

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL







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### FOLLOWED BY THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE PAPERS

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Amnesty activist 'flash mob' on Grafton Street during the 'It's Time. Repeal the 8th' campaign.

© The Irish Times Nick Bradshaw

Cover image: A woman has the symbol for women painted on her face during a demonstration on International Women's Day in Buenos Aires, Argentina, March 8, 2018. Cover image copyright is

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**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



# INTRODUCTION

2018 saw some incredible wins for human rights, and yet also saw the continued global rise of 'tough guy' leaders pushing misogynistic, xenophobic and homophobic policies and undoing hard-won freedoms and human rights.

Here in Ireland, the landslide yes vote to repeal the Eighth Amendment was a historic win for human rights, and an inspiration to activists around the world campaigning for sexual and reproductive rights. In 2013, you, our members, decided that Amnesty Ireland should campaign for a human rights compliant framework for abortion in Ireland. The journey we have been on since then has been at times hard and challenging, but one that makes me immensely proud of the work we have done. The incredible change that has been brought about in Ireland, and the role Amnesty Ireland played in that, will never be forgotten.

From the *My Body My Rights* campaign starting in 2014, our report *She is not a Criminal* in 2015, to the 2018 referendum campaign 'It's Time to Talk', our role has been both to advocate for access to abortion as a human rights issue, and to empower women and girls to speak out and claim their rights. As always, it was the voices of those who were most affected who were central to this victory for human rights, and we are incredibly proud to have stood with them. **Lucy Watmough** was one of the many women we worked with during the campaign, and she said it succinctly: "Ireland's Yes vote means knowing that if I have a daughter one day, when I am ready, she'll have control over her own life. It just removes so much trauma and hurt that's been put upon us for so long."

Around the world, we see women and girls standing up for themselves and their communities. But the backlash against these courageous human rights defenders is horrific, from the imprisoned Saudi Arabian 'Right to Drive' activists to **Marielle Franco** in Brazil who was murdered. This year, Amnesty will be focusing on women human rights defenders, including LGBTI activists, as part of our *Brave* campaign. I know our speakers this weekend will inspire you to continue to take action.

As part of this global pushback against human rights, we're also seeing xenophobia being used by world leaders to drum up support for cruel and even illegal policies. Europe's asylum system continues to be broken, with the EU-Libya deal meaning that people are being sent back to Libya to face torture, rape and horrific abuse and thousands of others left stranded at sea. But, of course, it's not just in Europe that migrants and refugees face human rights violations. I recently joined an international delegation of Amnesty Directors at the US/ Mexico border, to witness first-hand the impact of the Trump administration's border policies on people fleeing violence and persecution in Central America. These policies violate both international and US laws. While we were there, a leaked draft government memo showed that they intended to traumatise people, including children, to create a humanitarian crisis on the US/Mexico border. From a mother in detention, breaking



down in tears because she hasn't seen her son in ten months, to our delegation accompanying teenagers travelling alone across the border so they could seek asylum, it is clear that they have indeed succeeded in creating that crisis, and thousands of people are suffering horribly as a consequence. Our response must be to shine a light on such violations, and to relentlessly campaign to end them. But again, with the world seeming to get darker, we have seen real progress here at home. This year sees the launch of the Community Sponsorship Programme and our ongoing work on creating 'welcoming communities' for refugees in Ireland.

In more good news from 2018, a special mention has to be made of **Taner Kılıç**, the Honorary Chair of Amnesty Turkey, who was released after 432 days behind bars, on baseless charges.

There's no doubt that 2019 is going to be a challenge. As part of the *Brave* campaign, we also released a report on the global increase in repressive legislation against NGOs and civil society. We know those who oppose human rights see us as a target, but we also see the groundswell of support, and the rising of activists to take on 'tough guy' leaders and their hateful and dangerous rhetoric. Last year we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We said then that this was a moment to reclaim the values of the equality and dignity of all people. Amnesty must continue to play our role in that effort, and together I believe we will turn the tide against those who want to break others down. Let's fight back, and let's win.

Thank you,

**Colm O'Gorman**,  
Executive Director,  
Amnesty International Ireland.





# IRELAND SAYS YES TO WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

**2018 was a momentous** year for the campaign to realise women's and girls' reproductive health and human rights in Ireland.

In a historic referendum, on May 25, the people of Ireland went to the polls, and sent a powerful message to women and girls that their human rights and reproductive health matter, resoundingly voting by a 66.4% majority to repeal the Eighth Amendment and remove the almost total constitutional ban on abortion. Amnesty International has been campaigning for a human rights

compliant abortion law in Ireland since its global campaign '*My Body My Rights*' in 2014.

During the referendum campaign itself, we reached hundreds of thousands of people with women's stories and factual information. We launched the '*It's Time to Talk*' campaign, with support from Act for Repeal activists, knowing that it was the conversations people had with their friends and families that would win the referendum. Online we shared campaign resources and information on why voting yes was a vote for

human rights and reached over a million and a half people. We also ran a '*Men for Yes*' campaign and put up our campaign posters around the country.

After the referendum, we continued our campaign for a human right's compliant framework for abortion. We made a submission to the Department of Health and met with the Minister for Health, Simon Harris, on the Health (Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018.

On December 20, the Bill was signed into law by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins. This legislation sees access to abortion on request up





👁️ ← Supporters celebrate at Dublin Castle following the result Irish referendum result on the 8th Amendment.  
© Jeff Mitchell Getty Images

## ARGENTINA

In August, Argentina's Senate voted against legalising abortion during the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. Here in Ireland, we supported AI Argentina's campaign by organising a letter signed by over 60 TDs and Senators calling on Argentinian legislators to listen to the voices women and girls, as well as media work to build international pressure. Though the Senate voted against the legalisation, this is an ongoing campaign and is part of our global solidarity outreach as needed.

## GOOD NEWS

Imelda Cortez who was jailed for attempted murder under El Salvador's strict anti-abortion laws was freed from custody. Ms Cortez was arrested and spent more than 18 months in custody as she awaited trial under accusation that she tried to end a pregnancy as a result of rape. In December 2018 a court ruled that Ms Cortez had not tried to kill her child and was not guilty of any crime. Her release represents hope for the women of El Salvador convicted of abortion-related crime.

👁️ ↓ Super canvass May 23.  
© Amnesty International  
Amnesty activists at the March for Choice  
© Amnesty International



to 12 weeks and on restricted grounds beyond this, from 1 January 2019.

We will continue to work for a human rights compliant legal and medical framework for access to abortion services in Ireland, making sure our new law and practice respect and fulfil women's rights.







## BRAVE

2018 was a very busy year for our Brave campaign to protect civil society freedoms and the work of human rights defenders (HRDs) around the world. Human rights defenders continue to be attacked, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for our rights.

We celebrated the work of two Brave women human rights defenders (WHRDs), Vitalina Koval and Azza Soliman with the global project, 'Brave Walls'. At Electric Picnic, we collaborated with artist Emalene Blake who created a mural celebrating the work of the two WHRDs. The Brave mural was used as a focal point for activism and as a place for conversation about the issues of human rights defenders with festival goers. We also hosted Amnesty Hour, a panel discussion celebrating and recognising the impact of women

human rights defenders in Ireland, including the successful repeal of the Eighth amendment, the passage of gender recognition legislation protecting the rights of transgender people in Ireland, and the ever-expanding role young activists are playing in creating real and substantive human rights change.

