

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



**ANNUAL REPORT &
CONFERENCE PAPERS 2017**



**I AM A
HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDER**

**RESISTANCE
IS A
HUMAN
RIGHT**

**RESISTANCE
IS A
HUMAN
RIGHT**



Annual Conference 2017

Venue: IBAT College, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Saturday 6 May

9:30 Registration

10.15 Conference opening
Chair: Mary Quinn

Adoption of the Report of the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC)/ election of the National Board & CAC

10:30 Plenary Session I

A Year in Review – report back to membership.

A look back at 2016 with the our National Board including the Treasurer's report and presentation of budget for 2017 & headline budget for 2018

Followed by a Q&A

11:45 Break

12:00 Plenary Session II

Stand with people who stand up for what's right.

With Jim Loughran (Front Line Defenders), Jameen Kuar (International Secretariat) & Regina Fonseca, Honduran human rights defender.

Followed by Q&A

1:30 Lunch

2:30 Workshop Session I

- **Making reproductive rights real**
- **Thinking *locally*, acting *globally*: the global refugee campaign in your community**
- **Let's stand with human rights defenders Worldwide**

3:45 Break

4:00 Plenary Session III

Fighting the backlash against the rights of women and girls

With Karolina Więckiewicz, Regina Fonseca & Alison O'Connor

Followed by Q&A

5:30 Conference Adjourns

Sunday 7 May

9.30 Registration (new attendees)

10.00 Conference resumes/ presentation of Activism Awards
Chair: Mary Quinn

10.15 Workshop Session II

Repeat of Saturday's Workshop sessions

11:30 Break

11:45 International Council Meeting 2017

20 minute sessions x 3 to review the upcoming ICM resolutions on:

- Governance
- Human Rights
- Organisational

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Conference business

Conference Delegates discuss and vote on the motions and constitutional amendments put forward by membership.

2:30 Plenary Session IV

I Welcome: global responses to the refugee crisis

With Lorna Hayes (International Secretariat), Enda O'Neill (UNHCR), Tim Hanley (Amnesty International Ireland)

Followed by a Q&A

4:00 Break

4:15 Plenary Session V

A day in the life of an Amnesty researcher.

An interactive session for members led by Audrey Gaughran, Director of Global Issues and Research at Amnesty International, exploring the work of Amnesty International's crisis response team.

5:30 Closing remarks & thanks

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**RESISTANCE
IS A
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RIGHT**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Foreword

It's been a busy year at Amnesty International Ireland



2016 was a disheartening year for human rights. A promised refugee deal didn't materialise and human rights defenders continue to live under threat. Every day, women in Ireland have their human rights seriously violated by our restrictive abortion laws. All around the world, the forces of division seem to be gathering momentum. It is a bleak outlook. But the future does not have to be like this. In the face of these trends we must to resolve to do one thing.

We must resist

We must resist those who attack us for standing up for human rights. We must resist the cheapening of media discourse which seems more concerned with ratings and online clicks than with truth, objectivity and considered analysis. We must resist hopelessness. We must resist voices, which tell us that the abuse of human rights is not our concern, not our battle to fight. We must resist the cynicism that says we will not prevail.

Fear and hate do not have to win the day – instead they can and must drive us to work even harder for change. The vast majority of people in Ireland and around the world support equality, dignity, freedom for all people – the core values underpinning human rights. Those values are far too precious to discard; and right now, their protection is far too fragile to take for granted. Together, we must challenge oppression by calling it out and by standing in solidarity with those whose human rights are threatened. Nothing has ever defeated hate as successfully as the humanity of ordinary people working together to face it down. This is Amnesty International's mission. This is who we are.

In 2016, millions of Amnesty supporters like you pushed decision-makers to make change happen worldwide. You helped to release journalists and activists. You helped change discriminatory laws and compensate victims of corporate crime. You helped secure justice for survivors of torture. And so much more. As governments continued to crack down on dissent and free speech, your pressure was critical to protect people's human rights.

Thank you for all that you have done– together, we are standing up for people risking everything to speak out against injustice.

Whenever and wherever governments fail to respect and protect human rights, we must hold them to account. This has been our mission ever since Amnesty International was founded in 1961. For fifty six years, we have proven the power of collective action and outrage. We have proven that ordinary people, speaking and acting in unison, can change the world. You help us to prove that every day.

Thank you.

Colm O'Gorman,
Executive Director,
Amnesty International Ireland
@colmogorman



Not a Criminal

Ireland's abortion law violates the human rights of women and girls every day



276,861

people signed our global petition calling for reform of Ireland's abortion laws



It's the human rights aspect, the fact that we all know that some women can afford this and we all know that some women can't and we're just happy to see some of our citizens live out a life of poverty... And that is not OK, that's not how modern democracy should operate.

- From AF's story in our She's Not a Criminal report



It's been a busy year for the Not a Criminal campaign. We've continued to campaign for an abortion framework that respects the human rights of women and girls. As part of the global My Body, My Rights campaign, we conducted research into states' criminalising sexual and reproductive freedom. On abortion, Ireland and El Salvador stood out as the key countries of focus, due to the harshness of their laws. Our 2015 report, She is Not a Criminal, documented the harrowing experiences of women and girls in Ireland. We found multiple violations of their human rights, including their rights to health, non-discrimination, privacy, information, and freedom from torture or other ill-treatment.

These rights violations stem from the Eighth Amendment. It is the root cause of the human rights violations inflicted on women and girls on a daily basis by Ireland's restrictive and punitive laws on abortion

access and information. The Eighth Amendment must be fully repealed to enable Ireland to introduce a human rights compliant abortion framework.

No woman should be denied the healthcare that is her right. Criminalising women for having abortions violates their human rights and endangers their lives. Women's and girls' sexual and reproductive rights are a core part of the international human rights legal framework. Women have a right to control their own fertility, to determine the number and spacing of their children, and to not be forced to continue with a pregnancy against their wishes.

In February 2016, we conducted a Red C Research & Markets poll to establish a deeper understanding of public attitudes to Ireland's laws on abortion. The independent polling shows that abortion is not as controversial or divisive as it is painted. The overwhelming majority – across all regions, ages and demographics - want expanded access to abortion.

In April 2016, to show solidarity with the women and girls who are forced into temporary exile from Ireland to access safe healthcare, we held a daily demonstration outside Government Buildings calling for abortion reform to be to be prioritised in negotiations towards forming a new government. Our activists and supporters were joined by representatives of all the main political parties except Fianna Fail as well as several Independent deputies.

In a huge success for the campaign, our global petition received 276,861 signatures showing that our members and supporters from across the world stand in solidarity with Irish women, declaring that women are not criminals and calling for the repeal of the Eighth Amendment. In August, Minister for Health, Simon Harris TD received our petition on behalf of the Irish government.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS
CALLING FOR THE FULL REPEAL OF THE
EIGHTH AMENDMENT;**

FULL DECRIMINALISATION OF ABORTION;

**AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A HUMAN
RIGHTS COMPLIANT FRAMEWORK FOR
ACCESS TO AND INFORMATION ABOUT
ABORTION**



In November 2016, we welcomed the Irish Government's offer of compensation in the Mellet vs Ireland case. The UN Human Rights Committee found that, in denying Ms Mellet access to abortion in Ireland, she was subjected to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, discrimination, and violation of her right to privacy. It said that Ireland had subjected Ms Mellet to "intense physical and mental suffering". The UN Committee further found that Ireland's restrictive abortion laws together with the criminalisation of abortion stigmatised Ms Mellet and that her suffering was aggravated by the obstacles she faced in getting information about her medical options. Not only was Ms Mellet's complaint vindicated by this UN Committee, it resulted in a ground breaking decision which will help advance women's and girls' rights around the world. Amnesty International was one of the NGOs who partnered with the Center for Reproductive Rights, Ms Mellet's legal representative, in publicising the decision and holding a joint press conference in June 2016. Ireland having promptly accepted this ruling is an important and commendable step. The true test of its commitment will lie in its scheduling of a referendum to allow the Irish people to vote on repealing the Eighth Amendment.

We tentatively welcomed the government's plan to convene a Citizens' Assembly to examine, among other issues, the Eighth Amendment and called on the Government to ensure that human rights be one of the Assembly's key benchmarks.

In December 2016 we made a submission to the Assembly summarising the harm and human rights violations caused by Ireland's criminalisation and prohibition of abortion, and setting out on what a human rights-complaint abortion framework would entail. Following this, we were pleased to have been among the 17 advocacy groups invited to present to the Citizens' Assembly at its March session. Colm O'Gorman on behalf of Amnesty International presented to the Citizens Assembly. The presentation built the argument for a human rights compliant abortion model encompassing both 'on request' access in early pregnancy, and additional grounds-based access in later pregnancy.

