

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Annual Conference 2021
Wednesday 07 & Thursday 08 April

AMNESTY IRELAND

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

06 & 07 April 2022

**Wednesday 06 April****18:30: Conference Opening****Chair: Mary Quinn**

Adoption of the Conference Agenda Committee/Election of the National Board & Conference Agenda Committee 2022

18:45 Plenary Session I**Ending Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians**

This session will update delegates about Amnesty International's campaign to end Israel's apartheid against Palestinians. Delegates will learn more about the crime of apartheid in international law, the realities of apartheid in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, how it affects Palestinians' lives, and how to take action to end apartheid.

Amnesty's ground-breaking report, Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity, shows that Israeli authorities are enforcing a system of apartheid against all Palestinians living under their effective control. This includes Palestinians living in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), as well as displaced Palestinian refugees in other countries. The report documents how Israel treats Palestinians as an inferior racial group, segregating and oppressing them wherever it has control over their rights. It provides new evidence of the institutionalised nature of Israel's oppression of Palestinians, and of how Israeli laws and policies are designed specifically to deprive Palestinians of their rights.

Amnesty International is calling on Israel to dismantle this cruel system, and on the international community to pressure it to do so. Apartheid is both an international wrong and a crime against humanity. When a crime against humanity is committed, the international community has an obligation to hold the perpetrators to account.

Apartheid is not acceptable anywhere in the world. Now is the time for us to come together to speak up and stand with Palestinians to tell Israel that we will not tolerate apartheid.

Followed by Q & A**20:00: Close of Session 1****Thursday 07 April****18:30: Opening of Final Session****Chair: Mary Quinn****18:40: A Year in Review – report back to membership**

A look back at 2020 with our National Board

Followed by Q&A

19:05: Treasurers Report and presentation of Budget 2021 & Headline Budget 2022

Followed by Q&A

19:30: Motions & Amendments

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

19:45 'We Live Within a Violent System'

Following from our landmark research earlier this year, Fiona Crowley, Research & Legal Manager, will provide an update on our work on Sex Worker Rights in Ireland

Followed by Q&A

20:15: Final Closing of Conference**Speaker Biographies**

Saleh Higazi is the Head of Amnesty International's Jerusalem/Ramallah office. He joined Amnesty in 2011 as a campaigner in the MENA programme and was researcher from 2013-2017. Saleh left Amnesty briefly to take on a fellowship with the European Council on Foreign Relations. Following a short stint at the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Ramallah, Saleh returned to Amnesty to lead the work on Israel/Palestine. Prior to Amnesty he worked with Human Rights Watch and Al-Quds University Human Rights Clinic. Saleh holds a BA in Philosophy and MA in Human Rights.

Senator Frances Black was re-elected as an Independent Member of Seanad Éireann in 2020, having been first elected in 2016 as the first female Independent Senator from the Seanad's panel system in the history of the state. Senator Black is a strong advocate for social justice and equality and is passionate about being a voice for the vulnerable. Senator Black continues to work with organisations in the voluntary and charitable sectors alongside her work in Seanad Éireann. Frances is also an award-winning singer and founder of the RISE Foundation,



a charitable organisation working with people who have loved ones in addiction.

The Senator tabled the Control of Economic Activity (Occupied Territories) Bill 2018, which would prohibit the import and sale of goods, services and natural resources originating in illegal Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory. An EU-first, the Bill was passed in full by the Seanad and, prior to the 2020 General Election, was in the process of being debated by Dáil Éireann where it won votes of support. Senator Black is committed to ending the occupation and plans to push the Bill again when the timing is right.

In May 2021 Senator Black helped bring a motion condemning Israel's de facto annexation of Palestinian territory as a violation of international law. The motion, tabled by Deputy John Brady, passed unanimously in the Dáil.

In February 2022 Senator Black successfully called for a debate in Seanad Éireann on Amnesty International's report. In her speech, she called on the Minister to acknowledge that Israel's treatment of the Palestinian people amounts to apartheid, and to agree to prepare a set of actions which the Government will implement following the Dáil's unanimous adoption of the motion on Israel's annexation of Palestine.

Conference Agenda Committee Report to 2021 Annual Conference

a) Motions

Having examined the motions 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. No constitutional amendments were submitted for consideration,

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 candidates will, therefore, be deemed to be elected. The Constitution provides that any vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference shall be filled by co-option to the National Board.

Niall Cowley to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

Razan Ibraheem to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

Sadhbh Sheeran to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Jane Anne Negi

Katie O'Houlihan

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Tiarnan O'Rourke

First Time Nominated for Election

Máille Brady Bates

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Fiona O'Connor

The following members must stand for election at AC 2020 following their earlier co-option to the National Board

Fiona O'Connor to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

Séan Mulligan to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Niall Cowley, Seconded by Tiarnan O'Rourke

**e) Election of Conference Agenda Committee 2021**

Noting that:

Four candidates have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC). Namely; Mary Quinn, David White, Tony Fitzsimons, and, 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. The CAC further 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 2022.

