

ESSENTIAL KIT  
FOR CHANGEMAKERS

TERM 3, 2017

Amnesty International Australia  
[www.amnesty.org.au](http://www.amnesty.org.au)

# Start Something

THE GLOBAL YOUTH ISSUE



**AMNESTY**  
INTERNATIONAL



## TERM 3 2017: GLOBAL YOUTH

## Inside this kit:

Updates and inspiration

Love is love: rights, gender and sexuality

Kids and Australia's justice system: how fair are our laws?

Child labour and Indonesia's palm oil plantations

## Coming up in 2017:

### TERM 4: Write for rights

Learn about the people unfairly imprisoned around the world, Amnesty's roots as a global letter-writing campaign, and how a well-written letter can change a life.

## Never miss an issue

Sign up to receive an email with new school resources at the start of each term:

[www.amnesty.org.au/account](http://www.amnesty.org.au/account)

Find previous school action packs:

[www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources](http://www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources)

Like this resource?  
Tell us about it!

[youth@amnesty.org.au](mailto:youth@amnesty.org.au)

@amnestyOz

[Facebook.com/amnestyOz](https://www.facebook.com/amnestyOz)



Cover: New Zealand Amnesty supporters take part in Auckland's Pride Parade, 22 February 2014. Auckland, New Zealand. © AI/Rachel Banfield

Amnesty International is an independent, global movement that campaigns courageously for human rights for everyone. We use our passion and commitment to bring torturers to justice, change oppressive laws and free people imprisoned just for voicing their opinion. 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.

## Note from Tilly

Hi legends!

Did you know that there are about 1.8 billion young people between the ages of 10 and 24 in the world? That's a lot of people – all with unique and diverse experiences in claiming their human rights.

This term's *Start Something* is all about youth – both the human rights issues that young people can face, and also how youth movements are changing the world in new and exciting ways!

Inside you'll find heaps of interesting reading, actions, and even some film and tune suggestions for cold winter nights! We're also partnering with Wear It Purple again to celebrate diversity and inclusion – so it's time to create and go crazy with purple themed cakes and events!

Don't forget to check out the Amnesty Australia website for more info on campaigns and events, the latest workshops, videos and resources at [www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources](http://www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources)

Keen to hear about what you all get up to this term.

**Tilly**

National Youth Intern  
[youth@amnesty.org.au](mailto:youth@amnesty.org.au)



Tilly and the schools team © Private

# Updates and inspiration

## Term 1 and 2 updates

We've had a cracker first half of the year with some amazing schools visits and events happening all around the country!

### RIGHTS DISCUSSION PANEL

The ACT had an exciting panel discussion on refugee rights. We had expert speakers from a wide range of disciplines, including a psychologist who works with torture and trauma survivors, a Red Cross advocate, Australian National University academics and some passionate human rights activists.

### WORKSHOPS

The NSW School's team visited Riverside Girls High School for a day packed with exciting new workshops on refugee rights and campaigning. The students made amazing progress – setting up a 'safety agreement' on how to be inclusive and respectful; writing a very eloquent letter to Peter Dutton; and gathering over 120 signatures to accompany their letter! Congrats Riverside and keep up the legendary work.

### QUEENSLAND SCHOOLS CONFERENCE

The sunshine state held an empowering conference at Brisbane Boys College in April. Seven schools attended, engaging with a variety of workshops and discussion on Amnesty's refugee campaign. The event focused on building students' communication skills, exploring how we should be framing our conversations when talking about the issue. Jessica Walker, Deputy Principal from Yeronga High School along with some of Yeronga's students, talked about their work on the Free Mojgan campaign. Students also had the opportunity to talk about what their groups are doing and what they would be taking back to their schools to work on in the future.



Amnesty's Schools Outreach Team deliver presentations and workshops about Amnesty, human rights and campaigns to schools. If you'd like us to visit your school, get in touch using the form at [www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources](http://www.amnesty.org.au/student-resources)



Students all across the country took part in workshops and conferences about human rights in Term 1 and 2! © AI



## Term 3 inspiration

### BLOGGING COMP WINNERS

Last term we ran the Amnesty junior blogging competition. We received some amazing, heartfelt entries on the theme 'refugee rights', and our judges enjoyed reading all your blogs! A big congrats to our winners:

**Years 7–9:** Sophie Nguyen from Collingwood College. Read her entry at: [amnesty.org.au/sophie](http://amnesty.org.au/sophie)

**Years 10–12:** Khadija McCarthy-Naidoo from Methodist Ladies' College.

Read her entry at: [amnesty.org.au/khadija](http://amnesty.org.au/khadija)

Thank you to everyone that entered!

