

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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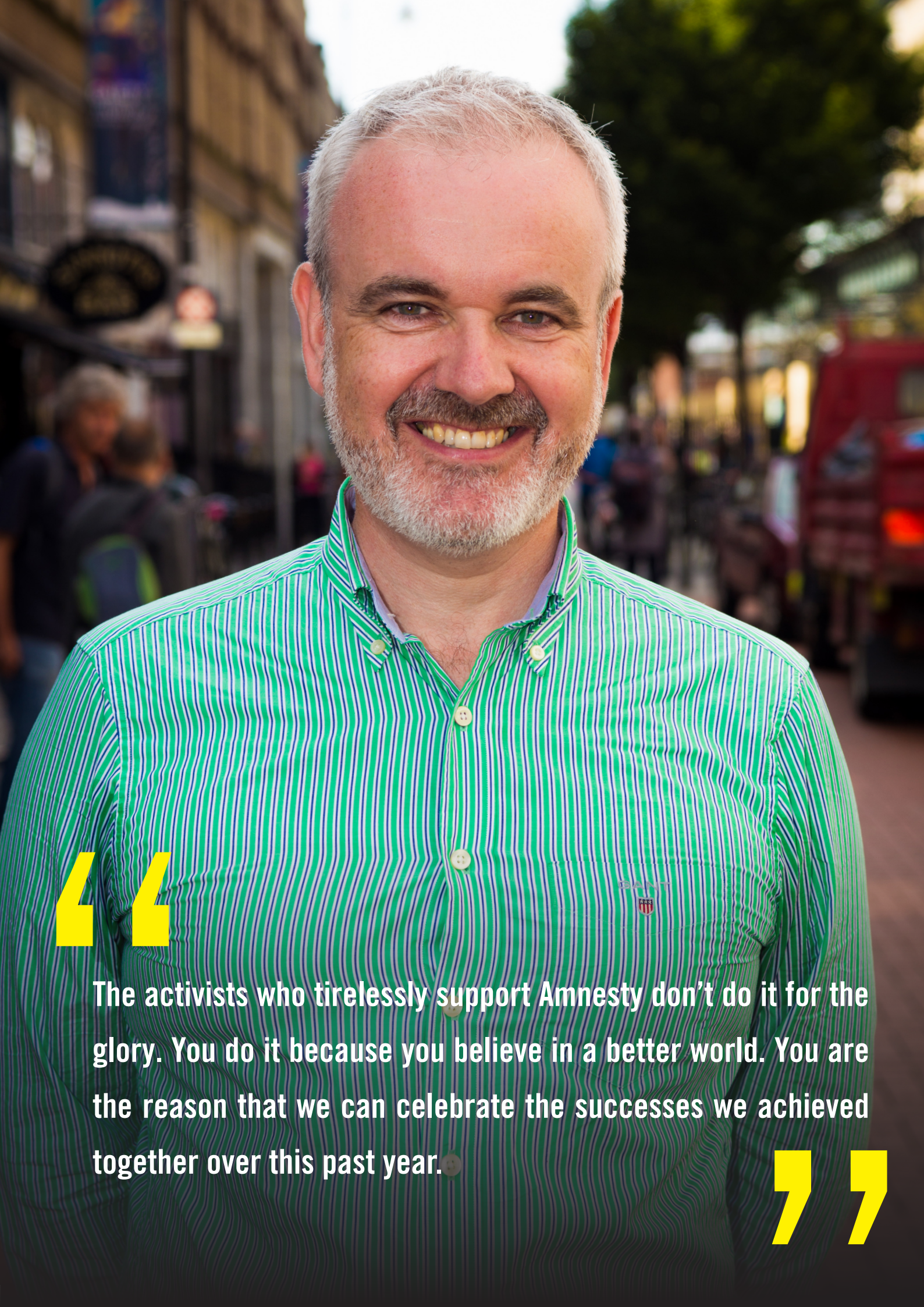
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The activists who tirelessly support Amnesty don't do it for the glory. You do it because you believe in a better world. You are the reason that we can celebrate the successes we achieved together over this past year.

INTRODUCTION

It's been a busy year for Amnesty International Ireland. We've seen important progress in each of our three priority campaigns. Most notably, 2017 was the year we finally welcomed Ibrahim Halawa home. This young Irish citizen and Prisoner of Conscience arrived home in October after spending more than 1,500 precious days of his life languishing in prison in Egypt. Thanks to our intensive campaigning alongside his family, lawyers, and other supporters, he is safely home at last. Chelsea Manning also walked free from prison in 2017. Globally, more than a quarter of a million people wrote demanding her release as part of our Write for Rights campaign in 2015. In a letter to Amnesty, she wrote: "I support the work you do in protecting people wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied."

2017 was a momentous year for our 'It's Time. Repeal the 8th.' campaign. Every day, women and girls in Ireland have their human rights violated by our restrictive abortion laws. In 2013, you decided that Amnesty Ireland should campaign for a human rights compliant framework for abortion in Ireland. Finally, this year, people in Ireland will have a chance to have their say in a referendum on the Eighth Amendment. In the coming months, we intend to play our role in what will be a vital national discussion about how our laws and our Constitution must be changed so that they respect and protect the human rights of women and girls rather than violate them. I know you'll join us in that effort.

In May, we launched our Brave campaign to protect civil society freedoms and the work of human rights defenders around the world. In Turkey, my colleague and friend Idil Eser paid a high price for her human rights work. She, together with 9 other human rights defenders, spent almost four months in jail on ludicrous terror-related charges. We welcomed her release last October, though the charges against her remain. Amnesty Turkey's Chair Taner Kilic remains in prison on similarly absurd charges. We will continue to campaign until he, and human rights defenders around the world, are free. The strength and perseverance Amnesty staff in Turkey have shown in the face of a brutal crackdown on our work is truly an inspiration.

Last year, I travelled to Canada to see how their community sponsorship programme for refugees in action. The programme has proven enormously successful at bringing communities together to support refugees as they settle into their new lives. In September, the Irish Government committed to

developing a similar programme here. Ireland is a welcoming country; a programme like this will help ensure that people across the country are able to extend a welcome to those who desperately need our support.

At a global level, we will welcome a new Secretary General in 2018. Kumi Naidoo is a South African activist and civil society leader with wide-ranging human rights experience. He'll begin his role this August when for the first time in Amnesty's history, we'll have both a Secretary General and International Board Chair from Africa.

This December, we'll also celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This is a moment to reclaim the essential idea of the equality and dignity of all people, to cherish those values, and demand that they become a foundation for policymaking and practice. The vast majority of people in Ireland and around the world support equality, dignity, freedom for all people – the core values underpinning human rights. Those values are far too precious to discard; and right now, their protection is far too fragile to take for granted.

