

SCHOOL ACTION PACK

TERM THREE 2016

Eat cake for AmnesTEA
Take action for freedom of expression
Learn about LGBTI rights



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CAMPAIGN ACTIONS: AT A GLANCE

Campaign	Action	Target
AmnesTEA	Hold a morning or afternoon tea	Your school
LGBTI rights	Wear purple for a day; gather petition signatures	The government of Greece
Community is Everything	Hold a film screening	Your classmates; your member of parliament
Refugee rights	Take a selfie	The Australian Government
Individuals at risk	Write a letter for political cartoonist Zunar	The Malaysian authorities

Cover: Activists at the Riga Pride March, Latvia, May 2008. © AI

Amnesty International is part of the global movement defending human rights and dignity. We work with people in Australia and our region to demand respect for human rights and protect people facing abuse. We campaign, conduct research and raise money for our work. Our active members, such as school action groups, play a vital role in achieving our aims through writing letters, sending online actions, organising creative awareness-raising activities and fundraising in their communities.

Amnesty International acknowledges the traditional owners of the land on which our offices are situated. We thank the elders past and present for their continued custodianship. This always has been and always will be Aboriginal land.

A note from Naomi

Hey everyone!

One of the best parts of being the youth coordinator at Amnesty is hearing about the creative ways school groups engage with our campaigns – like this story from Glenunga International High School in South Australia.

The Glenunga Amnesty group have just finished up a busy Refugee Week with a 'Lock In Weekend' – spending a weekend at school hearing from speakers, watching documentaries and taking action on Amnesty campaigns.

We know you're all doing amazing things – and that this August will be big! AmnesTEA is on, we're screening Prison Songs and planning a purple wardrobe... details all in this pack.

We can't wait to hear how your term goes. If you've got a great story or photos of what your school has been up to, let us know. See the next page for how to get in touch.

On behalf of everyone at Amnesty International Australia – a huge thank you for all that you do. Your action, your voice and your commitment to human rights is something we're all incredibly proud of.

Take care and have a great Term 3.