### FABULOUS FLICKS

#### *Paris is Burning* (1991) (YOUTUBE)

Throwing it back to the 1980s this film explores the 'Golden Age' of New York City ball culture and the beginnings of 'Vogueing' in African-American, Latino, gay and transgender communities. It is an invaluable piece of American drag history with thoughtful exploration of race, class, gender and sexuality.

#### *Gaycation* (2016) (SBS Viceland)

Gaycation is an Emmy-nominated, Viceland TV series in which Ellen Page (Juno, Inception) and her best friend Ian Daniel, explore the LGBTQI cultures of countries all over the world including Japan, Brazil and Ukraine. The series explores the personal stories, struggles and triumphs of LGBTQI communities globally.

### TOP TUNES

#### 'PROUD' – Chika

In celebration of Pride month 2017, 20-year-old rapper Chika Oranika, from Montgomery Alabama, released a pride anthem remix of Ed Sheeran's 'Shape of You' and it's epic! Check it out: [soundcloud.com/chikaoranika](https://soundcloud.com/chikaoranika)

#### 'Strangers' – Halsey ft. Lauren Jauregui

Halsey and Fifth Harmony's Lauren Jauregui have produced an unapologetic collaboration expressing the longing two women have for one another. Unlike most pop-sensation hits where romance can often be mistaken as heteronormative, this track is unmistakable girl love and it's awesome!

### INSPIRATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENTS

This term we are exploring the power of youth movements! Here's two amazing Australian initiatives to read up on:

#### Minus18

[www.minus18.org.au](http://www.minus18.org.au)

Australia's largest youth-led organisation for rainbow youth, promoting inclusion and empowerment.

#### Seed

[www.seedmob.org.au](http://www.seedmob.org.au)

Australia's first Indigenous youth-led climate network. Their 'Land Rights not Mining Rights' campaign focuses on stopping government weakening Native Title rights.



### YOUTH PROFILE: ARETHA BROWN

Aretha is a 16-year-old Gumbayngirr woman living in Melbourne who is proudly making her mark to achieve equality and justice for both Indigenous and LGBTQI peoples.

Aretha is absolutely deadly and makes no apologies for standing up for justice!

Her history-making achievements include being the first female elected to the National Indigenous Youth Parliament, a powerful mob of 50 young Indigenous delegates who debate issues of Indigenous justice in Australia. She has also appeared on ABC News Breakfast, and spoke at this year's Melbourne invasion day rally – in front of 50,000 people!

In a recent interview with Minus 18, Aretha said, "I was put on this planet to help my Aboriginal brothers and sisters out and if I can factor in my sexuality and those who identify as being gay and bi and lesbian and trans as well – that would just be the coolest thing ever."

Aretha Brown (right) during an Invasion Day protest in Melbourne, 26 January 2017. Some people name Australia Day as Invasion Day due to the discrimination and trauma Indigenous people have faced since the First Fleet arrived.  
© Asanka Brendon Ratnayake/Anadolu Agency



# Love is love:

## rights, gender and sexuality

All of us have a right to be free from discrimination. That includes discrimination based on gender or sexual orientation.

Whoever you are, wherever you live, the decisions about your own body and your sexuality should be yours alone to make. Yet all over the world, many people are persecuted for making their own choices and many more are prevented from making any choices at all.

The experiences of people and groups striving towards gender equality are incredibly different, depending on who you are and where you live in the world. Some people who identify as LGBTQI are denied the right to marry the person they love because of their gender or sexuality. In some countries people can face imprisonment or physical punishment because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or because they are intersex.

### WHAT IS LGBTQI?

**L = lesbian** = A woman who is emotionally and romantically attracted to other women.

**G = gay** = A man who is emotionally and romantically attracted to other men.

**B = bisexual** = A person who is emotionally and romantically attracted to multiple genders.

**T = trans** = An umbrella term used to describe people whose gender identity is different from the sex assigned to them at birth. An example is a child who is assigned a male sex at birth but actually feels more comfortable living as a girl and identifies as female.