Hungary's continuing crackdown on civil society took an even more draconian turn on 20 June 2018 when Parliament adopted a bill that will criminalise a range of lawful activities in support of asylum seekers, refugees and migrants. Amnesty released a report, *Hungary: New Laws that Violate Human Rights, Threaten Civil Society and Undermine the Rule of Law Should Be Shelved*. We have been campaigning in solidarity with our colleagues and Hungarian civil society.

We're continuing to call for an end to threats to NGOs and for the European Union to take action.

Following a major international summit held at the end of October, a plan of action for how to protect and promote the work of HRDs was presented to the UN General Assembly. This came at a time when HRDs are becoming more and more at risk as human rights come under attack around the world. Since the summit, thousands of people around the world, and over 700 people in Ireland, have signed the summit's petition urging those in power to protect human rights defenders around the world.





## HOW YOUR VOICE MADE A DIFFERENCE

**Tep Vanny**, a Cambodian human rights defender was freed in August 2018.

**Taner Kilic**, honorary Chair of Amnesty International Turkey was released after more than 14 months in prison, following persistent campaigning by Amnesty International activists.

Human rights defenders **Rodrigo Mundaca** and **Sakris Kupila** received the visibility and protection that Amnesty called for.

In February, the European Parliament called on EU countries to step up their defence of **women human rights defenders detained in Saudi Arabia**. Throughout the year, Amnesty activists and supporters put pressure on the Saudi Arabian authorities, as well as their own governments, to take action to secure the release of the women human rights defenders and all prisoners of conscience who have been detained solely for the peaceful exercise of their human rights in Saudi Arabia.

👁️ Clockwise from left:  
*Taner Kilic after being released from prison in Izmir;*  
*Amnesty Brave wall installation at Electric Picnic;*  
*Activists form a heart in solidarity with NGOs during a protest in Budapest, April 2017;*  
*Brave campaign booklet at Electric Picnic 2018.*

© Amnesty International





**I WELCOME**

**THE GLOBAL  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
REFUGEES**





Over the last year, world leaders have continued to turn their back on refugees. But from protests to petitions, from advocacy to standing up for individual victims of these horrific policies, Amnesty International has been fighting back. And you've been with us every step of the way.

We demanded action to protect people cruelly left stranded at sea. We stood against Europe's dangerous deals and complicity in the horrific human rights abuses faced by people forced back to Libya. While much work is still needed, our collective efforts have seen some countries begin to stand for solidarity and human rights by aiding refugees and migrants in peril at sea. This ad hoc approach is far from enough, but we continue to push for leaders to create a European asylum system based on the principles of solidarity, responsibility sharing and human right.

## US/MEXICO BORDER

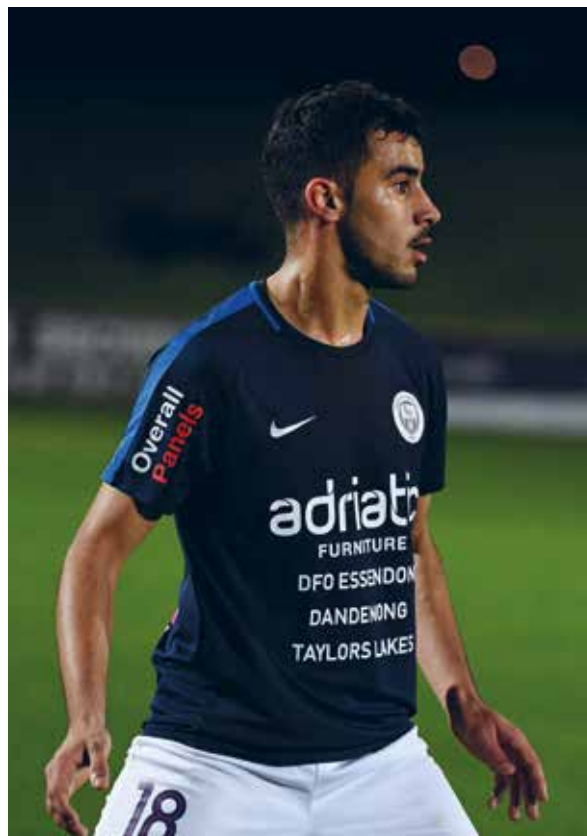
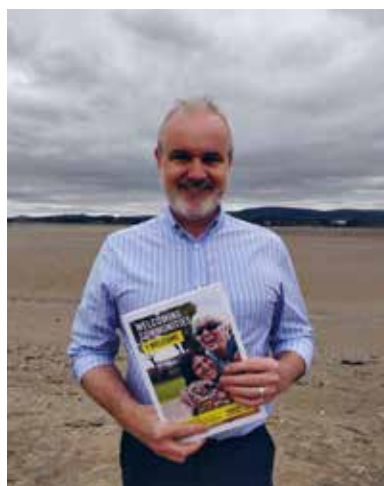
In 2018, President Trump's administration continued to punish people seeking protection through immigration policies designed to cause catastrophic harm, and which violated both US and international law. Amnesty activists immediately mobilised, protesting at the US Embassy, signing petitions and taking action to end this cruelty. In January 2019, Colm O'Gorman took part in an international delegation to the US/Mexico border to monitor the situation and to show the US government that the eyes of the world are on them. What he saw confirmed our worst fears, but also strengthened our resolve. We will continue to put pressure on USA authorities to stop punishing people seeking protection.


## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP: A NEW WAY TO WELCOME REFUGEES

We warmly welcome Ireland joining a growing number of countries establishing community sponsorship programmes as a pathway to safety for refugees. Community Sponsorship offers ordinary people an extraordinary opportunity to welcome refugees into their communities and to support them to rebuild their lives in safety. Amnesty International began to advocate for the introduction of such a programme in May 2017. Following the Irish Government's commitment to establishing a programme in late 2017, we have worked closely with partners to develop it and are now moving into its implementation. This is a prime opportunity for Amnesty supporters, members and activists to get involved and create real human rights change for refugees.

## GOOD NEWS

Rahaf Mohammed al-Qunun and Hakeem Ali al-Araibi released. Both Rahaf and Hakeem were being held in Thailand at risk of deportation to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. Hakeem, who has refugee status in Australia, had travelled on his honeymoon when he was detained; Rahaf fled beatings and death threats from her family. Because of global activism, including the 135,000 Amnesty supporters around the world who called to free Hakeem, both had their deportations stopped. Rahaf and Hakeem's stories send an important message: people around the world rallied to support their pleas for protection, and people power prevailed over those who tried to oppress them.



 Clockwise from left:  
Senior Leadership Delegation to US-Mexico Border; Migrants look at the sea from the deck of the NGO Proactiva Open Arms boat on July 2, 2018; Colm with the Welcoming Communities Toolkit; Hakeem Ali al-Araibi (© Avellino M); Wissam Hajj Mouhamed Ali fled the war in Syria.