Join us as we stand in solidarity with those whose human rights are threatened. Nothing has ever defeated hate as successfully as the humanity of ordinary people working together. I know that our members, 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



Image: Activists outside government buildings supporting the It's Time. Repeal The 8th campaign. Photo credit: Maxwell Photography.

IT'S TIME. REPEAL THE 8TH

This was an unprecedented year for the campaign to realise women's and girls' reproductive health and human rights. It was a significant moment, on 29 January, watching the government press conference announce that a referendum on repealing the Eighth Amendment will finally be held. We and our partners have helped secure a once-in-a-generation opportunity for people in Ireland to vote for the constitutional change needed to secure for women's reproductive dignity, autonomy and equality.

The background was a year of intensive work building the momentum for change. Throughout 2017, a broad consensus on abortion reform crystallised across the Irish public, political groups and government. Abortion is and has always been a reality in Ireland. However, the State finally started to look seriously at the harm it was causing women, and consider real solutions.

The Citizens' Assembly was the starting point. A representative group of 99 randomly selected citizens, it was tasked with making recommendations to the government on what should be done about the Eighth Amendment. It provided a vital space for bringing together national and international experts from the fields of law and medicine, to scrutinise Ireland's abortion laws. Importantly, it also heard from women about their experiences of the Eighth Amendment.

We developed a comprehensive submission to the Assembly, detailing the key requirements of a human rights compliant legal framework for access to abortion. We were invited to present to the Assembly, where we detailed the human rights violations women experience as a result of the current law, and the sort of law that could end this. We called for full repeal of the Eighth Amendment, full decriminalisation of abortion, and the introduction of a human rights compliant framework for abortion. This framework should include access to abortion on request in early pregnancy, and access in later pregnancy in specific circumstances. This is the only way to meaningfully respect women's rights. This echoes the statement from four UN human rights experts recommending "the good practice found in any countries which provide access to safe abortion services on request during the first trimester of pregnancy". If

you are interested, you can read our submission to the Citizens' Assembly on our website.

We also explained to the Assembly that abortion is not as controversial or divisive as it is often painted. Independent polling we commissioned from RED C has consistently shown that a decisive majority of people in Ireland favour expansive access to abortion, and trust women to make decisions about their own pregnancies. Having weighed up all the evidence and expert testimony, the Assembly voted overwhelmingly to repeal the Eighth Amendment, and replace it with a clause enabling the Oireachtas to legislate for abortion access. A decisive majority of the Assembly (64%) voted for access to abortion on request in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. Members also voted for access to abortion up to 22 weeks in cases of risk to the health of the pregnant woman, rape, severe foetal impairment, and for socio-economic reasons. They voted for access without gestational limits in cases of fatal foetal impairment, and where the woman or girl's life is at risk.

In October, a special Joint Oireachtas Committee began to consider the Assembly's recommendations. It heard testimony from legal and medical experts, including Masters of Ireland's major maternity hospitals. We engaged with Committee members across all political parties and groups throughout.

We were concerned, however, at some of the negative reaction to the Assembly's support for a 12-week on-request model, decrying it as out of step with public opinion. In fact, our 2016 polling found that people in Ireland overwhelmingly favour expanded access to abortion. We commissioned new polling from RED C which found a clear majority of the public (60%) support access on request up to 12 weeks. It also found that a majority support the Assembly's other recommendations for access to abortion in later pregnancy.

In December, the Committee voted by an overwhelming majority to repeal the Eighth Amendment in full. They also supported access to abortion on request in the first 12 weeks, and access on the grounds of risk to health or life of the woman, and fatal foetal impairment in later pregnancy. They decided not to recommend gestational limits, advising that these be guided by medical evidence.



Images: Amnesty International activists at Electric Picnic.

The Committee also made a series of ancillary recommendations, including, very importantly, calling for the decriminalisation of women and medical professionals accessing and providing abortion services. It also called for better access to contraception and comprehensive sexuality education, as well as improved obstetric care and counselling.

This was an historic outcome. Many Committee members said the process of hearing and discussing facts and evidence changed their personal perspectives. Then, finally, the government agreed to schedule a referendum, and prepare legislation in line with the Joint Oireachtas Committee's recommendations, including a 12-week 'on request' period for abortion access. This forthcoming referendum will be a momentous opportunity to affirm women's and girls' human rights.

In addition to the significant research and advocacy undertaken in the last year, we utilised our grassroots, creative and activist presence to effect change. In 2017, we joined forces with artist and activist Will St Leger on a project called "Out of the Shadows", to highlight the lonely, stigmatised journeys women from every corner of Ireland make every day to seek abortion services in another country. We partnered with the Abortion Rights Campaign to bring Will's life-size silhouettes of women with suitcases to villages and towns around the country, with a final photo call in Dublin which also appeared on the front page of the Irish Times.

We launched our new campaign phase, 'It's Time. #Repealthe8th', at Electric Picnic in September. Our volunteers collected petition 11,000 signatures calling on the government to schedule a referendum, and introduce a human rights compliant framework for abortion. We recruited thousands of people to a new virtual activism network, helped by our online campaign video, '25 annoying things about being pregnant'. At Electric Picnic, we also hosted 'Amnesty Hour' in the Leviathan tent, featuring Tara Flynn, Senator Lynn

Ruane and Journalist Róisín Ingle. These women have shaped the public debate through the spheres of politics, the arts and journalism, and the event provided a space to celebrate how far we have come in breaking down the stigma and silence around abortion.

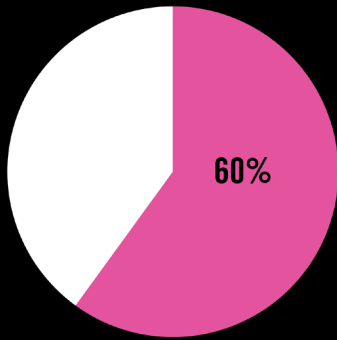
Our 'It's Time' campaign joined Ireland's largest ever March for Choice in September. Organised by the Abortion Rights Campaign, it saw an estimated 20,000 people marching through the streets – almost double the 2016 march attendance.

In anticipation of human rights compliant referendum wording, we are currently preparing for our referendum campaign. This includes applying to register with the Standards in Public Office Commission as a 'third party', as this will be campaigning directed at influencing the outcome of a referendum. This vote offers us an extraordinary chance to make a clear statement about the kind of society we want to be. It is vital that people are provided with the information they need to make an informed choice at the ballot box. This is part of the challenge ahead. An Ireland is in sight where women have control of their own bodies and reproductive lives. Together with our partners, we will do our best to help make that happen.

