

# ANNUAL REPORT & CONFERENCE PAPERS 2016

**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL







## Annual Conference 2016

Venue: IBAT College, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

### Saturday 21 May

9:30 Registration

10:15 Conference opening  
Chair: Mary Quinn

Adoption of the Report of the Conference  
Agenda Committee /election of the National  
Board & call for nominations to the CAC

10:30 Plenary Session I  
**A Year in Review – report back to membership.**  
A look back at 2015 with our National Board  
including the treasurer's report for 2015 and  
presentation of budget for 2016

Followed by Q&A

11:45 Break

12:00 Workshop Session I

- **Controversy? What controversy! Public opinion and Ireland's abortion legislation**
- **We Welcome Refugees and Migrants**

1:15 Lunch

2:15 Overview of Operational Plan 2016-2017

Our Human Rights Goals  
Our Organisational Goals  
Our Organisational Projects  
3x 20 minutes sessions

3:30 Break

3:45 Plenary Session II

**She is a woman who needs an abortion. She is not a criminal.**

Creating a space where we share the stories and facts from the 'She is not a Criminal' report and discuss the impact of Ireland's abortion legislation on women and girls and medical professionals.

**With Dr Ciara Kelly (Chair), Dr Marion Dwyer (GP) & Jennifer Ryan (Termination for Medical Reasons)**

Followed by Q&A

5:30 Conference adjourns

### Sunday 22 May

9:30 Registration (new attendees)

10:00 Conference resumes/ presentation of Activism Awards  
Chair: Mary Quinn

10:15 Workshop Session II

- **Controversy? What controversy! Public opinion and Ireland's abortion legislation**
- **We Welcome Refugees and Migrants**

11:30 Break

11:45 Conference Business

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

1:00 Lunch and move to Morrison Hotel for the afternoon sessions

2:00 Plenary Session III  
**The Refugee Crisis: from the local to the global.**

Exploring Europe's flawed response to a humanitarian and human rights crisis, and a look forward to Amnesty International's new global priority campaign

With Fotis Filippou, Eoghan Scott, Paul Webster & Conor Maguire

Followed by a Q&A

3:15 Break

3:30 Plenary Session IV

**Lessons from history: women refugees reflect on Europe's response to refugee crises, both past and present.**

**With Eva Schloss, Zlata Filipovic and Colm O'Gorman**  
**Chair: Shona Murray**

Open to a wider audience

5:30 Closing Remarks

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# Foreword

It's been a busy year at Amnesty International Ireland



The people of Ireland said 'yes' to equality as we became the first country in the world to introduce civil marriage equality by popular vote. I'll never forget the historic day when we, as a nation, took an important step towards further realising a true Republic and sent a powerful message of hope to those all over the world who fight for justice, freedom and equality. We also welcomed the introduction of the Gender Recognition Bill as an important step toward de-stigmatising transgender people. Of course, the fight does not end here but there is no doubt that this historic legislation will be long remembered by Ireland's LGBTI community and their supporters as a major step towards true equality.

In May, we launched our 'She's Not A Criminal' report on Ireland's restrictive abortion laws which rightly received huge international attention. For the past two years, Ireland has been one of the priority countries for Amnesty International's global My Body, My Rights campaign. The Irish Constitution and Irish abortion laws violate the human rights of women and girls. Until that changes, we will continue to campaign for change. Our recent Red C opinion poll highlights the public support for reform with an overwhelming majority of 87% calling for abortion access to be expanded. Very significantly, 80% of people would vote yes to repeal the Eighth

Amendment, either outright or provided that reasonable restrictions on access to abortion were put in place. Far from this being the divisive issue it is often portrayed as, the vast majority of people in Ireland strongly support the calls at the heart of our campaign for human rights compliant laws on abortion.

In February 2014, the Constitutional Convention, made up of 66 ordinary citizens & 33 elected representatives, voted by an 85% majority to amend the Irish Constitution to strengthen the protection of economic, social and cultural rights including the right to health, housing and fair working conditions. Earlier this year, the Irish government referred the Convention's report to an Oireachtas committee. We urge the committee to examine this issue in an open and transparent way, involving experts from civil society and academia, and to have a clear timeframe. Globally, it has been a challenging year for human rights. Conflict is escalating, fueling the largest global refugee crisis in a generation. The level of suffering facing refugees fleeing violence and human rights violations has reached a level unseen in Europe since the Second World War. Last December, I visited the informal tented settlements in Lebanon which are home to more than one million refugees. Lebanon, a tiny country with a weak economy and substantial debt has





accommodated an increase of 25% in its population in the last five years. There, I saw firsthand the inhumane conditions in which families are forced to live. There's no access to water, sanitation or hygiene facilities. Men aren't allowed to work and children are forced out of school and into child labour. In these circumstances, it is unsurprising that a great and growing number of people risk the treacherous journey to Europe. Europe continues to fail to respect the rights of such desperately vulnerable people to protection. But this is not just a European crisis. Amnesty International is also campaigning for the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers in the Americas, in South East Asia, in Africa and all over the world.

We cannot avoid the reality of the world we live in. But we can fight for the world we want.

In 2015, millions of Amnesty supporters like you pushed decision-makers to make change happen worldwide. You helped to release journalists and activists. Change discriminatory laws. Compensate victims of corporate crime. 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 your support – together, we are

standing up for people risking everything to speak out. 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 five years now, 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







# My Body, My Rights

The health and lives of millions of people across the globe are being threatened by government failures to guarantee their sexual and reproductive rights.

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**I didn't feel safe at all, I was feeling really scared because it became clear to me, that if any complication was raised, these people would let me die.**

”

It has been a very busy year for the My Body, My Rights campaign as the movement shifted its focus to Ireland as one of the global campaign's priority countries. The Irish Constitution and abortion legislation result in serious human rights violations for women and girls. Ireland's near total abortion ban criminalises women and girls for seeking the healthcare they need. For more than 20 years, successive Irish governments have refused to reform our abortion laws, despite repeated criticisms and calls for action from international human rights bodies. Instead, the government has relied on the “safety valve” of women travelling to other jurisdictions. Each year, about 4,000 women and girls travel to the UK to have an abortion.

When a woman goes to the hospital, the law intimidates her doctor into silence. It doesn't matter that she was raped, that the pregnancy is not viable, that her health is in danger – she cannot get an abortion. If she can afford it, she must travel abroad. If she has an illegal abortion in Ireland, she risks 14 years in prison. No woman should be denied the healthcare that is her right. Criminalising women for having abortions violates their human rights and can endanger their lives. In June 2015, we launched a report entitled ‘She is not a Criminal: The Impact of Ireland's abortion law’. It documented several shocking cases where Irish authorities denied women and girls the healthcare they needed and instead prioritised the life of the foetus. It presented the testimony of women who have undergone abortions abroad, including Lupe, who was carrying a foetus with no heartbeat for 14

weeks: “I didn't feel safe at all...I was feeling really scared because it became clear to me, that if any complication was raised, these people would let me die.”

Not only do Ireland's abortion laws criminalise women and girls but it also criminalises medical professionals. Doctors and health care providers may face up to 14 years in jail if they provide or assist in providing an abortion other than when the woman's or girl's life is at risk, even where they act to protect her health. The criminalisation of abortion prevents healthcare providers from delivering timely, medically indicated care in accordance with their patients' wishes. In November, 838 physicians from 44 countries signed an open letter calling on the Irish state to decriminalise abortion. The signatories include leading Irish doctors such as Dr Peter Boylan, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at the National Maternity Hospital at Holles Street, and Dr Veronica O'Keane, a consultant psychiatrist and professor of psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin.

Since the launch of the campaign, we have brought our petition to the people. Our call that the Irish state must bring Ireland's abortion law in line with human rights standards has had a great response.

At Electric Picnic, we collected nearly 13,000 signatures the highest total ever at this festival. In August, 80 Amnesty International delegates from 25 countries protested outside the Taoiseach's office calling on him to decriminalise abortion in Ireland. Alongside our work in Ireland, sections from across the world have been taking action and joining the global campaign. Amnesty activists in Sweden, USA, Burkina Faso, India, Argentina, Spain, Portugal, Denmark to name a few have collected petition signatures and lobbied Irish officials as part of this global campaign. And we're not finished yet. Our campaign to reform Ireland's abortion laws will continue into the months and years ahead. Join us and play your part in securing sexual and reproductive rights for women and girls.



## Travelling to England for an abortion was my only option

We found out we were expecting our second child in June 2012. My husband and I were thrilled. We booked an early scan for later that week. They said I was seven weeks pregnant. We were delighted when we found out our baby was due on our anniversary, it felt that it was meant to be. I had some nausea and tiredness with the pregnancy, but otherwise I felt good. I had a couple of medical check-ups and all was looking well. I wasn't really showing but wasn't concerned as I had been the same during my first pregnancy.