© Amnesty International



# YOUTH ACTIVISM

**Amnesty Ireland youth activists** are at the forefront of the fight for human rights. Through groups in schools and colleges, young people organise talks, art campaigns and information stands to highlight Amnesty's work. They lobby politicians, organise protests and collect signatures for local to global petitions. They are part of a growing community of young people who use their skills, energy, creativity and passion for justice and equality to create human rights impact.

## 'STORIES OF REFUGE, STORIES OF WELCOME' HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROJECT

Ten educators and activists, who are also asylum-seekers or refugees living in Ireland, were trained as human rights education (HRE) facilitators with Amnesty International. They delivered workshops in post-primary schools in counties Dublin, Galway and Kerry, with the aim of empowering and equipping TY students and teachers through HRE methodologies to gain knowledge and skills, explore values and attitudes, and take meaningful action for refugee rights. After participating in these workshops with rights-holders, schools have hosted 'Welcoming Communities' events, taken action on Amnesty cases, and connected with the youth programme by attending the Schools Day in November. This programme is supported by external funding from World-Wise Global Schools.

Over 230 students from 15 schools attended two schools' days in 2018, as a result of increased outreach. 42 school talks and workshops took place from September to December by Amnesty staff and school speakers, and four new Amnesty school groups were formed.



## IT'S TIME. REPEAL THE 8TH

Student mobilisation at 3rd level on this campaign gained lots of momentum in the lead up to the referendum, with a core group of students from five 3rd level groups leading action on their campuses and engaging in weekly meetings with the youth activism team. Students launched a 'Summer Starts with Yes' youth-focused campaign, including hosting outdoor 'It's Time To Talk' events, using placards and selfie-frames for social media posts, and hosting information stands and workshops. Youth activism staff delivered 'It's Time to Talk' trainings with students to support them to gain knowledge and confidence to talk to people in their lives, presenting a compassionate human rights perspective. Student activists continue to act in solidarity with women in Northern Ireland and elsewhere. Queens University Belfast Amnesty students facilitated a workshop at the Student Conference in Dublin in October. This resulted in a day of action calling for access to abortion in Northern Ireland by Amnesty society groups across Ireland and the UK.







👁️ Clockwise from left:  
 University College Cork; Rema Hamid. Winner of Best Youth Activist 2017; Loreto on the Green. Winner of Best School Group 2017; NUIG Summer Starts with Yes.  
 Facing page:  
 (Top) Transition Years Ballyhaunis Welcoming Party 'Stories of Refuge, Stories of Welcome' Project; Eimear Hawthorne student activist.  
 © Amnesty International



## A NEW YOUTH ACTIVISM STRATEGY

This strategy will guide and drive youth activism for human rights to 2021 and was developed with a working group including post-primary and 3rd level student activists, educators and staff. The three strategic goals focus on new inclusive engagement, providing high standards of supports and recognising the contributions of youth activists, and building a community where youth leaders are empowered to create human rights impact and mobilise others.

Youth membership is now being offered as a way for individual young people to join and contribute to the Amnesty movement in Ireland. Further engagement in youth activism is supported through our social media work, where we have a combined followership of 2536 on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The monthly online and offline newsletters provide calls to action, celebrations of youth contribution, and current human rights news.




# ACTIVISM AND LOCAL GROUPS

We currently have 1,800 Act for Amnesty activists and 14 local groups across Ireland working tirelessly to support Amnesty's work. They support our work through fundraising activities, running events, lobbying politicians and raising awareness about human rights. Last year, over 300 activists got involved at major events, demos, and festivals.

This year we launched the Activist Leadership Network, a network made up of individuals passionate about human rights and motivated to lead change in their communities. The aim of the network is to move from organising activists to mobilising activists, and to equip them with the skills needed to make real change.

Our Write for Rights campaign focused on women human rights defenders worldwide received 12,500 signatures both online and offline.



 Clockwise from above: Galway DP action; Galway Brave; Signing the W4R letter; Electric Picnic 2018; Longitude 2018; All Together Now 2018; Clough Jordan W4R action. © Amnesty International







## AWARDS 2017

### Activist of the Year 2017: Caitlin Baker

Caitlin Baker has been an activist with Amnesty International Ireland since 2015. Caitlin has been involved with us on our campaigns throughout Festivals, Letter Writing Marathons, Demonstrations and Pride Marches, where she has shown a brilliant capacity to work with large and diverse teams of volunteers.

### Local Group Fundraising Achievement

**Award 2017: Dublin Central group.** The Dublin Central group raised over €5,300 during 2017. Most of the money was raised by their tireless bag-packing in supermarkets over the year. They also sold Amnesty merchandise at Christmas. The group continue to work hard in both fundraising and campaigning and are currently active in recruiting new members.

### Group Impact award: Wexford Group

For their commitment and tireless work in the name of human rights we honoured the Wexford Group as our Local Group of the year at last year's Annual Conference.



👁 Photos of activists and local groups. From top: Cork activist; Cork local group; Caitlin Baker; Kilarney group; Wexford group; Dublin Central group; Wexford Group.  
© Amnesty International



# LOOK BACK AT 2018

## PEOPLE FREED!

**Taner Kiliç**, the Honorary Chair of Amnesty Turkey, was released after 432 days behind bars, on baseless charges used to silence human rights defenders. Artist **Liu Xia** was released after eight years of house arrest, following her husband being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2010. Also freed were: **Tep Vanny**, a Cambodian activist who had been defending families from forcible evictions; **Imelda Cortez** who was jailed for attempted murder under El Salvador's strict anti-abortion laws; Prisoner of Conscience **Eskinder Nega** (right), who had been given a sentence of 18 years after he criticised the government for arresting journalists. **Rahaf Mohammed** and **Hakeem Ali al-Araibi** were not deported back to Saudi Arabia after public outcry and activism around the world.



© Sarah Mwangi

## SPOTLIGHT ON GLOBAL RESEARCH REPORTS

**#ToxicTwitter:** Violence and Abuse Against Women Online: 6,500 volunteers from 150 countries took part in 'Troll Patrol', to process large-scale data about online abuse. They calculated that 1.1 million abusive or problematic tweets were sent to the women in the study across the year. *Right To Be Free From Rape: Legislation in Europe:* Out of the 31 European countries, only eight countries, including Ireland, define rape as sex without consent. Sweden has changed the definition, after campaigning by Amnesty and others.

Two reports on policies on refugees and migrants in the Global North: *'You Don't Have Any Rights Here': Illegal Pushbacks and Arbitrary Detention of Asylum-seekers in the USA.* It showed that the government had separated thousands more children from their parents than they had admitted. *A Perfect Storm: The Failure of European Policies in the Central Mediterranean* showed how European leaders' policies are stranding thousands of refugees and migrants at sea, and forcing them back to Libya where they face horrific violence and human rights violations.

## LGBTI RIGHTS

There was a second 'gay purge' in Chechnya, with forty people detained and at least two people tortured to death. In Ireland and around the world, our activists called on Russia to stop the attacks. We supported the #StandWithTanzania online campaign against homophobic crackdowns; #RainbowforTaiwan for marriage equality; justice for **Zak Kostopoulos**, a queer activist killed in Greece; and stood in solidarity with Pride 2018 in Turkey after it came under attack. We also called on Iceland and Germany to protect the rights of intersex children and people with variations in sex characteristics.