Get involved and join our campaign network at <https://www.amnesty.ie/its-time-network/>.

60% WANT WOMEN TO HAVE ACCESS TO ABORTION ON REQUEST

SOURCE: RED C RESEARCH & MARKETS
AMNESTY.IE/ITSTIMEPOLL



#REPEALTHE8TH

IT'S TIME
REPEAL THE 8TH

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BRAVE

Brave is our global campaign to respond to the global assault on human rights defenders and civil society around the world. We want a world where people can speak out for what's right without being attacked, threatened or jailed. Countries need to put laws in place which keep human rights defenders safe from harm and scrap repressive laws, including those which attack free speech. States need to release people who have been locked up just for challenging injustice. And they need to stop using spurious charges as an excuse to silence those who disagree with them.

Smears, surveillance and silencing dissent plays a central role in the continuing assault on human rights defenders. Globally, there is a pervasive narrative that delegitimises and negates the work and the value of Human Rights Defenders, smears and stigmatises Human Rights Defenders. This allows for further attacks, criminalisation, harassment, imprisonment and creates a chilling effect which can stop others acting for human rights. Human Rights Defenders faced smear campaigns in 63 countries in 2016.

In May, we published a global briefing 'Human rights defenders under threat: A shrinking space for civil society' which details the unprecedented dangers those defending human rights face. To launch the campaign in Ireland, we were delighted to be joined by Regina Fonseca who spoke about her struggle for human rights in Honduras and the risks she faces defending human rights.

Governments around the world are increasingly misusing criminal, civil and administrative law to target and harass HRDs as a way to limit or prevent their human rights work. Bahraini human rights defender Ebrahim Demistani and our Bahrain researcher came to Dublin to present the findings of a report on the crackdown against civil society and human rights defenders to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Joint Foreign Affairs and Trade committee and other stakeholders and call for action by the Irish government. Ireland specifically expressed concern regarding the severity of the curtailment of civil society in Bahrain, in particular the harassment and reprisals against HRDs engaging in national and international

advocacy. In Europe, the crackdown on civil society and HRDs in Poland and Hungary is extremely concerning.

Free AI Turkey Chair, Taner Kilic

In June 2017, Taner Kiliç, the Chair of Amnesty International Turkey, was arrested. A month later, 10 human rights defenders including AI Turkey's Director Idil Eser, were arrested while participating in a digital security workshop. Tánaiste Simon Coveney made a public statement calling for the release of the human rights defenders imprisoned in Turkey. After intense campaigning across the Amnesty movement, the ten human rights defenders were released on bail in October. They still face charges. Taner was kept in prison. On 31 January, we were overjoyed by the court decision to release him, however the prosecutor appealed this decision and our jubilation was dashed when Taner was rearrested. He has now been in prison for more than 9 months.

Killings and enforced disappearance report

The campaign highlights the growing risks faced by human rights defenders – people from all walks of life who work to promote and defend human rights. In 2016, 281 people were killed globally for defending human rights, up from 156 in 2015, and sadly at least 312 human rights defenders were killed in 2017 according to Front Line Defenders' annual report. Our report included testimony from friends, relatives and colleagues of human rights defenders, including environmentalists, LGBTIQ and women's rights activists, journalists and lawyers, who have been killed or disappeared. Many described how victims' pleas for protection had been repeatedly ignored by the authorities and how the attackers had evaded justice, fuelling a deadly cycle of impunity.

We focused our campaigning for justice on Xulhaz Mannan and Natalia Estemirova.

Xulhaz Mannan and a friend were viciously murdered on 25 April 2016. They were instrumental in setting up and running 'Roopban', Bangladesh's first



Images: (left) Amnesty International Ireland staff and activists outside the Embassy of Turkey in Dublin. (centre) Natalia Estemirova - © Memorial. (right) Rodrigo Mundaca talk in Dublin.

and only magazine for LGBTI issues. The Bangladeshi government did not officially condemn his murder, and there has been little progress in the investigation.

In July 2009, human rights defender Natalia Estemirova was abducted and murdered in Chechnya. More than eight years later, her murder remains unsolved, the investigation is stalled, and no one has been brought to justice for this heinous crime.

Women and LGBTI human rights defenders

In all regions of the world, women human rights defenders and LGBTI rights defenders, frequently face violence, threats, intimidation, harassment and even killings. Women who challenge gender stereotypes and who work on issues like sexual and reproductive health or defend the human rights of women and girls, are frequently at greater risk of attacks and threats.

Protecting human rights defenders

We are calling on public representatives to sign a global pledge committing to defend, protect and support human rights defenders. Decision makers need to do more to ensure better recognition and protection of HRDs. It is crucial that leading public figures, journalists, opinion makers and academics discuss this issue publicly, and join our call to protect human rights defenders. We must recognise the work they do and their contributions to communities and societies in order to counter the narrative of smear and stigmatisation they face.

In 2017, we've focused our work on a number of brave human rights defenders Azza Soliman, Tep Vanny, Rodrigo Mundaca, Sakris Kupila and Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam.

At Forbidden Fruit, activists collected 5264 signatures for Azza Soliman, Tep Vanny and Rodrigo Mundaca.

In August, Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam, a long standing human rights defender was released in Sudan. He faced

six trumped-up charges, including 'undermining the constitutional system' and 'waging war against the state', both of which carry either the death penalty or life imprisonment. All charges against him have been dropped.

Rodrigo Mundaca, an environmental human rights defender in Chile, who has faced harassment and death threats spoke about his work together with two other human rights defenders, Nonhle Mbuthuma from South Africa, and Artur Grigoryan from Armenia at the Dublin Human Rights festival, in collaboration with Front Line Defenders. RTE's Paul Cunningham chaired a panel of environmental human rights defenders. It was a great day to acknowledge and learn about the courageous, inspiring and meaningful work human rights defenders do across the world.

