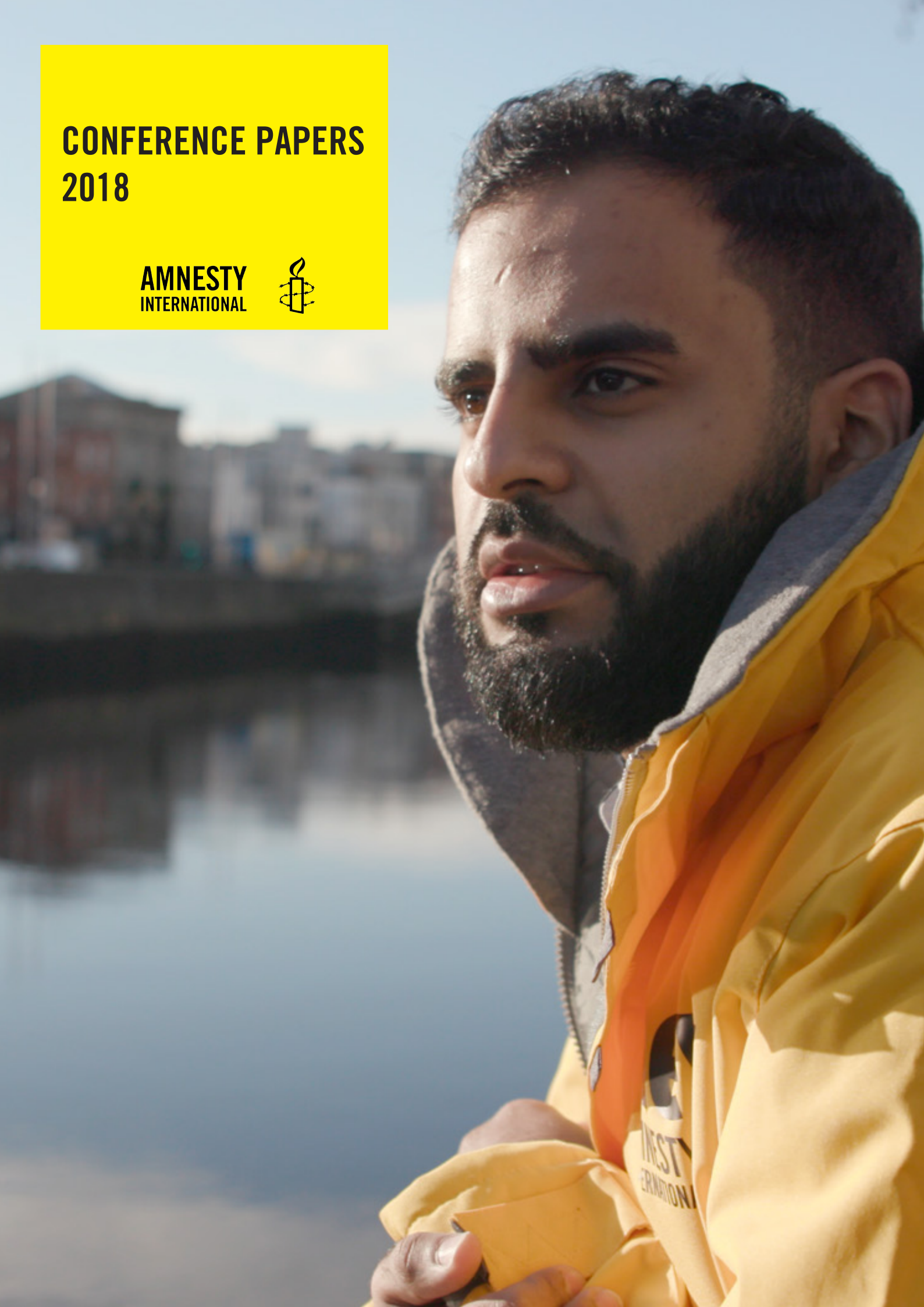


# CONFERENCE PAPERS 2018

**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL





## 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
- Inspirational 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

### Sunday 11 March

- 9.30 Registration (new attendees)
- 10.00 Conference resumes/ presentation of Aactivism 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 Empowering 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

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# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

Saturday 10 March 2018

## 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

### **Inspirational 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. Repeal 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 with 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



**58,000+**  
**FACEBOOK FANS**

'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.