In Brazil, over a year after the murder of **Marielle Franco**, a black LGBTI activist, two former policemen have been arrested. We continue to call for a credible investigation.

## AMNESTY IN IRELAND IN NUMBERS

- 69,000<sup>+</sup>** Signatures for our global campaigns from festival and online actions
- 12,500<sup>+</sup>** Number of petition signatures for #Write4Rights campaign
- 1,800** Number of Act for Amnesty activists
- 14** Number of local groups
- 300<sup>+</sup>** Number of activists at festivals and events in 2018
- 142** Students joined Jailbreak, raising a record-breaking €66,000
- 230** Students attended schools' days
- 93,000<sup>+</sup>** Followers across our social media channels

## "IT'S TIME TO TALK"

**Amnesty's referendum campaign to repeal the Eighth Amendment**

- 1.5 million** People reached in the online anti-misinformation campaign
- 33,000** People read our Q&A on the facts about the referendum
- 270,000** Reached with a video of Lucy Watmough telling her story
- 500,000** People reached with video of Chris O'Dowd calling on Men to Vote Yes



Protest in Denmark on consent. © Jonas Persson



# FUNDRAISING REPORT 2018

**Amnesty International Ireland splits** its income and expenditure between fundraising (membership subscriptions, donations, events and their related costs) and the rest of the Section's income and expenditure (rental from the building, day to day Section running costs etc.). This part of the report focuses on fundraising income and the costs of raising funds only.

It was quite a strong year financially for the Section with total gross income coming in 2.7% ahead of our €3.18m target. This was a growth of 16.4% on 2017 and a 20.6% jump for net income due to some underspend.

Although the Face-to-Face programme's income was 4.8% under target, it saw a 9.1% growth rate on the previous year. Online and digital acquisitions were 7.8% ahead of target and 18.3% up on 2017. Major Donor and Legacy income did particularly well coming in €170k (79%) ahead of target and €301k higher than 2017. However, this is a very unpredictable area for the Section and does not signify a particular trend for us in these areas. Cash Appeals also did very well last year; boosted by the Referendum crowdfunding, we finished €61k (75%) ahead of budget and 66% up on the year before.

Although the F2F programme saw 9% growth overall, the income from people signed up in 2018 and the previous two years saw a combined shortfall of 9%. This was mainly due to difficulties recruiting new fundraisers which had a negative impact on the numbers of new members we could sign up, as well as higher than expected cancellations from the previous two years' acquisition. Events and Groups income also saw a significant shortfall on target and on the previous year's income.



*Amnesty Face to Face Fundraiser on a Dublin street; Hansfield ETNS receive trophy for Friendship Week.*

© Amnesty International



We continued to diversify new member and donor acquisition away from an overreliance on F2F. Although we would have liked to have done far more in this area, we still saw some good results testing new marketing and engagement techniques. Some examples included the launch of two crowdfunding campaigns, raising restricted funds for the 'It's Time' referendum campaign. Together they

raised €81,000 from 1,433 individual donations and allowed us to expand our supporter-base with new once-off donors. Later in the summer we also worked with the Campaigns and Activism team to test two-step acquisition at festivals. Most results were encouraging. Our ratio of new income generated from non-F2F acquisition went from 17% in 2017 to 24%.





really upped the ante and raised over €60k, half of which was donated to Amnesty and the other half to St Vincent de Paul. We are so grateful to these generous and imaginative people who devote so much of their time and energy to help us continue to do our vital work.

👁️ ↑ ←  
*Ibrahim Halawa during his day as a Face to Face Fundraiser; Jailbreak cheque presentation 2018.*  
 © Amnesty International

We were delighted when former Prisoner of Conscience, Ibrahim Halawa, made a video with us about his experience in jail in Egypt. He even spent a day on the street doing F2F Fundraising and gave the opening speech at our Global conference for Fundraising, which was inspiration to all.

In summary, 2018 was a very positive year for Fundraising, where our long-term strategy for membership growth and generation of unrestricted income continued to prove to be successful, providing the Section with adequate and sustainable income to enable it to achieve its Human Rights Goals.

Friendship Week was again our leading school initiative, highlighting the importance of friendship and solidarity. In 2018 it focused on our *Brave* campaign. Activities in the pack focussed on being brave and gave ideas on how students could get involved to help improve their world. We estimate from the number of schools taking part that over 100,000 teachers, pupils and their families could have become aware of our *Brave* campaign. Through the

selling of bracelets, the initiative raised €28k.

Jailbreak is the largest student-run event in Ireland. It's a madcap adventure race starting from Dublin. In 2018 we saw 142 students figuring out clues to identify their way to a secret location. Without the use of any of their own funds, not one, but four teams, figured out the clues and got to Pula in Croatia at the same time. We again gave all the support we could to the college students who



# FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

## 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 increased from 2017 by €460k (16%). Subscriptions and donation grew by €219k (9%). Our Face-to-Face (F2F) membership recruitment programme, which is reported within subscription and donation income, grew by €148k (9%) in 2018.

There was a significant increase of €169k in legacy income compared to 2017. Legacy income, by its nature an unpredictable income stream, was €2.5k in €2017 and €137k in 2016.

To grow our membership and supporter base, we have continued to invest significantly in our F2F membership recruitment programme.

The results for the year are set out in the financial summary on page 16.

## EXPENDITURE – SALARIES & WAGES

During 2018, 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 2018 was €1.804m (2017: €1.78m).

Details of staff salary bands are published on our website. As of January 2019, the office-based salary bands were:

€28,000 – €35,000	6 posts
€35,001 – €40,000	7 posts
€40,001 – €55,000	9 posts
€55,001 – €62,000	5 posts
€65,000 – €75,000	0 posts currently
€118,199	1 post (Executive Director)

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

In addition to staffing costs, expenditure can be categorised by 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 €1,186k, which includes salaries, overheads and our contribution to the international movement. In order to maintain high levels of investment in membership growth, we have, by agreement, reduced the amounts we contribute to our international movement. In 2018, we contributed a total of €152k towards Amnesty International's global budget.

Included in programme costs in 2018 is expenditure related to our campaign for a 'Yes' vote in the recent referendum on the Eighth Amendment. This area of expenditure amounted to €209k, including all staff and activities costs. Amnesty Ireland registered as a Third Party with the Standards in Public Office Commission (SIPO) for the purposes of this referendum campaign, and complied fully with the provisions on financing of referendum campaigns. Amnesty Ireland also campaigned for a Yes vote in the referendum to remove the constitutional provision on blasphemy. Total expenditure on that campaign amounted to €1,722. Again, we remained registered with SIPO for the purposes of that referendum campaign and complied fully with all relevant legislation in that regard.

**Expenditure on fundraising for 2018** was €361k, 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 the numbers of Amnesty members.

**Expenditure on administrative and management** expenses, which were not allocated to campaigns and activities, was €235k. Financial costs, depreciation and interest amounted to a further €136k.

## FINANCIAL STATUS

The net outcome for 2018 was a surplus of €957k in current year activities, compared to a €727k surplus in 2017. After providing for the costs of raising future income, the combined balance carried forward to reserves was a surplus of €366k, compared with a combined income of €57k in 2018.