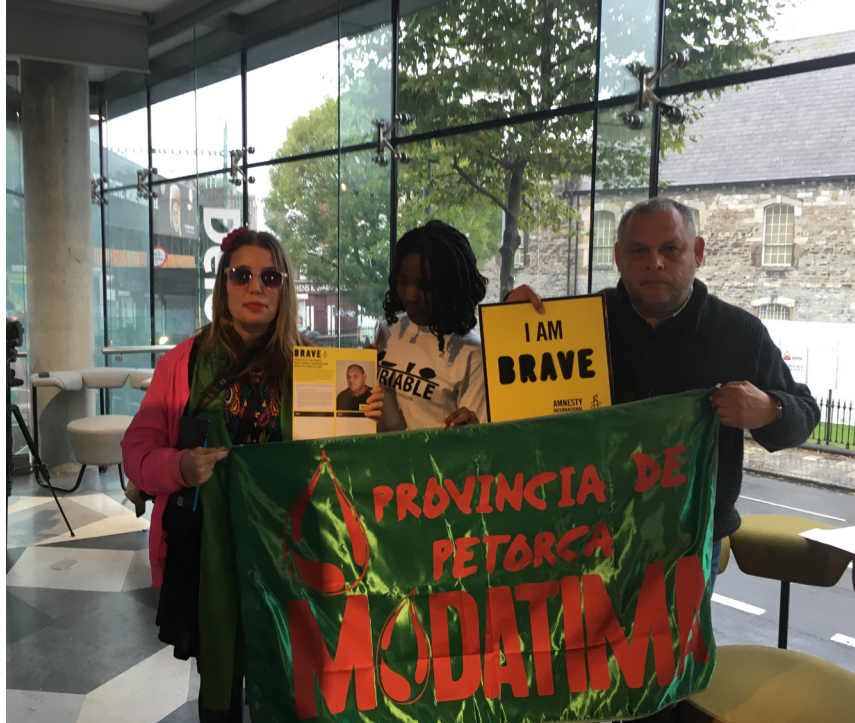
We took urgent action to respond to the arrest of Ebtisam al-Saegh a human rights defender arrested in June and was at risk of sexual assault and torture in Bahrain. She was released in October, but may still face charges.

On Culture Night, we welcomed people to our offices where they learned more about the Brave campaign and heard the stories of human rights defenders around the world.

Human Rights Education

Human rights education is a cornerstone of the Brave campaign to empower people, especially young people, with knowledge about human rights and the responsibility of states to recognise and protect people who defend human rights. We are providing a variety of learning opportunities to inspire people and equip them with knowledge and skills to take action and challenge the current rhetoric that stigmatises human rights defenders.

There is a free online course available for Amnesty activists and members. Friendship week also provided



human rights education activities for primary school teachers and students and we are developing education resources on the Brave campaign for secondary schools.

Ibrahim Halawa is home

In October 2017, Ibrahim Halawa arrived home after four long years imprisoned in Egypt. The previous month, he was finally acquitted of all charges. The verdict came after more than 30 adjournments and delays. Ibrahim was just seventeen years old when he was first arrested while taking sanctuary in the Al Fath mosque. His sisters Omaima, Somaia and Fatima were also arrested and released on bail. They have also been acquitted of all charges. Ibrahim, the youngest of the family, spent more than 1,500 precious days of his young life languishing in an Egyptian prison.

Amnesty International Ireland campaigned relentlessly for Ibrahim's release. Over the last four years, thousands of people stood in solidarity with Ibrahim. Almost 30,000 people took action calling for his immediate and unconditional release. Hundreds of calls were placed to the Egyptian Embassy protesting his detention. We delivered 13,000 campaign postcards to Egyptian President al-Sisi.

Ibrahim's supporters campaigned vociferously online. With countless messages, thunderclap campaigns and Facebook live broadcasts, we amplified our message and found new supporters to join our effort. Amnesty groups, activists, schools and colleges supported Ibrahim throughout his imprisonment. They organised talks, vigils, protests and petition signings, and sent Ibrahim thousands of solidarity messages. Throughout the campaign, Amnesty International partnered with trade unions, student organisations, youth organisation and other non-governmental organisations calling for his release. Their actions have shown how ordinary people can make a real difference.

The day he returned home was a day that thousands

of Amnesty International activists across Ireland and around the world have been waiting for. It's thanks to the determined campaigning of his family and friends and of our activists that his horrific ordeal has finally come to an end.

Urgent Action Network

Our urgent action network allows us to respond to immediate human rights violations. Globally, more than half a million people have signed up to receive urgent updates on current threats to human rights.

Throughout the year, we've seen some notable successes including:

- the release of Dr Mudawi Ibrahim Adam and Ebtisam al-Saegh,
- the Dominican Republic's parliament rejected proposed reforms restricting access to abortion;
- a new law passed to prevent the use of torture in Mexico;
- the commutation of Chelsea Manning's sentence and her release in May 2017;
- four stays of execution were issued in Arkansas in April;
- Salar Shadizadi, one of the juvenile offenders on death row in Iran who we have been campaigning for since July 2015, was released in April 2017

If you're not a member of our Urgent Action network, and would like to be, you can sign up at: <https://www.amnesty.ie/get-involved/become-an-activist/urgent-action-network/>





Amnesty Turkey Director, Idil Eser, greets a friend on her release from prison

I WELCOME REFUGEES

The global picture

Over 22 million people worldwide are refugees right now. The vast majority of the world's refugees (84% according to UNHCR figures) are hosted in low and middle income countries. UNHCR estimates that in 2017 more than 1 million people were vulnerable and urgently in need of resettlement. Yet, global leaders are failing to meet their needs. Few countries are willing to champion refugees, and we are seeing ever more restrictive asylum policies and the pursuit of punitive deterrence policies.

Worldwide, almost all of our leaders are turning their backs on refugees. In Mexico and the USA, they are detaining people fleeing extreme violence raging in Central America. Many European countries are deporting people seeking asylum back to countries where they could face torture, rape or death. Some make dangerous deals that stop people coming at all, leaving thousands of people with no option but to risk death crossing the Mediterranean. Australia is locking up people fleeing torture and persecution on remote islands, where they suffer terrible neglect and abuse.

Aggressive deterrence policies pursued by wealthy countries have sent a clear message to major host countries in low- and middle-income regions that providing international protection to refugees is optional. Countries like Kenya, Jordan, Lebanon and Pakistan, which have historically done far more than their fair share to protect refugees, now have little incentive to do so. Unsurprisingly, these countries are also implementing increasingly restrictive policies towards refugees. Kenya, for example, is forcing Somalis who have lived in exile for years, even decades, to go back to a dangerous conflict zones.

This needs to change now. And it's up to each and every one of us.

The I Welcome Community

Even when the political environment can feel deeply hostile, Amnesty International remains a movement of people who believe that the things that unite us are

far more powerful than those that divide us. This is why we are promoting people-powered initiatives like community sponsorship. We don't have to wait around while governments get their act together to share responsibility for other solutions, like resettlement.

Individual people all over the world are coming together to welcome refugees – simply because they empathise with people who have lost everything, and want to create open, friendly communities to live in. Together, we can lead the way by doing something concrete right now – however small – to welcome refugees in our communities, from signing a petition to speaking your mind about refugees' rights, or joining a community group that supports them.

In 2017, we brought I Welcome to the people. In March, we held a rally outside the European Commission offices in Dublin as part of Let's Bring Them Here, a series of regional actions to remind European leaders of their promises to refugees.

