

ACTIVISM GUIDE

Summer 2018



Welcome to your Summer 2018 Activism Guide!

We've made some changes, so be sure to check out all the sections to your new guide: **Highlights, Take Action, Activism Resources, Activist Reflections, Key Dates, and Connect with Us.**

We are transitioning to an online Activism Guide. Visit www.amnesty.ca/activismguide at any time for the latest updates. To request a printed copy, please email amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca.

Please share this guide with your networks and with any potential Amnesty activists!

HIGHLIGHTS

In **May**, join us in solidarity with mothers of the disappeared in Mexico.

In **June**, help us mark World Refugee Day.

In **July**, celebrate Pride by speaking out for LGBTI rights.

In **August**, remember the 4th anniversary of the Mt. Polley disaster.

TAKE ACTION

Join us on May 10 for a Day of Action in Support of Mothers of the Disappeared in Mexico



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/join-us-may-10-day-action-support-mothers-disappeared-mexico>

More than 35,000 people are now reported disappeared in Mexico! It's a staggering number that continues to climb every day.

One of the most notorious cases involves 43 students who were taken away by police in September 2014 and never seen again. The government's "investigation" has failed to find the students, and is widely accused of covering up an extensive web of complicity involving authorities at all levels of the Mexican state.

The mothers of the missing students, like the mothers of tens of thousands of others disappeared in Mexico, suffer the endless torment of not knowing: Donde están? Where are they?

But the mothers have come together in self-help groups that have grown into a movement. And they're taking to the streets on May 10th to demand action. They've asked for our support.

May 10th is Mother's Day in Mexico. Mothers of the National Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico (MNDM), will "celebrate" by marching through the capital, photos of their missing loved ones in hand. They will march to make visible the ongoing epidemic of disappearances that is ripping families apart.

They will march to demand truth, justice and the return of their loved ones. **They've asked us to join them!**

Action in Mexico

Amnesty Canada's Alex Neve, Kathy Price, Genevieve Paul and Karinne Gentelet will travel to Mexico to take part in the March of the Mothers in Mexico City on May 10th. They will bring hundreds of butterfly solidarity messages created by Amnesty Canada supporters for delivery to organizations of relatives of the disappeared. They will also speak to media and bring some of the mothers to meet with Canadian government officials at the Canadian Embassy in Mexico.

Action in Canada

At the request of the Movement for Our Disappeared in Mexico, we are organizing a Day of Action in Canada on May 10th so our supporters can "walk" with the mothers of the disappeared, whether physically or symbolically, and make visible your support for their courageous efforts.

Expressions of concern and solidarity in Canada are vitally important. They serve to strengthen the calls of the families in Mexico for urgently needed action by authorities. **Together we are stronger!**

Please join us on May 10th. Read on to find out how!

TAKE ACTION!

1. JOIN SOLIDARITY EVENTS BEING ORGANIZED IN OTTAWA, TORONTO AND VANCOUVER

Help swell the numbers and make these events successful.

- In Toronto, [join the local event](#)
- In Ottawa, [join the local event](#)
- In Vancouver, [join the local event](#)
-

2. ORGANIZE YOUR OWN SOLIDARITY EVENT

Big or small, any gathering to express support for the mothers of the disappeared in Mexico will help to strengthen their calls for action -- and to protect them from violent reprisals for their courageous efforts. Already we have heard from Mexico how important it is to the families of the disappeared that people in Canada will be taking part in our Day of Action! [Email Ailish Morgan-Welden](#) to get a tool kit with instructions, print petitions, a letter writing action, signs for photo messages and background information.

3. JOIN OUR ONLINE SOLIDARITY MARCH

We recognize that not everyone will be able to join a solidarity event in person, due to geography, availability, or accessibility.

Not able to attend a solidarity event in person? Don't worry! You can join our online march and make your support visible with a social media message. Always use the hashtag #CanadaMexicoSolidarity. You can download our [printable sign](#) or make your own.