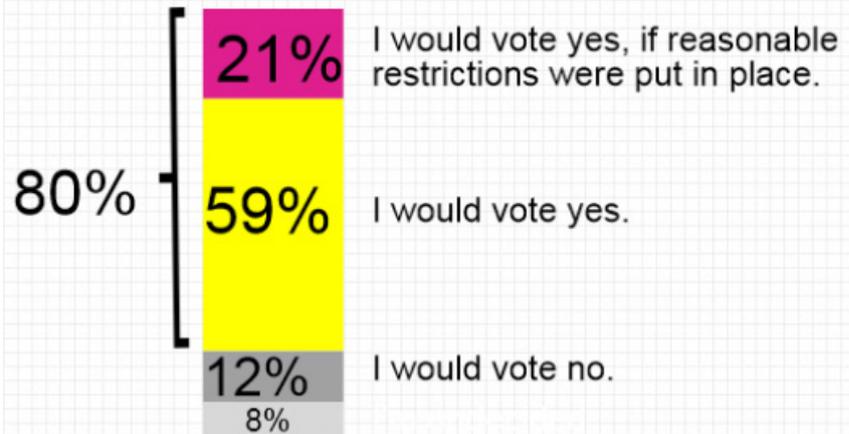
In April, the Citizens' Assembly voted overwhelmingly against retaining the Eighth Amendment to Ireland's Constitution, and voted to give the Oireachtas unrestricted power to legislate for abortion. The outcome of the final session is a truly momentous leap forward for the human rights of women and girls in Ireland. No longer can this issue be painted as controversial or divisive.

Current media and political commentary suggests that abortion is a controversial and deeply divisive issue. This is not the case. Our Independent polling found that 80% of people in Ireland would vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment, either outright or if legislation placing reasonable restrictions on abortion were put in place.



© Amnesty International

How would you vote in a referendum to repeal the Eighth Amendment?



Source: Red C Research and Markets

amnesty.ie/poll



SANDRA'S STORY

As part of the She's Not a Criminal report, we interviewed people with experience of Ireland's abortion laws. This is Sandra's story.

"I read online about self-induced abortions, about some Chinese herbs. I was probably six or seven weeks along, apparently it needed to be earlier. I tried them and they didn't work, while I was still waiting for an appointment [with the clinic in England] because you try everything when you are desperate.

Sandra is a young, single mother who told Amnesty International that she used medication obtained through Women on Web to end an unplanned and unwanted pregnancy in 2014. "Two children would be a catastrophe for me, I can't afford that. I have just finished school and I am getting my career going, I don't know how that would be possible with two kids."

Immediately after discovering she was pregnant, Sandra tried to schedule an appointment with a clinic in England but found it difficult and costly. She attempted to induce an abortion using high doses of vitamins and some "Chinese herbs" she had read about on the internet. She told her mother she was trying these methods because, "You don't want something happening to you and people not knowing what happened to you. Just in case you collapse."

Sandra's mother had read about Women on Web in an Irish Independent article about women who were travelling to Belfast [in Northern Ireland] to collect the pills for medical abortion. Sandra made a €90 donation, set up a postal box in Belfast, and made a six-hour round trip to pick up the pills. "It was very easy; all they did was ask for my ID, they didn't photocopy it or do anything. I took off the packaging that it was in, because when you are carrying something like that, you have this fear. I just took the pills and the instructions and hid them in my bra, because you never know. I was paranoid... I got home and I think that is when the fear starts, before I was just getting through but when you have to take it... I took the pills. The next day I took the second one and it was very bad, it was really painful. Then the following day it was done... You have this bleeding but it is done. I got my period again about a week and a half ago and I am very happy."

We will continue to campaign to end the prohibition and criminalisation of abortion by the state in Ireland so that women and girls like Sandra can have full access to their human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights.

Have questions about our campaign? Read our FAQ www.amnesty.ie/abortion-faq/



I Welcome Refugees

Every day, all over the world, people make the difficult decision to leave their homes in search of a better life.



We are now witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. An unprecedented 65.3 million people around the world have been forced from home. Among them are nearly 21.3 million refugees, over half of whom are under the age of 18.



- UNHCR

Against a global backdrop of conflict, insecurity and hateful rhetoric, the refugee crisis is rapidly escalating. The scale of the crisis is unprecedented. More people are on the move now than at any time in modern history. Across the world, every day people become refugees and asylum-seekers, forced from their homes often into appalling and life threatening conditions.

On Europe's Mediterranean coast, refugees and migrants have been left on Europe's doorstep. In the absence of safe and legal routes into Europe, hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants have travelled irregularly over the last few years, at considerable risk to their own lives. The EU-Turkey deal, agreed in March last year, was Europe's signature response to these challenges. It has certainly stemmed the flow of migrants across the Aegean Sea, but at considerable cost to Europe's commitment to the lives of the tens of thousands of people it has trapped on Greek islands.

upholding the basic principles of refugee protection and

Millions of refugees and migrants are fleeing war, persecution or other human rights abuses. Amnesty International's research in Africa, The Americas, and Europe revealed horrifying abuses of refugees and migrants including sexual violence, killings, torture, and religious persecution. Our research has shown that large numbers of unaccompanied refugee children and adolescents are particularly affected by human rights abuses and women and girls that are at serious risk of sexual violence and human trafficking.

Despite overwhelming evidence that many refugees and asylum-seekers are at risk of extreme violence or discrimination should they not be granted asylum, deportations remain steady. Many refugees and migrants are forcibly returned back to the life-threatening situations they were fleeing in the first place.

Right now, 21 million people have been forced to flee their homes. This represents 0.3% of the world's population. Instead of protecting refugees, many countries including the United States are slamming their doors shut. With executive order after executive order President Trump is determined to shut America's door to the most vulnerable refugees. Amnesty is working to challenge everything that these and any future bans represent.



16,058
actions taken on
I Welcome campaign



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YEZIDI REFUGEES: STRANDED SISTERHOOD UNITES TO DRAW STRENGTH THROUGH ADVERSITY

An estimated 3,800 Yezidi women and children remain captive since 2014, when the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS) swept across northern Iraq in a systematic campaign of ethnic cleansing against minority communities. Hundreds of thousands are internally displaced in Iraq. Many others, forced to flee their country, became refugees.

Yezidis staying at the Nea Kavala refugee camp in Greece in 2016 told us their stories. Struggling to survive, they crossed mountains and borders but found only misery in camps in Turkey. They continued their journey in search of protection, forced to pay smugglers to cross the Aegean Sea, only to find themselves trapped in Greece, the borders of Europe closed to them.

The journey was especially harrowing for elderly Yezidi women like Bahar Salaman, 91 years old and suffering from heart problems. Unable to walk, she travelled with her family and crossed the Aegean Sea, known as the “sea of the death” by some Yezidis because it has swallowed so many refugees.

Kurtey, Ghazal, Karmey, Beshey and Noorey are Yezidi women who formed a protection circle to look after each other after feeling unsafe at the Nea Kavala refugee camp. “We don’t use the showers in the camps. We have built instead a Hamman next to our tents”.

Like other female refugees, Yezidi women are concerned about food, health care and about their terrible living conditions in Greece.

“We spend the day thinking, depressed, just moving between tents”.

All of them agree that the main problems are insecurity and lack of education for their children.

“Before we didn’t have anything, but at least we had education. We were living on our hope but now our hope is broken”.

The women are now living in a hotel in northern Greece but are still stranded. Before that they made their way to another camp, over 400 of them sleeping rough before finally being moved to the new camp, Dimitra.



However, many are still waiting to be relocated or reunited with family members in other European countries. But the wait is too long and - for them – unbearable. The uncertainty is devastating their collective aspirations to remain together as a community. Yezidi asylum seekers have survived brutal abuses by the armed group calling itself Islamic State (IS) and travelled thousands of miles to escape, only to find themselves overlooked by European leaders. Yezidi women told us:

“We want our voices to be heard by all European leaders. Get us out of the camp, out of Greece”.

All European states share a collective responsibility; they can and must offer relocation places, reunify families and grant visas. The responsibility for offering protection to refugees in Europe cannot be borne by Greece alone.

Thousands of Amnesty activists joined together to send solidarity messages to the Yezidi sisterhood and say “I welcome refugees”. The positive global messages of support received heart-warming reactions from Yezidi refugees.

“We won’t forget these messages until we die. We appreciate your kindness”.

Amnesty is a movement of people who believe that the things that unite us are far more powerful than those that threaten to divide us. We don’t see refugees as a threat, but as people whose lives are under threat. Refugees and migrants are people who need a safe place to start again and who deserve a chance to make a positive contribution. We believe that the solution to the global refugee crisis starts with each and every one of us making one simple, personal commitment to help – simply by saying: “I welcome refugees”.

We must continue to pressure world leaders and governments who have continued to fail to rise to the challenge to do more to protect refugees and migrants.

When we talk about EU failures, we must also acknowledge that Ireland is part of the problem. When the European Council or the Justice and Home Affairs Council meets to agree policies which threaten human rights, Ireland is at the table taking part in those decisions. The Irish government must push for policy approaches which respect and protect the human rights of refugees and migrants.

Amnesty has been campaigning for the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers for decades. We will continue to tell governments and the European Union to share responsibility and do more to respect and protect the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in Europe and along its borders, and all over the world. We hope you will join us and continue to say “I welcome refugees”.

Join our campaign at: www.amnesty.ie/iwelcomenetwork

Human rights defenders

Human rights defenders are heroes,
they should be celebrated and protected.



A human rights defender (HRD) is a person who, individually or in association with others, acts to defend and/or promote human rights at the local, national, regional or international levels.



- UN Declaration on Human rights defenders

In May 2017, Amnesty is launching its next global campaign to empower and protect human rights defenders from the crackdown and shrinking civil society space in which they bravely defend human rights. The campaign will seek to connect, recognise, equip and protect Human rights defenders so that they can defend human rights in a safe and enabled environment.

