

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

JANUARY 2017



We hope you enjoyed the Christmas break and are ready and raring to go in 2017! There were many reasons to feel down in 2016 but there were plenty of things to be positive about too. Last year, Amnesty International helped secure the release of 650 people, including Albert Woodfox who had been in solitary confinement for 43 years and 10 months and 17 Angolan youth activists jailed for discussing democracy and freedom in a reading group. Read about these cases and others on [our website](#).

Successes like these are only possible with the support of our amazing network of activists who take action and raise funds to pay for campaigning and research. Keep up the great work!

Below are some stories and ideas to help you start planning this year's fundraising activities.

Abbey Lights Out

Students in the Abbey School in Reading raised money for Amnesty by turning the lights off in the school. This was to highlight the plight of civilians in Syria left without electricity for long periods. Gemma Nells, the chair of the group, wrote this about the day:

“On Friday 30th October, all the lights at The Abbey School were turned off for one day. This was to raise awareness of the trouble going on in Syria - how 83% of lights have gone out due to the damage of the electricity grid and the vast amount of people that have fled the country. A poster was placed on each light switch in the school entitled 'Think before you flick' and some information informing students of these problems. This meant that people were allowed to turn on the lights, but first had to pause and think about how we take lights for granted. There were several donation boxes around the school in order to try and raise money for this cause. The Amnesty group also did a school assembly in the dark about Syria and the lives of refugees, using famous people as examples to highlight that it could happen to anyone.”



Pupils at the Abbey taking part in 'Abbey Lights Out'

New Year Fundraising Ideas

Welcome back AMNESTEA: bake cakes or ask local bakeries for donations. Then set up a stall at lunch and break times selling cakes to raise funds. You can also recruit people for your group.

Order a newly redesigned **AMNESTEA** kit through our website: www.amnesty.org.uk/tea

Give it up for Human Rights: come up with creative ways to 'give up' your rights to raise awareness off human rights issues and funds for Amnesty. A great way to put human rights on the agenda.

Read more and order a free Give it up for Human Rights kit: www.amnesty.org.uk/youthgiveitup

Quiz Night: many Amnesty Youth Groups organise quiz nights. They're a great way to raise funds and have a fun night at the same time. Get in touch for more info. about how you can organise a quiz night with your group.

GET IN TOUCH!

To discuss a fundraising idea or request materials for your event, email fundraise@amnesty.org.uk or call **020 7033 1650** and speak to a member of our fundraising team.