# PLENARY SESSIONS & WORKSHOP OUTLINES

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 Empowering 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.











# CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

## Report to 2018 Annual Conference

### **a) Motions & Amendments**

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

### **b) Order of Business**

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

### **c) Rights of Speakers**

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

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

### **d) National Board Election**

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

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

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

As the number of candidates is equal to the number of

vacancies, no ballot is required. All will, therefore, be deemed to be elected. The Constitution also provides that any further vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference shall be filled by co-option by the National Board.

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

Nominated by: Donal Prior

Seconded by: Shane Darcy

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

Nominated by: Sadhbh Sheeran

Seconded by: Niall Cowley

The following member must stand for election at AC 2018 following their earlier co-option to the National Board

### **Brid Cannon serve a two year term**

Nominated by: David White

Seconded by: James Kelly

### **e) Election of Conference Agenda Committee 2019**

Noting that:

- Three candidates have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC). Namely; Tony Fitzsimons, Mary Quinn, Fergal Kilkenny (the outgoing CAC). As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, no ballot is required. All will, therefore, be deemed to be elected. However, the CAC recommend that qualifying members to put themselves forward as alternate members of the CAC so as to address any vacancies which might occur before AC 2019.

# NATIONAL BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

## Standing for Re-election

### Standing for Election following Co-option

#### **Brid Cannon**

Brid has been involved in the voluntary sector for over 11 years, in organisations including the Free Legal Advice Centres, the National Youth Council of Ireland and also the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras which she chaired for 5 years. A law graduate of TCD, Brid is qualified at the New York Bar and also has over ten years' experience working in financial services. She has a keen interest in the issues of corporate responsibility and diversity and inclusiveness and the impact of financial services on the wider community.

### Standing for Re-election

#### **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. James has a particular interest in children's rights and in the issue of legal capacity.

#### **Honorary Secretary - 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.

### Serving National Board Members

#### **Chairperson – 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, and has recently returned to Ireland after a two year assignment in China. David was previously a member of the Executive Committee from 2008 to 2010.

#### **Dr Shane Darcy**

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

#### **Donal Prior**

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





**26,000+**  
**TWITTER FOLLOWERS**

#### **Youth Secretary - Sadhbh Sheeran**

Sadhbh is an Environmental Science undergraduate at Trinity College Dublin, graduating in June 2018. She has held the position of Treasurer and Chairperson of DU Amnesty, Trinity's Amnesty society. Sadhbh was one of the organisers of the Jailbreak 2017, Ireland's largest student-run charity event. Jailbreak 2017 raised €56,000 for Amnesty International and Saint Vincent de Paul. Jailbreak challenges hundreds of 3rd level students nationwide on a 36-hour rat-race that could take them anywhere in the world. The event has been nominated as 'Charity Champion' of the year at the 2017 Student Achievement Awards. Sadhbh is a member of Amnesty International's 'I Welcome' working group. As well as her work with Amnesty, she is a volunteer activist with Oxfam Ireland and volunteer team leader for their summer 2017 campaign season. Sadhbh was also a founding member of TCD's Strike for Repeal campaign.

#### **Niall Cowley**

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



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

## FREE IBRAHIM HALAWA

Ibrahim Halawa is a prisoner of conscience, denied liberty for expressing his right to freedom of expression and assembly.

In President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and the Committee for the Safety of the State

- In immediately releasing Ibrahim Halawa, the



HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH

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Live & Love

2500



# MOTIONS

## Annual Conference 2018

Motions are formal steps to introduce a matter for consideration at Amnesty International's annual conference. Motions seek to steer the work programme of the Irish Section.