That October, my husband and I went to hospital for our scan. I was 22 weeks pregnant. We had decided to ask the sex as we had already put a deposit on a pram and I was very eager to get shopping! We were so excited to see our baby on the screen. At the appointment, the sonographer was finding it hard to get a good view of the baby. After a few moments she went quiet. She continued scanning for a while and eventually said that she needed to speak to a doctor. At this point I had a feeling that all wasn't as it should be, but I certainly was not expecting what was to come.

The sonographer asked us to go for a cup of tea and come back to see the doctor in half an hour. After what seemed like a lifetime the doctor called us in. She scanned me for over half an hour in silence. The first words she said were, "Its bad news, guys". She explained that there was no fluid surrounding our baby so it was very hard to see exactly what was

wrong, but from what she could see, it didn't look good. Our baby had no fluid because she had no kidneys; our baby's lungs would never develop or function. They would not be able to intubate or give steroids to help her lungs as there was "no point". She also had a very severe form of spina bifida – so severe that even if everything else was working correctly it would still kill her. Our baby was sadly incompatible with life.

The consultant told us that we had two options: we could either continue with the pregnancy and receive weekly scans to check for a heartbeat until it stopped, or we could travel to England for a termination. Even though our baby had no chance of surviving, I could not ask for an abortion at the hospital where I'd been getting checks and scans. We live in Ireland, where abortion is illegal – even in cases like ours. My husband and I were told to come back the next morning for further tests. We drove home completely heartbroken, afraid and upset. Our world as we knew it had ended and we were in complete limbo. The following day we went back to the hospital with my mother for support. I was rescanned by the consultant and a foetal medicine midwife. Again they told us the prognosis was the same: our baby was never going to survive – her condition was 100% fatal. That evening we told our six-year-old daughter the bad news. It was so heartbreaking to have to tell her that her much longed-for sibling would die. She asked a lot of questions and we answered them as honestly as





possible, in a child-friendly way. We had been given an information sheet on how to tell children news like this. That night we all slept in the same bed as none of us wanted to be without each other. We chose a name for our baby and looked into local graveyards. We should have been looking at cots and buggies but instead we were looking at graveyards. Over the weekend we discussed our options. Due to the severity of our baby's condition she was not protected in my womb and was slowly being crushed by my organs, which was a very distressing thought for me and would be very distressing experience for our baby. If our baby survived the remainder of the pregnancy she would either die in distress during labour or in the moments after she was born. She would never take a breath and there would be a pain specialist on standby to administer medication as soon as she was born. We had to terminate this pregnancy – for her and for me.

After a difficult weekend, we went to meet the consultant. She rescanned me and asked me if we had made any decisions. We told her we had decided to travel to England. As I was already 23 weeks pregnant and the cut off for medical terminations in England is 24 weeks we didn't have much time. We were given the phone number for Liverpool's women's hospital and told to send them the scans, results and reports from our hospital. I arranged an appointment for the following Monday, by which time I would be 24 weeks pregnant. We spoke with the bereavement service in the

hospital there who organised a coffin and said she would arrange the forms needed for us to bring our daughter home. We went out and bought our daughter a blanket to wrap her in. We also bought matching teddies – 12 in total, all little animals, so she would have six and we would keep the other six. We thought this was the fairest way because we knew we wouldn't be able to share just one teddy between the three of us!

It was less than a fortnight since my 22-week scan. So much had changed. We tried to get a couple of hours' sleep before heading to get the 2.30am ferry to Holyhead. My husband drove from Holyhead to Liverpool through the night to the hospital. At the hospital, a consultant rescanned me. We asked if there was any change or improvement – we were still wishing and hoping with all our hearts that something would change, but the consultant sadly said that there was no change, the condition was worse than the previous scans revealed and we were doing what was best for our daughter. They were unsure whether she would have a cleft lip or if her spine would be covered by skin due to the lack of fluid which made scanning very difficult and we spoke briefly about that and other possible abnormalities that might be present and what she may look like. They brought us in forms to sign and tablets to soften my uterus and cervix to get it ready for induction.



They asked us if we wanted to have a post mortem done but because we would have to leave her in Liverpool for a week we chose not to – we already knew enough about her condition to know that it wasn't genetic and it was 'just one of those things'. We felt she had been through enough already and we didn't want to receive a list of things wrong with our daughter. It was early evening when they brought me in to be induced. It only took a couple of minutes before I was taken up to the labour ward. Around midnight on Monday my labour started. At 9.08am on Tuesday morning my beautiful daughter Jessica was born. The room was silent. She was 28cm long and weighed just 1lb 6oz. She was perfect to us. She didn't have a cleft lip but her spine wasn't fully covered by skin and we could see evidence of her abnormalities in her legs. We asked the nurses to dress her for us as she looked so delicate. They took her away and took hand and foot prints and lovely photos for us and brought her back dressed in a beautiful hat and gown that had been donated by a charity.

I was very unwell from all the medication I had taken during labour. After an hour or so the Catholic priest came in for a blessing and naming ceremony. They gave us a lovely blessing certificate with her name and time and date of arrival to keep. These are the only things we have with our daughter's name on them.

At 7pm on Tuesday I was discharged. We brought our daughter out in her coffin the hospital had organised for us and we headed off for the boat in Holyhead. We had contacted the ferry company before travelling and they had no problems with us bringing our daughter on board but we just couldn't have her coffin in sight in the car. We arrived home

at 2.30am – just 48 hours after we had left for that ferry in the middle of the night. The following day our six-year-old came home from school to meet her sister. Both sets of parents, brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews came to see her. We had another blessing with a local priest in our home and the following day we held her funeral and buried her in the local graveyard. The priest did an amazing job and had even gone to the trouble of printing out booklets for the blessing and funeral for us. We consider ourselves lucky, as not everyone who travels has this opportunity to do this.

On the morning of the funeral we swapped blankets with her so we have the one she had been wrapped up in, and we gave her the blanket we had been sleeping with. We placed six of the teddies with her and wrapped her in my husband's christening cardigan. Our daughter, nieces and nephews drew her pictures and wrote letters to her which we also put in her coffin. I gave her a piece of jewellery which I had since childhood and we said our final goodbyes.

We had three days with our daughter and it was nowhere near enough but it was the best we could, and we are so grateful that we had that time together with her. We did what we believe was right for our daughter – she didn't suffer any pain or distress and just drifted off to sleep. We have a photo album full of photos of her with us, her blanket, matching teddies and little mementos from the hospital. Her whole lifetime fits into a box but it is something we cherish and will do forever. We talk about Jessica daily and she is included in everything we do. She is the missing piece in our family which will never be replaced and she is forever in our hearts.

- Jennifer Ryan.



**Local groups and societies**

The collage features numerous photographs of local Amnesty International groups and societies. The photos show people of various ages and backgrounds participating in protests, holding signs, and celebrating. Visible signs include "WELCOME REFUGEES", "FAMILIES FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY VOTE YES", "I STAND AGAINST THE DEATH PENALTY", and "NO WOMEN WILL TRAVEL + AN ABORTION BY CHRISTMAS". The collage is set against a white background with a yellow banner at the top that reads "Local groups and societies".



# Stop Torture

We are witnessing a global crisis on torture

Over the last five years, Amnesty International has reported on torture in 141 countries - three-quarters of the world. For decades, we have supported torture survivors to get justice. Today, laws against torture are in place almost everywhere. Yet you only have to glance at the news to know that laws alone are not enough. Torture is thriving because rather than respecting the law, many governments are either actively using torture or turning a blind eye to it.

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**Torture is barbaric and inhumane. It is banned under international law. It corrodes the rule of law and undermines the criminal justice system. It can never, ever be justified.**

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Our campaign has had many successes, including the historic moment 30 years ago when the UN voted for a Convention against - a groundbreaking step towards making the global ban on torture a reality. Torture has been outlawed internationally since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. 156 countries have signed the UN Convention against Torture.

We also support torture survivors to get justice. People like Ángel Colón, who was released in October 2014, nearly six years after he was tortured and wrongly imprisoned in Mexico. More than 20,000 Amnesty supporters demanded his release. Ángel told us: “My message to all those who are showing me their solidarity, and are against torture and discrimination, is ‘don’t drop your guard. A new horizon is dawning’.”

While our advocacy, legal and research work continues, we are also working relentlessly on a number of individual cases:







N O T A L O N E

N E V E R

O R G O T T E N





Raif Badawi was sentenced to 10 years behind bars, 1,000 lashes, a 10-year travel ban and a lifetime ban from appearing in the media in May 2014. His only 'crime' was to exercise his right to freedom of expression by setting up a website for public discussion. We have been supporting Raif for over a year in our protests outside the Saudi Arabian Embassy and will continue to do so until he is free.