Today, people across the world are taking enormous risks to stand up for what's right. They could be teachers, students, political opponents, factory workers, journalists, lawyers or so many others. They could be you, your friend or your relatives. They come from all walks of life. They stand up for human rights peacefully.

People like Máxima Acuña, a peasant farmer in northern Peru who has stood up to a mining company and braved violent attacks for refusing to leave the land where she lives. Or Narges Mohammadi (include image), who is serving a total of 22 years in prison in Iran just for speaking out against the death penalty and acid attacks on women. And Edward Snowden (include image), who risks a 30-year prison sentence in the USA for revealing the alarming extent of global, unlawful mass surveillance.

These human rights defenders and countless others are being harassed, tortured, jailed or even killed – just for having the courage to speak out against injustice. Governments, companies, religious groups and others in power are doing all they can to shut these people up and close their work down.

They portray those who challenge them as criminals, terrorists or “foreign agents”. Then the attack goes further – smearing reputations, locking people up and even using violence to silence dissent. At the same time, unions are disbanded and newspapers are closed down. Social media is banned. Digital activity is monitored. And peaceful protestors are met with violence. Speaking out for human rights has become difficult and dangerous. That's why we need to cherish our human rights defenders more than ever. They're brave enough to speak up for free speech. Challenge racism and sexism. Condemn torture. And ultimately hold our leaders to account. Without their courage, the world would be less fair, less just and less equal.





AZZA'S STORY

“They have the power and authority, while we have the constitution and law, our tools may be weak and meaningless, however we are holding tight onto our dreams and hopes.” Azza Soliman

Azza Soliman works to defend women victims of torture and arbitrary detention in Egypt. She founded the Centre For Egyptian Women’s Legal Assistance (CEWLA) in Boulaq el-Dakror, a working class neighbourhood in greater Cairo. The organisation provides legal aid, support and literacy lessons for women, especially those who have experienced domestic abuse and rape. She has been targeted with smear campaigns, government surveillance and faces constant harassment by security forces and the pro-government media. She was first arrested in 1988 and Amnesty was the first organisation to report her case. Several TV anchors and newspapers have labelled her an enemy of Egypt. Recently Azza was arrested, interrogated and charged with tax evasion, operating a civil society organisation without proper registration, and with slandering Egypt’s image by claiming that women in the country face rape. She has been banned from travelling and her assets and those of her organisation have been frozen. She could be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

Last year she was prevented from travelling to Jordan to participate in a training session on women’s rights in Islam on the basis of a judicial order. Her story is a chilling example of the Egyptian authorities’ systematic persecution of human rights defenders.

Since early 2016, at least 22 NGO workers, including directors, have been summoned for interrogation; 18 human rights activists and defenders have been barred from travelling; and asset freezes have been imposed against 7 NGOs and 10 individuals. Egyptian authorities are using a string of repressive tactics designed to intimidate her and other critical voices into silence.

“Several of us women human rights defenders decided to face all of these absurd accusations and defamation. We have already decided to carry on with our work that we are proud of. We have decided to carry on despite the injustice and darkness that are rampant in Egypt, today.” Azza Soliman

We want a world where people like Azza can speak out for what’s right without being attacked, threatened and jailed. Countries need to put laws in place which keep human rights defenders safe from harm, and scrap repressive laws, which attack free speech. They need to release people who have been locked up just for challenging injustice. And they need to stop using spurious charges such as national security as an excuse to silence those who disagree with them.

Law makers, business leaders, government officials and other influential people should also make a public pledge to speak up for the brave, everywhere. By recognising human rights defenders as committed, courageous people creating a fairer society, we can protect them from further attacks.

Amnesty’s human rights defenders campaign ‘Brave’ launches on 16 May. Support the Brave – stand with people who stand up for what’s right. **Join the campaign at: <https://www.amnesty.ie/human-rights-defenders/>**



Activism

Act for Amnesty was launched in 2015 with the aim of expanding and deepening the online and offline engagement of activism in Amnesty International Ireland.

The network has grown to more than 1,250 activists across Ireland, who take regular action to protect human rights both online and offline. This platform is a unique vehicle for activists and members to get involved with our work, receive training and take part in events like conferences, demonstrations and festivals. Information about our activism activities is sent by email every two weeks.

Act for Amnesty also has a private facebook group for activists to promote our work and share our online and offline actions. The private page also acts as a channel where activists can exchange ideas, photos and videos and keep in touch with each other.

Being part of the Act for Amnesty network means being part of Amnesty's work - campaigning courageously for human rights for everyone.

Amnesty is also active across the country with 14 local groups located from Letterkenny to Clonakilty, Galway to Wexford and lots of places in between. Local group members are at the heart of our work, they offer powerful support in campaigning on individual cases and raising funds for human rights. Local group members are the face and voice of Amnesty in their local communities.



58
events run by
local groups

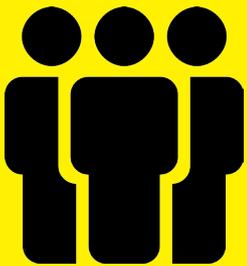


Youth Activism

Our youth activists are at the forefront of the fight for human rights. Through groups in schools and colleges, these young people organise activities, events, talks, art campaigns and information stands to highlight Amnesty's work. They lobby politicians, organise protests and collect signatures for our global petitions. This gives them a chance to meet like-minded people, while developing invaluable campaigning, teamwork and organisation skills.



29,800
actions collected
at festivals in 2016



169
activists at festivals
and events



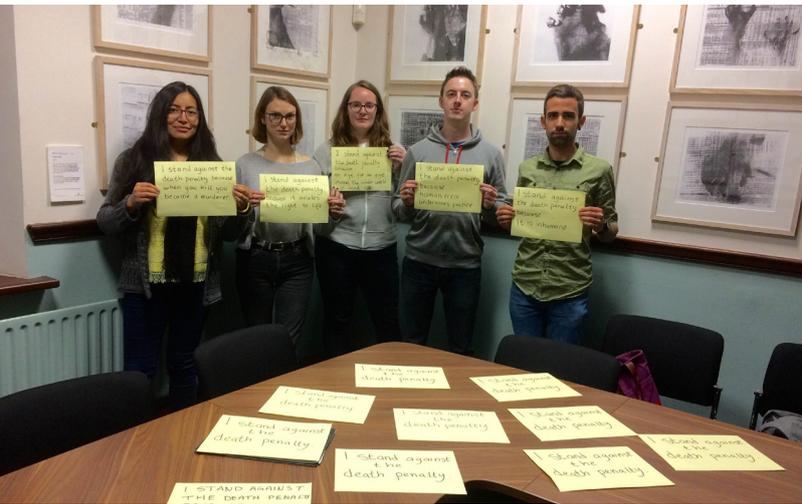
1,149
Amnesty activists
in Ireland





Local Groups and Act for Amnesty

Our local groups and societies are at the heart of our work, they offer powerful support in campaigning and help raise funds for human rights.





Human Rights Education



259

**teachers undertook training
in human rights education**



Brilliant workshop, very informative and eye opening. Definitely necessary in the primary school classroom



- Teacher who participated in Rights Sparks workshop

Placed within Goal 1 of Amnesty International's 2016 – 2019 strategic goals – “A world in which everyone knows and can claim human rights”, human rights education (HRE) is recognised as an essential tool and resource to empower and equip people (particularly young people) with knowledge, skills and attitudes to claim their rights and defend the rights of others. Through human rights education we can empower the next generation to develop the skills and

attitudes that promote equality, dignity and respect in our communities, society and worldwide.

In 2016, we continued our flagship primary school human rights education programme ‘Rights Sparks’. ‘Rights Sparks’ provides free CPD (continuing professional development) human rights education training to primary school teachers. ‘Rights Sparks’ workshops introduce teachers to a range of human rights education and development education methodologies and resources, which can be integrated across the curriculum and encourage the development of skills including communication, literacy, conflict resolution and working with others. In 2016, we delivered Rights Sparks training to over 250 teachers across five counties in Ireland, who will in turn deliver human rights education in their classrooms. Feedback confirms that teachers find the workshops helpful, useful and engaging:

“A stellar, engaging and innovative workshop which I’m dying to use in my teaching. First class!”

“Brilliant workshop, very informative and eye opening. Definitely necessary in the primary school classroom.”

“Really enjoyed the course and got lots of fab ideas to bring back to my class. Thank you!”

Throughout 2016, we collaborated with the UCD Sutherland School of Law on a human rights education research project. The project saw the delivery of an 8-week HRE module to transition year students across four Dublin schools, with the aim of ascertaining whether a short course in HRE can impact the attitudes of young people. Elements of this module will form the basis of our Transition Year human rights education programme, which we will pilot further in 2017.

2016 also saw the completion of ‘Stop Bullying’ - a two-year European project which employed a human rights based approach to tackle discrimination and bullying in schools. We partnered with Amnesty Sections in Italy, Poland and Portugal to deliver this project which ultimately reached 3344 students, 192 non-teaching staff and 478 teachers. Through engaging and empowering school communities to take action against bullying, the project fostered a deeper and informed understanding of bullying and discrimination while empowering young people to use human rights principles to solve problems in their own lives.

