

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA**

**[INSERT GROUP NAME]**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

[INSERT DATE] 2015

**Amnesty International comes to [INSERT AREA]**

Local [insert group area] residents are invited to get involved in defending and protecting human rights both at home and around the world this month, with the launch/relaunch of the Amnesty International Australia [insert group name].

EXAMPLE:

Local Darwin residents are invited to get involved in defending and protecting human rights both at home and around the world this month, with the launch of the Amnesty International Australia Darwin Group.

[Provide a brief description of the group]

Headed by [insert title, name], the [insert group name] will [insert events, actions, information nights, meetings] in the [insert local area name] area all in an effort to defend human rights.

EXAMPLE:

Headed by Group Convenor, Derya Siva, the Darwin Group will hold regular information nights and organise local group events, such as film and trivia nights, concerts and rallies, all in an effort to defend human rights and raise public awareness on important issues.

[Quotes from Group convenor/leader on why they are involved in the group and why human rights are important to them – you can focus on a particular campaign such as Refugees or Homelands].

EXAMPLE:

“I’ve always been passionate about defending and protecting human rights not only globally but at a local level here in Australia,” said Siva.

“Right now in Australia there is constant debate around refugees and this has been largely framed by myths and misconceptions.

“The common belief that refugees are ‘illegal’ simply isn’t true. Seeking asylum, even by boat, is legal under Australian and international law, and the vast majority of boat arrivals are found to be genuine refugees.

“Yet over the last year there has been very little change to refugee policy and we know that we know that one of the key reasons for this lack of progress - community fear of asylum seeker arrivals - stems from misinformation.

“Most Australians are simply not informed about who asylum seekers are, why they come here, and how they become refugees.

“The Darwin Group will working on dispelling the myths around asylum seekers by promoting the truth based [on facts](http://www.amnesty.org.au/refugees/comments/24506/) and research, and [sharing the personal stories of asylum seekers](http://www.rethinkrefugees.com.au/real-stories/) who arrived in Australia by boat,” Siva said.

[You can also insert your own personal story/connection with an Amnesty campaign]

[Insert information on upcoming Group meetings/events]

**ENDS**

For more information about the [insert group name] please contact:

[Insert group contact]

[name daytime phone number / after hours phone number]

**Amnesty International** is a worldwide movement of people campaigning to protect human rights. We have a vision of a world in which every person enjoys all the rights stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

[Include details of local group meetings to attract new supporters]

EXAMPLE

**The Amnesty International Darwin Group** meets on the last Tuesday of every month at the Darwin Courthouse, 222 Australia Street, at 6.30pm.The Group regularly holds activism stalls within the area as well as writing letters, completing urgent action and following up on cases. For more information email darwin@amnesty.org.au