On World Refugee Day, activists staged a stunt in solidarity with people forced to flee their homes. Activists arrived by boat in Dublin city centre where they were welcomed by volunteers. The activists were dressed in costumes reflecting the diversity of refugees seeking international protection. A banner, emblazoned with the message "I Welcome Refugees", was displayed on the quays between O'Connell Bridge and the Ha'penny Bridge for the afternoon.

As part of World Refugee Week, AI Ireland and the Irish Refugee Council held a screening of Warehoused, a powerful documentary about Dadaab, Kenya, one of the world's largest refugee camps. Our Executive Director took part in a panel discussion with representatives from the Irish Refugee and Migrant Coalition and the Irish Refugee Council.

We brought I Welcome to the Longitude Festival and the U2 concert in Croke Park, at which more than 13,600 signatures were collected for two actions. We called for Kenya to halt the closure of Dadaab refugee camp and the forced return of refugees to Somalia; and on European governments to protect refugees in the



Image: Wissam Hajj
Mouhamed Ali and Janet
Dowler hug in a Toronto park.
Wissam fled the war in Syria
before resettling in Canada.
Copyright credit: Stephanie
Foden/Amnesty International.



Image: Refugees in Tarik Al Sika detention center, Tripoli, Libya on 22 September 2017
Copyright credit: Taha Jawashi.



Central Mediterranean.

Amnesty supporters sent thousands of appeals to the Greek authorities, calling for genuine consultation with residents of the Elliniko camps about appropriate alternative accommodation ahead of the camp's closure. In the last days before the evacuation, residents were finally consulted about their circumstances.

Thousands called for Serbia to provide shelter to refugees and migrants in Belgrade. The Serbian government wrote to Amnesty confirming their commitment to accommodate everyone. Although there is still work to do, the international outcry certainly had an impact on Serbian authorities, and hundreds of people were referred to reception centres.

In the US, Salvadoran Sara Beltran Hernandez was held in a Texas detention centre for 15 months, despite having a claim to asylum and urgently needing medical attention. After thousands took action and AI USA supporters flooded the Immigrant and Customs Enforcement Agency with phone calls demanding her release, Sara was granted bond and released.

We campaigned for the release of four young children and their mothers held in immigrant detention in Berks County Residential Center, Pennsylvania. In August, we received the good news that all four families had been released after nearly two year in detention.

Community Sponsorship

Amnesty International has expanded its work beyond government-led resettlement of refugees, to encompass "alternative pathways" for providing safe and legal routes for refugees. Ireland is a priority country for work on community sponsorship, a model for refugee resettlement developed in Canada, which invites local communities to come together to support the effective resettlement of refugees. Community sponsorship has proven enormously successful there with nearly 300,000 people have been welcomed through the programme since the 1970s. These programmes

bring communities together with a fantastic sense of purpose to support refugees as they settle into their new lives. They deliver positive outcomes for refugees, as well as strengthening, deepening and enriching host communities.

Last September, the Irish Government committed to the development of a community sponsorship programme for refugees. We look forward to working with everyone involved to help support its development. Ireland is a welcoming country; a programme like this will help ensure that people across the country are able to extend a welcome to those who desperately need our support.

Refugee's experiences around the world

All around the world, refugees are experiencing human rights abuses. Here are just two of the examples we've documented in 2017.

Australia's Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Joinul left Bangladesh because he didn't feel safe in his country. He travelled to Australia to find protection, but instead has been trapped on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea for five years. He faces violence and threats from locals, and is stuck with no idea when or whether he will be able to leave: "It's a very dangerous place, I have nowhere to go"

Joinul is one of thousands of people currently living through the horrors of Australia's cruel system of offshore processing designed to punish refugees and people seeking asylum. Those attempting to reach Australia by boat (including children) are stopped before they reach land and sent to Manus Island or Nauru where they might be stuck for years.

People trapped on Manus Island are denied access to proper education and healthcare. Most are suffering from depression, anxiety or PTSD. There have been incidents of suicide and self-harm. This is neither a



safe nor a sustainable location for settling refugees. People seeking asylum in Australia are not being protected, they are being punished, and it needs to end now. We are calling on Australia put an end to this inhumane system that is punishing people for trying to find protection.

Libya

In 2017, the Italian government, backed by their European counterparts, signed a deal with Libya to put in place measures to stop refugees and migrants travelling to Europe. Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants trapped in Libya are at the mercy of Libyan authorities, militias, armed groups and smugglers, who often work together for financial gain. Tens of thousands are kept indefinitely in overcrowded detention centres where they are subjected to systematic abuse. People are tortured. People are raped. People are sold. This is the real face of the horrific EU deal with Libya.

Not only are European governments fully aware of these abuses, they are actively supporting the Libyan authorities in stopping sea crossings and detaining people in appalling conditions in Libya, where no asylum law or system exist. This is unlawful and it has a name: complicity! Confining people in cruelty cannot be a solution. We are calling on Libyan and European leaders to protect migrants and refugees from horrific human rights abuses in Libya.



Images: (top) Action Lab attendees stage a demonstration on a beach in Lesbos. (bottom left) Cian O'Cuirc, Amnesty International Ireland activist. (bottom right) Veronica Rodriguez, Amnesty International Ireland activist.



ACTIVISM

It's been a busy year for activism at Amnesty International Ireland.

In this section, we're spotlighting just one of our activism projects – a Refugee Rights Action Lab which ran from April to December 2017. It was designed as an activism journey for Amnesty staff, activists and refugee participants and consisted of webinars, skype meetings, actions and an Action Camp held on Lesbos, Greece in July. The Action Lab was designed to focus on the empowerment of and collaboration with rights holders and Amnesty staff and activists. Another aim was to have participants identify and deliver a meaningful action together that would help build transferable mobilisation and organising skills.

The Refugee Rights Action Camp was held, in collaboration with Lesbos Solidarity, the ex-Pikpa open refugee camp. About 35 refugee and non-refugee activists from 8 countries including Ireland gathered for a week of sharing experiences and developing actions to support refugee rights in their home countries. The Refugee Rights Action Lab provided Amnesty with a new way of supporting, skilling up and connecting rights holders, activists and staff campaigning on refugee rights. We recruited four activists to take part in the Action Lab project. They were Veronica Rodriguez, Samira Hassan a refugee from Syria, Reuben Hambakachere, a refugee from Zimbabwe and Cian O'Cuirc.

Here are testimonies from two of the activists who took part in the Refugee Rights Action Lab.