TO PARTICIPATE:

- post a solidarity message to Twitter using the hashtag #CanadaMexicoSolidarity and tagging [@AmnestyNow](#)

- post a solidarity message to Instagram using the hashtag #CanadaMexicoSolidarity and tagging @amnestycanada
- post in our [national Facebook event](#) using the hashtag #CanadaMexicoSolidarity
- Not active on social media? You can make a sign with your solidarity message, take a photo with it, and email your photo to ontario@amnesty.ca for inclusion.

If you have any accessibility concerns about the online solidarity march or one of the local solidarity marches, please contact amorgan-welden@amnesty.ca.

MORE WAYS TO TAKE ACTION

1. SIGN OUR ONLINE ACTION

Mexican authorities care about their international image, especially in Canada, a source of investment and tourism visitors to Mexico. Help us send a strong message from Canada by signing our online action to Mexico's Interior Minister urging implementation of a new national search commission and investigations to find the perpetrators of disappearances. [Sign here now>>>](#)

2. COLLECT SIGNATURES ON OUR PAPER PETITIONS

Download and print our paper petitions, and take them to gatherings with friends, family and members of your community. The more signatures we can collect, the greater our chance of having an impact. Mother's Day is a key date but we will continue to collect signatures throughout the summer. Please send in signed petitions to Mexico Campaigner [Kathy Price](#) at the Toronto Office.

- Click [here to download our print petition >>> Mexico: Take Action for the Missing](#)
- Click [here to download our print petition >>> Canada: Speak Up for Rights in Mexico](#)

3. WRITE A LETTER

Personalized letters carry considerable weight. Write a letter to Canada's Foreign Affairs Minister, urging her to use her close relationship with Mexico to speak up in support of the families of the disappeared and their calls for action. [Click here for the instructions>>>](#)

4. GET CREATIVE

Send a unique, eye-catching message of solidarity to mothers of the disappeared on the wings of a paper butterfly, like the monarchs that connect Canada and Mexico with their annual migration. [Click here for instructions and downloadable butterfly templates](#)

May is Mining Justice Month



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/may-mining-justice-month>

Every May, people across Canada take action for mining justice.

This year, we will continue to push for greater corporate accountability, while we celebrate some progress.

The Canadian government announced in January 2018 that Canada will be the first country in the world to have an independent Ombudsperson for responsible business enterprise.

This means that people who have been harmed by the overseas activities of Canadian mining, oil, gas and garment companies will be able to submit their complaints to an independent ombudsperson for investigation. Effectively implemented, this could be a game-changer -however, the Ombudsperson office is not in place yet and some of the elements that will determine how the Ombudsperson's office will operate have yet to be defined. Communities continue to experience human rights violations, even after mines are closed.

In order to be credible and effective, it is vital that the ombudsperson be free from political and corporate interference. It is also essential that the Ombudsperson be empowered to conduct effective investigations and gather evidence that may be in a company's possession.

We need your help to encourage the government to meaningfully follow-through on the commitments it made in January.

TAKE ACTION!

1. Take action to ensure that Canada's Ombudsperson will be truly effective.

Send a message to Canada's Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau:

- **Explaining** why this issue is important to Canadians, or why it's important to you personally;
- **Urging** him to take all necessary steps to ensure that the ombudsperson is independent from political and corporate influence;
- **Underscoring** that in order to be effective, it is crucial that the ombudsperson be given the tools necessary to compel corporate disclosure, including summoning witnesses and compelling documents.

For inspiration, you could read some of the [letters](#) sent to the Canadian government by human rights defenders, community groups, environmental organizations, unions, churches, lawyers and other experts around the world, asking Prime Minister Trudeau to establish an independent ombudsperson.