With respect,

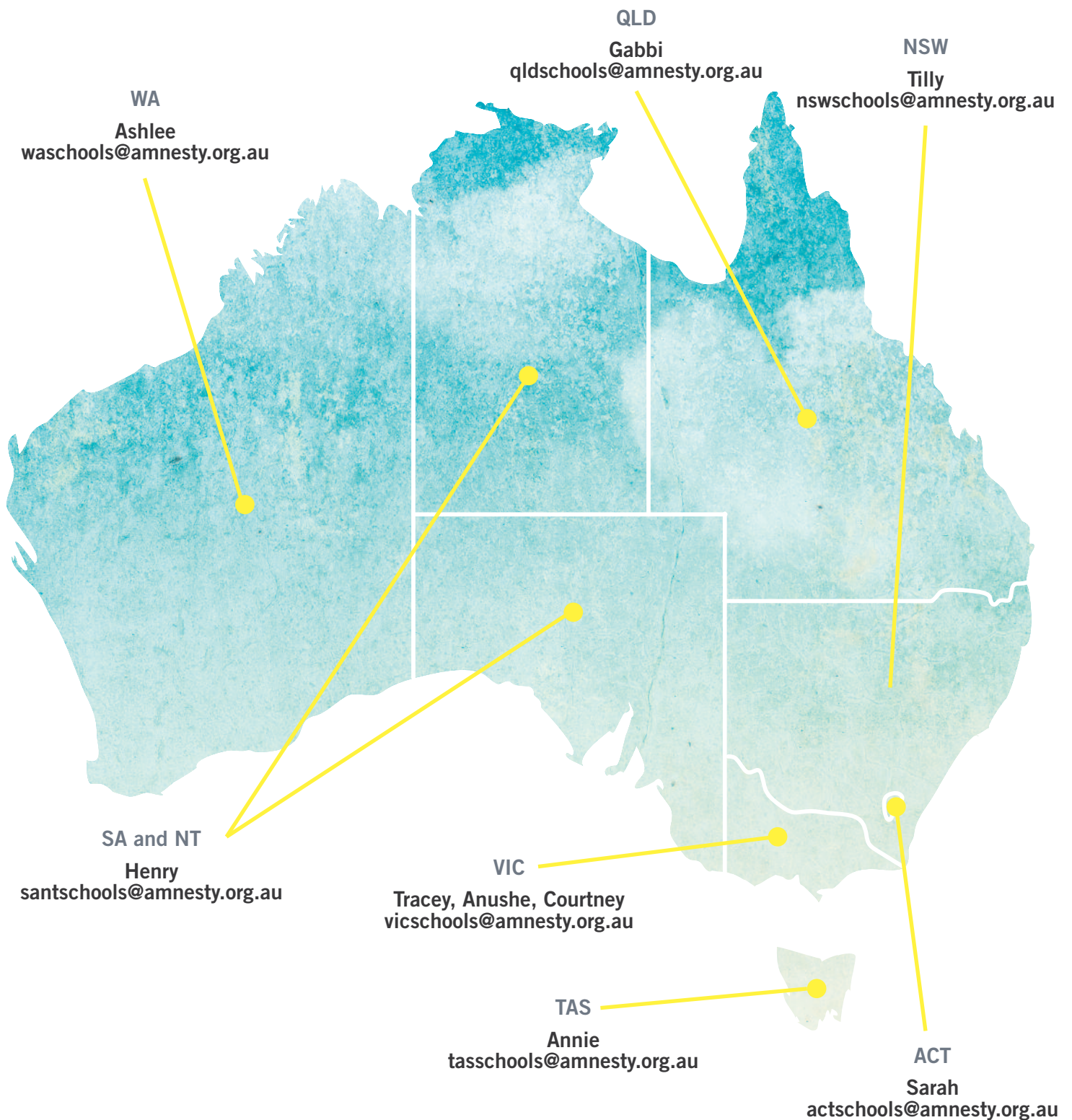
Naomi

PS> This month I'm keeping warm in my AIME hoodie! AIME is a dynamic educational program that supports Indigenous students through high school and into uni.



Find your SNOTS!

Want to start a group at your school? Keen for a human rights workshop?
Need posters for your classroom? These are the Amnesty Schools
Network Outreach Team members (SNOTs) you need to talk to.



YECENIA ARMENTA GRACIANO RELEASED

Yecenia was finally freed on 7 June 2016 after enduring torture and four long years in prison in Mexico. She was arrested in 2012 and tortured into 'confessing' to the murder of her husband, with authorities even threatening to hurt her children if she did not confess.

When Amnesty heard about Yecenia's case, supporters around the world sprung into action. 300,000 letters, petitions and emails were sent to the Mexican government urging them to drop the charges against Yecenia and to release her immediately.

Yecenia's release gives hope to everybody who has gone through torture or been sent to prison after being forced into confessing to a crime in Mexico. Thank you to everybody who wrote a letter for Yecenia!



Yecenia Armenta. © BRITO

FATHER LY RELEASED

The Vietnamese authorities released prisoner of conscience, Father Ly, from prison in June. Father Ly has served years in jail for peacefully speaking out for democracy in Vietnam. He was charged with "conducting propaganda" against the state, and became ill in prison.

Amnesty supporters have been working for Father Ly's freedom since 2003. School groups have been collecting petitions and writing letters over the years on his behalf, and Australian politicians even raised his case with Vietnamese officials.

Father Ly never should have been detained in the first place, but it's wonderful news that he finally walks free.