Piña, a 25-year-old mother of two, was released from a prison in Ciudad Juárez, more than two years after being arrested and brutally beaten and tortured with sexual violence until she agreed to confess on videotape to extortion. Globally, Amnesty International campaigned for both of these survivors of torture.

Ali al-Nimr was just 17 years old when he was arrested, on 14 February 2012, a few months after taking part in protests in Saudi Arabia's mainly Shi'a Muslim Eastern Province. He and two other teenage boys, Abdullah al-Zaher and Dawood al-Marhoon, who were arrested shortly after him, say they were tortured and later made to 'confess'. These "confessions" were all it took for the Saudi Arabian authorities to sentence them to death. The three young men have no more chances to appeal. In 2015, both an appeal court and the Supreme Court upheld their sentences without their knowledge or that of their lawyers and families. Amnesty International is campaigning for their lives to be spared.

Take action now at [www.amnesty.ie](http://www.amnesty.ie)  
Your voice can make a difference.

### **Amnesty International's campaigning and activism works.**

In December, judges in northern Mexico released torture victims who have spent years in prison away from their families and young children, providing hope for justice in countless other cases of people tortured and detained unfairly. Bus driver and father of four Adrián Vásquez was released in the early morning of 2 December from prison near Tijuana, more than three years after he was arrested and tortured by state police and accused of being a high-level drug trafficker. Just hours later, Cristel



**"The police beat  
me with a paddle  
and stapler"**

Dave Enriquez

**STOP TORTURE**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL







# People On The Move

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

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**Europe is failing migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers. Negative attitudes to asylum-seekers and migrants are widespread. European countries are stepping up measures to control migration. This can cause serious human rights violations. People on the move have their rights violated, often out of the public eye. They are effectively made invisible.**

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As the world faces the greatest refugee crisis since the Second World War, Amnesty International continues to campaign for the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Europe and on its borders. Throughout history, migration has been a fact of life. The reasons people migrate are varied and complex. Some move to new countries to improve their economic situation or pursue a better education. Others leave their homes to escape human rights abuses, persecution, conflict and poverty. They hope to find a safer, better future. Sadly, too often they discover a very different reality. Their journeys can be full of danger and fear. Some face detention when they arrive in their countries of destination. Many face racism, xenophobia, and discrimination. They are uniquely vulnerable, without the usual support structures most of us take for granted.

Amnesty International has been working with refugees and migrants for decades. From helping to prevent refugees being returned to protecting the most vulnerable migrants from being exploited and abused by their employers, traffickers and smugglers. Many countries are stepping up measures to control migration which can cause serious human rights violations. People on the move have their rights violated, often out of the public eye. They are effectively made invisible. We are campaigning for the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to be respected and effectively protected in Europe and along its borders, in the Americas, in South East Asia and all over the world. We want to shine a light on the human rights violations suffered by migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers and help them to claim their rights. We want to hold to account those responsible for violating their rights. Governments and the European Union must do more to protect refugees & migrants fleeing brutal regimes, raging conflicts and deep poverty around the world.



## Fortress Europe Sparks Humanitarian Suffering Among Refugees

Seventy years ago, in a small college gym in Missouri, Winston Churchill warned: “From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic, an iron curtain has descended across the continent.”

Today a new iron curtain is descending across Europe. Made of razor wire, and of failed asylum policies. It can be seen at Spanish enclaves Ceuta and Melilla in the Mediterranean and at Idomeni in northern Greece, where in February Macedonian riot police tear-gassed desperate families of refugees trying to cross from Greece. The old Iron Curtain kept people in, the new one keeps people out.

The scale of suffering facing refugees fleeing violence and human rights violations has reached a level unseen in Europe since the Second World War. In December 2015, I visited the informal tented settlements in Lebanon’s Bekka Valley, along the Syrian border. There, families are forced to rent a small piece of land where they construct a makeshift shelter without any water, sanitation or hygiene facilities. The men are not allowed to work, and children rarely have access to education. Refugees are forced to live in poverty, dependent upon food aid of as little as 63c US per day when a loaf of bread costs \$1. In these circumstances, it is unsurprising that a great and growing number of people risk the treacherous journey to Europe. EU member states have built more than 235km of fences at the EU’s external borders: between Hungary and Serbia, Greece and Turkey, Bulgaria

and Turkey, and Austria and Slovenia. Neighbours like Turkey have become Europe’s border guards, pushing migrants and refugees back, sometimes even shooting them.

With almost all land borders of Europe sealed off, more than a million refugees and migrants arriving in Europe in 2015 risked death coming by sea. More than 3,770 people died trying to cross the Mediterranean in 2015, and another 410 have already perished so far this year. They are direct victims of Europe’s new Iron Curtain and what it represents: Fortress Europe.

For those who do survive the crossing the plight is far from over, often having to walk for days, travelling through numerous countries, sleeping rough in the cold, before being able to seek safety in a country with a functioning asylum system. Amnesty International has spoken to refugees fleeing war and persecution in Afghanistan, Eritrea, Iraq and Syria. They would rather not have left their homes, but most had to flee for their lives. Women and girl refugees face violence, assault, exploitation and sexual harassment at every stage of their journey. Amnesty International recently interviewed 40 refugee women and girls in northern Europe who travelled from Turkey to Greece and then across the Balkans. All the women described feeling threatened and unsafe. Many reported experiences of physical abuse and financial exploitation, being groped or pressured to have sex by smugglers, security staff





or other refugees. As a man from Afghanistan, sitting in Victoria Square in Athens with his pregnant wife told us: “My family was threatened by the Taliban. My wife is 8-months pregnant... We have no choice here... we do not know what will happen next.” That is why Europe’s new Iron Curtain is as misguided and unlikely to succeed as the old one. As long as there is violence and war, people will continue to come. It may seem a strong, hardline response for politicians to close borders, but it is actually naïve and short-sighted.

To be sure, the numbers of arrivals are high. But despite politicians’ rhetoric about “swarms”, Europe is actually shirking its global responsibility, undermining the Refugee Convention and leaving poorer countries to bear the brunt of the refugee crisis. 85% of the world’s 20 million refugees live in developing countries. Many governments are out of touch with what their people want. They talk of “defending” borders as we see images of entire families of all ages, from babies to the elderly, on Europe’s shores. Alongside these policies, we’ve seen a movement of people proclaiming “Refugees Welcome”. As with the old Iron Curtain, today’s fences are a sign of failed policies. Policies which are creating humanitarian crises across Europe. We need an immediate, fundamental shift in Europe’s approach to prevent another year of deaths at sea, desperation and violence at borders.

First, drop the pretence that spending billions on fences and border guards will stop people fleeing war and persecution.

Second, share the responsibility and commit to resettling Europe’s share of the million plus extremely vulnerable refugees who urgently need it. Open other safe and legal routes that allow refugees to find protection.