You can send a message by:

- Mail (no stamp required) to: The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
- Email at justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca (and cc the Minister of International Trade Francois-Philippe.Champagne@parl.gc.ca)
- Phone at 1 (613) 995-0253
- Twitter, using the hashtags #open4justice and #power2investigate and tagging @JustinTrudeau and @FP_Changpaigne

2. Show solidarity with communities impacted by gold mining

Join the "Reclaiming the future: Decolonizing hearts and 'mines' in Guatemala" speakers' tour

Maudilia Lopez Cardona will be speaking in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes throughout May Mining Month about building hope and resilience after more than a decade of gold mining in her community. Join Amnesty and partners in hearing about Maudilia's work on peace, ecology and gender while living in the shadow of a major, controversial Canadian mine. Learn what you can do to help hold Goldcorp, Canada and Guatemala to account for human rights and environmental harms.

Public Events:

Toronto - Tuesday, May 22nd. Details TBC

Sackville - Thursday, May 24th. Details TBC

Ottawa - Tuesday, May 29th. Details TBC

More information

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>> [Subscribe to receive our Business and Human Rights e-newsletter](#)

What is Microsoft not telling us?



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/what-microsoft-not-telling-us>

A group of Amnesty volunteers will deliver a big box of letters to Microsoft Canada's headquarters at the end of May. Help them fill the box with letters to Microsoft!

Amnesty is concerned about the strong possibility that there is child labour in Microsoft's supply chain. Amnesty researchers have discovered that cobalt, a metal used in the rechargeable batteries of portable electronics such as laptops, tablets and cell phones, is being mined by children and adults under hazardous conditions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Amnesty researchers traced the cobalt supply chain and determined that the cobalt is very likely used in batteries in products sold by Microsoft, Samsung, Apple and others. We urged these companies, and others, to investigate their cobalt supply chains, publish the names of their smelters, and address any human rights issues, in accordance with international business and human rights guidelines.

Initially, Apple and Samsung neglected to address the serious concerns raised in Amnesty's cobalt report, but when more than 100,000 people signed an Amnesty petition to Apple and Samsung, the companies finally took concrete steps to address human rights abuses in their cobalt supply chain. Yet Microsoft still fails to provide us with adequate evidence that it is mapping its cobalt supply chain and addressing human rights abuses.

Amnesty International will be meeting with Microsoft on May 31st. A few days before the meeting, a group of Amnesty volunteers will visit Microsoft Canada's headquarters and hand-deliver a big box of letters and drawings from activists across the country. The delivery will be filmed on Facebook live.

Help us show Microsoft that people across Canada are concerned about the company's failure to tackle child labour allegations and fill the box with letters and drawings.

TAKE ACTION!

1. Write a letter to Microsoft
 - Explain who you are and why you care about this issue.

- Urge Microsoft to publicly disclose on its website the following:
 - i. whether cobalt in Microsoft products has been mined by child labourers or adults working in hazardous conditions;
 - ii. if no, the steps Microsoft has taken to verify this information;
 - iii. if yes, the steps Microsoft has taken to address human rights abuses in the cobalt supply chain;
 - iv. the names of cobalt smelters/refiners in Microsoft’s supply chain, including identification of where the cobalt was sourced, as well as their human rights due diligence policies and practices.
- To have your letter included in the big box of letters that we will hand-deliver to Microsoft at the end of May, send your letter to:
 Amnesty International (Business and Human Rights)
 3-1992 Yonge Street
 Toronto ON, M4S 1Z7

2. Create a visual message

Create a drawing, photo, or video about this issue. Send the hard copy to the address above for inclusion in that box that we will hand deliver to Microsoft at the end of May. If you use social media, share your visual message using the hashtags #cobalt and #stopchildlabour and tagging @Microsoft @KevinPeesker (President of Microsoft Canada) and @AmnestyNow.

3. Order a Sticker

Order a [“Warning: May Contain Child Labour” sticker](#) and stick it on the back of your laptop or tablet.