↑ Amnesty staff standing in solidarity with the movement in Argentina demanding an end to the criminalisation of abortion.  
© Amnesty International

## OUR RESERVES AND GENERAL FINANCIAL POSITION

Amnesty 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 2018, the average cash balance was €550k. The healthy cash balance at the end of 2018 was due to effective cash flow management, and once-off donations and legacies received in 2018.

## BALANCE SHEET ON 31 DECEMBER 2018

The total assets of the Section amount to €1.372m, with total liabilities of €2.454m resulting in negative reserves of €1.083m. Our current assets are €1,065k against the current liability of €852k. Our current ratio is 1.24 times our current liability.

To present a full picture of the finances of the Amnesty Ireland, we are publishing 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 on 31 December 2018 showed positive reserves of €934k. In 2017, our balance sheet showed positive €321k. (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](http://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 as taken responsibility for each significant risk area.



## OUTLOOK FOR 2019

The budgeted forecast for 2019 is encouraging, with continuing steady growth forecast in both membership and income. We will continue to invest in new members' recruitment in order to grow our supporter base and allow us to further expand our human rights work.

The budget for 2019 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €3.181m to **€3.263m**

Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.708m to **€2.8m**

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €2.9m to **€3.2m**

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.280m. to **€1.372m**

Included in this figure is a contribution of **€294k** to the International movement. (2018: €152k).

Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €361k to **€526k**  
The costs of the F2F recruitment programme are budgeted at €810k.

Other costs, including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest are budgeted at **€504k** (2018: €464k)

**The Section budget for 2019 forecasts a surplus of 59k.** 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 2020

As per Constitutional Amendment passed at the Annual Conference 2017, we are presenting a projected budget for 2020.

The high level budget for 2020 is presented in the financial summary.

Total income is budgeted to increase from €3.263m to **€3.383m**

Income from subscriptions and donations is budgeted to increase from €2.8m to **€2.885m**

Total expenditure is budgeted to increase from €3.2m to **€3.321m**

Expenditure on campaigns and projects is budgeted to increase from €1.330m to **€1.358m**

Included in this figure is a contribution of **€291k** to the International movement. (2019: €294k)

Fundraising costs are budgeted to increase from €526k to **€612k**  
The costs of the F2F recruitment programme are budgeted at €810k (2019: €810k)

Other costs, including administration, support, finance, depreciation and interest, are budgeted at **€496k** (2019: €504k).

**The projected Section budget for 2020 sees a surplus of 62k.**



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRISH SECTION FINANCIAL REVIEW	ACCOUNTS 2018			
	IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL
	€	€	€	€
<b>INCOME</b>				
Subscriptions and Donations		2,595,673		2,595,673
Core Funding		105,543		105,543
Tax refunds		144,344		144,344
Externally funded projects				
Direct Mail Appeals		151,864		151,864
Amnesty Foundation		172,485	(169,485)	3,000
Special Events		96,897		96,897
Legacy income			169,485	169,485
Rental Income			104,410	104,410
Interest receivable				
		3,266,807	104,410	3,371,217
Externally Funded Project				
HRE Funding Income				
		3,266,807		3,371,217
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Direct costs of Fundraising and Recruitment</b>				
Fundraising salaries and related costs	205,117			205,117
Fundraising other costs	156,231			156,231
		361,348		
Recruitment salaries	246,251			246,251
Recruitment other costs	49,105			49,105
		295,357		
		656,704		656,704
<b>Campaign and Programme costs</b>				
Salaries and related costs	682,790			682,790
Materials and other costs: C & P	312,241			312,241
Annual Conference	19,245			19,245
Annual review	19,510			19,510
International Movement	152,140			152,140
		1,185,926		1,185,926
<b>Human Rights Education Projects</b>				
Salaries and related costs	48,357			48,357
Materials and other costs - HRE	46,567			46,567
		94,924		94,924
Total Campaigns and Projects		1,280,850		1,280,850
<b>Administrative and Management expenses</b>				
Salaries and related costs	144,342			144,342
Overheads and expenses A & M	91,440		23,498	114,938
		235,781		
<b>Depreciation</b>		12,325	59	12,384
Financial costs		109,031	8,770	117,801
Interest		14,767	74,860	89,627
<b>Total Expenditure before interest</b>		2,309,458	107,187	2,416,645
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) from Activities</b>		957,349	(2,777)	954,572
<b>Inter co Foundation write off</b>				
<b>International Movement credit</b>				
<b>Costs invested in future income</b>				
Salaries and related costs		492,503		492,503
Overheads and expenses		98,210		98,210
<b>Balance carried forward</b>		366,636	(2,777)	363,859

## INCOME

## EXPENDITURE








**Balance carried forward**

BUDGETS 2020			
IRISH SECTION		FOUNDATION	TOTAL
€	€	€	€
	2,885,746		2,885,746
	172,952		172,952
	128,319		128,319
	66,799	(66,799)	
	129,936		129,936
		66,799	66,799
		133,310	133,310
	3,383,751	133,310	3,517,061
	3,383,751		3,517,061
298,566			298,566
314,249			314,249
	612,815		
249,430			249,430
44,889			44,889
	294,320		
	907,135		907,135
757,757			757,757
301,088			301,088
8,000			8,000
291,670			291,670
	1,358,515		1,358,515
33,571			33,571
10,000			10,000
	43,571		43,571
	1,402,086		1,402,086
207,139			207,139
99,329			99,329
	306,468		
	14,000	1,200	15,200
	85,000	11,830	96,830
	18,000	59,727	77,727
	2,732,689	72,757	2,805,446
	651,062	60,553	711,615
	498,860		498,860
	89,779		89,779
	62,423	60,553	122,976



# HOW WE GOT OUR MONEY



	SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DONATIONS	77%		SPECIAL EVENTS	3%
	CORE FUNDING FOUNDATIONS	3%		RENTAL INCOME	3%
	APPEALS	5%		LEGACY INCOME	5%
	TAX REFUNDS	4%			

# HOW OUR MONEY WAS SPENT



LOCAL CAMPAIGN AND PROGRAMME COSTS	44%	OVERHEADS AND EXPENSES	8%
RAISING FUNDS	43%	FINANCIAL COST & DEPRECIATION	5%



# CAMPAIGNS EXPENDITURE



<div></div> IT'S TIME	38%	<div></div> INDIVIDUALS AT RISK	4%
<div></div> HRE	7%	<div></div> CRISIS RESPONSE	3%
<div></div> BRAVE	8%	<div></div> DEATH PENALTY	2%
<div></div> IGO & HR IRELAND	2%	<div></div> I WELCOME	11%
<div></div> ANTI DISCRIMINATION CAMPAIGN	3%	<div></div> MAGAZINE	2%
<div></div> COMMUNICATIONS	4%	<div></div> ANNUAL CONFERENCE	2%
		<div></div> GLOBAL MOVEMENT	12%

# CONFERENCE PAPERS

## 2019



8 1,429,981

# YES

25/05/18



## SATURDAY 23 MARCH

### 9:00 REGISTRATION

### 10:00 CONFERENCE OPENING

Chair: Mary Quinn

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

### 10:15 A YEAR IN REVIEW – REPORT BACK TO MEMBERSHIP

A look back at 2018 with our National Board including the Treasurer's Report and presentation of Budget 2019 & Headline Budget 2020