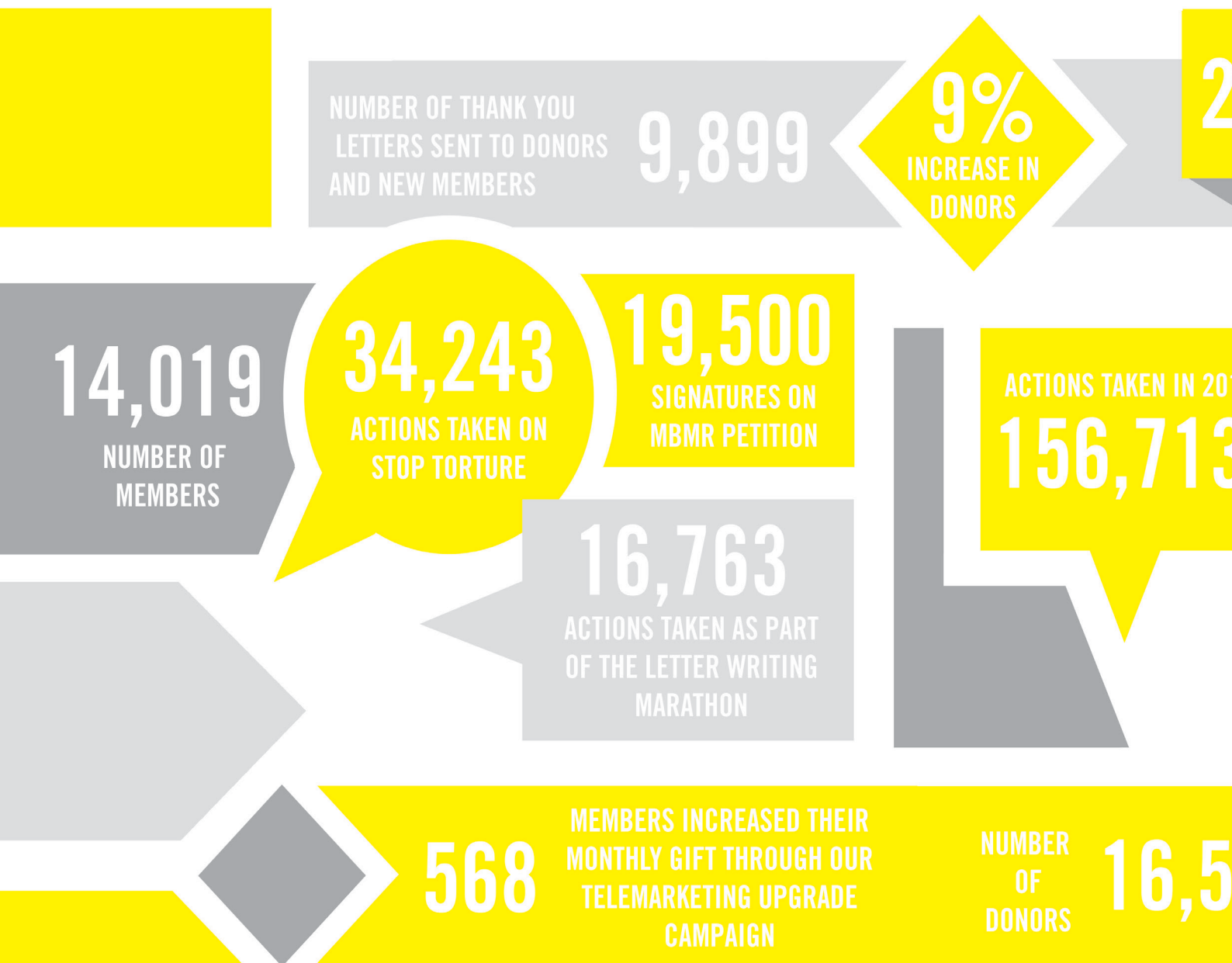
Third, get the promised relocation system off the ground so that people who make it to Europe can be treated with dignity.

Europe doesn’t have a choice between refugees coming to Europe or not. The choice is between chaos and order. As Churchill also said in 1946: “Our difficulties and dangers will not be removed by closing our eyes to them.”

- Colm O’Gorman.



# Year in Numbers





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STUDENTS BLAGGED, BEGGED, AND BORROWED  
THEIR WAY ACROSS EUROPE TO RAISE FUNDS  
FOR AMNESTY IRELAND AS PART OF JAILBREAK

33,000

NUMBER OF FRIENDSHIP  
BRACELETS WORN BY  
SCHOOL CHILDREN

6,295

NUMBER OF  
ACTIVISTS

26

VOLUNTEERS THAT  
HELPED US IN THE  
OFFICE AND WITH  
EVENTS LAST YEAR

588

TEACHERS IN  
7 COUNTIES  
RECEIVED  
HUMAN  
RIGHTS  
EDUCATION  
TRAINING

NUMBER OF KM RUN,  
PADDLED OR PEDDLED BY  
TEAM AMNESTY MEMBERS  
TO RAISE FUNDS

1,146

390

NUMBER OF DONORS WHO  
GAVE TO THE LEBANON  
REFUGEE CAMP  
CHRISTMAS APPEAL

€114.23

AVERAGE GIFT

26

# Ireland Says Yes!

We became the first country in the world to introduce marriage equality by popular vote



On 22 May, Ireland became the first country in the world to introduce full civil marriage equality for all its people, regardless of their sexual orientation, by popular vote. In the historic ballot the Irish electorate voted by 62.1% to 37.9% to endorse an amendment to the Irish Constitution asserting that “Marriage may be contracted in accordance with law by two persons without distinction as to their sex.”

Amnesty International has, since 2007, called on all States to end discrimination in civil marriage laws based upon sexual orientation or gender identity. At our Annual Conference in 2008, our membership here in Ireland mandated the section to actively campaign for civil marriage equality in line with this global policy. We worked with partner organisations on that campaign, presenting the human rights argument for marriage equality at the Constitutional Convention in 2013, and with those same partners, we campaigned for a yes vote in the referendum last May. Ireland’s proud and joyful commitment to equality for LGBTI people here has sent a powerful signal to Putin’s Russia, to Museveni’s Uganda, and to governments and states which continue to discriminate against LGBTI people and violate their human rights. Most importantly it sends a message of hope to those people around the world who fight for justice, freedom and equality.

## We Made History

It has been a long road. I never knew we were on it, or even that we were remotely interested in the journey we have taken together over the past twenty-two years. It was only during the marriage equality referendum I came to understand the significance of that journey, and the distance we have travelled together.

I am the son of the son of a farmer. My roots lie in rural Ireland, and thirteen years ago, after almost two decades living outside Ireland I returned to my home county of Wexford. I was born in 1966, in a place where the swinging part of that decade never quite reached. It was a different time, a time when many of our citizens found themselves living on the edge of society because of who they were, or because of who they loved.

I mention this, not to induce shame or outrage, but so that we might acknowledge and celebrate the distance we have travelled. It is a mighty thing, and we should be proud of it. Throughout the course of the referendum, I had many dozens of remarkable conversations with people all around the country. It’s quite the thing to have to do; asking someone for their permission to do the most wonderful and





ordinary of things, to get married. What I found in many of these conversations is a spirit and an open heartedness that left me at times profoundly moved.

I met a couple on Wexford Main Street who glowed as they told me that they would be voting Yes. “We’ve been married forty years; why would we deny that to anyone else?” she said. Her husband beamed and smiled as he shook my hand warmly. Or Mossy, who I met in Galway and who spoke with huge passion about how much he wanted to see a Yes vote on 22 May. He told me that he wasn’t sure at first, but that his daughter helped make up his mind for him.

She is thirty years old, and lives in London. She rang him and asked how he intended to vote. When he said he wasn’t sure she told him that she had never before told him what to think, or how to vote, but this time she was. She told him that he had to vote yes.

Everywhere I went I met people who were been energised and impassioned by the referendum in a way I have never seen before. Queues of people outside Garda Stations and council offices, lining up to make sure they will be able to vote. Public meetings with standing room only, where people came to express their views, have their questions

answered or volunteer to get involved in the Yes campaign. In a time when politics has little currency, it is an exercise in a kind of passionate democracy that is a powerful signal of how things could be. Of a society which can passionately and respectfully debate an issue that only a few years earlier would have divisive and fractious.

“

**Reflecting on the result, I feel, perhaps for the first time in my life, like an equal citizen.**

”

I have felt affirmed, respected and valued in ways I have never felt before. I have felt this way because of the people I have met, people I do not know, who have told me in straightforward terms, that I am one of them. That I have the same dreams and aspirations, the same capacity for love and goodness, the same contribution to make to my community and my society as they do. And that is no small thing.

-Colm O’Gorman







# FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

In 2015, Amnesty International Ireland continued to operate in a challenging economic environment. A reduction in funding from philanthropic foundations meant we faced into 2015 with a planned decrease in core funding. In spite of this, we managed to grow our total income to €2.8m, a 3% increase on the previous year.

## Income

Amnesty International Ireland's total income in 2015 was €2.8m, compared to €2.7m in 2014 which represents an overall 3% increase.

Income can be split into two broad categories: fundraising income (namely member subscriptions, donations and events) and external funding from philanthropic foundations, often classed as core funds in our management accounts. Our fundraising income increased from €2.3m in 2014 to €2.7m in 2015, which represents an 18% increase. In order to grow the membership and supporter base, we have continued to expand our Face-to-Face (F2F) member recruitment program. Though it can be costly in the beginning, this approach allows us to recruit new members who will support us for many years to come.

The results for the year are set out in the financial summary on page 29.

## Expenditure - Salaries & Wages

One of Amnesty International Ireland's most important resources is its staff whose commitment and dedication to the organisation has been crucial throughout the years of the wider financial crisis. During 2015, we had an average of 27 employees on our core staff teams (programmes, campaigns, fundraising, support and administration) and an average of 13 staff fundraisers on the F2F recruitment programme. Total salary, wages and related costs of these employees in 2015 was €1.75m (2014: €1.5m). This increase reflected the reinstatement of the salary cuts that had to be

introduced in 2014, as well as increased investment in the F2F recruitment program.

Details of staff salary bands are published on our website. As of January 2016, the office based salary bands were:

€ 26,000 - €35,000	9 posts
€ 35,001 - €40,000	9 posts
€ 40,001 - €57,000	8 posts
€62,001-72,000	0 Posts
<i>Posts at this grade were lost due to redundancy in recent years and have not been refilled.</i>	
€115,498	1 post (Executive Director)

Salary and employee costs are allocated to the relevant cost centres in the financial summary. €771,000 was invested in the F2F new member recruitment program which saw an average of 13 full time fundraisers employed per week.