Cian O'Cuirc, Amnesty International Ireland activist

"I came to Lesbos, Greece originally as part of the Amnesty International Refugee Rights Action Lab to work with volunteers, refugees and Amnesty staff to learn first-hand about the refugee crisis. After meeting so many incredible people who took part in the Action Lab and who also lived in the Lesbos solidarity camp known as "Pikpa" camp, I decided to return to Lesbos to continue working directly with refugees. I've been here 7 months and have been truly humbled by the compassion and love the people who come to Lesbos have, every day I meet people who inspire me to continue this work, to fight and to advocate for people whose human rights have been taken away from them.

As the numbers of boats arriving increased during and after the summer, the limited capacity of Moria camp is stretched even further. Meant to house circa 2000 people, there are currently around 7000 inhabitants. Families sleep in summer tents with a severe lack of appropriate clothing and heating for the winter conditions that have begun. What shocked me most about being in Moria camp was the volume of people in comparison to the lack of space, overcrowding which results in increased violence, fear and worsening hygiene conditions. Young families, pregnant women and unaccompanied minors forced to live in conditions that aren't fit for human habitation.

The increasing frustration has led to people leaving Moria camp to protest in the main square in Mytilene, sleeping there at night, without tents and under blankets. The people who come from Moria camp to Pikpa camp are always so grateful to have escaped Moria but even here where the residents are happy and feel safe, it is not an ideal environment to raise a family and all of the people should be transferred to the mainland or onward into Europe where there are facilities that are able to handle their needs."



1,516
ACT FOR AMNESTY
ACTIVISTS

Veronica Rodriguez, Amnesty International Ireland activist

“Taking part in the Refugee Rights Action Lab was a life changing experience for me. The Action Lab took place last summer in Lesvos, Greece. We were staying at Pikpa camp which is a solidarity camp in Mytilene (only for vulnerable refugees. We went there to create new audiences and alliances to increase safe pathways of admission for refugees in Europe and to help change the narrative and strengthen public support for refugees. We were there also to strengthen the collaboration with local organizations in Greece that are supporting refugees caught up in the crisis.

I must say I have never met so many heroes together in one place. At the time of returning back home to Ireland I had to decide how I am now going to support refugees here, what would be the best way of maximizing my time and skills to effectively help the refugee community in Ireland. I have decided to start working on a program in my company to support refugees by building the bridges to help them with reintegration into the workforce.

After this experience I have learnt how important and necessary solidarity is when a humanitarian crisis like this one happens. We shouldn't get discouraged thinking it is too big for us as individuals to solve, that we are just a drop in the ocean. The ocean is full of drops, and each drop is each of us trying to help and contribute in whatever way we can. The refugee situation has worsened over the last two years and now more than ever they need our support.”

LOCAL GROUPS

Our local groups continue to enthusiastically support Amnesty's work carrying out a wide range of activities from campaigning on individual cases to raising funds for human rights. There are 14 active local groups all around Ireland who support our human rights work by writing letters, lobbying politicians, and organising events in their local communities.



YOUTH ACTIVISM

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

Here are some of our highlights from 2017:

Student conference 2017

Some of the highlights in youth activism from 2017 include the third level student conference in Dublin in November, where 30 activists from 5 colleges came together to gain a deeper understanding of our campaigns, meet the Palestinian human rights defender Badee Dwaik, participate in a workshop led by students on Jailbreak, and develop a new student Crisis Response network.

Student-led campaigning and mobilisation

Amnesty's global movement backed the inspiring grassroots campaign started by Norwegian high school students to stop their 18-year-old classmate, Taibeh Abbasi, and her family being deported back to danger in Afghanistan. Young people in Ireland, Kenya, Canada, Germany and Poland became involved in this student-led action, participating in weekly virtual meetings to develop actions targeting the Norwegian government to call for an end to all deportations to Afghanistan. In Ireland students from Loreto College, St Stephen's Green led the charge, holding a demonstration at the Norwegian Embassy in Dublin, rallying their school community to sign petitions, and putting pressure on Norwegian politicians via social media.

This example of youth-led campaigning demonstrates how taking leadership in campaign action planning can motivate and mobilise young people, leading to a deeper understanding of human rights issues and how to claim their rights.

Student mobilisation at third level on the 'It's Time. Repeal the 8th' campaign has gained lots of momentum, with 'Feelin' Repealin' training taking place at colleges across Ireland, including in-depth campaign information, and practical preparation and tips on how to approach elected representatives. Amnesty student activists are energised and passionate about this campaign, and are taking leadership roles

in mobilising the wider student population during this critical time in Irish history for sexual and reproductive rights.

Youth activism strategy

The process of developing a new 3 year youth activism strategy has begun, with planning and research taking place in 2017. It will be a participatory process inviting staff, educators and activists, with a working group leading the development during the first half of 2018. This is a strategy for and with youth activists and their participation in the development process is critical to ensure continued successful growth of youth engagement and mobilisation.

Engagement in youth activism is supported through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, with more than 1,874 followers, and through monthly online and offline newsletters with calls to action, celebrations of youth actions, and campaign updates.

Transition Year Pilot

During the 2016/2017 school year we joined forces with faculty at the UCD School of Law and recent graduates to design and deliver an 8-week module on human rights frameworks and campaigning. The pilot was delivered in 4 schools where we are now working to establish new Amnesty groups. 2 of the schools are old friends of Amnesty, Warrenmount in Dublin 8 and Newpark in Blackrock. But 2 of the schools are brand new to us, St. Conlaith's and Ringsend College, both in Dublin 4. Our experience of delivering the pilot and working with teachers has allowed us to tweak the module to focus on empowering young people to take action on issues they are most passionate about. Our long-term objective for this new module is to see it rolled out across the country.

Human Rights Education

Our formal Human Rights Education program wrapped up in April with the completion of the Irish Aid funded program for teacher training, Rights Sparks. However, there remain elements of HRE that continue across our campaigning work. Specifically, HRE plays a big role in the delivery of the global priority campaigns, I Welcome and Brave. Both campaigns have MOOCs (massive open online courses) that are available for Amnesty members and supporters to participate in. Amnesty Ireland worked on the pilot for the first MOOC run by the global movement which saw more than 20,000 people around the globe participate.



Image: Attendees at the Amnesty International Student Conference.





FUNDRAISING REPORT 2018

As set out in the financial report, Amnesty International Ireland splits its income and expenditure between fundraising (membership subscriptions, donations, events and related expenditure) and the rest of the Section's income and expenditure (rental from the building, campaign and administrative costs etc). This section of our report to members covers fundraising income and expenditure.

In 2017, we saw another year of financial stability for the Section and strong growth in membership, although in a small number of areas we fell behind the ambitious targets we set ourselves. Similar to the previous year, the largest income growth came from Face to Face membership recruitment up by €210k (15%). Online/digital recruitment was up by €23.5k (55%) and fundraising events up by 4%. Although gross income was down on our cash appeals, net income rose by €20k due to improvements in efficiency and other cost saving measures.