Followed by Q&A

Presentation of the 'I Am Amnesty' Award

### 11:30 BREAK

### 11:45 COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP: A NEW WAY TO WELCOME REFUGEES

With Razan Ibraheem, Colm O'Gorman, Tim Hanley

Followed by Q&A

### 1:00 LUNCH – ON-SITE

will incorporate a mobilisation/activism moment

### 2:15 ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

### 2:30 AI'S NEW GLOBAL POLICY ON DRUG CONTROL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

### 3:00 NEVER GIVE UP – A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SPEAKS

With Vitalina Koval in conversation with Una Mullally  
Followed by a Q&A

### 4:30 ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

### 5:00 CONFERENCE ADJOURNS

## SUNDAY 24 MARCH

### 9.30 REGISTRATION (NEW ATTENDEES)

### 10:00 CONFERENCE RESUMES

Chair: Fergal Kilkenny

### 10:15 ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTATION

### 10:30 'YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS HERE' – AI MISSION TO THE US/MEXICO BORDER

With Colm O'Gorman

### 11:00 BREAK

### 11:15 FIGHTING FASCISM AND IN EUROPE

With Izabela Moźdrzeń , Beata Geppert, Catrinel Motoc

Followed by Q&A

### 12:45 'STORIES OF REFUGE, STORIES OF WELCOME'

### 1:00 LUNCH – ON-SITE

### 2:00 CONFERENCE BUSINESS

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

### 2:45 FROM VIOLATION TO CELEBRATION- A TIME TO REFLECT AND REFOCUS

With Amy Walsh, Tara Flynn, Sorcha Tunney, Roisin Ingle

### 4:00 AWARD PRESENTATION – OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2018

### 4:15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS WITH KUMI NAIDOO – SECRETARY GENERAL AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Followed by Q&A

### 5:30/6:00 CONFERENCE CLOSES

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# ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

## SESSIONS PROGRAMME

### SATURDAY 23 MARCH

#### 10:15 OUR YEAR IN REVIEW: A REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

A look back at 2018 with our National Board, including Treasurer's Report and presentation of Budget for 2019 & Headline Budget 2020.

#### 11:45 COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP: A NEW WAY TO WELCOME REFUGEES

Community Sponsorship offers ordinary people an extraordinary opportunity to welcome refugees into their communities, and to support them in their successful integration. Amnesty International began to advocate for the introduction of such a programme in May 2017. Following the Irish Government's commitment to establishing a community sponsorship programme in late 2017, we have continued to work with partners on its development and are now moving into the implementation of the programme. This Session will explore this innovative new programme which opens the door for more refugees to rebuild their lives in safety. Delegates will learn more about Community Sponsorship, and how it differs from our current resettlement programme by empowering people in Ireland to take the lead in directly helping refugees to settle in their communities.

**Colm O'Gorman**, Executive Director, Amnesty International Ireland

**Tim Hanley**, Campaigns Officer, Amnesty International Ireland.

**Razan Ibraheem** is a Syrian born journalist and a member of Amnesty Ireland's National Board. Her deep sorrow for the tragic situation and the mass displacement in her homeland has led her volunteer in Greece to help refugees. The people she met and the stories she heard from Syrian refugees there changed her perspective on life.

#### 2.30 AI'S NEW GLOBAL POLICY ON DRUG CONTROL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**Fiona Crowley**, Research & Legal Manager, will give a brief overview of the new policy soon to be adopted by the International Board, as requested at the 2017 ICM. Fiona will also outline the section's support for the Ana Liffey Drug Project's 'Safer From Harm' campaign seeking decriminalisation of possession of drugs for personal use in Ireland.

#### 3.00 NEVER GIVE UP – A HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER SPEAKS

**Vitalina Koval** is an LGBTI activist in her hometown of Uzhgorod in Ukraine. After becoming an activist, she co-founded an LGBTI community centre that offers peer-to-peer support. She is an organiser of the International Women's Day march in Uzhgorod.

**Una Mullally** is a writer and journalist with *The Irish Times*, contributes opinion columns to *The Guardian*, and her writing has also appeared in the *New York Times* and *Granta*. She is the author of *In The Name Of Love*, an oral history of the movement for marriage equality in Ireland, and editor of the best-selling anthology *Repeal The 8th*.

Una and Vitalina will explore her campaigning for LGBTI rights in Ukraine. Despite the violent attacks at Women's Day marches, Vitalina Koval is not giving up!

### SUNDAY 24 MARCH

#### 10:30 YOU DON'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS HERE

A report back from Colm O'Gorman, our Executive Director, on a recent Amnesty mission to the US/Mexico border to investigate the impact of US policies on migrants and refugees.

#### 11:15 FIGHTING FASCISM IN EUROPE

**Izabela Moźdrzeń** and **Beata Geppert** are two of a group of fourteen women who are protesting against the rise of fascism in Poland. On 11 November 2017, during the Independence Day march in Warsaw, hundreds of far-right protestors gathered calling for a "white Poland". Determined to counter-protest and make their voices heard against racism, fascism and hate, they stood peacefully with a banner saying *Fascism Stop*. They were met with violence and intimidation.

**Catrinel Motoc** is Amnesty International's Senior Campaigner based in the Europe Regional Office. She is working on projects related to shrinking civil society space and Human Rights Defenders at risk in Europe. Catrinel will speak about the increasing threats to human rights posed by a rise in populism across Europe, and our work to counter it.



Izabela and Beata will share their brave story of standing up for human rights, despite an increasingly hostile environment for human rights. In the past two years, the government of Poland has undertaken significant legal and policy changes that have undermined the rule of law and threatened human rights in the country. There are restrictions on the rights to freedom of assembly and expression, and the government has attempted to restrict women's rights.

## 12:45 'STORIES OF REFUGE, STORIES OF WELCOME'

**Mavis Ramazani**, a migrant Activist, is a WorldWide Global Schools Facilitator, will speak about her motivation to become a facilitator. She will speak on this programme, her experience, the outcomes for the students, and how such an education programme can contribute to creating 'welcoming communities'.

## 2:00 CONFERENCE BUSINESS

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

## 2:30 FROM VIOLATION TO CELEBRATION – A TIME TO REFLECT AND REFOCUS

Amnesty Ireland, since 2015, has campaigned to ensure that Irish law on access to abortion is fully compliant with international human rights law and AI's global policy. In the intervening years, AI at the national and global level mounted a strong and enormously successful campaign. Here in Ireland, our work has contributed enormously to the repeal of the Eighth Amendment and the introduction of abortion services in Ireland on January 1, 2019. From a global perspective, these huge gains for women's rights in Ireland have given hope to millions of women around the world that change is possible for them too. In a time of global rollback on women's sexual and reproductive rights, Ireland has moved in the other direction. The campaign win sends a message to Northern Ireland, El Salvador, Poland and other places where the struggle continues, that change is possible.