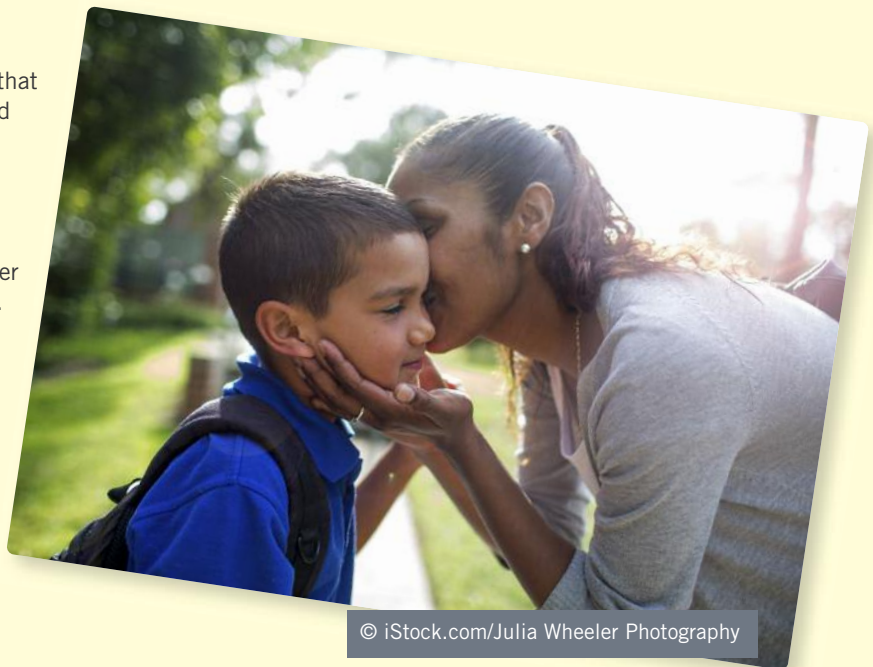


Father Ly. © Private

CHANGES TO QUEENSLAND LAWS

In June Queensland passed two Bills that will better protect children's rights and help keep children out of the criminal justice system.

The Youth Justice and Other Amendments Bills, passed in June 2016, are the first step towards a fairer justice system for kids in Queensland. The changes remove military-style boot camps as punishment for kids, give judges more flexibility to sentence children according to their specific situation, protect children's privacy in court and stop 17-year-olds from being automatically transferred to adult prisons.



© iStock.com/Julia Wheeler Photography

DID YOU KNOW: Indigenous kids are 24 times more likely to be locked up in Australia than non-Indigenous kids. These new bills will help to improve the situation for Indigenous kids in particular.

AmnesTEA

Bake some cakes, get your friends together and raise money for human rights work around the world!

WHAT IS AMNESTEA?

AmnesTEA is an annual fundraising event where hundreds of Amnesty supporters around the country stop what they're doing, put the kettle on and raise money to protect human rights.

You can make your AmnesTEA large or small, simple or epic. Invite your classmates, your friends, your teachers – it's really up to you.

Whatever you plan, you and your friends will be raising money for human rights. All donations raised from AmnesTEA support the work of Amnesty International to continue to fight human rights injustices throughout the world.

WHEN IS IT?

The official day for AmnesTEA is Thursday 25 August. But events can be held anytime, anywhere throughout the month of August. A whole month to drink tea, eat cake and make a difference for human rights!

It's free to register and we'll send you a host pack to get you started with the planning and fundraising.

TAKE ACTION>>

1. Register your AmnesTEA event at amnestea2016.gofundraise.com.au to receive your host pack.
2. Start planning! What food will you provide for the event, who can bake and who can help set up?
3. Invite people – hand out invites at school, or set up a social media event so all your friends know about it!
4. Remember to ask people to bring small donations for your AmnesTEA.
5. After your AmnesTEA, bank your donations to Amnesty International – instructions on how to do this are provided in your host pack.

Tell us about your AmnesTEA and send your #foodenvy pics to youth@amnesty.org.au



All love is equal

Equality and freedom from discrimination are human rights that belong to all people, yet many lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people experience everyday discrimination, harassment, bullying and even violence.

Discrimination strikes at the very heart of being human. It is treating someone differently simply because of who they are or what they believe. The discrimination that LGBTI people may face include barriers getting legal recognition of their sex in official documents and records, and difficulties accessing health services or aged care services.

While gay and lesbian people are as diverse as the rest of the population, their shared experience of discrimination creates common health issues. The uncertainty some feel about being accepted for who they are has an impact on health, with LGBTI people having higher rates of mental health disorders than the rest of the population.

On the extreme end of discrimination and violence against LGBTI people, currently 76 countries criminalise sexual acts between adults of the same sex. In 10 countries the maximum sentence for sexual acts between same-sex adults is the death penalty.



EuroPride in Riga, Latvia, June 2015. © AI



Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are entitled to the same rights as everyone else. They, too, are born free and equal.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN L, G, B, T AND I?

Lesbian: A woman who is primarily physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to other women.

Gay: Men or women who are primarily physically, sexually and/or emotionally attracted to people of the same sex. 'Gay' can refer to both men and women who experience same-sex sexual attraction.

Bisexual: A person who is attracted to both men and women. It can also refer to a cultural identity.

Transgender: Someone whose gender expression differs from the physical sex they were assigned at birth. Commonly, a transgender woman is a person who was assigned 'male' at birth but has a female gender identity; a transgender man is a person who was assigned 'female' at birth but has a male gender identity. However transgender includes people who identify as more than one gender or no gender at all.

Intersex: Someone who possesses genital, chromosomal or hormonal characteristics which do not correspond to the given standard for 'male' or 'female' anatomy. Intersexuality may take different forms and cover a wide range of variations.