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

- programme and campaign activity costs
- funded project costs
- fundraising and donor care costs
- administrative and management costs

Expenditure on programmes and campaign activities was €1m, which includes salaries, overheads and our contribution to the International Movement. As part of their support for Amnesty International Ireland, the International Movement set contribution levels to 25% of payments due in 2014 and 50% of payments due in 2015.

Expenditure on fundraising was €421,000, which included investment in diversifying income, improving donor care and maintaining capacity to manage an increased number of AI members and fundraising activities.

# FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

Expenditure on administrative and management expenses which was not allocated to campaigns and activities was €195,000. Financial costs, depreciation and interest amounted to further €119,000.

## Financial Status:

The net outcome for 2015 was a surplus of €497,000 in current year activities, compared to a €735,000 surplus in 2014. After providing for costs of raising future income and inter-company transactions from the Amnesty Foundation, the balance carried forward to reserves was a deficit of €73,000. (In 2014, a surplus of €279,000 was carried to reserves due to a €350,000 contribution from the Atlantic Philanthropic foundation.)

## Reserves and Financial Position

Amnesty International Ireland's policy is to have reserves sufficient 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 2015, the average cash balance was €300,000. (2014: €251,000)

## Balance Sheet, at 31 December 2015

The assets of the Section amount to €911,000 with liabilities of €2,087,000 resulting in negative reserves of €1,176,000. Our current assets are €580,000 against the current liability of €485,000. The combined balance sheet for the section and the Amnesty International Ireland Foundation at 31 December 2015 showed reserves of €1.95m. The Amnesty International Ireland Foundation owns the building in Fleet Street, Dublin from where we operate.

## 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 can be viewed on [www.amnesty.ie](http://www.amnesty.ie). We are also committed to meeting best practice standards in operational excellence, confidentiality, public reporting and transparency. We 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.

To this end the board has been strengthened by the addition of new board members. The new board members are drawn from diverse backgrounds and bring a broad range of experience and skills to the board's deliberations.

Amnesty International Ireland is also fully committed to achieving the standards contained within the Statement of Guiding Principles 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 on 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 2016**

The financial prospects for 2016 are encouraging in some respects but challenging in others.

The reductions to our cost base and increase spending on income achieved at the end of 2015 give us a solid platform to build for the future. Continued investment in new member recruitment through the F2F direct dialogue programme will lead to an increase in our supporter base which strengthens our finances and allows us to expand our human rights work.

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

The budget for 2016 is presented in the financial summary:

- Total income is budgeted to increase from €2.7m to €3.26m in 2016.
- Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2m to €2.7m. Open Society Foundation funding of €79,200 is also budgeted.
- Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €2.7m to €3.2m.

- Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1,228,000 to €1,552,000. Included in this figure is a €546,000 contribution to the International Movement (2015: €230,000).
- Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €421,000 to €467,000. The costs of the F2F recruitment program is budgeted at €818,000 (2015: €771,000).
- Other costs including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest are budgeted at €372,000. (2015: €318,000)

The budget for 2016 sees a surplus of €55,000.

1000 COUPS DE FOUET  
POUR S'ÊTRE EXPRIMÉ



**#JeSuisRaif**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL





Amnesty International Irish Section Financial Review 3/8/16 14:30	2015						Budget 2016				
	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL			IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION		TOTAL
	€	€	€	€			€	€	€		€
INCOME											
Subscriptions and Donations		1,997,410		1,997,410				2,678,536			2,678,536
Core Funding		3,000		3,000							0
Tax refunds		201,375		201,375				166,000			166,000
Externally funded projects				0				0			0
Direct Mail Appeals		157,039		157,039				179,760			179,760
Amnesty Foundation		99,000	(99,000)	0				44,800	(44,800)		0
Special Events		114,854		114,854				133,558			133,558
Legacy income			99,104	99,104					44,800		44,800
Rental Income			100,310	100,310					110,395		110,395
Interest receivable		50		50				0			0
		2,572,729	100,414	2,673,143				3,202,655	110,395		3,313,050
Externally Funded Project											
HRE Funding Income		145,359		145,359				61,000			61,000
		2,718,088		2,818,502				3,263,655			3,374,050
EXPENDITURE											
Direct costs of Fundraising and Recruitment											
Fundraising salaries and related costs	235,259			235,259			253,368				253,368
Fundraising other costs	185,997			185,997			211,959				211,959
		421,256		0				465,327			0
Recruitment salaries	219,258			219,258			240,858				240,858
Recruitment other costs	37,984			37,984			32,000				32,000
		257,242		0				272,858			0
		678,498		678,498				738,185			738,185
Campaign and Programme costs											
Salaries and related costs	624,568			624,568			684,132				684,132
Materials and other costs: C & P	117,870			117,870			265,310				265,310
Annual Conference	9,863			9,863			8,000				8,000
Annual review	18,155			18,155			0				0
International Movement	230,106			230,106			546,532				546,532
		1,000,561		1,000,561				1,503,974			1,503,974
Human Rights Education Projects											
Salaries and related costs	177,419			177,419			40,000				40,000
Materials and other costs - HRE	50,450			50,450			8,500				8,500
		227,869		227,869				48,500			48,500
Total Campaigns and Projects		1,228,430		1,228,430				1,552,474			1,552,474
Administrative and Managment expenses											
Salaries and related costs	123,111			123,111			152,318				152,318
Overheads and expenses A & M	71,555		10,481	82,036			79,000		10,500		89,500
		194,666						231,318			
Depreciation		21,603	50,987	72,590				27,000	59,004		86,004
Financial costs		76,029		76,029				82,690			82,690
Interest		21,494	95,530	117,024				31,000	88,971		119,971
Total Expenditure before interest		2,220,720	156,998	2,377,718				2,662,667	158,475		2,821,142
Surplus / (Deficit) from Activities		497,368	(56,584)	440,784				600,988	(48,080)		491,908
Inter co Foundation write off				0							0
International Movement credit											
Costs invested in future income											
Salaries and related costs		438,516		438,516				481,716			481,716
Overheads and expenses		75,969		75,969				64,000			64,000
Balance carried forward		(17,117)	(56,584)	(73,701)				55,272	(48,080)		(53,808)
The figures presented above are subject to audit and may change.											

# HOW WE GOT OUR MONEY

Total income €2.819m



Main source of income is subscriptions and donations at 70.9%  
7.1% in tax refunds  
5.6% from appeals  
5.2% HRE funding income

- Subscriptions and donations
- Core funding foundations
- Appeals
- HRE funding from foundations
- Tax refunds

- Special events
- Rental income
- Legacy income
- Interest



# HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Total expenditure €2.892m



65.1% is allocated to the Irish Section  
17.8% is invested in future income  
Capital and interest on borrowings is 9.2%

- Irish section
- Investment in future income
- Capital, interest & DEP

# HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT

Total expenditure allocated to Irish section €1.958m



Expenditure on campaigns is 53.0%  
Cost of raising funds is 36.1%  
Administration & management 10.9%

■ Campaigns  
■ Raising Funds  
■ Administration & Management



# CAMPAIGNS EXPENDITURE

Total expenditure allocated to campaigns €998m



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

- |                               |                     |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| ESCR Ireland                  | Communications      |
| My Body, My Rights            | Individuals at Risk |
| HRE/ Stop Bullying            | Crisis Response     |
| Stop Torture                  | Death Penalty       |
| IGO & human rights in Ireland | SOS Europe          |
| LGBTI                         | Magazine            |
|                               | Annual Conference   |

# FUNDRAISING REPORT 2016

As set out in the finance report, AI Ireland splits its income into two categories: fundraising income (membership subscriptions, donations & events) and income from philanthropic organisations, often classed as core funds. This part of the report covers the fundraising income work of the Irish section.

At the end of a far more stable year than previous ones, we saw a modest 2% growth in income overall, which resulted in a 3% increase in net income. This 2% growth in overall income was still 3% under our target, but it was certainly a manageable margin.

A number of areas performed far ahead of budget projections, most notably tax reclaims and legacies. Both of these areas had performed very erratically over the previous three years with, at times, damaging impact on our overall result. It was very encouraging to see them generate €164,000 more than anticipated in our budget for 2015, and €304,300 in total.

The on-street F2F recruitment teams did incredibly well throughout the year, exceeding nearly all of their key performance indicators. Most importantly, we recruited more new members than planned, generated more funds, without a significant impact on the cost per acquisition. However, there were some concerns regarding increased cancellations in this area, as well as several other income streams.