### **Motion 1 - Operational Budget 2018**

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2018 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: James Kelly  
Seconded by: David White

*\* The proposed 2018 budget is available on page 35.*

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### **Motion 2 – Headline Operational Budget 2019**

Conference approves the high level outline budget for 2019, and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2019 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: James Kelly  
Seconded by: David White

### **Motion 3 - Amnesty International Ireland Operational Plan 2018 to 2019**

Recognising the Global Strategic Goals adopted at the 2017 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 2018 to 2019.

Proposed by: Cliona O'Farrelly  
Seconded by: Shane Darcy

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### **Motion 4 - Prisoners of Conscience and Mass Trials in Egypt**

Conference mandates:  
The National Board to engage with the International Secretariat to assess if case files can be established in cases of those men co-accused in the mass trial to which Ibrahim Halawa was subjected.

Proposed by: Trish Robinson  
Seconded by: Dorene Groocock

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## Annual Conference 2018

Constitutional Amendments seek to change, repeal or add to the Amnesty International Irish Section Constitution, as it currently exists.

### Constitutional Amendment 1

#### **Current:**

Article 13, paragraph 12

The youth secretary shall be responsible for all youth-related activities of the section and shall be the National Board's liaison officer with any youth structures and networks which may from time to time be established by the section. The youth secretary is also responsible for the youth policy of the section, subject to approval by the National Board

#### **Proposed:**

Article 13, paragraph 12

The youth secretary shall be the National Board's liaison officer with any youth structures and networks which may from time to time be established by the section. The Youth Secretary shall advise the National Board on the youth policy of the section.

#### **Rationale for change:**

The current wording of article 13, paragraph 12, sets out the role and responsibilities of the youth secretary in a manner which suggests that the youth secretary has operational responsibility for the youth policy and strategy of the section. The current wording also suggests that the youth secretary alone, and not the National board as a collective body, is responsible for youth related issues and policy.

This amendment addresses both of these issues and makes clear that the role is a governance role, and that the youth secretary is responsible for representing the National Board in any engagements with youth members and youth and student networks. The youth secretary advises the National Board on youth policy, but as per article 13, paragraph 5, the National Board as a collective body has responsibility for the governance of the section between Annual Conferences and EGMs. This includes the development and implementation of an effective youth policy.

Proposer: Sadhbh Sheeran  
Seconder: David White

### Constitutional Amendment 2

Insertion of the following new subsection to the All Constitution:

Article 13: The National Board 4 (d): Vacancies filled by co-option are not subject to the candidate being in continuous membership of the Section for at least six months prior to co-option.

#### **Rationale for change:**

To facilitate the National Board in addressing specific skill gaps which arise between Annual Conferences in a timely manner.

Proposer: David White  
Seconder: Bríd Cannon





**MY  
Vote!**

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

Conference was held at IBAT College, 16-19 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, on 06 – 07 May 2017

Over the two days of AC 2017, delegates and guests participated in workshops and interactive sessions on our global and domestic campaigns with a particular focus on human rights defenders (Brave), the rights of refugees and migrants (I Welcome) and sexual and reproductive rights (Not a Criminal).

Plenary sessions were held on a range of topics, including: sexual and reproductive rights and fighting the backlash against the rights of women and girls, the ongoing humanitarian crisis in response to those seeking refuge and an introduction to AI's global campaign on human rights defenders.

Conference heard powerful testimony from speakers with personal experience of the issues discussed at our plenary sessions, namely: Regina Fonseca, Honduran women's rights defender and Director of International Advocacy at the Women's Rights Centre, Karolina Więckiewicz, Polish feminist activist, both spoke to their experience of campaigning and advocating for reproductive justice for women and girls in their countries. Other guest speakers included journalist and broadcaster Alison O'Connor, UNHCR Head of Mission in Ireland, Enda O'Neill, Lorna Hayes, AI Senior Campaigner on the I Welcome campaign, Jameen Kaur, Senior Campaigner on the BRAVE campaign, Jim Loughran, Frontline Defenders and Audrey Gaughran, Director of Global Issues & Research at AI.