Finally, our primary school fundraising initiative ‘Friendship Week’ saw another successful year in 2016 with over 360 schools engaged and provided with a valuable HRE resource focussed on solidarity and the refugee crisis.

To find out more about our human rights education work, please visit amnesty.ie/education



RIGHTS SPARKS



FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

In 2016, Amnesty International Ireland continued to operate in a challenging economic environment. In spite of this, we managed to grow our total income to €3.031m, a 7.5% increase on the previous year, with income from fundraising growing by 9%.

Income

Income can be split into two broad categories:

Fundraising income (namely member subscriptions, donations and events) and other income such as rental from property or interest received. Our fundraising income increased from €2.57m in 2015 to €2.82m in 2016, which represents a 9% increase on previous year. However, this was also a 12% shortfall against our ambitious income target. To grow our membership and supporter base, we have continued to invest significantly in our Face to Face membership acquisition program.

The results for the year are set out in the financial summary on page 30.

Expenditure - Salaries & Wages

During 2016, we had an average of 28 employees on our core staff teams (programmes, campaigns, fundraising, support and administration) and an average of 13 fundraisers on the Face to Face acquisition programme. Total salary, wages and related costs of these employees in 2016 was €1.73m (2015: €1.75m). This remained at approximately the same level as 2015, as there was no significant changes in the number of staff as well a slight underspend on the recruitment of Face to Face staff.

Details of staff salary bands are published on our website. As of January 2017, the office based salary bands were:

€26,000 - €35,000 12 posts
€35,001 - €40,000 7 posts
€40,001 - €57,000 8 posts
€62,001-72,000 0 posts *
€115,498 1 post (Executive Director)

**Posts at this grade were lost due to redundancy in recent years and have not been refilled.*

Salary and employee costs are allocated to the relevant cost centres in the financial summary.

In addition to staffing costs, expenditure can be categorised in four broad headings:

- Programme and campaign activity costs
- Funded project costs
- Investment in future income
- Fundraising and donor care costs
- Administrative and management costs

Expenditure on programmes and campaign activities was €1.2m, which includes salaries, overheads and our contribution to the International Movement. In order to maintain high levels of investment in membership growth, we have agreed reductions in the contributions due to the international movement. In 2016, we provided a total of €426k to Amnesty International's global budget.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

Expenditure on fundraising for 2016 was €443k, which included investment in diversifying income, away from reliance on Face to Face funds. It was also spent on improving donor care and reducing attrition, as well as maintaining capacity to manage the ongoing and very welcome growth in numbers of Amnesty members.

Expenditure on administrative and management expenses which was not allocated to campaigns and activities was €193k. Financial costs, depreciation and interest amounted to further €127k.

Financial Status:

The net outcome for 2016 was a surplus of €513k in current year activities, compared to a €497k surplus in 2015. After providing for costs of raising future income the combined balance carried forward to reserves was a surplus of €1k compared with a combined deficit of €73k in 2015

Reserves and Financial Position

Amnesty International Ireland's policy is to have sufficient reserves to meet the costs and liabilities of the organisation for a period of 6 months. For several years, due to the recession and other challenges, this has not been possible. However, we have been able to maintain sufficient cash balances to meet our continuing operational costs and liabilities. During 2016, the average cash balance was €500k. This contrasts with a closing balance of €300k in 2015. The healthy cash balance at the end of 2016 was due to the effective cash flow management throughout the year.

Balance Sheet, at 31 December 2016

The assets of the Section amount to €1.23m with liabilities of €2.59m resulting in negative reserves of €1.36m. Our current assets are €904k against the current liability of €991k.

To present a full picture of the finances of our movement in Ireland, we publish a combined balance sheet for two separate Amnesty International entities, Amnesty International Ireland (the Section) and the Amnesty International Ireland Foundation. This combined balance sheet at 31 December 2016 showed negative reserves of €663k. The Amnesty International Ireland Foundation owns the building in Fleet Street, Dublin from we operate from. The reduction on the reserve from 2015 was due to the valuation adjustment of the building to current market rate of 3.35m (previously 5.075m). The reduction in the asset value to market value was required in order to be compliant with new financial regulation standards.

Please note: the figures presented are subject to audit and may change.

Governance

Amnesty International Ireland is a democratic organisation where our members set our policies and strategies. At a national level, our members make the decisions at annual conference every year and elect a board to run the organisation between conferences. The board appoints an Executive Director to run the organisation at an operational level.

Amnesty International Ireland, as a membership based organisation observes a formal system of accountability as set out in the organisations constitution which is available at: www.amnesty.ie. We are also committed to meeting best practice standards in operational excellence, confidentiality, public reporting and transparency. We

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

seek to comply fully with public standards for financial reporting and with the International Non-Governmental Organisations (INGO) Accountability Charter and the Governance Code for the Community Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland.

Amnesty International Ireland is also fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising. The statement is a set of overarching principles – respect, honesty and openness – for how charities operating in Ireland should behave with their supporters, clients and beneficiaries. It also provides guidelines for fundraising. We commit to doing this by:

- Maintaining good fundraising practice
- Providing high levels of accountability and transparency to our donors and prospective donors from the public
- Providing clarity and assurances to you about how we spend your money
- Providing this Annual Report that includes information on all our current fundraising activities.

We at Amnesty International have considered the Statement and we believe we meet the standards it sets out. We welcome your feedback on our performance. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to get in touch with our fundraising department.

Risk

A risk register has been compiled and management has taken responsibility for each significant risk area.

Outlook for 2017

The financial prospects for 2017 are encouraging, with continuing steady growth forecast in both membership and income.

We will continue to invest in new member recruitment in order to increase our supporter base, strengthen our finances and allow further development of our human rights work.

The budget for 2017 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €2.918m to €2.958m in 2017.

Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.194m to €2.409m. Open Society Foundation funding of €58,200 is also budgeted for.

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €2.932m to €3.061m.

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.202m to €1.371.

Included in this figure is a €399k contribution to the International Movement. (2016: €426k).

Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €455k to €465k. The costs of the Face to Face recruitment program is budgeted at €810k (2016: €771k).

Other costs including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest are budgeted at €490k. (2016: €417k)

FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

The budget for 2017 forecast a deficit of -€102k. This planned deficit will allow us to continue to invest in membership and donor recruitment. As part of a long term investment strategy, the international movement has agreed to reduce the contribution due to the international budget to support this planned investment and the resultant deficit for 2017.

Outlook for 2018

A high-level budget and outlook 2018 is being presented to Conference in line with a proposed constitutional amendment, which if adopted by Conference will require the National Board to set a 2018 budget for the section in late 2017 so that the section can meet new Amnesty global budgetary planning deadlines.

The high-level budget for 2018 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €2.958m to €3.169m in 2018.

Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.409m to €2.570m in 2017.

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €3.061m to €3.2751m budgeted in 2017

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.371m to €1.524m

Included in this figure is a €518k contribution to the International Movement (2017: €399k).

Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €465k to €514k. The costs of the Face to Face recruitment program is budgeted at €810k (2017: €810k).

Other costs including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest are budgeted at €438k. (2017: €490k). This is due to reduction in depreciation calculation of building (which is treated as investment property rather than fixed asset).

The budget for 2018 sees a deficit of -€106k. As already referenced above, our international movement has agreed to reduce the contribution due to the international budget to support this planned investment and the resultant deficit for 2018.

Amnesty International Irish Section	Accounts 2016				Budget 2017				Budget 2018			
	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL
Financial Review	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
4/25/17 15:25												
INCOME												
Subscriptions and Donations		2,194,181		2,194,181		2,409,568		2,409,568		2,570,218		2,570,218
Core Funding		79,200		79,200				0				0
Tax refunds		143,774		143,774		174,300		174,300		183,015		183,015
Externally funded projects				0		0		0		0		0
Direct Mail Appeals		133,484		133,484		157,841		157,841		172,766		172,766
Amnesty Foundation		137,622	(137,477)	145		50,176	(50,176)	0		55,200	(56,197)	(997)
Special Events		125,860		125,860		127,100		127,100		148,018		148,018
Legacy income			137,477	137,477			50,176	50,176			56,197	56,197
Rental Income			112,477	112,477			111,312	111,312			111,312	111,312
Interest receivable		34		34		0		0		0		0
		2,814,154	112,477	2,926,631		2,918,985	111,312	3,030,297		3,129,217	111,312	3,240,529
Externally Funded Project												
HRE Funding Income		104,728		104,728		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000
		2,918,883	112,477	3,031,360		2,958,985	111,312	3,070,297		3,169,217	111,312	3,280,529
EXPENDITURE												
Direct costs of Fundraising and Recruitment												
Fundraising salaries and related costs		246,763		246,763		246,574		246,574		253,717		253,717
Fundraising other costs		197,083		197,083		219,137		219,137		260,472		260,472
		443,846				465,711				514,190		
Recruitment salaries		221,394		221,394		235,799		235,799		236,055		236,055
Recruitment other costs		41,992		41,992		43,046		43,046		43,046		43,046
		263,385		0		278,845		0		279,101		0
		707,231		707,231		744,555		744,555		793,291		793,291
Campaign and Programme costs												
Salaries and related costs		584,750		584,750		717,482		717,482		732,505		732,505
Materials and other costs: C & P		176,758		176,758		246,905		246,905		253,462		253,462
Annual Conference		12,317		12,317		8,000		8,000		8,000		8,000
Annual review		12,443		12,443		0		0		12,500		12,500
International Movement		426,611		426,611		399,158		399,158		518,103		518,103
		1,212,880		1,212,880		1,371,544		1,371,544		1,524,570		1,524,570
Human Rights Education Projects												
Salaries and related costs		129,122		129,122		40,000		40,000		40,000		40,000
Materials and other costs - HRE		35,709		35,709		9,080		9,080		10,000		10,000
		164,831		164,831		49,080		49,080		50,000		50,000
Total Campaigns and Projects		1,377,711		1,377,711		1,420,624		1,420,624		1,574,570		1,574,570
Administrative and Management expenses												
Salaries and related costs		127,345		127,345		126,919		126,919		136,391		136,391
Overheads and expenses A & M		66,062	7,613	73,675		74,700	10,500	85,200		76,193	11,830	88,023
		193,407				201,619				212,584		
Depreciation		17,843	936	18,778		27,000	59,004	86,004		27,000	2,000	29,000
Financial costs		91,350		91,350		79,000		79,000		79,000		79,000
Interest		18,513	88,971	107,484		31,000	82,039	113,039		31,000	74,860	105,860
Total Expenditure before interest		2,406,055	97,520	2,503,575		2,503,799	151,543	2,655,342		2,717,444	88,690	2,806,134
Surplus / (Deficit) from Activities		512,828	14,957	527,785		455,185	(40,231)	414,954		451,773	22,622	474,395
Inter co Foundation write off												
International Movement credit												
Costs invested in future income												
Salaries and related costs		442,788		442,788		471,597		471,597		472,110		472,110
Overheads and expenses		83,983		83,983		86,092		86,092		86,092		86,092
Balance carried forward		(13,943)	14,957	1,014		(102,504)	(40,231)	(142,735)		(106,429)	22,622	(83,807)

