

**Saturday 6 May**

9:30 Registration

10.15 Conference Opening

Chair: Mary Quinn

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

10:30 Plenary Session I

A Year in Review – report back to membership

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

Followed by a Q&A

11:45 Break

12:00 Plenary Session II

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

With Jim Loughran (Front Line Defenders), Jameen Kuar
(International Secretariat) & Regina Fonseca, Honduran
Human Rights Defender

Followed by Q&A

1:30 Lunch

2:30 Workshop Session I

- **Making reproductive rights real**
- **Thinking *Locally*, Acting *Globally*: the global
refugee campaign in your community**
- **Let's Stand with human rights defenders
worldwide**

3:45 Break

4:00 Plenary Session III

**Fighting the Backlash against the Rights of Women and
Girls**

With Karolina Więckiewicz, Regina Fonseca & Alison
O'Connor

Followed by Q&A

5:30 Conference adjourns

Sunday 07 May

9.30 Registration (new attendees)

10.00 Conference resumes/ presentation of activism
awards

Chair: Mary Quinn**10.15 Workshop Session II****Repeat of Saturday's Workshop sessions**

11:30 Break

11:45 International Council Meeting 2017

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

- Governance
- Human Rights
- Organisational

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Conference business

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

2:30 Plenary Session IV

I Welcome: Global responses to the refugee crisis

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

Followed by a Q&A

4:00 Break

4:15 Plenary Session V

A day in the life of an Amnesty researcher.

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

5:30 Closing remarks & thanks

PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

SATURDAY 06 MAY

10:30 Plenary Session I

Our Year in Review, a report to membership.

A look back at 2016 with our National Board, including Treasurers Report and presentation of budget for 2017 & headline budget 2018

Followed by a Q&A session.

12:00 Plenary Session II

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

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

Jameen Kaur brings over 10 years' experience working with diverse stakeholders to implement human rights at the national, regional and global level. She currently works as a senior global campaign strategist with Amnesty International. Prior to this post she was the regional campaigns director for South Asia with Amnesty International. She previously worked with Amnesty International Ireland on various campaigns and has also worked with the Human Rights Law Network in India, where she headed the Reproductive Rights Unit which among its work achieved a historic judgement holding India accountable for a preventable maternal death and for not delivering on its human rights obligations. She holds a LL.M in International Human Rights Law.

Jim Loughran has worked with Front Line Defenders for the past 11 years as Head of Media and Communications, working to establish a national and international profile for

the work of Front Line Defenders, communicating the core idea of human rights defenders as key agents of social change. In particular this has meant communicating who human rights defenders are, why their work is important and why they need protection. In 2016 Jim was given responsibility for developing the HRD Memorial project www.hrdmemorial.org

Previously Jim worked with Amnesty International where from 1992 to 2007 he was responsible for membership development, campaigning and special events and was Head of Campaigns and Communications. He joined Amnesty International as a volunteer and from 1987 to 1992 was a member of the board of Amnesty Ireland taking on the roles of Treasurer and then Chairman. Jim is a graduate of Queens University Belfast with an Honours Degree in French and Spanish and a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. After graduation in 1976 he spent a year in Paris as an English Language Assistant following which he taught French at second level schools in Belfast for 2 years.

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

2:30 Workshop Session 1

Let's Stand with human rights defenders worldwide

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

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

In May 2017, Amnesty International is launching a campaign in response to this attack, to stand with human rights defenders worldwide and keep them safe from harm. This session will explore who a human rights defender is, the global crackdown on Human Rights Defenders and explore ways of challenging the stigmatisation of human rights defenders which puts them at greater risk of human rights violations. We will also discuss opportunities for members and activists to get involved in the campaign. With Cathal Gilbert.

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

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

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

Making Reproductive Rights Real

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

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

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

This workshop will also give participants a snapshot of the current political situation, by discussing the outcome of the Citizens Assembly and the current landscape of how political parties are positioning themselves in relation to the issue.

4:00 Plenary Session III

Fighting the backlash against the rights of women and girls.

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

Today in many countries we are witnessing a backlash against the advances made in women's rights. Some governments attempt to water down previously agreed international obligations and commitments on women's access to contraception and abortion under the guise of so-

called 'traditional values' or 'protection of the family'. The problem encompasses a broad range of issues, including freedom from discrimination, access to safe abortion services, to contraception, and to other sexual and reproductive health services and education. What unites them all is the denial – by the state or a third party – of people's right to make decisions about their own body, life, sexuality and family planning. Women around the world continue to face discrimination, are denied equal access to participation in public and political life and suffer sexual and gender-based violence and abuse in public places and at home.

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

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

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

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

Karolina Więckiewicz is a feminist activist working to realise sexual and reproductive rights. She has worked as a lawyer with the Polish Federation for Women and Family Planning, as an advocate with the Sexual Rights Initiative, and is currently programme coordinator at LGBTI organisation Lambda Warsaw. As an activist she has organised protests and solidarity demonstrations against moves to further restrict access to abortion in Poland, including organising around the Black Monday (Czarny) protests that brought thousands to the streets. Karolina's

involvement in international advocacy has seen her address the UN Human Rights Council on numerous occasions. Taking a comprehensive and intersectional approach, Karolina campaigns for access to safe and legal abortion, sexual health education and to break the silence and stigma around surrogacy and IVF in Poland.

Alison O'Connor

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

SUNDAY 07 MAY

10.00 Presentation of activist awards

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

10:15 Workshop session II

Repeat of Saturday's workshops

11:45 Overview of the ICM

Every two years representatives of all Amnesty International Sections and Structures come together to collectively define and agree priorities for our global movement, set policy and agree organisational and governance related issues. The ICM is the ultimate decision making body of our global movement and elects our International Board. These sessions will present the resolutions which have been submitted for decision to this year's ICM as part of our consultation with AI members here in Ireland.

Governance

Overview of proposals on how we strengthen governance of the movement

Human Rights

Overview of proposals on our human rights work

Organisational

Overview of how we organise ourselves globally

2:00 Conference Business

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

2.30 Plenary Session IV

I Welcome: retreating from responsibility? The international response to the global refugee crisis

This session will focus on the global context within which the I Welcome campaign operates. The election of Donald Trump in the United States and his 'travel ban' Executive

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

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

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

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

4:15 Plenary Session V

A day in the life of an Amnesty researcher

Where wars erupt, suffering and hardship invariably follow. Conflict isn't just about death, it is a breeding ground for mass human rights violations,

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

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

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