4. Watch our interactive video

[Watch our interactive video](#) that will take you on a journey tracing how cobalt mined in the Democratic Republic of Congo ends up in your everyday electronic products.

5. Order postcards

[Order some of our postcards](#) to Microsoft. Encourage your friends and neighbours to sign them, and then send them all to Microsoft.

6. Sign our online action

Act not by signing our [e-petition](#) to Microsoft.

7. Learn more

Receive our campaign updates by subscribing to our [Business and Human Rights e-newsletter](#), and following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

Show your Pride this Summer



For links: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/show-your-pride-summer-0>

In the midst of a [global crackdown on LGBTI rights](#), your action is needed more than ever this Pride season to help ensure the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) people in Canada and around the world are respected, protected, and fulfilled.

Pride festivals are held in communities large and small across Canada from May through September, and Pride season unofficially starts on May 17, the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia (IDAHOT). The Pride movement traces its origins to a riot at New York City's Stonewall Inn in response to years of police harassment, raids, and violence against members of the LGBTI community. Pride remains a call to action to ensure that LGBTI people can live free from violence and discrimination.

Take action with Amnesty at Pride festivals across Canada this summer.

1. **TAKE ACTION NOW IN SUPPORT OF LGBTI RIGHTS IN INDONESIA**
2. **WRITE A LETTER IN SUPPORT OF AN LGBTI ASYLUM SEEKER FACING DEPORTATION IN THE USA**
3. **GATHER PETITION SIGNATURES CALLING FOR JUSTICE FOR LGBTI VICTIMS IN CHECHNYA**
4. **HOST A FILM SCREENING**
5. **LEARN MORE (AND SEE ALL OUR ACTIONS!)**
6. **HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH AMNESTY AT PRIDE (INCLUDING HOW TO BE A STELLAR ALLY!)**

Advocating for LGBTI rights is dangerous in many parts of the world, and Amnesty International works closely with human rights defenders to make sure that our advocacy does not harm. For this reason, we often have to open and close actions with little notice. Please check this page regularly throughout Pride season for access to all the latest actions.

Mt. Polley: Still Seeking Justice 4 Years Later



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/canadians-fear-cultural-health-and-environmental-impacts-mine-disaster>

On August 4, 2014, a section of the Mount Polley copper mine tailing pond blew out, releasing 25 million cubic metres of mine tailings and waste water into pristine Quesnel Lake in central British Columbia. As a result, parts of the crystal clear lake filled with thick, grey mining sludge and Hazeltine Creek was destroyed. Mine tailings, which contain arsenic, cadmium, mercury and selenium, cannot be safely removed and currently sit at the bottom of Quesnel Lake and along Hazeltine Creek.

For Indigenous peoples in the area and downstream, the mine breach was devastating. Many Secwepemc, Dakelh, St'at'imc and Tsilhqot'in communities have not fished local waters for salmon for four years over fears of toxic contamination. The company responsible for the mine, Imperial Metals,

has not been fined, charged or sanctioned for the disaster. **In 2017, the United Nations Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination noted the ‘devastating and disproportionate impacts’ of the disaster on Indigenous peoples and called on Canada to provide those harmed with remedy and reparations. People are still waiting for Canada to act.**

Amnesty is calling on Canada to fulfill its human rights obligations and ensure justice for those harmed by the Mount Polley mine disaster.

TAKE ACTION!

1. Gather Petition Signatures

Call on the Minister of Canadian Heritage, Mélanie Joly and Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister, Carolyn Bennett, to fulfill the UN CERD recommendations on the Mount Polley mine disaster by September 2018.

>>>[Download the petition here](#)>>>

2. Take Action Now

Sign our online petition calling on Canada to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples harmed by the Mount Polley mine disaster. Or, print off and share our letter-writing action

>> [Find the action here](#)>>

3. Screen a Film

Join the **Stand for Water** movement and screen *Uprivers*, a short documentary about two watersheds and the communities that depend on them in the face of British Columbia's mining boom.