TAKE ACTION>>

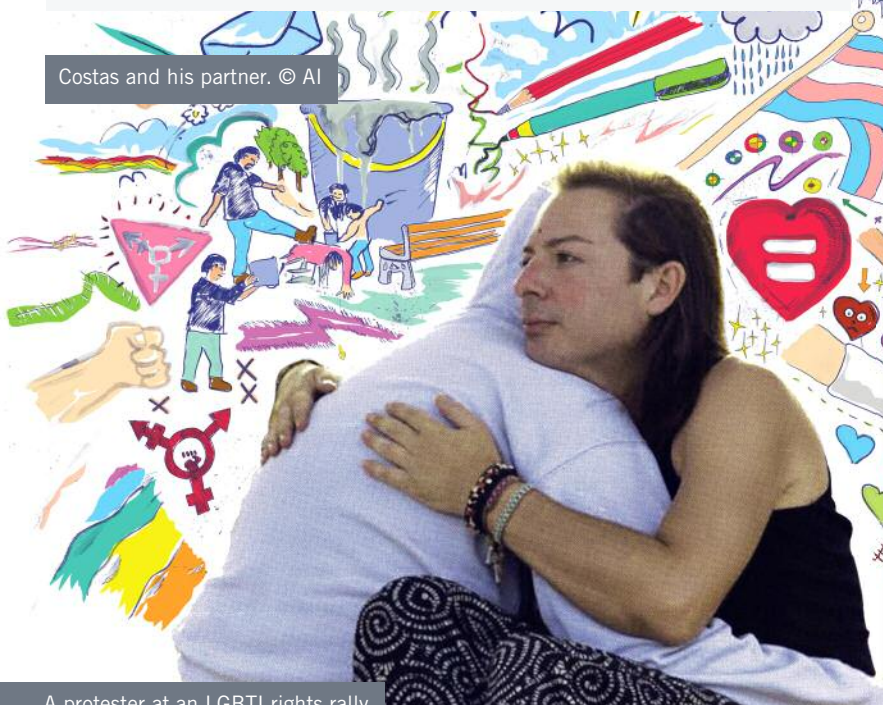
CASE STUDY: COSTAS AND HIS PARTNER

Costas and his partner, who is a refugee, were badly beaten in a homophobic and racist attack in Athens in August 2014. Costas' leg was broken in three places after he was repeatedly punched and kicked. No suspects were ever identified, let alone punished.

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of reported attacks against LGBTI people in Greece has more than doubled. Police and the government have done little to discourage this climate of racial and homophobic violence, and Greek law does not recognise same-sex relationships. Both Costas and his partner live in constant fear and in March 2015, people again attacked Costas' partner.

It's way past time for an end to all discrimination and harassment of LGBTI people!

Costas and his partner. © AI



A protester at an LGBTI rights rally in Brazil, September 2013.
© Elisângela Leite/AI



1. Collect signatures for Costas

Print out the petition calling for the Greek Government to investigate the attack on Costas and his partner. Ask students, teachers and others to sign throughout the term.

Return all petitions to your local Amnesty Action Centre or post to Write for Rights, Locked Bag 23 Broadway, NSW 2007.

2. Hold a Wear it Purple event

Hold an event at your school for Wear it Purple Day on 26 August and show solidarity for LGBTI youth!

The premise of Wear It Purple is simple: one day of the year, people wear a purple item of clothing to support LGBTI young people and raise awareness about bullying.



Students started Wear it Purple in 2010, and since then schools, workplaces and community groups all across Australia have made it something to really celebrate.

How to get involved

1. Show your support by wearing purple on 26 August and holding an event! Check in with your teachers or school staff about what you want to do.
2. Let people know why you're wearing purple. Brainstorm how you could increase awareness of the issue – could someone give a presentation on the day?
3. Post #wearitpurple photos so that young people anywhere can feel the love!
4. If others are disrespectful about LGBTI people, speak up!

DID YOU KNOW: Last year 193 schools across Australia participated in Wear it Purple. Head to www.wearitpurple.org to learn more.

Dear Minister of Justice, (Greece)

I am very concerned about the homophobic and racist attack on Costas and his refugee partner in August 2014 in Athens. No suspects have ever been identified or punished.