In a number of areas there were income shortfalls. This was particularly the case for our legacy income which is always unpredictable. In 2016, we received several generous legacies. This fell to €2.5k in 2017, €135k less than the previous year. This was the lowest legacy income for many years and obviously had a negative effect on our end of year targets as well as overall growth figures compared to the previous year.

However, we are very encouraged that our membership and supporter base continues to grow strongly. Signups for new members were well ahead of target and by the end of year we had a total of 23,988 financial supporters. We continued to diversify new member recruitment away from total reliance on Face to Face and had positive results testing digital and social media marketing and engagement. In 2017, we enjoyed a 55% increase in member recruitment via online channels, which made up 17% of our total new acquisition income.

Friendship Week was our leading schools' initiative. It explores human rights education on a level that children can understand through discussion, creative thinking and curriculum based classroom activities. In 2017 it focussed on our I Welcome campaign for refugees. We estimate from the number of schools taking part that more than 100,000 teachers, pupils and their families have talked about the plight of refugees and Amnesty's work to protect their rights. Through selling friendship bracelets, it raised €42k. We are very grateful to everyone who took part.

Jailbreak is the largest student-run fundraising

event in Ireland. We gave the passionate student organisers all the support they needed, and watched as 166 college students begged, borrowed and blagged their way to all corners of the globe raising €29k for our work. They joined a legion of passionate Amnesty supporters and local groups who devised a plethora of fundraising events in 2017. We are so grateful to the generous and imaginative people who devote so much of their time and energy to support our work. From coffee mornings and bake sales to summer parties and sponsored runs, we appreciate every euro raised.

In September, the global Movement partnered with Sofar Sounds to stand in solidarity with refugees. Together, we hosted over 270 intimate 'Give a Home' gigs in more than 200 cities around the world. The Dublin show in Dlight Studios featured Hozier, Lewis Kenny, Sorcha Richardson, Wyvern Lingo and a speech from Colm O'Gorman.

In summary, 2017 was another steady and positive year. Our long-term strategy to focus on membership growth continues to prove successful and financially beneficial to the Section. We are happy to report that the first few months of 2018 have so far also proven to be positive and encouraging.





FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

Income

Our income can be split into two broad categories: fundraising income (member subscriptions, donations and fundraising events) and other income, including rental income and interest received.

Overall, our fundraising income remained at a similar level to 2016. Subscriptions and donation grew by 182k (8%), our Face-to-Face (F2F) membership recruitment programme, which is reported within subscription and donation income, grew by 210k (15%) in 2017.

There was a reduction in legacy income and HRE funding income in 2017, compared to 2016. The HRE funding income was lower due to the completion of our externally funded projects. Legacy income, by its nature an unpredictable income stream, was 2.5k in 2017, compared to 137k in 2016.

To grow our membership and supporter base, we have continued to invest significantly in our F2F membership recruitment programme, which is evident in the growth of that income stream.

The results for the year are set out in the financial summary on page 32.

Expenditure - salaries & wages

During 2017, we had an average of 27 employees on our core staff teams (programmes, campaigns, fundraising, support and administration) and an average of 20 fundraisers on the F2F membership recruitment programme. Total salary, wages and related costs of these employees in 2017 was €1.78m (2016: €1.73m). This increased slightly due to investment in our membership recruitment programme, which required increased numbers of F2F staff.

Details of staff salary bands are published on our website. As of January 2018, the office based salary bands were:

€26,000 - €35,000 10 posts
€35,001 - €40,000 6 posts
€40,001 - €57,000 9 posts
€62,001-72,000 0 posts *
€115,498 1 post (Executive Director)

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

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

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

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

Expenditure on programmes and campaign activities was €954k, which includes salaries, overheads and our contribution to the international Movement. In order to maintain high levels of investment in membership growth, we have agreed to reductions in the contributions due to the international Movement. In 2017, we provided a total of €124k to Amnesty International's global budget.

Expenditure on fundraising for 2017 was €348k, which included investment in diversifying income streams. It was also spent on improving donor care and reducing donor attrition, as well as maintaining our capacity to manage the ongoing and very welcome growth in numbers of Amnesty members.

Expenditure on administrative and management expenses which were not allocated to campaigns and activities was €231k. Financial costs, depreciation and interest amounted to further €136k.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

Financial status:

The net outcome for 2017 was a surplus of €727k in current year activities, compared to a €513k surplus in 2016. After providing for the costs of raising future income, the combined balance carried forward to reserves was a surplus of €76k compared with a combined income of 1k in 2016.

Our reserves and general financial position

Amnesty International Ireland's policy is to have sufficient reserves to meet the costs and liabilities of the organisation for a period of 6 months. However, in recent years we have prioritised investment in growth ahead of building reserves, as we move beyond the impact of the recession. In doing so, we have been able to maintain sufficient cash balances to meet our continuing operational costs and liabilities. During 2017, the average cash balance was €400k. The healthy cash balance at the end of 2017 was due to effective cash flow management throughout the year.

Balance sheet at 31 December 2017

The assets of the Section amount to €1.12m with liabilities of €2.33m resulting in negative reserves of €1.21m. Our current assets are €803k against the current liability of €731k.

To present a full picture of the finances of the Amnesty International movement in Ireland, we publish a combined balance sheet for two separate Amnesty International Ireland entities, Amnesty International Ireland (the Section) and the Amnesty International Ireland Foundation. This combined balance sheet at 31 December 2017 showed negative reserves of €297k. In 2016, our balance sheet showed negative 373k. (This figure was adjusted following our annual financial audit due to an agreed reduction in payments to our international movement.)

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

Governance

Amnesty International Ireland is a democratic organisation where our members decide our human rights priorities and policies. At a national level,

our members make such decisions at annual conference and elect a board to run the organisation between conferences. The board appoints an Executive Director to run the organisation at an operational level.

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

As the promotion and protection of human rights is not recognised as a charitable purpose under Irish law, we cannot register as a charity in Ireland. However, in order to ensure best practice and the highest possible standards in how we raise funds for our work, we apply the principles and guidelines for best practice in fundraising activities that apply to the charity and voluntary sector. We are committed to achieving the standards outlined in the Charities Regulator's Guidelines for Charitable Organisations on Fundraising, including:

- All fundraising from the public is carried out in an open, transparent, honest, respectful and accountable manner.
- Fundraising should always be underpinned by an appropriate legal framework.
- Fundraising will be done in a way which protects the reputation of the organisation and encourages public trust and confidence in the sector more generally, following the law and recognised standards showing respect for beneficiaries, donors and the public.