Send an email to waterdefenders@amnesty.ca to learn more, order your film discussion guide and select a screening date.

4. Learn more

Learn more about the issue at www.amnesty.ca/mountpolley

Thank you for taking action!

Don't Let Children Grow Up in Jail: FreeThe Berks Kids



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/berks-kids>

Kids and their parents are stuck in what are known as “baby jails.” Their so-called crime? Fleeing violence and dreaming of safety in the United States.

Every year, tens of thousands of people come to the U.S. southern border seeking safety. They are trying to escape horrific violence and persecution, and going there to ask for asylum, a form of protection recognized under U.S. and international law.

The Problem

Upon entering the U.S., many people seeking safety here are imprisoned and held behind bars for many weeks, months, and even years, without easy access to lawyers or interpreters. The majority come from the Northern Triangle countries of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador in Central America. But they also come from Africa, South Asia, the Middle East, and elsewhere. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detains families seeking asylum at three family detention centers. They hold as many as 3,000 kids and parents each day. Berks County Residential Center in Pennsylvania is the oldest of these “baby jails.” Some children and parents are deported without ever having their claims for protection heard – forced to return to countries where they may be tortured, imprisoned, or even killed.

AMNESTY IN ACTION

Amnesty International has helped protect the human rights of refugees and asylum seekers for decades – documenting the conditions they are fleeing, ensuring that individual people are protected, and changing policies so that more people can rebuild their lives.

Last year, Amnesty International campaigned for the release of four families held at Berks family detention center. They had been jailed there for nearly two years. In August, all four families were friends. One child was three-years-old when released. He learned to walk and talk behind bars. Our urgent action to free these children and their parents was part of #TheBerksKids campaign to end the policy of detaining families simply for seeking safety in the U.S.

While the four Berks families are free, the battle doesn't end there. The government is trying to put them back in jail, and new families continue to be locked up every day at Berks as well as the other detention sites in Karnes City and Dilley, Texas. Family detention is inhumane, expensive, and undermines the United States' long history as a beacon of hope for people seeking safety. It's time the U.S. free all families in detention like #TheBerksKids.

Join us and call on DHS to immediately release parents and children in detention like #TheBerksKids, and end the policy of detaining families for seeking asylum.

1. Download a Petition and gather signatures in your community

2. Tweet at the Department of Homeland Security

Here are some examples:

- @DHSgov whether for 2 weeks or 2 years, no family should be jailed for seeking safety. Help #TheBerksKids <http://bit.ly/2HPTLJX>
- Hey @DHSgov - no child should grow up in jail. It's time to free #TheBerksKids <http://bit.ly/2HPTLJX>
- @DHSgov there are kids sitting in jail simply because they fled violence in their home country. Free #TheBerksKids <http://bit.ly/2HPTLJX>

3. Take more actions to speak out for refugee rights

[Norway: Stop Taibeh's Deportation Now!](#) 18 year old Taibeh Abbasi and her family are at risk of deportation to Afghanistan

[Canada: Rescind Canada-US Safe Third Country Agreement](#)

The Site C Dam and Treaty Rights - Justice must be allowed to prevail



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/site-c-dam-and-treaty-rights-justice-must-be-allowed-prevail>

"People shouldn't have to go to court to claim their rights" – federal Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett, speaking at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, April 2018

In the coming weeks, two governments that have repeatedly promised to uphold the rights of Indigenous peoples will be in court to defend a massively destructive resource development project that they approved without ever once considering whether it would violate Canada's Treaty obligations to the affected First Nations.

The West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations are asking the court to halt construction of the [Site C dam](#) which would flood more than 100 km of the Peace River Valley and its tributaries.

The environmental assessment of the project found that its impacts on First Nations cultural sites and way of life would be severe, permanent and irreversible. The United Nations' top anti-racism body, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, has called for a halt to the project as a violation of the rights of Indigenous peoples.