The income generated solely by members signed up through our in-house F2F operation was €1.1m in 2015. This represented 44% of our total fundraising income, compared to 35% in 2014 and just 13% in 2012 (its first full year of operation). This €1.1m was an increase of 26% compared to the programme's previous year, which itself was a 28% increase on 2013.

Whilst recognising the success of the F2F program, we are very aware that we have, albeit for very sound reasons in previous years, become very reliant on just one acquisition method. As such, we have

continued to test various other recruitment channels in 2015, with mostly encouraging results. We set ourselves the target to increase the ratio of non-F2F members joining annually from 2% in 2015 to 5% by 2017. This will be done through increased investment in lead generation and two-step conversion from high quality petitions, SMS and Ebulletins, as well as increased use of our google grant and other digital and social media marketing.

Jailbreak was our star income and media event of 2015, with 200 students from eight third level institutions travelling across Europe to a secret destination at Lake Bled in Slovenia. The challenge was to do so without spending any of their own money. They raised €32,000 for AI Ireland, more than double their target. The comedy gig was also a great success with a star line-up (Des Bishop, Panti Bliss, Deidre O'Kane, Colm O'Regan and MC Tara Flynn). The purpose of the event was to reestablish it as a regular fundraising event for the Section. It succeeded in setting a strong foundation for a bigger, better and higher yielding comedy gig in 2016. Fundraising events overall came in ahead of target.

On a less positive note, income from previous years F2F acquisition was significantly down. We knew this was going to be the case very early in 2015 and had plenty of time to put in place plans to mitigate against this reduction in income. Fortunately, with other income areas performing better than target and cash flows for the Section being generally positive, this allowed us to carry on with F2F acquisition as planned, with very positive results.

In terms of direct marketing appeals, the raffles came in on income target, although costs were slightly higher than planned. General appeals however were very erratic. The Christmas appeal had the highest income from a single appeal for over three years but the summer appeal generated half the amount and was our lowest performing appeal in over two years. Overall, direct marketing appeals







performed less well than expected. We are currently analysing these results to understand how best to maximise this income channel.

Major donors and upgrades came in under their gross and net income targets but most other areas came in near or above their net target. We were very happy that Ireland was chosen by the International Secretariat to host the Global Fundraising Skillshare, with more than 100 delegates from 31 Amnesty Sections attending. It was a real morale boost to the team and the Section, as was the International Council Meeting (ICM), which was also held in Dublin a few months later.

In summary, 2015 was relatively stable in comparison to recent years though we continue to operate in a difficult market. The Irish Times recently reported on The Wheel's report that 40% of Irish charities and NGOs saw a decline in income in 2015. We continue to face internal challenges including a lack of dedicated staff and capacity for key fundraising areas such as major donors, legacies and donor care. In this context, we were pleased to report our modest growth of 2% on the previous year. In terms of income from individuals, our main focus for the last five years, 2015 saw an 18% increase on the previous year and a 49% increase since 2011.

At the end of 2015, we have a very strong and experienced fundraising program and team which has seen consistent growth since 2011. In 2016, we will continue to set ambitious targets and believe that our strategies and plans will continue to generate further growth, stability and diversification in the coming years.





# NOTES

For ideas, for things to remembers, for you!



# Conference Papers



## Annual Conference 2016

Venue: IBAT College, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

### Saturday 21 May

- 9:30 Registration
- 10:15 Conference opening  
Chair: Mary Quinn
- Adoption of the Report of the Conference  
Agenda Committee / election of the National Board & call for nominations to the CAC
- 10:30 Plenary Session I  
**A Year in Review – report back to membership.**  
A look back at 2015 with our National Board including the treasurer's report for 2015 and presentation of budget for 2016
- Followed by Q&A
- 11:45 Break
- 12:00 Workshop Session I
- **Controversy? What controversy! Public opinion and Ireland's abortion legislation**
  - **We Welcome Refugees and Migrants**
- 1:15 Lunch
- 2:15 Overview of Operational Plan 2016-2017
- Our Human Rights Goals  
Our Organisational Goals  
Our Organisational Projects  
3x 20 minutes sessions
- 3:30 Break
- 3:45 Plenary Session II
- She is a woman who needs an abortion. She is not a criminal.**
- Creating a space where we share the stories and facts from the 'She is not a Criminal' report and discuss the impact of Ireland's abortion legislation on women and girls and medical professionals.
- With Dr Ciara Kelly (Chair), Dr Marion Dwyer (GP) & Jennifer Ryan (Termination for Medical Reasons)**
- Followed by Q&A
- 5:30 Conference adjourns

### Sunday 22 May

- 9:30 Registration (new attendees)
- 10:00 Conference resumes/ presentation of Activism Awards  
Chair: Mary Quinn
- 10:15 Workshop Session II
- **Controversy? What controversy! Public opinion and Ireland's abortion legislation**
  - **We Welcome Refugees and Migrants**
- 11:30 Break
- 11:45 Conference Business
- Conference Delegates discuss and vote on the motions and constitutional amendments put forward by membership.
- 1:00 Lunch and move to Morrison Hotel for the afternoon sessions
- 2:00 Plenary Session III  
**The Refugee Crisis: from the local to the global.**
- Exploring Europe's flawed response to a humanitarian and human rights crisis, and a look forward to Amnesty International's new global priority campaign
- With Fotis Filippou, Eoghan Scott, Paul Webster & Conor Maguire
- Followed by a Q&A
- 3:15 Break
- 3:30 Plenary Session IV
- Lessons from history: women refugees reflect on Europe's response to refugee crises, both past and present.**
- With Eva Schloss, Zlata Filipovic and Colm O'Gorman**  
**Chair: Shona Murray**
- Open to a wider audience
- 5:30 Closing Remarks







# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday 21st May 2016

## 10:45 Plenary Session I

### **Our Year in Review, a report to membership.**

Our National Board is elected each year by Annual Conference. In this plenary the board will report to members on Amnesty International's work, both nationally and internationally, the International Council Meeting which took place in Dublin in August 2015, and on their work as the governance body of the Irish Section.

This session will also include the Treasurer's Report for 2015 and the presentation of the section budget for 2016.

### **Followed by a Q&A session with the National Board and Executive Director.**

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## 12:00 Workshops

### **Workshop 1: Controversy. What controversy? Public opinion and Ireland's abortion legislation**

In 2015 and 2016 as part of the My Body, My Rights (MBMR) campaign we commissioned attitudinal polling on issues surrounding abortion and the law in Ireland. What emerged from these polls is an understanding of where public opinion is at with regard to expanding access to abortion in line with human rights standards and compassion for women who have to travel outside of Ireland for abortions. Our Red C poll found that only 7% agree with the current law on abortion, while a massive 87% want access to be expanded.. 5% are personally opposed to abortion in all circumstances, but of those, half would still vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment. Across all regions, demographic and social groups, there is overwhelming support for change. People in Ireland describe the current law as cruel, inhumane, hypocritical and discriminatory. It is the degree of consensus which exists on this issue that is truly noteworthy. At this workshop, we

will present and discuss the findings of these Red C polls with AI members. It will give those attending time to engage with public opinion on this issue. The polling results will also give those campaigning for a human rights compliant framework on access to abortion confidence that the majority of the public is supportive of this work.

### **Workshop 2 - We Welcome Refugees and Migrants**

The objective of this workshop is to provide Amnesty members with the language and skills needed to counter anti-refugee and anti-migrant rhetoric. Using the human rights framework and language members will practice how to challenge xenophobia, racism and islamophobia if they meet it in their work as activists or in their everyday lives. This will include myth busting about the benefits provided to refugees, facts and figures as to how many people have entered the EU via alternative routes and what this means, in real terms, to the 508 million citizens of the European Union.

#### **Facilitator:**

**Sara Hakim** is currently working as Education Development Officer for Show Racism the Red Card. She has been involved with highlighting the ongoing war in Syria and fundraising at a local level for the past 5 years. More recently she co-founded Ireland Says Welcome, a social media platform sharing information news and events on refugee and asylum issues. She is an experienced workshop facilitator in the areas of the UDHR, Syria, the refugee crisis and anti-racism. Sara formerly held the post of Student and Youth officer at Amnesty International Ireland.

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## 2:30 Overview of the Operational Plan (OP) 2016-2017

Conference will consider the new two year Operational Plan for the Irish Section in a motion to be put forward on Sunday. This session will give

# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday 21st May 2016

delegates an opportunity to hear about that plan in some detail in advance of that motion. The plan will cover the two year period from 2016-2017. The OP is broken down into three complimentary but distinct sections;

Our Human Rights Goals, Our Organisational Goals and Organisational Projects

These three, twenty minutes sessions will give an overview of the three sections and how they relate to each other:

## **Our human rights goals**

Overview of our global and national campaigns.