Minister, I urge you to:

- Personally ensure this hate crime is promptly, independently and impartially investigated, that Costas and his partner get compensation for the injuries and trauma they have suffered, and find and punish those responsible.
- Take all necessary measures to ensure all LGBTI people, refugees and migrants, people of colour, and other targets for hate crimes in Greece can live free from harassment and violence.
- Ensure the legal recognition of relationships of all gender combinations and of gender identity

Costas and his partner, who is a refugee, were badly beaten by thugs in a homophobic and racist attack in Central Athens on 23 August 2014. Costas' leg was broken in three places after he was repeatedly punched and kicked. "When the police arrived, I was treated as if I'm contagious," says Costas. No suspects were ever identified, let alone punished.

Between 2014 and 2015, the number of reported attacks against gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people in Greece has more than doubled. Police and the government have done little to discourage this climate of racial and homophobic violence, and Greek law does not recognise same-sex relationships. Both Costas and his partner live in constant fear and in March 2015, Costas' partner was attacked again.

Get the Greek government to order a full investigation into this hate crime so Costas and his partner get the compensation they deserve.



NAME	POSTCODE	SIGNATURE	EMAIL	MOBILE	DATE OF BIRTH

All personal information you provide will be collected, stored and used in accordance with our privacy policy: www.amnesty.org.au/privacy. We may use the information you provide to let you know about our campaigns and activities.

LGBT 720

Return all petitions to your local Amnesty Action Centre or post to Write for Rights, Locked Bag 23, Broadway, NSW 2007.
For more information visit amnesty.org.au or call 1300 300 920

Tell us who collected this petition

TAKE ACTION>>

Prison Songs

School students have been busy campaigning to end the over-representation of Indigenous kids in detention, and this term you can continue your activism with a film screening of Prison Songs.

WHERE IS OUR CAMPAIGN UP TO?

We're making a difference. Queensland has just passed two laws that will better protect children's rights, and the WA Government has given funding to Indigenous organisations to support kids in the justice system. This is in big part thanks to you and other supporters getting behind Amnesty's campaign.

Over the next few months we'll be releasing more research and case studies on Indigenous kids and Australia's justice system to bolster our success so far. But research can only get us so far – conversations that change hearts and minds are just as necessary. That's why we're keeping the positive momentum going during term 3 with screenings of Prison Songs in school.

WHAT IS PRISON SONGS ABOUT?

Prison Songs is a groundbreaking documentary shot entirely behind bars and delivered through the musical performances of real inmates.

The documentary, shot at Berrimah detention centre near Darwin, gives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people an avenue to tell their own stories – the lyrics for each song are the participants' own words. The film features a number of male and female prisoners, each with their own past.

Their stories expose the real tragedy behind the high prison rates of Aboriginal people – the underlying poverty, disadvantage and discrimination faced by many Aboriginal communities and the lack of basic services and support systems available to them.

Organise a Prison Songs screening at your school!

Contact your SNOT (details at the start of this school pack) for a copy of Prison Songs and a screening guide with talking points for your screening.

You can also take part in activism at your screening – check out last term's school action pack at www.amnesty.org.au/schoolaction for how to write a letter to your member of parliament.

NB: Prison Songs is rated M. It's got some language and adult themes and is probably best suited for audiences aged 15+. Check in with a teacher on this when you're planning your event.

PRISON SONGS



© Prison Songs

Join the #StaySafeStayStrong campaign

It's been a year since our **Community is Everything** campaign launched and politicians are now talking about the over-representation of Indigenous people in prison.

WHAT IS THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DOING?

Despite Papua New Guinea ruling Australia's offshore detention centre on Manus Island illegal, the Australian Government has continued mandatory offshore detention for people who arrive by boat. Under international law, the Australian Government has an obligation to make sure that people seeking asylum find a safe home. However rather than welcoming these people into our communities, the government has been sending them to detention and processing centres in places like Nauru or Manus Island, where they face terrible living conditions and are at risk of even more violence and abuse. Some men and women – even children – have been kept in these detention centres for years.



Millions of people around the world have no choice but to flee their homeland. Amnesty works to uphold the rights of people seeking asylum across the world.



TAKE ACTION>>

PAPUA NEW GUINEA RULES MANUS ILLEGAL

In April this year Papua New Guinea's highest court ruled that the Australian Government's detention centre on Manus Island was illegal. The ruling from Papua New Guinea's highest court shows that the detention centre flies in the face of human rights protections enshrined in the PNG Constitution – basic protections reflected in international law.

Mandatory offshore detention is not only illegal but harmful to the health and well-being of the hundreds of people stuck in centres like Manus and Nauru. In the three years that the Manus Centre has been operational, two lives have tragically been lost.