HOW WE GOT OUR MONEY

Total income €3,031k



Main source of income is subscriptions and donations at 72%
5% in tax refunds
5% in legacy income
4% from appeals

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| ■ Subscriptions and donations | ■ Special events |
| ■ Core funding foundations | ■ Rental income |
| ■ Appeals | ■ Legacy income |
| ■ Human rights education funding | ■ Interest |
| ■ Tax refunds | |

HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Total expenditure €3,030k



61% is allocated to the Irish Section
17% is invested in future income
14% is allocated to the global Movement
7% on interest and depreciation

- Irish section
- Investment in future income
- Interest and depreciation

Global Movement

HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Total expenditure allocated to the Irish section was €1,859k including salaries



Expenditure on campaigns is 51%
Cost of raising funds is 38%
Administration & management 11%

- Campaigns
- Raising funds
- Administration & management

CAMPAIGNS EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure allocated to campaigns €951k



After allocating all costs, expenditure on campaigns is analysed across 13 campaign areas

- | | |
|--|--|
| ■ ESCR Ireland | ■ Individuals at Risk |
| ■ My Body, My Rights | ■ Crisis Response |
| ■ Human rights education/ stop bullying campaign | ■ Death Penalty |
| ■ Stop Torture | ■ I Welcome Refugees |
| ■ IGO & human rights in Ireland | ■ Magazine |
| ■ LGBTI campaign | ■ Annual Conference |
| ■ Communications | |

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2017

As the finance report states, Amnesty International Ireland splits its income and expenditure between fundraising (membership subscriptions, donations, events and their related costs) and the rest of the Section's income and expenditure (rental from the building, trust & foundation income, and day to day Section running costs). This part of the report, and the fundraising team, covers the direct fundraising income and costs.

2016 saw another strong and stable year for the Section, albeit somewhat below the ambitious targets we set for ourselves.

In 2006, the Section saw its highest ever income for fundraising at €2.5m. In 2016, we raised €2.8m which reflected a significant leap forward. This represented a 9% increase on the previous year. Like many charitable organisations, Amnesty experienced tough times during the economic downturn. Our lowest point was in 2011, though since then we have seen an average annual increase of 11% (a 63% increase overall) which is very encouraging.

The areas which achieved the largest growth were Face to Face acquisition, up by €222k (19%), major giving & legacies, up by €119k (93%) and digital acquisition up by €20k (95%). Although they are of smaller financial value, member upgrades, Amnesty groups, corporate support and merchandise all saw good percentage increases on the previous year.

Despite seeing significant growth, the Face to Face program started the year very slowly with fewer fundraisers on the street and decreased sign up rates. Although other key performance indicators were good, we did not hit our targets in terms of the number of new members signed up or their monthly donations. We also saw a significant increase in cancellations last year against the previous year which resulted in a significant shortfall against what we had budgeted for.

Between increased attrition in existing supporters, a shortfall in signing up new members through Face to Face and poorly performing direct mail appeals particularly the raffle, we saw an overall shortfall against budget of 12%. While we fell short of the ambitious target we set ourselves, we achieved a 9% increase on 2015's income.

We will continue to focus a significant part of our fundraising investment on our in-house Face to Face operation. Although, it has faced some challenges, the strategy and team have proven themselves to be a longer-term success, and one that the Irish charitable sector and the global Amnesty movement holds in high regard.

We have also started to diversify our income away from our reliance on Face to Face. We have always had a broad range of income areas but have been reliant on Face to Face to recruit new members. Our work recruiting members through digital and social media marketing have seen good results throughout 2016. In 2015, new acquisitions via online channels made up just 8% of total new acquisition income. This jumped to 16% in 2016. We have employed an agency to work on our google grant and will continue to expand our in-house digital acquisition plans.

Friendship Week was our star fundraising event for 2016 with over 360 primary schools across Ireland bringing human rights into the classroom. The initiative explores human rights education in a child-friendly way through discussion, creative thinking and curriculum based classroom activities. In 2016, students learned about the experiences of refugees and raised more than €44,000 for our campaigning work.

2016 saw an increase in income from our local groups. These passionate Amnesty activists organised a variety





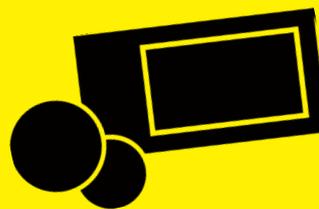
of fundraising events including a photo exhibition, a bike race, Christmas markets, film screenings, bucket collections and coffee mornings. We are so grateful to these dedicated people who volunteer their time to fight for human rights and are a vital part of the Amnesty movement. We also hosted an evening with celebrated author Marian Keyes which was a tremendous success.

We were thrilled that Ireland was one of five Amnesty Sections globally to be chosen to sit on the International Secretariat's Fundraising Management Team. This team oversees and encourages growth and fundraising best practice, creates opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and integration, as well identifying and mitigating against fundraising risks across all parts of the Amnesty movement.

In summary, 2016 was a successful year. We continue to see consistent growth, thanks to a strong and experienced fundraising team. The results for the first months of 2017 have also been very encouraging.



10,452
thank you letters sent to
donors and new members



€62
our average donor gift



6,812
members recruited
in 2016



322
students blagged their
way in Jailbreak

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



CONFERENCE PAPERS 2017





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PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday, 6 May 2017

10:30 Plenary Session I

Our year in review, a report to membership.

A look back at 2016 with our National Board, including Treasurer's report and presentation of budget for 2017 & headline budget 2018, both are displayed on pages 27 and 28.

Followed by a Q&A session.

12:00 Plenary Session II

An introduction to Amnesty's global campaign on human rights defenders that will stand with people who stand up for what's right

People across the world are taking enormous risks to stand up for what's right. Amnesty International is launching a global campaign calling for human rights defenders to be recognised, protected and able to operate in a safer environment. Regina Fonseca is a Honduran women's rights defender with more than 30 years of experience in the struggle for gender, sexual and reproductive rights. Regina and her colleagues have been defamed and threatened because of their human rights work. We will also be joined by Jim Loughran from Front Line Defenders, an international human rights organisation working for the protection of human rights defenders. He will speak about the HRD memorial project to commemorate human rights defenders who have been killed and the campaign to stop the alarming number of human rights defenders killed throughout the world. Jameen Kaur will speak about the Amnesty International's global campaign that is due to launch on 16 May 2017. The plenary will also provide members the opportunity to input on the development of the campaign.

Jameen Kaur Senior Campaigner for the Global Campaign on human rights defenders

Jameen brings over 10 years experience working with diverse stakeholders to implement human rights at the national, regional and global level. She currently works as a Senior Global Campaign Strategist with Amnesty International. Prior to this post she was the Regional Campaigns Director for South Asia, Amnesty International. She previously worked with Amnesty International Ireland on various campaigns and has also worked with the Human Rights Law Network in India, where she headed the reproductive rights unit which achieved a historic judgement holding India accountable for a preventable maternal death and for not delivering on its human rights obligations. She holds a LLM in International Human Rights Law.

Jim Loughran has worked with Front Line Defenders for the past 11 years as Head of Media and Communications, working to establish a national and international profile for the work of Front Line Defenders, communicating the core idea of human rights defenders as key agents of social change. In particular this has meant communicating who human rights defenders are, why their work is important and why they need protection.