Amnesty Ireland National Board Biographies**First Time Standing for Election****Máille Brady Bates**

Máille is an experienced solicitor specialising in Employment Law. In addition to her employment law practice, Máille carries out public interest legal work with a number of charitable organisations on a voluntary and pro-bono basis. Máille has a keen interest in human rights and public interest law and has worked with NGO's such as FLAC, PILA, Human Rights Defenders, the Red Cross and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Máille is a member of the Amnesty HR Sub-Committee and sits as a Board Trustee on the Board of Voluntary Services International.

Standing for Election following Co-option**Fiona O'Connor**

Fiona is a Director at Tom Smyth & Associates HR Consultancy where she provides legal advice and business risk support to both private and public sector industries. With over 15 years of experience specialising in employment law, HR and industrial relations, she has a deep understanding of workplace relations and the application of employment law.

She has advocated before the Equality Tribunal, EAT, Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) as well as the Labour Court. While working with the Citizens Information Service she provided information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services and is committed to improving equality & social justice in all aspects of society.

Fiona is a graduate of the Law Society of Ireland (Employment Law) and UCC (Government & Public Policy and later Human Resource Management). She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) where she was a member of the Southern Regional Committee.

Seán Mulligan

Seán has significant experience in leadership and governance roles and has been Finance Director with Tayto Snacks since 2014 having previously held similar positions with PepsiCo Ireland and Valeo Foods. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, a Chartered Director and holds a degree in International Business and Languages from TU Dublin. Seán has a keen interest in social justice and the defence of human rights.

Standing for Re-Election**Niall Cowley – Vice Chairperson**

Niall is the Founder and Managing Director of We the People, a Social Marketing Agency specialising in behaviour & attitude change and public information campaigns for the public sector. Over his long career, Niall has worked as Director of Communications for a UK children's charity and has been a consultant for the Irish and British governments and the European Commission on a number of high profile campaigns. Niall returned to live in Dublin in 2015 after 18 years living in London and Berlin.

Niall was first elected to the National Board in 2017 and appointed as Vice Chairperson in 2019.

Razan Ibraheem

Razan Ibraheem is an Irish-Syrian journalist and activist. She came to Ireland to do her Masters degree 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. She gave a speech with the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Ireland. In 2016, she was invited by the UN to a high-level meeting in Geneva on global responsibility sharing for pathways for admission of Syrian refugees.

Razan is a journalist and editor with extensive expertise in investigative journalism and verifying content from social media. She focuses on misinformation and disinformation spread online. Her work has been featured in local and international media organizations and news websites. Razan is a regular contributor to various newspaper articles and current events programmes on Irish radio and TV.

She was awarded the International Woman of the Year by Irish Tatler in 2016.

Razan was first elected to the National Board in 2019.

Sadhbh Sheeran

Sadhbh joined the National Board in 2017 and was youth secretary for 2 years. She is a member of Amnesty International's global youth in governance



team. Sadhbh works as a carbon and climate change consultant at Arup. She is a graduate of Environmental Science at TCD and has a Masters in Ecological Economics from the University of Edinburgh.

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.

Katie was first elected to the National Board in 2019.

Serving Board Members**Brid Cannon – Chairperson**

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. Brid was first elected to the National Board in 2018 and was appointed as Chairperson in 2019.

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.

Cliona was elected to the National Board in 2016 and was appointed as Honorary Secretary in 2018.

Tiarnan O’Rourke – Honorary Treasurer

Tiarnan is an Economics graduate of University College Dublin and a member of Chartered Accountants Ireland. He has over 14 years of experience in the financial services sector, both in audit and finance roles and has significant experience in providing leadership in financial reporting, operations and corporate governance. He has a keen interest in the equality of opportunity for all and corporate social responsibility.

Tiarnan was first elected to the National Board in 2020 and was appointed Honorary Treasurer upon his election.

Sorcha Kebbe – Deputy Youth Secretary

Sorcha is a final year English Literature BA student at University College Dublin. She joined Amnesty as an activist in her university’s Amnesty Society, UCD Amnesty. She went on to act as Auditor for the society in her second year.

In 2017 she attended Amnesty’s European Youth Meeting in Paris as Ireland’s youth delegate. At the 2018 AI Ireland Youth Conference she spoke on a panel chaired by Colm O’Gorman. She was then nominated and co-opted to the National Board in 2019, where she continues to act as Deputy Youth Secretary. At Annual Conference in 2019 she was also presented with the Peter Benenson Award for Student Activism.

She is currently working on a youth in governance project, which she presented, along with Sadhbh Sheeran and Katie O’Houlihan, to the Regional Forum in 2020, as well as working with staff to create a Youth Advisory Council. Sorcha is passionate about campaigning on sustainable fashion, intersectional feminism and arts-based activism.

Jane Anne Negi

Jane Anne is currently an Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Montreal Europe plc (BME).

Before taking on the role of CEO, Jane Anne was Deputy CEO at BME with oversight responsibility for Risk Management and the Lines of Business. She previously



worked as BMO Head of Strategic Initiatives EMEA in London where she was responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership on key governance and business initiatives.