## **Elections**

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

The following members were elected to the National board;

David White, Chairperson, elected to serve a one year term.

Shane Darcy, elected to serve a two year term.

Donal Prior, elected to serve a two year term.

Tom Morrisroe, co-opted since AC 2016, formally elected to serve a two year term.

Niall Cowley, elected to serve a two year term.

Sadhbh Sheeran, elected to serve a two year term.

Conference also elected three members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2018. They are Mary Quinn, Tony Fitzsimons and Fergal Kilkenny.

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

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

Katie O'Houlihan was awarded the 'Peter Benenson Award for Student Activism' (Individual).

The Dublin Central local group was awarded the 'The Group Impact Award'.

Sara Corso was awarded the 'I am Amnesty Award'.

Amnesty International Life Cycle was awarded the 'Fundraising Achievement Award 2016'.

The local group Fundraising Achievement Award 2016 was awarded the Wexford local group.

---

## **Motions and Constitutional Amendments**

On Sunday 07 May, in plenary session, Conference considered a range of motions and amendments that had been put forward by membership. Conference decided as follows:

### **Constitutional Amendment 1**

#### **Current:**

Article 9, paragraph 8 (d): The Annual Conference





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

#### **Proposed:**

Article 9, paragraph 8 (d): The Annual Conference shall consider and approve, amend or reject a draft strategic plan for the Section based on a six-year strategic planning cycle, a biennial draft operational plan including high level outline budget, and an annual implementation report from the National Board.

Article 13, paragraph 21 (new paragraph to be added): The National Board shall consider, and approve, amend or reject the annual draft budget for the Section.

Proposed: David White

Seconded: James Kelly

This amendment passed by consensus.

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#### **Motion 1**

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

Proposed by: James Kelly

Seconded by: David White

This motion passed by consensus.

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#### **Motion 2**

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

Proposed by: James Kelly

Seconded by: David White

This motion passed by consensus.

#### **Motion 3**

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

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

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

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

Proposed by: Evanna Craig

Seconded by: Marie Belen Menendez

This motion was withdrawn as neither the proposer nor seconder was present to speak to the motion.

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#### **Motion 4**

Recent attacks on men believed to be gay are the latest example of a general climate of fear in Chechnya as a result of State violence and impunity for grave human rights violations.

#### **This conference calls on the Russian and Chechen authorities to:**

- Carry out prompt, effective and thorough investigations into the reports of abductions and killings of men believed to be gay in Chechnya and to ensure that anyone found guilty or complicit in such crimes will be brought to justice in accordance with the laws of the Russian Federation;
- Take all necessary steps to ensure safety of any

# MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2017

individual who may be at risk in Chechnya because of their sexual orientation, and others may be at risk of similar attacks for any other reason and to condemn in the strongest terms possible any discriminatory comments made by officials;

- End impunity for crimes and human rights violations committed against a range of groups by the Chechen authorities

Conference further calls upon the Irish government to:

- Remind the Russian and Chechen authorities that they have an international human rights obligation to prohibit discrimination and to investigate and prosecute hate crimes, the most invidious form of discrimination.
- Condemn in the strongest terms possible state violence against various groups in Chechnya and to demand an end to such attacks
- Formally recognise those individuals who have been forced to flee Chechnya as individuals requiring protection, introduce a resettlement programme in Ireland for such individuals, and urge their EU partners to do the same.

To this end Conference mandates Amnesty International Ireland to write urgently to the Minister of Foreign Affairs making a call for diplomatic action and to provide Amnesty International members with an opportunity to take action on this issue.

Proposer: Trish Robinson

Seconder: Giulia Vilone

This motion passed by consensus.