**Q = queer** = A word for any sexuality that isn't straight. Queer was used as an insult for many years but some, particularly younger, people have reclaimed the word queer and use it positively about themselves. It is not universally accepted even within the LGBTQI community and should be avoided unless someone self-identifies that way.

**I = intersex** = People who are born with natural variations in genital, chromosomal or other physical characteristics that differ from stereotypical ideas about what it means to be female or male. Intersex refers to biology rather than sexual orientation or gender identity. Intersex people have the same range of sexual orientations and gender identities as non-intersex people. Most identify with the gender they were raised, as either male or female. Some intersex individuals may prefer to be described as a 'person with an intersex variation' or be identified by their specific variation.

### BE AN ALLY!

The term 'ally' is often used to describe someone who is supportive of LGBTQI people, but may or may not identify as LGBTQI themselves. For example, you could be an ally if you are a heterosexual person who campaigns for marriage equality and stands against discrimination and homo/bi/transphobia in themselves and others. Or, you may identify as lesbian and be an ally to the trans community.



Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

Article 16 of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights.



Amnesty activists celebrate in pride parades in Auckland, New Zealand in both 2013 and 2014. New Zealand passed marriage equality in August 2013. © AI

## SNAPSHOT: GENDER AND SEXUALITY AROUND THE WORLD

### Chechnya

On 1 April, the Russian independent daily newspaper, Novaya Gazeta, reported that over a hundred men suspected of being gay had been abducted, tortured and some murdered in the Russian republic of Chechnya. The Chechen government won't admit that gay men even exist in Chechnya, let alone that they ordered what the police call 'preventive mopping up' of people they consider to be undesirable. The media are now receiving serious threats for exposing the issue.

### Nigeria

In January 2014, the deeply oppressive Same Sex Marriage (Prohibition) Act became law in Nigeria.

### India

In December 2013, India's Supreme Court ruled that same-sex relations between consenting adults would remain a criminal offence.

### United Kingdom

People seeking asylum are some of the most vulnerable people in the world. LGBTQI people who are seeking asylum in the UK and who are open about their sexuality have faced further discrimination, including harassment, lack of adequate healthcare services and medical treatment in detention centres.

## WHAT ABOUT AUSTRALIA?

Many Australians choose to marry to show their love and commitment to a partner. However, LGBTQI couples in Australia are still not able to marry the person they love. This is despite two-thirds of Australians agreeing that everybody should be able to marry if they want to.

David, an Amnesty LGBTQI activist puts it beautifully:

"Last year I got engaged to my fiancé. The problem is that we cannot currently get married in Australia... Now is the time to make the push for equal marriage regardless of gender and orientation. We need to use the momentum and our voices as well as those of our allies to make this change happen."

"Whom someone chooses to love should only be a matter for the people involved. Extending marriage to anyone who may choose to partake in it, whilst also being respected under the law should be a right, not a privilege."

Everyone should be treated equally under the law. Love is love. Simple as that.

Amnesty activists take part in Gay Pride in Paris, 27 June 2015. © Guillaume POLI



## ACT NOW >>

Send your local federal member of parliament a letter about why you want Australia to have equal marriage rights – and feel free to get crafty with decorations! You can find your local MP's contact details at [www.aph.gov.au/Senators\\_and\\_Members](http://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members)

### Example letter:

*I'm a member of your electorate and am writing to you about love. I believe every Australian should have the right to express their love and commitment through marriage if they choose.*

*More than two-thirds of Australians have said we must make marriage available to everyone for progress and fairness.*

*It's time politicians did their job and had a vote in parliament.*

*Will you push for a vote and lobby your undecided colleagues to vote yes?*

*Lots of love,*

### Got more time?

Make a video of support with your class or Amnesty group. Share your video in support of equal marriage rights on social media with #equalitycampaign and @TurnbullMalcolm



Amnesty activists celebrate in pride parades in Auckland, New Zealand in both 2013 and 2014. New Zealand passed marriage equality in August 2013. © Al

# ACT NOW >>

## WHAT'S THE STORY FOR LGBTQI YOUNG PEOPLE?

In an Australian study, 61 per cent of young non-heterosexual people reported experiencing verbal abuse and 18 per cent reported physical abuse. Being bullied for who you are has very real consequences for a person's mental health, and can lead to young people dropping out of school or experiencing anxiety, depression, self-harm and suicide.



