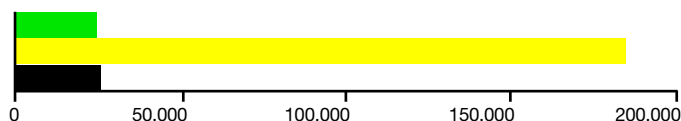
New accounting rules

The report and financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice, *Accounting and Reporting for Charities* (the 'Charities SORP'), published in 2015, the Companies Act 2006 and applicable accounting standards. In preparing the accounts, the Boards' have determined that in applying the requirements of FRS102 and the Charities SORP, some changes in accounting policies and restatement of prior year figures have been required. Details of the changes can be found in the notes of pages of the financial statements available online at www.amnesty.org.uk/finances

Where our money comes from and where it goes

The importance of retaining our supporter base

Our supporters provide Amnesty International UK with the vast majority of the financial resources used and also, as this report shows, undertake campaigning and other actions which ensure that our work on human rights maintains a strong voice. However, as the chart below shows, considerable investment is required to recruit new members and supporters to replace those who, for a variety of reasons, leave Amnesty International UK.



Supporter base movement this year

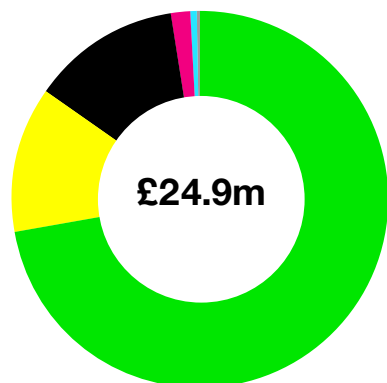
● New supporters making a financial payment	24,694
● Supporters who have stayed with us	184,127
● Supporters who left	26,095

Financial supporters 1 January 2015	210,222
Financial supporters 31 December 2015	208,821

OUR FINANCES

OUR ORGANISATION

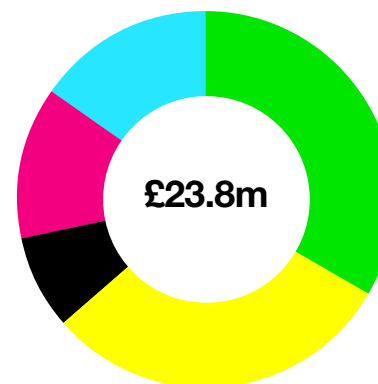
Where our money comes from



Income was £1.9m below last year, mainly owing to a reduction in legacies to £3.1m from the record amount of £5.2 million in 2014. Otherwise, thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, income levels were in line with 2014.

	Actual 2015		Actual 2014 Restated*	
	£m	%	£m	%
Subscriptions and donations from supporters and members	18	72.3	17.9	66.8
Legacies	3.1	12.4	5.2	19.4
Other trading activities	3.2	12.9	3.2	11.9
Grants received	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.1
Publications and materials	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4
Investments	0.1	0.4	0.1	0.4
Total	24.9	100	26.8	100

Where our money goes



Expenditure decreased by £0.4m. However, spending on human rights campaigning increased by £0.5m. There was a £1.8m reduction in the grant paid to the international Amnesty movement because we made no payment in advance for 2016, while the grant made in 2014 included an advance payment for 2015.

	Actual 2015		Actual 2014 Restated*	
	£m	%	£m	%
Pursuit of objectives				
Human rights campaigning	7.9	33	7.3	30
Research: human rights violations	7.2	30	8.9	37
Investment in activist recruitment	1.9	8	1.7	7
Raising funds	3.1	13	3	12
Supporter recruitment and care	3.7	16	3.3	14
Total	23.8	100	24.2	100

*Restatement as a result of new accounting rules referred to on page 41

INGO ACCOUNTABILITY CHARTER

OUR ORGANISATION

INGO Charter

www.amnesty.org/en/how-were-run/ingo-charter

Amnesty International is a founding signatory to the International Non-Governmental Organisations' (INGO) Accountability Charter, making this binding on all Amnesty International's national branches and our International Secretariat.

The charter commits Amnesty International and all other INGO signatories to meeting best-practice standards on public accountability and transparency.

It sets out core values, operating principles and areas for particular attention by international NGOs. These include good governance and effective management; ethical fundraising and multi-stakeholder engagement. Specific reference is made to the expectation that INGOs will respect the principles enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

As a signatory to the Charter, Amnesty International is committed, in partnership with other INGOs, to comply with this externally generated code of organisational conduct as a minimum standard for all its operations.

To this end Amnesty International mobilises the various parts of the Amnesty International movement to document and monitor compliance with the Charter and makes the results fully available to the public.

The latest Amnesty International compliance reports can be found at:

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2014](#)

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2013](#)

[Feedback from Panel to Amnesty International
Amnesty response to INGO Charter Feedback](#)

To read previous Amnesty International's compliance reports:

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2012](#)

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2011](#)

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2010](#)

[INGO Accountability Charter Global Compliance report 2009](#)

About our financial information

The financial information in this report is extracted from the combined accounts of two legal entities, the Amnesty International UK Section and the Amnesty International (UK Section) Charitable Trust. Full financial statements for the two entities can be seen on our website www.amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty International United Kingdom Section

Company registration number 1735872

Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust

Charity registration number – England and Wales 1051681

Charity registration number – Scotland SC039534

Company registration number 03139939