Jane Anne has 25 years of Financial Services experience as a senior capital markets & banking lawyer at several multinational banking institutions in London. She has specialist technical knowledge in a variety of capital markets and banking products, and has provided leadership and coordination for major business, legal and regulatory projects. She has held positions of responsibility on boards, board committees and senior management committees where she has been responsible for developing and overseeing the execution of the business's local strategy and providing strong leadership and management.

Jane Anne is committed to corporate social responsibility, chairing BME's Culture and Conduct Committee. She believes that the cornerstones of desirable, ethical behaviours are integrity, empathy, diversity and responsibility and she is committed to doing her part to ensure that social justice prevails.

Jane Anne was first elected to the National Board in 2020.

AMNESTY IRELAND – ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021 - MOTIONS

Motion 1 - Operational Budget 2021*

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2021 as presented to conference.

**Proposed by: Tiarnan O'Rourke
Seconded by: Bríd Cannon**

Motion 2 – Headline Operational Budget 2022*

Conference approves the high-level outline budget for 2022 and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2022 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

**Proposed by: Tiarnan O'Rourke
Seconded by: Bríd Cannon**

***See Page 5 Annual Report - Appendix 1 for Operational Budget 2021 & the Headline Operational Budget 2022**

Motion 3

Annual Conference supports those involved in peaceful protest against the military takeover of Sudan since October 2021 and remembers those who have lost their lives during the peaceful revolution in Sudan.

Conference endorses Amnesty International's calls for a prompt, independent, and impartial investigation to ensure accountability for the killings and other serious human rights violations allegedly committed by security forces. Authorities must investigate the fatal shootings of unarmed protesters, allow for this investigation to be internationally monitored, and hold those responsible to account.

Conference also endorses the call for all those who have been arbitrarily detained, following peaceful protests, to be immediately released.

**Proposed by Mary Ryan,
Seconded by Niamh Brennan**

Motion 4

Amnesty International - Ireland Section runs an internship programme that offers work experience to those interested in a career in human rights. Currently, the internships are unpaid, although Amnesty offers a small stipend to cover travel and lunch costs. Internships are not an additional resource or an alternative to paid staff roles, rather they provide meaningful development opportunities for candidates who wish to pursue a career in human rights work. However, an unpaid internship programme can mean that some candidates are unable to participate in the programme as they cannot afford to be without an income for six months. This is problematic on several fronts, but particularly from a diversity and inclusion perspective. Conference requests that the National Board carry out a review of the current internship programme and examines the feasibility and desirability of introducing a paid internship programme at Amnesty International Ireland.

**Proposed by: Giulia Vilone
Seconded by: Elena Wrelton**

Minutes of Annual Conference 2020

Conference was held virtually from December 09 – 11 2020 where we heard powerful testimony from Human Rights Defenders from both here at home and from further afield.

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 ongoing work on the global campaigns I Welcome, Brave and on our on-gong work on reproductive rights, 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:



Darragh Mackin, Human Rights Lawyer, and **Talia Khattak**, the daughter of Idris, about Talia's campaign to get justice for her father.

Elections

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

The following members were elected to the National board:

Brid Cannon, elected to serve a two-year term.

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

Sorcha Kebbe co-opted since AC 2018, formally elected to serve a two-year term.

Tiarnan O'Rourke, co-opted since AC 2018, formally elected to serve a two-year term.

Jane Anne Negi co-opted since AC 2018, formally elected to serve a two-year term.

Conference also elected three members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2021. They are **David White, Tony Fitzsimons and Fergal Kilkenny**. **Mary Quinn** was elected as an alternate member of the CAC

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

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

Sarah Kinalidi was awarded the *'Peter Benenson Award for Student Activism' (Individual)*.

Lucan Community College was awarded the *'Anne Frank Award for Student Activism' (School Group)*.

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

Valentina Gaia Lops was awarded the *'I am Amnesty Award'*.

Dublin City University AI Society was awarded the *'Fundraising Achievement Award 2019'*.

Giulia Oeschger was awarded the *'Uplifting Fundraiser Award'*

The local group *'Fundraising Achievement Award 2018'* was awarded to the **Dublin Central** local group.

Motions and Constitutional Amendments

On Friday 11 December Conference considered a range of motions that had been put forward by membership. Conference decided as follows:

Motion 1 - Operational Budget 2020

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2020 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: James Kelly

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

This motion was passed by consensus.

Motion 2 – Headline Operational Budget 2021

Conference approves the high-level outline budget for 2021 and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2021 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: James Kelly

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

This motion was passed by consensus.

Motion 3 – Amnesty International Mandate

Conference believes that the primary focus of Amnesty International's global mandate should be Human Rights in countries with grave and systemic human rights issues. Conference encourages the global movement to focus in particular on Prisoners of Conscience.

Proposed by: Conor Scott

Seconded by: Margaret Feeley

This motion was defeated by consensus.

Motion 4 – Recognition of Journalists & Journalism

Amnesty International Ireland recognises journalists & the profession of journalism as "Special Friends of Human Rights and of Human Rights Defenders". Conference calls on the Irish Section to publicise this recognition and to consider how it can propagate it in an accolade to a deserving individual journalist or journalistic organisation.

Proposed by: Derry O'Regan

Seconded by: Sue Higgins

This motion was passed by consensus