In 2016 Jim was given responsibility for developing the HRD Memorial project www.hrdmemorial.org Previously Jim worked with Amnesty International where from 1992 to 2007 he was responsible for membership development, campaigning and special events and latterly was Head of Campaigns and Communications. He joined Amnesty International as a volunteer and from 1987 to 1992 was a member of the board of Amnesty Ireland taking

PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday, 6 May 2017

on the roles of Treasurer and then Chairman. Jim is a graduate of Queens University Belfast with an Honours Degree in French and Spanish and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. After graduation in 1976 he spent a year in Paris as an English Language Assistant following which he taught French at second level schools in Belfast for 2 years.

Regina Fonseca is a Honduran women's rights defender with more than 30 years experience in the struggle for these rights, particularly sexual and reproductive rights. She is currently Director of International Advocacy at the Women's Rights Centre (Centro de los Derechos de Mujer - CDM) in Honduras, fighting for reproductive rights in a country where abortion in any circumstance is criminalised. The CDM's political support of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, especially young women, is dangerous in part due to the heavy influence of the church in public policy. Regina and her colleagues have been defamed and threatened because of their work, facing discredit in the media.

2:30 Workshop Session 1

Let's stand with human rights defenders worldwide

Right now, people across the world are risking everything to speak out against injustice. Those in power across the world are attacking people's freedom and cracking down on dissent.

Human rights defenders, student leaders, journalists, lawyers, environmental activists and many others are being harassed, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for others. Without their courage, the world we live in would be less fair, less just and less equal.

In May 2017, Amnesty International is launching a campaign in response to this attack, to stand with human rights defenders worldwide and keep them safe from harm. This session will explore who a human rights defender is, the global crackdown on human rights defenders; explore ways of challenging the stigmatisation of human rights defenders which puts them at greater risk of human rights violations. It will also focus on key human rights abuses and discuss opportunities for members and activists to get involve in the campaign.

Cathal Gilbert is the coordinator of the CIVICUS Monitor, a platform which tracks and rates civic space conditions for every country in the world. Prior to joining CIVICUS, Cathal worked for almost a decade on human rights, civil society and governance projects and research in East and Southern Africa.

Thinking Locally, Acting Globally: the global refugee campaign in your community

This session will focus on how supporters, activists, members and groups can work on the I Welcome campaign at a local or community level. Using participatory methodologies, participants will develop the skills to work on the global campaign for refugees in their local communities. Participants will be provided with a brief overview of Amnesty's refugee work and policy, refugee conditions and statistics. Different techniques and approaches will be provided and discussed, with a particular focus on how these strategies can inform participants campaigning.

Making Reproductive Rights Real

Our campaign to bring Ireland's abortion laws into line with international human rights standards is moving from identifying violations to informing the way forward.

With the conclusion of the Citizens' Assembly and the establishment of an Oireachtas Committee to advance the Assembly's recommendations, it's an important time to clarify what developing human rights compliant abortion legislation actually requires.

This session will brief participants on recent international developments, including the calls of UN bodies and experts to guarantee access to abortion 'on request,' at least in early pregnancy. We'll discuss why this is essential in order to provide access to abortion in line with our human rights obligations and to deliver services with full respect for dignity and autonomy.

The workshop will also discuss the outcome of the Citizens' Assembly and give participants a snapshot of the current political situation."

4:00 Plenary Session III

Fighting the backlash against the rights of women and girls.

Twenty years ago, world leaders gathered in Beijing and made a promise to protect and promote the rights of women and girls everywhere.

Today in many countries we are witnessing a backlash against the advances made in women's rights. Some governments attempt to water down previously agreed international obligations and commitments on women's access to contraception and abortion under the guise of so-called 'traditional values' or 'protection of the family'. The problem encompasses a broad range of issues, including freedom from discrimination, access to safe abortion services, to contraception, and to other sexual and reproductive health services and education. What unites them all is the denial – by the state or a third party – of people's right to make decisions about their own body, life, sexuality and family planning. Women around the world continue to face discrimination, are denied equal access to participation in public and political life and suffer sexual and gender-based violence and abuse in public places and at home.

We have invited two human rights defenders, Karolina Więckiewicz and Regina Fonseca to speak about their struggle for reproductive rights in their countries. Both women have campaigned for many years to ensure women and girls rights are protected, particularly their reproductive rights. Karolina and Regina will detail the impact that discriminatory stereotypes have on the rights of women and girls. They will also share how as human rights defenders working on sexual and reproductive rights they frequently face threats, intimidation and attacks. Sometimes even paying with their own lives in their efforts to advance gender equality.

This conversation will be chaired by journalist Alison O'Connor who will also discuss how our campaign to ensure sexual and reproductive rights in Ireland fits into this global trend.

Today more than ever, a strong stand against these clear violations of women's human rights needs to prevail. It is time to unite in action against discrimination and inequality.

PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday, 6 May 2017

Regina Fonseca is a Honduran women's rights defender with more 30 years of experience in the struggle for sexual and reproductive rights. She is currently Director of International Advocacy at the Women's Rights Centre (Centro de los Derechos de Mujer - CDM) in Honduras, struggling for reproductive rights in a country where abortion in any circumstance is criminalised. The CDM's political support of the sexual and reproductive rights of women, especially young women, is dangerous in part due to the heavy influence of the church in public policy. Regina and her colleagues have been defamed and threatened because of their work, facing discredit in the media.

Karolina Więckiewicz is feminist activist working to realise sexual and reproductive rights. She has worked as a lawyer with the Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning, as an advocate with the Sexual Rights Initiative, and is currently programme coordinator at LGBTI organisation Lambda Warsaw. As an activist she has organised protests and solidarity demonstrations against moves to further restrict access to abortion in Poland, including organising around the Black Monday (Czarny) protests that brought thousands to the streets. Karolina's involvement in international advocacy has seen her address the UN Human Rights Council on numerous occasions. Taking a comprehensive and intersectional approach, Karolina campaigns for access to safe and legal abortion, sexual health education and to break the silence and stigma around surrogacy and IVF in Poland.

Alison O'Connor

Alison O'Connor is a journalist and broadcaster. Her work as a political columnist involves regular commentary on current affairs on radio and television. She has a weekly column in The Irish Examiner. She has also guest presented the Tonight with Vincent Browne programme on TV3. She is a feminist.



PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Sunday, 7 May 2017

10.00 Presentation of activist awards

Formal presentation of our group, youth and student and activist annual awards

10:15 Workshop session II

Repeat of Saturday's workshops

11:45 Overview of the ICM

Every two years representatives of all Amnesty International Sections and Structures come together to collectively define and agree our priorities

Governance

Overview of proposals on how we strengthen governance of the movement

Human Rights

Overview of proposals on our human rights work

Organisational

Overview of how we organise ourselves globally

2:00 Conference Business

Conference delegates discuss and vote on the motions put forward by membership.

2.30 Plenary Session IV

I Welcome: Retreating from responsibility? The International response to the global refugee crisis

This session will focus on the global context within which the I Welcome campaign operates. The election of Donald Trump in the United States and his 'travel ban' Executive Orders have changed the landscape significantly for the worse – not just in the United States, but also potentially with knock-on effects, in the form of "copycat" or "Trump-lite" policies elsewhere. In parallel, policies and agreements such as the EU-Turkey deal, aim to shift the responsibility for protecting refugees and migrants and have a catastrophic impact on these communities. Panellists will discuss these recent and considerable changes in the geo-political context and their impact on addressing the global refugee crisis. Enda O'Neill will speak about the global refugee crisis from the UNHCR perspective. Lorna Hayes will address the above issues with a particular focus on the I Welcome campaign and our global priorities and plans. Tim Hanley will discuss how Ireland factors into this global perspective and what people in Ireland can do to support the campaign.

PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Sunday, 7 May 2017

Enda O'Neill is Head of Office with UNHCR's Ireland office. He previously worked as an Associate Protection Officer for UNHCR and as the Project Director of the European Database of Asylum Law. He is a graduate of University College Cork and King's College London. He holds a Barrister-At-Law degree from The Honorable Society of King's Inns Dublin.

Lorna Hayes has over 12 years' experience working in development and human rights. Currently she is a senior campaigner with Amnesty International working on the 'I Welcome' global campaign. She has extensive experience working on refugee issues and was previously a campaigner on the refugee and migrants rights team at the International Secretariat. As part of her work as a campaigner, she has been on missions to Lebanon and Jordan for work relating to the Syrian refugee crisis and to Kakuma refugee camp in Kenya. She most recently went to Canada to carry out research on its private sponsorship initiative with a view to informing the 'I Welcome' campaign. Before joining Amnesty International, Lorna spent six years working with Trocaire in Central America and Colombia.

Tim Hanley is a Campaigns Officer with Amnesty International Ireland, leading on the 'I Welcome' campaign, and LGBTI rights campaigning. Before joining Amnesty International, Tim worked with Concern Worldwide in Ethiopia and Dublin. He previously worked with Amnesty's Human Rights Education team and has been LGBTI Network coordinator for the last three years. He holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law, a Diploma in Legal Studies, and a BA (Honours) in English, Media and Cultural Studies. He is currently completing an MSc in Social Research.