## **Our organisational goals**

Overview of how we plan to grow our membership as a force for change.

## **Our organisational projects**

Overview of how we will work to ensure that we have all the tools we need to succeed.

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## **Plenary Session II - My Body My Rights**

**She is a woman who needs an abortion. She is not a criminal**

Following the launch of our report 'She is not a Criminal', in June 2015, Amnesty International has been campaigning for change to Ireland's abortion laws. Our report and the impact of Ireland's abortion laws have been widely discussed. In this plenary, we want to share with our members the reality of Ireland's abortion laws. Jennifer Ryan from Termination for Medical Reasons (TFMR) and Dr Marion Dwyer from Doctors for Choice will be joining us. The plenary will be chaired by Dr Ciara Kelly. The session will explore just how cruel and inhumane Ireland's abortion laws are: how they do not stop women having abortions, just safe abortions. How they exile to women and girls, who

need abortions to another country, and how this impacts on their physical and mental health. How they make women, girls, their partners and their doctors feel like criminals. We will share the stories of real women; who could be your mother or your sister, who need abortions. We hope that hearing this powerful personal testimony from rights holders you will be further moved to join our campaign to stand in solidarity with women and girls and call for change.

**Dr Ciara Kelly** is a GP, Broadcaster and Award Winning Columnist. She qualified as a Doctor in 1997 from UCD and was a medal winner in her graduation class and achieved First Class Honours in General Practice. She is a partner in Carrig Clinic, in Greystones. She also teaches General practice to medical students and Post graduate Doctors for UCD and Trinity College Dublin.

**Dr Marion Dwyer** is a General Practitioner with special interests in Women's Health and Medical Education. She engages in patient care, and teaches medical students in the Blanchardstown Centre Surgery, a practice she established in 1999. She teaches at Trinity College Dublin medical school, and is involved in the postgraduate training of doctors preparing to become GPs. She also trained and worked as a volunteer Rape Crisis telephone counsellor and as a volunteer at a shelter for women who have experienced violence. She has an interest in active citizenship, has played an active part in team settings in Irish local and national and a US Presidential election, and is issues-focussed rather than party-focussed. Caring for women and couples, experiencing crisis pregnancy, in the UK and Ireland, has led Marion to become a committee member of Doctors for Choice, and the Repeal the 8th campaign, believing that women themselves are best placed to make health decisions, including decisions relating to pregnancy, with the support of those they choose to consult, including health professionals.



**Jennifer Ryan** is a member of Termination For Medical Reasons (TFMR). Jennifer and her husband got the heart breaking news, while pregnant for a second time that their baby was incompatible with life. Following this diagnosis, the couple decided that they needed an abortion but they soon realised that this would not be possible in Ireland. Jennifer and her husband had to travel to the UK for the healthcare she needed. Jennifer now campaigns with Termination For Medical Reasons for the repeal of the Eighth Amendment in order for Ireland's abortion laws to be changed to allow for terminations where there is a fatal foetal impairment.









# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Sunday 22nd May 2016

## 10.00 Presentation of Activist Awards

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

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## 10.15 Workshop Session II

As per workshops delivered on Saturday 21 May

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## 11:45 Conference Business

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

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## 2:00 Plenary Session III

### The Refugee Crisis: from the local to the global.

#### Exploring Europe's flawed response to a humanitarian and human rights crisis, and a look forward to Amnesty International's new global priority campaign

Featured speaker: Fotis Filippou, Deputy Director, Europe and Central Asia Programme, with inputs from volunteer Eoghan Scott who travelled to Lesbos to assist those arriving on the Greek island and film makers Paul Webster and Conor Maguire whose new film *Borderland* explores the refugee crisis in Europe.

We will hear first-hand testimony on the current situation facing refugees arriving at Europe's borders. Fotis will provide members with an update on Amnesty's ongoing work on the refugee crisis in the European Union and outline how this work will be incorporated into the new global priority campaign on refugees and migration. The plenary

will also provide members with an opportunity to contribute to the development of the Irish aspect of the campaign.

**Fotis Filippou** is a human rights campaigner with nearly 9 years' experience in coordinating, overseeing and advising on Amnesty International campaigns in Europe and Central Asia, focusing on discrimination against minorities, the rights of refugees and migrants, children's rights, police abuse, freedom of expression among other areas.

Fotis has solid experience in conducting human rights research and using participatory approaches in working with activists and marginalised communities to deliver successful campaigns.

He has lived and worked in London, (UK), Athens and Thessaloniki (Greece), Guayaquil (Ecuador) and has worked for substantial periods across Europe and travelled extensively across Latin America.

**Eoghan Scott** Originally from Tipperary, Eoghan Scott is a Cork based Amnesty activist who recently spent 10 days volunteering at the Moria refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece. Having just completed his BA in English and Psychology at UCC, Eoghan is an aspiring journalist who has written for publications including Hot Press, Motley Magazine and The Irish Times.

**Conor Maguire** is a camera operator and editor from Galway. He has worked in numerous roles in the television & film industry since 2008. **Paul Webster** is an award winning director of both drama and documentary films and he has also worked in TV and the commercial sector. Their film *Borderland* is an independently produced short film dealing with the refugee crisis which will be released in summer 2016.

# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Sunday 22nd May 2016

## 3:30 Plenary Session IV

### **Lessons from history: women refugees reflect on Europe's response to refugee crises, both past and present.**

Across the world almost 50 million people have been forced to leave their homes due to conflict or persecution. There are now some 20 million refugees living outside their own countries and in need of international protection. The world is in the midst of the largest refugee crisis since the Second World War. The response from the international community to this humanitarian crisis has thus far been woefully inadequate. Rather than act to provide refugees with the protection they are entitled to, states have put up barriers to millions of desperate people with devastating consequences. In Europe, the Mediterranean has become a graveyard. Tens of thousands of women, men and children have drowned having been forced to undertake desperate, dangerous journeys in an effort to reach safety in Europe. For those who survive the journey, they are now met with detention camps, razor wire tear gas, rubber bullets, baton charges and water cannons.

This plenary session will explore Europe's response to previous refugee crises, and the parallels between past failures and today's flawed response. We will hear powerful personal testimony from women refugees; Eva Schloss, an author, campaigner and Holocaust survivor who is also the step sister of Anne Frank and from Zlata Filipovic whose book *Zlata's Diary* documents her experience as a twelve year old girl in the Siege of Sarajevo and the Bosnian War. We will also hear updates on the situation facing refugees in Lebanon and Turkey, and on the desperately flawed response from the EU and its member states. The session will be chaired by journalist and broadcaster Shona Murray.

### **Eva Schloss is a Holocaust survivor, a wife, a mother, a teacher and a humanitarian.**

She survived escape from her homeland in Austria, two years in hiding, capture on her 15th birthday, nine months in Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, repatriation in Holland, the death of her beloved father and brother and the poison of bitterness, the burden of grief, the integration of loss.

Forty years after the end of World War II, Eva began to share her story. She has written two books and spoken to more than one thousand audiences about her experiences. In 1999 Eva joined United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan signing the Anne Frank Peace Declaration, along with a niece of Raul Wallenberg, a Schindler-like hero who rescued thousands of Jews in Budapest.

Eva joins many courageous individuals who work tirelessly to end the violence and bigotry that continue to plague our world.

**Zlata Filipovic** was born in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the age of ten, she started keeping a diary, which, when conflict began in Sarajevo, became a record of the war and survival in her city. *Zlata's Diary* was published first in France in 1993 and was an instant international bestseller. It has since been translated into 36 languages and is required reading in many schools around the world.

She holds a B.A. in Human Sciences from Oxford University and an MPhil in International Peace Studies from Trinity College Dublin. She has spoken extensively at schools and universities around the world and has worked on many occasions with organisations such as the Anne Frank House, the United Nations, UNESCO and UNICEF.

She has been working in the field of documentary films for the last 8 years which have won numerous awards in Ireland and internationally. This includes the Grierson nominated 'Here Was Cuba' and Irish Film and Television Award-winners 'Somebody To



Love' and 'Blood of the Irish'. She specialised in science, history and social issues documentaries.

Zlata has served 6 years on the executive committee of Amnesty International Ireland, is a Member of the Mental Health Commission's Mental Health Tribunals. She regularly volunteers with the writing organisation Fighting Words in Ireland (working with young offenders in juvenile justice system) is a Founding Member of the Network of Young People Affected by War (NYPAW).

**Shona Murray** is an experienced international affairs journalist and broadcaster. Most frequently heard on Newstalk, her work regularly appears in the Irish Independent and TIME. Shona has reported on the refugee crisis from Jordan, Turkey/Syria border, Iraq, Greece, Serbia and Hungary.