It's important to let refugees and people seeking asylum know that we support them and care about their safety.

Print out the #StaySafeStayStrong banner from this action pack and take a photo of your group holding the sign. Upload your photo to Twitter, Instagram or Facebook with the hashtag #StaySafeStayStrong.

You can even ask your teachers and Principal to get involved. Send your photos and messages of support to youth@amnesty.org.au and we'll add them to the growing collection of messages of hope at storify.com/amnestyoz/staysafestaystrong

Want to do more?

The Australian Government announced in 2015 that they would take in 12,000 people who have been forced to flee the conflict in Syria. So far, though, this process has been painfully slow.

The government needs to get moving on their commitment and step up our support of refugees and people seeking asylum overall.

Step 1. Find your local federal member of parliament's contact details. Just enter your postcode into the search box at: www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members/Members

Step 2. Write to them and let them know that the government should increase Australia's yearly intake of refugees to at least 30,000 people, especially those coming through the United Nations Refugee Agency.

© AI



**I SUPPORT YOU.
STAY SAFE.
STAY STRONG.**

#StaySafeStayStrong

**I SUPPORT YOU.
STAY SAFE.
STAY STRONG.**

#StaySafeStayStrong

43 years in prison for tweets

Freedom of expression is under severe threat in Malaysia as Prime Minister Najib Razak seeks to strengthen Malaysia's repressive Sedition Act. Activists, opposition politicians, journalists and even social media users are under threat as this law continues to punish people for voicing their opinion.

THE CURRENT SITUATION IN MALAYSIA

In 2009, Prime Minister Najib Razak came into office with a promise to repeal the Sedition Act of 1948 – but has instead strengthened it. The sedition law bans any action, speech or publication that criticises the Malaysian government or Royal Sultans. Since his term began, the Prime Minister has used it to silence his critics. In 2015 alone, 91 people were arrested as a result of the Sedition Act.

Malaysia is one of the most troubling countries for respecting freedom of expression. The Sedition Act has led many people to not say what they think over recent years. Crackdowns and arrests of people peacefully protesting or voicing their opinions have become alarmingly common.

Deterred from the streets, many activists retreated to the internet, where they were able to express themselves without fear. Now, with invasive online surveillance, there are few places left for people to gather, speak or write freely. Those who do face consequences.

“

Staying silent is not an option.

Even my pen has a stand!

Zunar

WHAT IS...?

Freedom of Expression: The right to express your ideas and opinions freely through speech, writing, and other forms of communication, as long as you are not deliberately causing harm to others' reputation by false or misleading statements.

Sedition: Inciting people to rebel against the leaders of a country.



TAKE ACTION>>

CASE STUDY: ZUNAR

Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, known as “Zunar”, creates political cartoons that are published in Malaysian online media. Zunar uses his cartoons to expose corruption and the abuse of power.

The Malaysian authorities have charged Zunar with nine counts of sedition – one for each tweet he made following a Federal Court ruling in February 2015 upholding the conviction of former opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim.

Zunar is currently on bail awaiting his trial. If convicted, Zunar faces up to 43 years in prison for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

AMNESTY'S FIGHT FOR FREE SPEECH

Human rights activists, artists, lawyers, peaceful campaigners – people like political cartoonist Zunar – deserve the freedom to express themselves peacefully, whenever and however they so choose. Amnesty International is deeply concerned that people in Malaysia continue to be arrested, detained, harassed and charged under the Sedition Act.

Malaysian political cartoonist Zunar. © AI

Ask the Malaysian authorities to drop the charges against Zunar and to repeal the laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression.

Write to Prime Minister Najib Razak, and tell him why freedom of expression is important to you. Call on the Prime Minister to:

- drop the charges brought against Zunar for peacefully exercising his right to freedom of expression
- ensure that Zunar and those working with him are not subjected to any form of restriction or harassment for the peaceful exercise of their right to freedom of expression
- repeal the Sedition Act and any other laws which restrict the right to freedom of expression

Send your letters to: Schools Write for Rights, Locked Bag 7, Collingwood VIC 3066 and we'll pass them on to the Malaysian authorities.

Got more time?

Draw an image or cartoon to show support for Zunar, or to express what freedom of expression means to you. Take a photo of your creation and send it to youth@amnesty.org.au. You can also add your age/country as a caption and a message to Zunar if you wish. You could even ask your art teacher to share Zunar's story with the class and get more people involved.