4:15 Plenary session V

A day in the life of an Amnesty researcher

Where wars erupt, suffering and hardship invariably follow. Conflict isn't just about death, it is a breeding ground for mass human rights violations, including torture, disappearances and imprisonment without charge. Amnesty does not take sides in conflicts. We document and campaign against human rights abuses and violations of international law, no matter who commits them, or where. Key to this work is our crisis response research. Our researchers go to the places where conflict is occurring. They document what is happening, gathering critical evidence of human rights violations to inform our campaigning work and to support victims to demand justice. In a rapidly changing world, we face new challenges and new demands. But we have also developed new ways of working, using new technology and building our expertise and capacity to respond to human rights crises.

This interactive session will give delegates an insight into this work, and into a day in the life of an Amnesty researcher, working on the ground in Syria.

With Audrey Gaughran, Amnesty International's Director of Global Issues and Research.

**I AM A
HUMAN
RIGHTS
DEFENDER**

**WOMEN'S
RIGHTS
ARE
HUMAN
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



NATIONAL BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

Standing for Election

Sadhbh Sheeran

Sadhbh is an Environmental Science undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in June 2018. She has held the position of Treasurer and Chairperson of DU Amnesty, Trinity's Amnesty society. Sadhbh was one of the organisers of the Jailbreak 2017, Ireland's largest student-run charity event which raised €56,000 for Amnesty International and Saint Vincent de Paul. Jailbreak challenges hundreds of third level students nationwide on a 36-hour rat-race that could take them anywhere in the world. The event has been nominated as 'Charity Champion' of the year at the 2017 Student Achievement Awards. Sadhbh is a member of Amnesty International's 'I Welcome' working group. As well as her work with Amnesty, she is a volunteer activist with Oxfam Ireland and volunteer team leader for their summer 2017 campaign season. Sadhbh was also a founding member of TCD's Strike for Repeal campaign.

Niall Cowley

Niall is the Founder and Managing Director of We the People, a communications collective specialising in behaviour & attitude change and public information campaigns for the non profit and public sectors. Over his 17 year career, Niall has worked as Director of Communications for a UK children's charity and has been a consultant for the UK Government and the European Commission on a number of high profile campaigns. Niall has been an international spokesperson on Children's Rights and has co-chaired the 8th European Forum on the Rights of the Child. Niall returned to live in Dublin in 2015 after 18 years living in London and Berlin.

Standing for Election post co-option to the National Board since Annual Conference 2016

Tom Morrisroe

Tom was founder and CEO of the The Now Factory, which was sold to IBM (NYSE : IBM) in 2013. The Now Factory delivers analytics solutions to the world's leading mobile operators. The company was founded in 2007, and under his leadership won contracts with more than 40 operators across the globe. Prior to The Now Factory, Tom was co-founder of Arantech, where he guided the company to the number one market position in Customer Experience Management, securing key tier-1 global contracts until the company was successfully sold in 2008 to Tektronix, a subsidiary of Danaher (NYSE: DHR).

Tom holds a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the University of Limerick, and business qualifications from Stanford University. Tom was named Irish Software Association (ISA) Person of the Year in 2015.

Standing for Re-election

Chairperson - David White

David was co-opted in November 2012 and subsequently elected to the Executive Committee at our annual conference in 2013. David is a member and former coordinator of the Amnesty International Dublin West Local Group and was a founder member and coordinator of the Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories Group. David has been involved in many Amnesty International campaigns over the years, including administrative detention cases, Control Arms, Stop Violence Against Women and Denied: 40 Years of Human Rights Abuses in the Occupied Territories. A native of Waterford, David is an engineering manager with Intel in Leixlip, and has recently returned to Ireland after a two year assignment in China. David was previously a member of the Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010.



Dr Shane Darcy

Shane is a lecturer at the Irish Centre for Human Rights at the National University of Ireland Galway, where he teaches international criminal law and business and human rights. He is on the Editorial Board of the Business and Human Rights Journal and the Editorial Committee of Criminal Law Forum. He has participated in human rights trainings, conferences and workshops in several countries including South Africa, China, Iran, Palestine, Iraq, Turkey, the United States and Russia. Shane was co-opted onto the National Board in August 2014, and runs the Business and Human Rights in Ireland blog.

Donal Prior

Donal Prior works for Diageo PLC, where his career spans more than three decades. He has a background in Human Resources and Manufacturing, and holds a Masters in Strategic HR. He is Global Capability Director for Diageo's manufacturing operations, having worked in HR Director roles for a number of years. Donal was co-opted onto the National Board in July 2014.

Serving National Board Members

Honorary Treasurer - James Kelly

James was co-opted on to the Executive Committee in February 2014. He is a graduate of University College Dublin and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland. He has 30 years of experience in the banking sector, working both locally and internationally providing leadership in finance, operations and technology. Having trained with Deloitte, James spent 15 years working with RBS and JP Morgan. He now works as the Chief Risk and Operations Officer in Barclays Bank Ireland. James has a particular interest in children's rights and in the issue of legal capacity.

Honorary Secretary - Mary Quinn

Mary works for Irish Cancer Society as the Relay For Life Fundraiser. She has previously held the position of Chair of Amnesty's Youth Action Team, Chairperson of the Amnesty International Society in NUI Maynooth, as well as serving as Chairperson of the University College Dublin Amnesty International Group. Mary graduated from NUIM in 2007 with a Bachelor of Social Science degree and an extra-curricular activity award. Mary graduated from University College Dublin in 2011, with an MSc in Human Rights.

Siobhán Mullally

Siobhán Mullally is Professor of Law, Vice Head of the College of Business and Law and Director of the Centre for Criminal Justice and Human Rights, at UCC. She is a Commissioner on the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (2014-2019), Vice President of the Council of Europe Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking (GRETA), and a Member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration, the Hague. In March 2017 Siobhan was elected President of Greta, a Council of Europe group working against human trafficking.

Cliona O'Farrelly

Cliona first joined Amnesty International in 1975 as an undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin where Inge Clissman (daughter of Helmut Clissmann one of the founding members of Amnesty International Irish Section) was group co-ordinator. Cliona has been an active member of the Wexford group for 18 years. She was co-opted onto the Executive Committee of Amnesty International and was subsequently elected to the EC in the early 2000s and served three two-year terms. Cliona is a science graduate of TCD and has a PhD in Immunology. She has many years' experience in scientific research, university teaching and public understanding of science; she is currently Professor of Comparative Immunology and is on the board of TCD. She was a member of the Irish Council of Bioethics from 2005-2008 and was on the board of the Irish Cancer Society from 2006-2012. Every year, she walks the VHI Women's mini marathon in aid of Amnesty International.

CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

Report to 2017 annual conference

a) Motions & Amendments

Having examined the motions and constitutional amendments submitted for debate at the Annual Conference, the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC) finds those listed in the Order of Business to be appropriate matters for consideration by the Conference.

b) Order of Business

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends the order of business as set out in the accompanying agenda.

c) Rights of Speakers

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends that during the appropriate plenary sessions of the Conference:

- i) **Movers of motions and amendments be limited to a maximum of five minutes with persons seconding motions and any subsequent speakers limited to two minutes;**
 - ii) If in the course of the meeting it appears that the business may not be completed by the stipulated time, the Chairperson may recommend further restrictions on the time allowed to speakers for approval by the Annual Conference;
 - iii) Speakers are allowed to make one contribution only on each item on the agenda, except for the mover of a motion who may exercise a right of reply limited to five minutes.
-

d) National Board Election

The National Board consists of twelve elected members – six of whom are elected in alternate years to serve a two-year term.

The AI Ireland constitution sets out the procedure for the election of the twelve ordinary members of the National Board as follows:

Article 13 (3) the twelve other positions on the National Board shall be filled by election to two panels containing six positions each. Elections to the panels shall take place in alternate years with elected members holding office for a two-year term. Elected members shall be eligible for re-election except that no elected member shall hold office for more than three terms consecutively.

As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, no ballot is required. All will, therefore, be deemed to be elected.

The Constitution also provides that any further vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference shall be filled by co-option by the National Board.

David White to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Mary Quinn, Seconded by James Kelly

Shane Darcy to serve a two year term

Nominated by Siobhan Mullally, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

Donal Prior to serve a two year term

Nominated by Cliona O'Farrelly, Seconded by Siobhán Mullally

The following member must stand for election at AC 2017 following their earlier co-option to the National Board

Tom Morrisroe to serve a two year term

Nominated by James Kelly

Seconded by David White

Standing for Election

Sadhbh Sheeran to serve a two year term

Nominated by Mary Quinn

Seconded by David White

Niall Cowley to serve a two year term

Nominated by David White

Seconded by Mary Quinn

e) Election of Conference Agenda Committee 2018

Noting that:

Three candidates have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC). Namely; Tony Fitzsimons, Mary Quinn, (the outgoing CAC) and Fergal Kilkenny. As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, no ballot is required. All will, therefore, be deemed to be elected.

MOTIONS

Annual Conference 2017

Motion 1 - Operational Budget 2017

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2017 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: James Kelly
Seconded by: David White

*The budget is included in the Annual Conference 2017 Papers, which will be available to all delegates upon arrival.

Motion 2 – Headline Operational Budget 2018*

Further to the new provisions adopted by Conference for new budgetary approval processes, Conference approves the high level outline budget for 2018, and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2018 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: James Kelly
Seconded by: David White

*This motion will be proposed subject to Conference approval of the relevant Constitutional amendment. The high level outline budget for 2018 is included in Annual Conference 2017 papers, which will be distributed to delegates upon arrival at Conference.