The session will be chaired by journalist Rosin Ingle. Amnesty campaign coordinator Sorcha Tunney will share her reflection on the campaign and look forward to where we go from here. We are delighted that Amy Walsh from Termination for Medical Reasons and Tara Flynn will share with Amnesty members the highs and lows they encountered while campaigning for sexual and reproductive rights.

**Róisín Ingle** is Deputy Features Editor of The Irish Times, co-producer of the Irish Times Women's Podcast and presenter of 'Róisín Meets' podcast. Róisín has written three books; the latest is a collection of her columns

'Public Displays of Emotion'. She has written and spoken powerfully about her lived experience of the Eighth Amendment and the harm it caused. She lives in Dublin with her partner and twin daughters.

**Amy Walsh** is an artist and lecturer in Fine Art at TU Dublin. Amy is also a Director of Termination for Medical Reasons (TFMR) Ireland which is a pro-choice organisation made up of women and couples who received a diagnosis of a severe or fatal anomaly in pregnancy in Ireland. Together with her co-directors and members of TFMR Ireland, Amy shared the story of her first pregnancy and the loss of her daughter Rose to a fatal anomaly called Triploidy to Repeal the Eighth Amendment to the Irish Constitution in the hope that women and pregnant people would have access to abortion healthcare in Ireland.

Amy is also a trustee of the charity Leabhbh Mo Chroi and provides in person and on-line information and support to people who receive a diagnosis of a severe or fatal anomaly in pregnancy.

**Tara Flynn** is an actor and writer in theatre, radio and TV. She campaigned for the repeal of Ireland's Eighth Amendment and in 2018, her one woman show Not A Funny Word played to sold-out crowds. She came to international attention for satirical videos Racist B&B and Armagayddon. TV includes Irish Pictorial Weekly, Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle and Line of Duty. She's the author of You're Grand and Giving Out Yards (Hachette Books Ireland) and Rage-In (Mercier Press). She hosts the Taranoia podcast on the Headstuff Podcast Network and has long been a vocal campaigner for equality and women's reproductive rights.

**Sorcha Tunney**, It's Time Campaign Coordinator, Amnesty International Ireland.

## 4.15 KEYNOTE ADDRESS WITH KUMI NAIDOO, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL

An opportunity for members and activists to meet our new World Secretary General, and to hear about his vision for Amnesty International and our work across the world.

**Kumi Naidoo** is a life-long social justice and environmental campaigner from South Africa. Born in Durban in 1965, Kumi's first taste of activism came at age 15 when he organised and took part in an anti-apartheid protest that saw him expelled from his school.

As a result of his continued anti-apartheid activism, he was forced to live in exile in the UK in 1986. He returned to South Africa in 1990 to work with the African National Congress. He went on to hold multiple leadership roles in civil society and global organisations, including as the Executive Director of Greenpeace.



*Vitalina Koval is an incredibly courageous human rights defender. Her leadership has been critically important to the Ukrainian LGBTI community.*

© Amnesty International







# CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

## REPORT TO 2019 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 d) National Board Election

### 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 less than the number of vacancies and no further nominations have been received, no ballot is required. All candidates will, therefore, be deemed to be elected.

The Constitution provides that these and any further vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference shall be filled by co-option to the National Board.

#### **Katie O'Houlihan to serve a two-year term**

Nominated by David White, Seconded by Bríd Cannon

#### **Sadhbh Sheeran to serve a two-year term**

Nominated by David White, Seconded by Bríd Cannon

#### **Niall Cowley to serve a two-year term**

Nominated by Shane Darcy, Seconded by James Kelly

#### **Donal Prior to serve a two year term**

Nominated by Shane Darcy, Seconded by Sadhbh Sheeran

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


#### **Razan Ibraheem to serve a two-year term**


Nominated by Sadhbh Sheeran, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

### E) ELECTION OF CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE 2020

Noting that:

Three candidates have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee. Namely; **Tony Fitzsimons, Mary Quinn, Fergal Kilkeny** (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 2020.

 *Group photo of some of the 14 Polish women against facism, also called the women from the bridge.*  
© Amnesty International

 *Abortion rights activists gather as lawmakers are expected to vote on a bill legalizing abortion, in Buenos Aires*  
© Reuters





# THE NATIONAL BOARD

## BOARD ACTIVITIES

The National Board holds regular meetings every two months. There were six regular board meetings in 2018, and a further two extraordinary meetings via conference call. Individual attendance by board members was as follows (combining both regular meetings and conference calls):

James Kelly	100%
Mary Quinn	100%*
David White	75%
Shane Darcy	50%
Donal Prior	75%
Cliona O'Farrelly	75%
Sadhbh Sheerin	90%
Niall Cowley	75%
Brid Cannon	100%
Razan Ibraheem	100%+

Where a new member joined or an existing member left the board during the year, the attendance figures are pro-rated accordingly based only on the meetings which took place during their terms.

The board has appointed a number of subcommittees:

Finance & Audit – **James Kelly** (Hon Treasurer), **Brid Cannon** (Vice Chair)

Senior Staff Support – **Alok Sinha** (Finance Manager)

Governance – **David White** (Chair), **Brid Cannon** (Vice Chair), **Cliona O'Farrelly** (Hon Secretary)

Senior Staff Support – **Colm O'Gorman** (Executive Director)

Human Resources – **Donal Prior** (Chair), **Shane Darcy**

Senior Staff Support – **Agata Senkara** (Human Resources Manager)

International – **David White** (Chair), **Brid Cannon** (Vice Chair), **Sadhbh Sheeran** (Youth Secretary)

Senior Staff Support – **Colm O'Gorman** (Executive Director)

\* denotes left the board during 2018

+ denotes joined the board during 2018

## NATIONAL BOARD BIOGRAPHIES STANDING FOR ELECTION

### KATIE O'HOULIHAN

Katie is a World Religions graduate of TCD and a MSc. in Violence, Conflict and Development Studies candidate at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. She joined Amnesty as a university activist, taking an active role in advocacy and fundraising as part of DU Amnesty, Trinity's Amnesty society. In 2017, she directed Jailbreak, Ireland's largest student-run charity event. Since its inception, the event has collectively raised over €285,000 for Amnesty International and St. Vincent de Paul. In 2018, she represented Irish Youth in the annual Global Assembly, Amnesty's international governance meeting. She has a keen interest in intersectionality, grassroots solutions and inclusive approaches to development frameworks.

## STANDING FOR ELECTION FOLLOWING CO-OPTION

### RAZAN IBRAHEEM

Razan Ibraheem is a Syrian-born journalist. She came to Ireland to do her MA (ELT) at the University of Limerick. Her deep sorrow for the tragic situation and the mass displacement in her homeland has led her to volunteer in Greece to help refugees. The people she met and the stories she heard from Syrian refugees changed her perspective on life. She gave a speech with the UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, in Ireland. In 2015, she was invited by the UN to a high-level meeting on global responsibility sharing for pathways for admission of Syrian refugees. She has been involved in several cultural, humanitarian and journalism projects and events in Ireland. Razan was awarded the International Woman of the Year by Irish Tatler in 2016.

## STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

### **SADHBH SHEERAN – YOUTH SECRETARY**

Sadhbh joined the National Board in 2017 and was elected as youth secretary. She represented the Section at the Regional Forum 2018, co-facilitating a session on youth in governance. She is a graduate of Environmental Science at TCD and will pursue a masters at the University of Edinburgh in 2019. Sadhbh was a member of DU Amnesty, Trinity's Amnesty Society, where she held several committee positions, including Chairperson. She has volunteered and worked for Oxfam Ireland's street campaign team. She is a member of the Washington Ireland Program class of 2019.

### **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.

### **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.

## SERVING NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

### **BRÍD CANNON**

Bríd 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, Bríd 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.

### **CLIONA O'FARRELLY – HONORARY SECRETARY**

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.

### **JAMES KELLY – HONORARY TREASURER**

James 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.





**LGBTI rights**

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# MOTIONS

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2019

### MOTION 1 – OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2019

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2019, as presented to the conference.

Proposed by: **James Kelly**

Seconded by: **Bríd Cannon**

\*The proposed 2019 budget is available on page 19.

### MOTION 2 – HEADLINE OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2020

Conference approves the high level outline budget for 2020, and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2020 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: **James Kelly**

Seconded by: **Bríd Cannon**

\* The high level outline budget for 2020 is available on page 19.

### MOTION 3 – SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Conference commends the work of the Irish Section to secure constitutional and legislative change to better protect the sexual and reproductive rights of women, girls and pregnant people

At our 2013 Annual Conference, we, the membership of Amnesty International Ireland, mandated the Irish section to campaign to ensure that Irish law on access to abortion is fully compliant with international human rights law and AI's global policy on access to abortion. In the intervening years, AI at both the national and global level mounted a strong and enormously successful campaign that has now secured very significant advances in this area. Our work has contributed enormously to the repeal of the Eighth Amendment of Bunreacht na hÉireann, the passing of the Health (Regulation of Termination of Pregnancy) Act 2018 and the introduction of abortion services in Ireland on January 1, 2019.

However, despite these enormous wins, we still have work to do in this area if we are to secure a fully human rights compliant framework for abortion in Ireland. There are significant flaws and gaps in the legislation passed by the Oireachtas last December.

Conference commits:

That Amnesty International will continue to work to ensure that Irish law on access to abortion is fully compliant with international human rights law and in line with AI's global policy on access to abortion.

Conference Commends:

Amnesty members, local groups and college societies, the National Board and section staff for their courage and resilience in undertaking the campaign for sexual and reproductive rights.

Conference Recommends:

That Amnesty International Ireland continues to work to ensure that there is fully human rights compliant access to abortion in Ireland in both law, policy and practice.

Proposed: **Rema Hamid**

Seconded: **Morgan Donaghy**

### MOTION 4 – COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP

Conference welcomes:

The introduction in Ireland of a community sponsorship programme for refugees. Conference commends the work done by Amnesty International Ireland and other civil society organisations and partner organisations, in developing a community sponsorship programme in Ireland, and the decision of the Irish Government to launch such a programme.

Conference mandates:

The Irish Section to continue to meaningfully contribute to the development and operationalisation of the community sponsorship programme in order to ensure the best possible human rights outcomes from the programme.

Conference further urges members, activists and local groups to engage with the community sponsorship programme as it is rolled out, including exploring opportunities to become sponsors themselves.

Proposed: **Giulia Vilone**

Seconded: **Catherine O'Shea**



*LGBTI activist Vitalina Koval from Ukraine at Canal Parade Amsterdam.*

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# MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018

Conference was held at IBAT College, 16-19 Wellington Quay, Dublin 2, on 10 – 11 March 2018

Delegates and guests participated in workshops and interactive sessions on our planned work for the next 2-year period. Particular focus was on our Human Rights Goals, our Organisational Goals, our Organisational Projects, and our key global and domestic campaigns.

Plenary sessions included: a report to membership from our National Board focused on the work by both AI Ireland and the wider AI movement, our It's Time campaign on the referendum on the 8th amendment, our ongoing work on the global campaigns I Welcome and Brave and inputs on our dynamic programmes supporting our activists, including youth and student activism.

Conference heard powerful testimony from speakers with personal experience at our plenary sessions, namely: Sundanese Human Rights Defender, **Ghada Abdalkream**, and Irish Traveller Rights Activist and Human Rights Defender, **Eileen Flynn**.

AC 2018 warmly welcomed home former AI Prisoner of Conscience, **Ibrahim Halawa**, whose case we had worked on from the time of his arrest in Egypt in 2013. Ibrahim spoke of his four years of incarceration, having been arrested at age seventeen whilst taking part in peaceful protest in Cairo. Ibrahim was finally acquitted of all charges in September 2017 after over thirty trial delays and finally returned to his home in Dublin. Ibrahim spoke of the importance of AI, highlighting both his own case but also of those who were incarcerated with him, and the value of the support received from the AI movement.

Conference adopted a new Operational Plan for Amnesty International Ireland to cover the period 2018-2019 and approved the section budget for 2018 and headline budget 2019.

## ELECTIONS

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

The following members were elected to the National board:

**James Kelly**, Honorary Treasurer, elected to serve a two year term.

**Cliona O'Farrelly**, elected to serve a two year term.

**Brid Cannon**, co-opted since AC 2017, formally elected to serve a two year term.

Conference also elected three members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2019. They are **Mary Quinn**, **Tony Fitzsimons** and **Fergal Kilkenny**.

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

**University College Cork AI Society** was awarded the 'Mary Robinson Award for Student Activism' (Society).

**Rema Hamid** was awarded the 'Peter Benenson Award for Student Activism' (Individual).


**Loreto College, Stephens' Green** was awarded the 'Anne Frank Award for Student Activism' (School Group).

**The Wexford local group** was awarded the 'The Group Impact Award'.

**Caitlin Baker** was awarded the 'I am Amnesty Award'.

**Jailbreak 2018 team** was awarded the 'Fundraising Achievement Award 2018'.

The local group 'Fundraising Achievement Award 2016' was awarded to the **Dublin Central local group**.

 *Tara Flynn is one of the human rights defenders that bravely spoke up and helped secure sexual and reproductive justice for women and girls in Ireland.*  
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## MOTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On Sunday 11 March, Conference considered a range of motions and amendments that had been put forward by membership. Conference decided as follows:

### 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.

Proposer: **Sadhbh Sheeran**

Seconder: **David White**

**This amendment passed by consensus.**

### 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 in between Annual Conferences in a timely manner.

Proposer: **David White**

Seconder: **Brid Cannon**

To ensure Article 13 would remain in line with provisions in related articles in the constitution, the below amended wording was proposed by David White and seconded by Brid Cannon.

**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. Co-opted members shall be eligible for election to the National Board at the AC following their co-option, regardless of the length of prior membership.

**The revised amendment was passed by consensus.**

### MOTION 1

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**

**This motion passed by consensus.**

### MOTION 2

Conference approves the high level outline budget for 2018, 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**

**This motion passed by consensus.**

### MOTION 3 – AI 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 2017 to 2019.

Proposed by: **Cliona O'Farrelly**

Seconded by: **Shane Darcy**

**This motion passed by consensus.**


### 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 Grocock**

**This motion passed by consensus.**

 → *International Women's Day in Mexico City. 2017.*

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