



Annual Conference 2018

Venue: IBAT College, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

Saturday 10 March

9:30 Registration

10.15 Conference opening

Chair: Mary Quinn

Adoption of the report of the Conference Agenda Committee /election of the national board & CAC

10:30 Plenary Session I

A Year in Review – report back to membership.

A look back at 2017 with our National Board including the treasurer's report and presentation of budget 2018 & headline budget 2019

Followed by Q&A

11:45 Break

12:00 Plenary session II

Astounding women human rights defenders on the frontline

With Ghada Abdalkream, Human Rights Defender (Sudan)
Eileen Flynn, Traveller Rights Activist and Lisa Maracani,
International Secretariat.

Followed by Q&A

1:30 Lunch

2:30 **Workshop Session I**

- **It's time to talk: Repeal the Eighth**
- **I Welcome: welcoming communities**

3:45 Break

4:00 Youth activism for human rights

4:10 Plenary session III

Colm O'Gorman in conversation with Ibrahim Halawa

Followed by Q&A

5:45 Conference adjourns

Sunday 11 March

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 Overview of Operational Plan 2018-2019

Our human rights goals
Our organisational goals
Our management goals
3x 20 minute sessions

1:00 Lunch

2:00 Conference business

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

2:50 Empowerment & engagement of activists

3:00 Plenary session IV

It's time. Repeal the Eighth.

With Fiona Crowley, Research and Legal Manager

Followed by Q&A

4:30 Closing remarks & thanks

PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

SATURDAY 10 MARCH

10:30 Plenary Session I

Our Year in Review, a report to membership.

A look back at 2017 with our National Board, including Treasurers Report and presentation of Budget 2108 & Headline Budget 2019

Followed by a Q&A session.

12:00 Plenary Session II

Astounding women human rights defenders on the frontline

Women human rights defenders and LGBTI rights defenders are at the forefront of the battle for human rights but they are confronted by multiple levels of discrimination and violence, including sexual violence, threats, intimidation, harassment and even killings. They face specific personal attacks and social oppression for what they do and for who they are. However, their struggles have often broken new ground: they are tenacious advocates for human rights and formidable actors expanding our collective understanding of human rights.

Lisa Maracani, AI researcher on human rights defenders will delve into this issue in conversation with Ghada Abdalkream and Eileen Flynn. We will look at how we can stand by women human rights defenders. We are delighted to be joined by these remarkable women to hear about their inspiring work.

Biographies

Ghada Makky Mohamed Abdalkreem is a women human rights defender from Khartoum, Sudan. She is a graduate from the University of Sudan, Department of Science, Technology and Accounting. She is a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Sudan; a member of the Sudanese Women's Union and a founder of the 'No to Women's Oppression' initiative, which won an EU award. She has been arrested, harassed and threatened for defending human rights.

Eileen Flynn is 28 years old from Ballyfermot. She is an Irish Traveller woman and recently finished a BA in Community & Youth work in Maynooth University. She is currently a community development worker and has been actively engaged in her community from a young age starting with involvement at local level. Eileen has experienced inequality of access and opportunity throughout her life and has come through by learning that education is the key to success and change. Her overall goal is to educate herself to master's level and obtain a specialty in the area of gender inequality. She enjoys supporting others to challenge inequality and travel alongside them on their journey to personal success. Her long-term goal is to someday be a TD in the Dáil as a

Traveller woman and to challenge the inequalities in Irish society for all communities that suffer marginalisation.

Lisa Maracani currently works as researcher and campaigner for human rights defenders around the world. She has worked at Amnesty International (International Secretariat) on and off since 2001, has experience of working on a range of Latin American countries and human rights issues. She also worked at AI Italy, Peace Brigades International and Christian Aid.

2:30 Workshop Session 1

It's Time to Talk. Repeat the Eighth.

A presentation and group discussion on the steps towards the referendum on the Eighth Amendment, and how people can talk to or answer questions from the public, friends or family.

Grace Wilentz, Campaign Officer & Fiona Crowley, Research & Legal Manager.

I Welcome: welcoming communities

Amnesty International is promoting people-powered initiatives of individuals coming together to welcome refugees. This session will brief participants on the 'Welcoming Communities' strand of the I Welcome campaign, with a particular focus on community sponsorship. We will discuss how we can build 'welcoming communities' in Ireland. Together, we can lead the way by doing something concrete right now – however small – to welcome refugees in our communities. Community sponsorship is an approach which empowers citizens to take a lead role in the resettlement of refugees. We are promoting community sponsorship at the global level, and have been working with partners to support its development in Ireland. Last September the Irish Government committed to the development of such a programme. Ireland is a welcoming country; this programme will give people in Ireland the opportunity to welcome those who desperately need our support.

4:10 Plenary Session III

Former prisoner of conscience Ibrahim Halawa, in conversation with Colm O'Gorman

After four years unjustly imprisoned, Ibrahim Halawa is finally free. He was acquitted of all charges against him last September, after more than 30 trial delays. Ibrahim was just seventeen years old when he was first arrested while taking part in peaceful protests in Cairo. Our detailed analysis of Ibrahim's case concluded that he was arrested and arbitrarily detained solely for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression and freedom of assembly. We declared him a Prisoner of Conscience and campaigned relentlessly for his release. Since his return to Ireland, he has been defending the rights of his fellow inmates. Ibrahim will speak about his experience and the importance of speaking up for human rights.

Sunday 11 March 2018

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 Operational Plan (OP) 2018-2019

Conference will consider our new two year Operational Plan in a motion to be put forward on Sunday. This session will give delegates an opportunity to hear about the proposed new OP in some detail in advance of that motion. The OP, which covers 2018-2019, is broken down into three complimentary but distinct sections.

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 management goals

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

2:00 Conference Business

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

2:50 Empowerment & Engagement of activists

Pina Attanasio , Activism Officer, presents highlights of the impactful and powerful work of activists around the country. Pina will give an overview of the Act for Amnesty network highlighting the successes and learnings. Pina will also map out the support journey for activists with the aim of increasing the level of their engagement and in becoming agents of change for human rights.

3:00 Plenary Session IV

It's Time. Repeal the Eighth.

Fiona Crowley, Research & Legal Manager, will present an overview of the year's campaigning for reform of Ireland's abortion laws, and our plans for the referendum on the Eighth Amendment.