Motion 3 - Unaccompanied Refugee Minors

In November 2016 the Irish Government formally committed to accept up to 200 unaccompanied child refugees from the informal refugee camp in Calais, France.

The commitment came as the Dáil accepted a motion on the closure of the former 'jungle' camp in the French coastal town.

Conference commends the Irish Government for their commitment to securing the safe resettlement of 200 refugee children from Calais.

Conference mandates the National Board to engage with the relevant Government Departments to establish the degree to which this commitment has been met, and to advocate that Ireland plays a generous and meaningful role in the vital resettlement of unaccompanied refugee children.

Proposed by: Evanna Craig
Seconded by: Maria Belen Menendez

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Annual Conference 2017

Constitutional Amendment 1

These changes are necessary to ensure alignment with new planning and budgetary processes across the global Amnesty movement. Our movement has now moved from six-year strategic planning cycles to four-year cycles.

The proposal affects Articles 9 (.8 (d) and 16 of the Constitution.

Current:

Article 9, paragraph 8 (d):

The Annual Conference shall consider and approve, amend or reject a draft strategic plan for the Section based on a six-year strategic planning cycle, a biennial draft operational plan, and an annual implementation report from the National Board including a draft budget.

Proposed:

Article 9, paragraph 8 (d):

The Annual Conference shall consider and approve, amend or reject a draft strategic plan for the Section based on a four-year strategic planning cycle, a biennial draft operational plan, an annual report from the National Board and a high level outline budget for the following calendar year.

Article 16, paragraph 6. The following paragraph is to be inserted to the Constitution.

The National Board shall, in line with the high level outline budget approved by the preceding Annual Conference, consider and approve, following any necessary amendments, an annual budget for the Section.

Proposed: David White

Seconded: James Kelly



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MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

Annual Conference was held at IBAT College, 16-19 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, on 21 – 22 May 2016

Over the two days of Annual Conference 2016, delegates and guests participated in workshops and interactive sessions on our planned work for the next 2-year period. With a particular focus on our human rights goals, our organisational goals, our organisational project and our key global and domestic campaigns.

Plenary sessions were held on a range of topics, including: sexual and reproductive rights and the reality of Ireland's abortion laws. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Europe and its flawed response to those seeking refuge and how our work to date in this area feeds into our new global campaign to protect the human rights of refugees and migrants.

Conference heard powerful testimony from speakers with personal experience at our plenary sessions, namely:

Jennifer Ryan from Terminations for Medical Reasons, author and documentary film maker, Zlata Filipovic and holocaust survivor and humanitarian Eva Schloss. Other guest speakers included GP & broadcaster, Dr Ciara Kelly, Dr Marian Dwyer from Doctors for Choice, Fotis Filippou, Deputy Europe Director, Amnesty International, documentary film makers, Eoghan Scott and Conor Maguire and journalist and broadcaster, Shona Murray.

Conference adopted a new Operational Plan for Amnesty International Ireland to cover the period 2016-2017 and approved the section budget for 2016.

Elections

There were a total of five positions open for election to the National Board. All five positions were filled.

The following members were elected to the National board;

Dr Jacinta Kelly, Chairperson, elected to serve a one year term.

James Kelly, Honorary Treasurer, elected to serve a two year term.

Mary Quinn, Youth Secretary, elected to serve a two year term.

Cliona O'Farrelly elected to serve a two year term

Siobhán Mullally, co-opted since AC 2015, formally elected to serve a two year term.

Conference also elected two members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2016. They are Tony Fitzsimons and Mary Quinn.

As the number of nominations was less than the number of places available, the incoming Conference Agenda Committee hope to co-opt one further member in advance of Annual Conference 2017.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

As is practice at Annual Conference, a number of awards were presented to activists and groups.

University College Cork AI Society was awarded the 'Mary Robinson Award for Student Activism' (Society).

Emma Dooney was awarded the 'Peter Benenson Award for Student Activism' (Individual).

Lucan Community College was awarded the 'Anne Frank Award for Student Activism (Group)'.

The Galway Local AI Group was awarded the 'The Group Impact Award'.

Cian O'Curic was awarded the 'I am Amnesty Award'.

Eva Schloss was awarded the 'Sean MacBride Award for Outstanding Contribution to Human Rights'.

Motions and Constitutional Amendments

On Sunday 22 May, in plenary session, Annual Conference considered a range of motions and amendments that had been put forward by membership. Annual Conference decided as follows:

Motion 1 – Rules on Eligibility for Appointment to the National Board and Senior Salaried Posts

In line with decision 15 of the 2011 International Council Meeting of Amnesty International, decides to set the following eligibility criteria for appointment to the National Board and senior salaried posts:

- Chairs and members of the National Board may not be appointed to any senior salaried post in Amnesty International Ireland for two years following the end of their elective mandate;
- Senior salaried staff of Amnesty International Ireland may not stand for membership-elected Board positions in that Section or Structure for two years following the end of office;
- If a former Section leader, elected or salaried, is given a remunerated assignment, by another Section or by the International Movement, the Section of origin must first be asked for an opinion;
- If it appears that, in exceptional situations, these provisions are contrary to the interests of the Movement, a decision will be made by consultation with the International Board.

Proposed by: Donal Prior

Seconded by: James Kelly

This motion was passed by consensus.

Motion 2 - Operational Budget 2016

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2016 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: James Kelly
Seconded by: David White

This motion was passed by consensus

Motion 3 - Amnesty International Ireland Operational Plan 2016 to 2017

Recognising the Global Strategic Goals adopted at the 2015 International Council Meeting as the basis of our operational planning process; and the new Amnesty International Global priorities on reclaiming freedoms, securing equal rights for all, responding to crises, ensuring accountability and maximising our resources and engagement, Conference approves the Operational Plan for the period 2016 to 2017.

Proposed by: David White
Seconded by: Jacinta Kelly

This motion was passed by consensus

Constitutional Amendment 1

Article 13 of the Constitution of Amnesty International Ireland was amended to allow the National Board to increase the number of members to a total of 12 members. This expanded membership was necessary to ensure the effective resourcing of board subcommittees and to increase the capacity of the National Board.

The proposal effected Article 13 (1) (3) and (4) (c) and (7) of the constitution.

(1) The National Board shall consist of twelve elected members and the Honorary President (if nominated by the National Board and ratified by the Annual Conference). The Directorate shall be entitled to attend but not vote at meetings of the National Board. The National Board shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional voting members. The employees of the Section may nominate one of their number to attend meetings of the National Board as an observer.

(3) The twelve other positions on the National Board shall be filled by election to two panels containing six positions each. Elections to the panels shall take place in alternate years with elected members holding office for a two-year term. Elected members shall be eligible for re-election except that no elected member shall hold office for more than three terms consecutively.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2016

(4) (c) Where no co-options are possible on the basis of Article 13(4)(a) and the number of elected members continuing in office at any time falls to seven or less, the vacancies shall be filled by election at an EGM specially convened for that purpose in accordance with Article 13(7).

(7) If the number of elected National Board members continuing in office at any time falls to seven or less, the National Board shall immediately convene an EGM for the purpose of filling the vacancies on the Committee. Such an EGM shall be convened in accordance with Article 11, except that it shall take place not more than 49 days after the order to convene it.

Proposed: Jacinta Kelly

Seconded: David White

This amendment was passed by consensus.

Constitutional Amendment 2

Article 13 of the Constitution of Amnesty International Ireland was amended to clarify practice which permits attendance at meetings of the National Board by conference/video call. This amendment was proposed to ensure compliance with the Core Standards of Amnesty International as adopted at the ICM 2013. It also included one further amendment to accord with constitutional amendment 1 as presented at this Annual Conference.

The proposal effected Article 13 (6) of the Constitution.

Proposed amendment:

The quorum for meetings of the National Board shall be seven elected members. Attendance at meetings can be in person, or via conference/video call. In the event that less than twelve elected members continue to hold office on the National Board at any time, the quorum for meetings of the National Board shall be reduced by the number of vacancies on the National Board.

Proposed: Jacinta Kelly

Seconded: David White

This amendment was passed by consensus.

The following emergency motion was deemed to be in order by the Conference Agenda Committee and was put for consideration by Conference.

Emergency Motion: Conditions in Direct Provision Centres and the Implementation of the Recommendations of the McMahon Report

Conference notes that the Programme for Government published on Thursday 11 May 2016 commits the new

government ‘to reforming the direct provision system, with particular focus on families and children’.

Conference notes with concern that this differs significantly from the draft Programme for Government which had previously come into the public domain which added that the new government ‘will seek to implement the recommendations of the McMahon Report as swiftly as possible’.

Conference voices its grave concern at the dropping of this commitment to implement the recommendations made in the final report of the Working Group to Report to Government on the Protection Process on Improvements to the Protection Process, including Direct Provision and Supports to Asylum Seekers (McMahon Report).

Conference mandates the National Board to call on the government to recommit to implementing the recommendations of the working group established by the last government and to ensure that Ireland’s reception facilities for asylum seekers fully comply with human rights standards.

Proposed by: Derry O’Regan

Seconded by: Mary Grover

This motion was passed by consensus.

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Amnesty International supporters at the Women’s March on Washington.

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