But when First Nations challenged the fact that the project was approved without ever considering whether it would violate rights protected under their historic Treaty with Canada, the federal government and the government of BC said, 'take us to court.'

Being forced to go to court to defend rights that are explicitly protected in the Canadian Constitution and recognized in international law poses an unfair burden on First Nations.

Such court battles are inevitably long and costly. And all too often, government lawyers use technicalities and delaying tactics to prolong the cases and make it harder for Indigenous peoples to achieve justice.

Meanwhile, the BC government has continued to press ahead with construction of the Site C dam at a such a rapid pace that there is a very real risk that a final decision on the legality of the dam could come too late to protect the rights of First Nations.

That's why Amnesty is standing with West Moberly and Prophet River in calling for an immediate halt to construction so that justice can prevail. We are also urging the federal and provincial governments to ensure that their lawyers' behaviour in court is in keeping with the promise to respect Indigenous rights. This includes avoiding delaying tactics that would keep the court from making a timely ruling on the substance case, which is Canada's obligation to uphold Treaty rights.

We have also joined with many partner organizations to launch a new online initiative -- www.witnessforthepeace.ca -- to monitor the court case and encourage donations to help cover the massive legal expenses facing the First Nations.

Here's how you can support this important struggle for justice.

TAKE ACTION!

1. BE A WITNESS

Visit the new website www.witnessforthepeace.ca and make a pledge to follow this crucial court and help hold the federal and provincial governments accountable.

2. SPEAK OUT

Tell the government of BC that [construction of Site C must be halted](#) while the crucial issue of Treaty rights protection is still before the courts

3. DONATE

Make a [direct donation](#) to help the West Moberly and Prophet River First Nations cover the costs of being forced to go to court to defend their rights.

Act Now in Support of Women Human Rights Defenders at Risk



For links: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/act-now-support-women-human-rights-defenders-risk>

As the space for civil society to peacefully advocate in support of human rights shrinks, being a human rights defender is getting increasingly dangerous. Women human rights defenders (WHRDs) are experiencing harassment and violence—both on and offline—because of what they're advocating for AND because of their gender. The space for WHRDs to safely advocate for human rights, is getting even smaller. And the space for women of colour, Indigenous women, women with disabilities, and other marginalized women to advocate in support for human rights is even smaller still.

What is the impact of the shrinking space for WHRDs? It means having your assets frozen, a travel ban imposed, and the threat of prison time if you call out rape culture like [Azza Soliman](#) has done in Egypt. It means experiencing ongoing harassment and abuse on [Twitter](#). And it meant death for [Marielle Franco](#), a black, lesbian, WHRD from Brazil, whose murder in March sparked global outrage and drew attention to the risks faced by WHRDs in Brazil and around the world.

This summer, take action in support of courageous women human rights defenders, who continue to speak truth to power despite the risks to their personal safety and security.

1. Marielle Franco

[Take action now](#) and call for justice in the killing of Marielle Franco in Brazil.

2. Azza Soliman

Take action now and collect petition signatures in support of Egyptian WHRD Azza Soliman.

3. Hanan Badr el-Din

Take action now, write a letter, and collect petition signatures in support of Egyptian WHRD Hanan Badr el-Din.

4. #ToxicTwitter

Learn more about how #ToxicTwitter is a hostile space for WHRDs, take action now, and learn about other actions you can take to make Twitter a safe space for everyone.

For more actions, news, and other updates, check out our [women's rights webpage](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), and join our [Facebook group](#).

ACTIVISM RESOURCES

Amnesty SOS App: A tool for summer activism



For links: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/amnesty-sos-app-tool-summer-activism>

Amnesty's new mobile app *Amnesty SOS* is now available for download on both iPhone and Android devices. Download it now and join a global community of human rights activists taking urgent action to protect people and communities at risk - right from the palm of your hand.