Risk

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

Outlook for 2018

The budgeted forecast for 2018 is very encouraging, with continuing steady growth forecast in both membership and income. We will continue to invest in new member



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STUDENTS BLAGGED THEIR WAY IN JAILBREAK 2017

recruitment in order to grow our supporter base and allow us to further expand our human rights work.

The budget for 2018 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €2.831 to €3.181m in 2018.

Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.376m to €2.708m.

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €2.774m to €2.912m.

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.053m to €1.195m.

Included in this figure is a €152k contribution to the International Movement. (2017: €124k).

Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €348k to €463k. The costs of the F2F recruitment programme are budgeted at €810k.

Other costs including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest are budgeted at €464k. (2017: €459k)

The Section budget for 2018 forecast a surplus of 269k. As part of our long term investment strategy, our international Movement has agreed to reduce the contribution due to the international budget. This will allow us to continue to invest in growth of both membership and income, increasing our capacity to deliver our human rights work in Ireland, and our overall contributions to Amnesty International at the global level.

Outlook for 2019

As per Constitutional Amendment passed at AC 2017, we are presenting a projected budget for 2019.

The high level budget for 2019 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €3.181m to €3.268m in 2019. Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.708m to €2.790m in 2019.

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €2.912m to €3.137m budgeted in 2019.

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.195m to €1.361m.

Included in this figure is a €286k contribution to the International Movement (2018: €152k).

Amnesty International Irish Section Financial Review 22/02/2018 17:09	Accounts 2017			
	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€
INCOME				
Subscriptions and Donations		2,376,767		2,376,767
Philanthropic foundation funding		58,200		58,200
Tax refunds		144,374		144,374
Externally funded projects				0
Fundraising appeals		98,992		98,992
Amnesty Foundation		2,514	(2,509)	5
Fundraising events		125,643		125,643
Legacy income			2,509	2,509
Rental Income			111,470	111,470
Interest receivable		16		16
		2,806,505	111,470	2,917,975
HRE Funding Income		25,396		25,396
		2,831,901		2,943,371
EXPENDITURE				
Direct costs of Fundraising and Recruitment				
Fundraising salaries and related costs	214,001			214,001
Fundraising other costs	134,854			134,854
		348,855		0
Recruitment salaries	244,816			244,816
Recruitment other costs	90,235			90,235
		335,051		0
		683,906		683,906
Campaign and Programme costs				
Salaries and related costs	628,106			628,106
Materials and other costs: C & P	161,634			161,634
Annual Conference	21,311			21,311
Annual review	19,201			19,201
Contribution to Global Amnesty Movement	124,397			124,397
		954,650		954,650
Human Rights Education Projects				
Salaries and related costs	75,024			75,024
Materials and other costs - HRE	23,378			23,378
		98,402		98,402
Total Campaigns and Projects		1,053,052		1,053,052
Administrative and Managment expenses				
Salaries and related costs	158,190			158,190
Overheads and expenses A & M	73,392			73,392
		231,581		
Depreciation		13,908	568	14,476
Financial costs		106,614	9,681	116,295
Interest		15,525	82,039	97,564
Total Expenditure before interest		2,104,586	92,288	2,196,873
Surplus / (Deficit) from Activities		727,316	19,182	746,498
Inter co Foundation write off				0
International Movement credit				
Costs invested in future income				
Salaries and related costs		489,632		489,632
Overheads and expenses		180,470		180,470
Balance carried forward		57,214	19,182	76,396

Budget 2018				Budget 2019			
IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL
€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
	2,708,849		2,708,849		2,789,798		2,789,798
			0				0
	183,015		183,015		164,714		164,714
	0		0		0		0
	104,795		104,795		105,196		105,196
	55,206	(55,200)	6		60,726	(60,726)	0
	129,547		129,547		148,352		148,352
		55,200	55,200			60,726	60,726
		111,312	111,312			111,312	111,312
	0		0		0		0
	3,181,411	111,312	3,292,723		3,268,787	111,312	3,380,099
	0		0		0		0
	3,181,411	111,312	3,292,723		3,268,787		3,380,099
269,950			269,950	278,049			278,049
193,300			193,300	235,471			235,471
	463,251		0		513,519		0
219,376			219,376	220,039			220,039
72,716			72,716	72,716			72,716
	292,092		0		292,754		0
	755,342		755,342		806,274		806,274
729,869			729,869	751,765			751,765
263,066			263,066	271,527			271,527
8,000			8,000	8,000			8,000
0			0	0			0
152,145			152,145	286,650			286,650
	1,153,080		1,153,080		1,317,942		1,317,942
32,190			32,190	33,155			33,155
10,000			10,000	10,000			10,000
	42,190		42,190		43,155		43,155
	1,195,269		1,195,269		1,361,097		1,361,097
161,136			161,136	165,970			165,970
71,840			71,840	88,899			88,899
	232,976				254,869		
	27,000	1,200	28,200		27,000	1,200	28,200
	99,290	11,504	110,794		84,500	11,830	96,330
	18,000	74,860	92,860		18,000	67,426	85,426
	2,327,877	87,564	2,415,441		2,551,740	80,456	2,632,195
	853,534	23,748	877,282		717,047	30,856	747,904
			0				0
	438,752		438,752		440,077		440,077
	145,431		145,431		145,431		145,431
	269,350	23,748	293,099		131,539	30,856	162,395

HOW WE GOT OUR MONEY



Main source of income is subscriptions and donations at 81%
Tax refunds this year is 5%
Fundraising events & rental income both stand at 4%.
Fundraising appeals at 3%
Philanthropic foundation funding 2%

- Subscriptions and donations
- Philanthropic foundation funding
- Fundraising appeals
- HRE funding income
- Tax refunds
- Fundraising events
- Rental income

HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT



64% is allocated to the Irish section
23% is invested in future income
8% in financial costs and depreciation
4% is allocated to the global movement

- Irish section
- Investment in future income
- Financial costs & depreciation
- Contribution to global movement

HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT



Expenditure on campaigns is 50%
Cost of raising funds is 37%
Administration 13%

- Campaigns
- Membership recruitment & raising funds
- Administration & management

CAMPAIGNS EXPENDITURE



After allocating all costs, expenditure on campaigns is broken down across 12 campaign areas

- | | |
|--|---|
| ■ I Welcome campaign | ■ LGBTI campaign |
| ■ Wire Ireland - magazine | ■ Communications |
| ■ Annual conference | ■ Individuals at risk |
| ■ My Body My Rights - It's Time | ■ Crisis response |
| ■ Human rights education | ■ Stop the death penalty |
| ■ Brave | |
| ■ Human rights in Ireland & intergovernmental organisations | |