She has worked extensively from the Middle East, and recently returned from Iraq where she interviewed Yazidi women enslaved by Isis militants and child soldiers caught up in the ongoing conflict. She has previously reported from Guantanamo Bay prison facility in Cuba, documenting the legal status of detainees and the use of force feeding against those on hunger strike.

Shona has an LL.M in international law and an M.Phil in International Peace Studies - both from Trinity College Dublin.

# NATIONAL BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

## Standing for Election

### **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.

## Standing for Election post co-option to the board since AC 2015

### **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 at the Hague.

## Standing for Re-election

### **Chairperson - Dr Jacinta Kelly**

Jacinta was co-opted onto the National Board in September 2011 and subsequently elected to the National Board at our Annual Conference in 2012. She was elected Chair of the Executive Committee in February 2014. Jacinta is a graduate of TCD, and she has a PhD in Immunology and a Masters in Management. She has many years' experience in academic publishing, and also in lecturing at third level, as well as in medical research. She is currently the Deputy Director of Research at the National Children's Research Centre, Crumlin. Jacinta is a member of the Ethics Committee in the Faculty of Health Services with Trinity College Dublin, and is a board member of Focus Theatre.

### **Youth Secretary - Mary Quinn**

Mary is the current Chair of Amnesty's Youth Action Team. She has previously held the position of Secretary, and later 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. In 2011, Mary graduated from University College Dublin with a MSc in Human Rights.

### **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.



## **Serving Board Members**

### **Honorary Secretary - David White**

David was co-opted in November 2012 and subsequently elected to the EC 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. 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 was recently appointed to his current role, as Global Capability Director for Diageo's manufacturing operations, after working in HR Director roles for a number of years. Donal was co-opted onto the National Board in July 2014.

# CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

## **a) Motions & Amendments**

Having examined the motions 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 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.

**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 eight elected members – four 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 eight ordinary members of the NB as follows:

**Article 13 (3)** the eight other positions on the National Board shall be filled by election to two panels containing four 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.

### **Jacinta Kelly to serve a one-year term**

Nominated by David White , Seconded by Mary Quinn

### **Mary Quinn to serve a two year term**

Nominated by Shane Darcy, Seconded by James Kelly

### **James Kelly to serve a two year term**

Nominated by Donal Prior, Seconded by Siobhán Mullally

The following members must stand for election at AC2016 following their earlier co-option to the National Board

### **Siobhán Mullally to serve a two year term**

Nominated by Jacinta Kelly, Seconded by Mary Quinn

## **Standing for Election**

### **Cliona O'Farrell to serve a two year term**

Nominated by Jacinta Kelly, Seconded by David White

## **e) Election of Conference Agenda Committee**

Three candidates (the outgoing CAC) have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC).

The outgoing CAC recommends that the Conference should also elect two substitute members of the CAC, if possible, in order to fill any casual vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference.



# MOTIONS

## Annual Conference 2016

### 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, conference 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**

### Motion 2

#### **Operational Budget 2016**

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

\*The budget is included in Annual Report .

**Proposed by: James Kelly**  
**Seconded by: David White**

### 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**

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Annual Conference 2016

## **Constitutional Amendment 1**

This amendment to the AI Ireland constitution seeks to increase the number of members of the National Board to a total of 12 members. This expanded membership is deemed necessary to ensure the effective resourcing of board subcommittees and to increase the capacity of the National Board.

The proposal affects Article 13 (1) (3) and (4) © and (7) of the Constitution.

Current Text:

### **Article 13: The National Board**

(1) The National Board shall consist of eight 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 eight other positions on the National Board shall be filled by election to two panels containing four 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.

(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 five or less, the vacancies shall be filled by election at an EGM specially convened for that purpose in accordance with Article 13(8).

(7) If the number of elected National Board members continuing in office at any time falls to five 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 amendment:**

(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.

Annual Conference 2016

Venue: IBAT College, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

(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**



## **Constitutional Amendment 2**

This amendment to the AI Ireland clarifies current practice which permits attendance at meetings of the National Board by conference/video call. This amendment is proposed to ensure compliance with the Core Standards of Amnesty International as adopted at the ICM 2013. It also includes one further amendment to accord with constitutional amendment 1 as presented at this Annual Conference.

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

Current Text:

### **Article 9 – The National Board (6)**

The quorum for meetings of the National Board shall be five elected members. In the event that less than eight 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 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**







# MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Amnesty International Ireland

Conference was held at IBAT College, 16-19 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2 on 11 –12 April 2014

Over the two days of AC 2015, delegates and guests participated in workshops on both our ongoing campaigns, Stop Torture, My Body, My Rights, SOS Europe and Economic, Social & Cultural Rights in Ireland. There was further consultation with membership on the draft strategic goals in preparation for the International Council Meeting (ICM). There was also a strong focus on the campaign for a 'yes' vote in the Marriage Equality referendum.

Plenary sessions were held on a range of topics, including the decriminalisation of sexual and reproductive rights, freedom of expression, association, assembly and conscience with inputs from former Prisoner of Conscience Dr Ghassan Dhaif and the family of Prisoner of Conscience, Ibrahim Halawa.

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## Elections

There were a total of four positions open for election to the National Board

The following members were elected to the National board:

**Jacinta Kelly**, Chairperson, elected to serve a 1-year term.

**David White**, elected to serve a 2-year term.

**Donal Prior**, co-opted since AC 2014, formally elected to serve a 2-year term.

**Shane Darcy**, co-opted since AC 2014, formally elected to serve a 2-year term.

Conference also elected two members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2015. They are Jerome Wholihane and Mary Quinn.

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**As the number of nominations was less than the number of places available, the incoming Conference Agenda Committee will co-opt one further member in advance of AC 2016.**

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

Trinity College Dublin Amnesty Society was awarded the '*Mary Robinson Award for Student Activism*' (Society)

University College Dublin Amnesty Society was awarded the '*Anne Frank Award for Student Activism (Group)*.'

The Cashel Amnesty Local Group was awarded the '*The Group Impact Award*'

Denis Boscovich was awarded the '*I am Amnesty Award*'

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## Motion and Constitutional Amendments

On Saturday 12 April in plenary session Conference considered a range of motions and amendments that had been put forward by membership. Conference decided as follows:

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### Motion 1 Operational Budget 2015

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2015 as presented to conference.

**Proposed by: Alan McClean**  
**Seconded by: James Kelly**

\*The budget was included in Annual Conference 2015 Papers.

This motion was passed by consensus.

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2015

Amnesty International Ireland

## **Motion 2 Crisis Response**

Recognising the on-going consultation with Amnesty International membership on the draft strategic goals and pending final decisions of the International Council Meeting (ICM) of Amnesty International in August 2015,.

Amnesty International Ireland welcomes the particular focus on the protection of civilians in conflict.

Conference mandates the National Board to strongly support the adoption at the 2015 ICM, and should it be adopted, to ensure that Amnesty International Ireland develops a clear programme of work in this area.

**Proposed by: Jacinta Kelly**  
**Seconded by: David White**

This motion was passed by consensus.

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## **Motion 3 Ensuring Accountability**

Recognising the grave human rights violations which can result from some of the practices of Multi-National Corporations and other corporate actors.

And the focus on such violations as set out in Amnesty International's global draft strategic goals for the period 2016-19.

Conference mandates the National board to strongly support the adoption of this goal, and should it be adopted, to identify opportunities for AI Ireland to actively campaign on this issue.

**Proposed by: Michael Browne**  
**Seconded by: Shane Darcy**

This motion did not proceed to discussion as the proposers were not in attendance at Annual Conference 2015 and had not nominated any other member to move it on their behalf.

## **Motion 4 Climate Justice**

Recognising that climate change has been noted by the UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki Moon, as the greatest injustice of our time.

And acknowledging that those who have done the least to create the problem of climate change are suffering its worst impacts.

Conference mandates the National Board to seek the inclusion of reference to climate change and it's potential to exacerbate conflict and trigger mass movements of people within and between states under strategic Goal 3, 'responding to crises'.

**Proposed by: Billy Costelloe**  
**Seconded by: Aoife Spengeman**

This motion was passed by simple majority

Other issues deliberated during this session

The emergency motion put forward by members of the Clonakilty Group was not deemed by the CAC to warrant inclusion, as it did not constitute an emergency. However, conference was updated on the issues raised by the proposed motion which focused on living conditions in direct provision centres and delays in processing asylum applications. A government working group report on improvements to the asylum process, including direct provision, is due for publication in May 2015. If the publication of this report was further delayed, it was decided that section staff would pursue the issue with the relevant government departments.





**#FREEIBRAHIM**

# NOTES

For ideas, for things to remembers, for you!



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