This summer, you can use the [Amnesty SOS App](#) as an activism tool for collecting signatures on the priority campaign actions your working on, or to raise awareness about the app as a simple and effective way to take action on urgent human rights cases to people.

With the Amnesty SOS app, you'll be the first to hear about urgent human rights alerts and the first to take action to protect people in imminent danger. You will also receive recent updates about Amnesty's critical work to protect human rights around the world.

It's a simple way to engage new audiences, and an effective way to take action on urgent human rights cases. In just 6 simple steps you can take action to save a life - 1) Download the app, 2) Wait to receive a notification when there's an individual/ community at risk, 3) select the action you want to take action on, 4) learn about the background of the case, 5) preview the letter to authorities and send your urgent message by filling in your details, 6) Amplify your impact by sharing on social media or collect more signatures.

The app was developed with our most engaged activists in mind, so you can use the Amnesty SOS app as an activism tool to collect signatures and amplify your impact at your events or while tabling. It's also a great way to start a conversation about human rights and encourage people to start their journey in taking action for human rights.

Download the Amnesty SOS app now.

We can, and do make an impact when we act together.

If you are using the app for your summer activism and would like to write a blog about how you're using it please send a message to urgentaction@amnesty.ca

Summer Activism: Tabling Toolbox



For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/summer-activism-tabling-toolbox>

Amnesty International is a global network made up of 7 million supporters, activists and volunteers, united by the commitment to freedom and human rights for all.

But how did we get this big?

One of most critical tactics for activists to help build our networks is to get the word out about who we are and what we do. This is where tabling comes in.

Tabling is an important and essential tool for recruiting new members, gathering signatures and building support for your groups' work. It is one of the simplest and most effective ways to increase the visibility of Amnesty International in your community or at your school.

TABLING TOOLS!

Practical Tabling Guide:

- This guide walks you through all the steps of tabling from finding opportunities, coordinating logistics, choosing an issue, outreach techniques and follow up. If you are new to tabling we recommend you start here.

Tabling Tutorial

- Check out this video outlining good tabling and outreach techniques.

Tabling and Outreach Form

- Here is a form, you or the community partner you are coordinating with, can fill out to help coordinate the logistics of tabling opportunities.

Amnesty Sign Up Sheet

- Here is a group sign up list! Along with our petitions we should always be asking if people are interested in getting involved with Amnesty locally.

Materials

- Order Amnesty Materials and Swag

Petition Library

- Here are the up to date printable petitions.

Activism Guide

- We will always highlight Amnesty Canada's **priority** actions here in the Activism Guide.

ACTIVIST REFLECTIONS

Reflection on Urgent Action Exchange Workshop



By Maitri Gupta, Urgent Action member in the GTA.

For links: <http://www.amnesty.ca/blog/reflection-urgent-action-exchange-workshop>

The Urgent Action Network (UAN) personifies the famous saying the pen is mightier than the sword. It connects a global community of human rights defenders that have, over the years, used their words in letters to protect individuals from human rights violations. In Canada alone, the UA Network writes thousand of letters a year, and I am proud to have joined this community recently. As a Canadian, I have a voice that can be heard. Writing personal letters allows me to convey my message with more effort and therefore, sincerity. Writing to authorities is a powerful tool for accountability. Each time I write, the stories of the people that I am trying to help become more memorable. This is what truly motivated me to take that additional step outside of just signing petitions that I would often forget I had even seen.

Moreover, as a student, I do not always have the financial means to contribute. However, I found that UA Network was a great way for me to get involved in other ways with the incredible work that Amnesty is doing. Even though Amnesty is the largest human rights advocacy group in the world, I am quite fond of their grassroots efforts such as this UA Network. I am grateful to have connected with other Canadians during the workshop, some that have been a part of this Network for decades! It was interesting to hear from them and how they have contributed over time and I am truly motivated to continue with my UA letter writing journey. Despite being a grassroots initiative, the group seminar does a great job of illustrating how the UA Networks around the world all connect. We are a global community, and I am happy that I can engage from right here at home.

Going into the workshop, I expected to learn how to write more effective letters. Although, we did not practice effective letter writing skills, the workshop helped to inform my writing by providing me with background information about the Network and how it came to be. It was fascinating to learn about all the hard work that goes into bringing Urgent Actions to light by the Amnesty team. Emma Jayne and Marilyn do a great job of describing the Canadian arm of the UA Network as well. The workshop incorporates visuals and allows for everyone to participate. It definitely met my expectations when we are interacted with one another because I felt more united with the other UA writers.

Moving forward, I am even more inspired to continue writing and staying on top of all the UAs I am connected with. I would like to put more effort into reading more of the issues to rightfully understand the depth of the human rights situation at hand. I would hope to also connect with other UA writers in the future to inform my writing. If more workshop opportunities arise, I would like to continue

participating in the best way that I can. I am eager to attend more in-person workshops, because I think each and every time my passion to write will be renewed.

LEARN - [more about the Urgent Action Network](#)

TAKE ACTION - [write a letter to save a life!](#)

REGISTER - [for an upcoming Urgent Action online workshop](#)

Ashley Hyshka Wins the 2018 Youth Media Award



By Oriana Confente, Amnesty International Canada Youth Intern

For links: <https://www.amnesty.ca/blog/ashley-hyshka-wins-2018-youth-media-award>

As any journalist in attendance could tell you, during an era of fake news and fluff pieces (when covering a canine wedding is considered a top priority), it's a tough time to be working in the field. But that's part of what makes being at the Amnesty International Media Awards such a special experience. It's truly awesome to celebrate professionals like Nathan VanderKlippe of the Globe and Mail, Margaret Evans, Stephanie Jenzer and Richard Devey of the CBC, Sally Armstrong and Peter Bregg of the United Church Observer, and Denise Ryan of the Vancouver Sun for the hard work they've done to expose human rights violations all over the globe – including right here in Canada.

Ashley Hyshka is a student from Kwantlen Polytechnic University who stood amongst the celebrants this year as the winner of the Amnesty International Youth Media Award for her story, “[No More Stolen Sisters](#)”.

Ashely told us:

“When I first applied for the Amnesty International Canada Youth Media Award, a part of me wasn't sure if I stood a chance to win such a prestigious award. So, when I received the email saying that I'd won, I was overjoyed and completely in shock. The entire journey has been incredible way to end my undergraduate studies at Kwantlen Polytechnic University.

Over the past several months, the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls has been something that's occupied my mind more than I thought it would. The deeper I dug into the story, the more fascinated and appalled I became with what I was reading; thoughts about the abuse suffered by Indigenous women and girls, societal and police attitudes towards those who were murdered or went missing and the Robert Pickton investigation often kept me up at night.

Lorelei Williams and Dave Dickson were two of the most extraordinary people I've ever met, and since I embarked on this story about six months ago, not a day has gone by where I don't think about them. Being able to call myself an “award winning journalist” at only 24 years old is something I never thought would happen. It's an honour to receive this award from Amnesty International Canada and to represent my university. While today's era of journalism can be frightening and uncertain due to “fake

news” and a distrust of journalists, this award – and the journalists I befriended during the Media Awards – only reinforced my belief that we’re needed now more than ever.

Human rights stories are worth fighting for.”

Amnesty Canada is proud to support young, aspiring journalists through opportunities like the Youth Media Awards. If you have any questions, or want to know more, give us a shout at youth@amnesty.ca.

KEY DATES

Save the Date!

May is Mining Justice Month

May 10th is the Day of Action in Solidarity with the Mothers of the Disappeared in Mexico

May 17th is the International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

May 31st is Amnesty International's Meeting with Microsoft

June 20th is World Refugee Day

August 4th is the Mt. Polly Anniversary

CONNECT WITH US

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