Amnesty's LGBTQI Network get crafty for a Wear It Purple community stall at Newtown, Sydney, August 2016. © AI

## 1. HOLD A WEAR IT PURPLE DAY EVENT AT YOUR SCHOOL

This year Wear it Purple is happening on 25 August!

Wear it Purple aims to foster supportive, safe and accepting environments for rainbow young people. The premise is simple: one day of the year, people wear purple to support LGBTQI 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.

Brainstorm with your class or Amnesty group ideas for your event – could you include music, food, games, or a movie in your event? How you will make your event inclusive, promote respect for diversity, and most of all, celebrate each other and the diversity in your community!

Don't forget to register your event with Wear it Purple at [www.wearitpurple.org](http://www.wearitpurple.org)

Be creative, think colourful and think purple – and send us lots of photos of your amazing events! [youth@amnesty.org.au](mailto:youth@amnesty.org.au)

## 2. MAKE A BANNER TO DISPLAY AT YOUR SCHOOL

### Banner making tips:

- Plan how your finished banner is going to look by drawing it on a piece of paper or designing it on computer first.
- Choose a fabric that's easy to paint on – cotton or calico are good choices.
- Use fabric paints as they are specially designed for use on fabrics.
- Make sure the fabric is clean. You may need to wash and iron it before you start.
- Choose the right colour combinations for fabric and paint. The wording and/or picture should stand out against the background.
- On the fabric, draw the outline of the wording and/or pictures in pencil, then felt tip pen before you fill in with paint.
- Put plenty of newspaper underneath the fabric before you start using paint – you don't want any stains on the floor!
- You could also type out the wording on a computer and print it on overhead film. Put the overhead on a projector and project it onto the wall. Pin or tape the fabric to the wall and either trace the outlines of each letter and fill in with paint. Again, make sure you have some newspaper backing.
- To hang your banner, you can either sew a hem along the bottom and top of the banner and run string through them; or place a metal eyelet in each corner and thread your string through those. Alternatively, sew a hem on the two shortest sides and place wooden or metal poles through them.

# Kids and Australia's justice system:

## how fair are our laws?

Did you know that in Australia, kids as young as 10 can be sent to prison?

It might be surprising, but it's true – Australia detains kids as young as 10, often for minor reasons. For example, a lawyer told Amnesty about the experience of a boy in Darwin:

“This little 10-year-old boy in Darwin, would have been in Grade 4 or 5. He couldn't even see over the bar table. He was arrested and dragged before the court for sneaking into a movie. The poor kid was terrified.”

So what's the issue with sending young kids to prison? Firstly, it's unfair – children under the age of 12 have not yet developed the mental capacity to fully understand their actions and the consequences.

For background, the age that a country decides it can send someone to prison is called 'the age of criminal responsibility'. In Australia the age of criminal responsibility is 10, but the minimum internationally acceptable standard is 12. And in practice, many other countries actually decide to use a higher age than the minimum acceptable standard – a comparison of 90 countries found that the most common age of criminal responsibility was 14 years old. So Australia is really dropping the ball here!

“Every young kid is **worth something**, and with just that **little bit of help**, they can turn their life around from going down the wrong path to going down the **right path**, and I'm an example of that.”

**DYLAN VOLLER**  
60 MINUTES, CHANNEL NINE



### AT WHAT AGE CAN KIDS BE SENT TO PRISON AROUND THE WORLD?



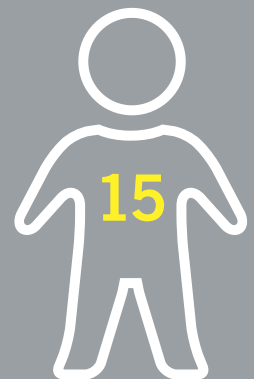
AUSTRALIA



AFGHANISTAN



NEW ZEALAND



CZECH REPUBLIC

### WHAT ARE WE ASKING FOR?

For the age of criminal responsibility to be raised to at least 12 years old in all Australian states and territories.

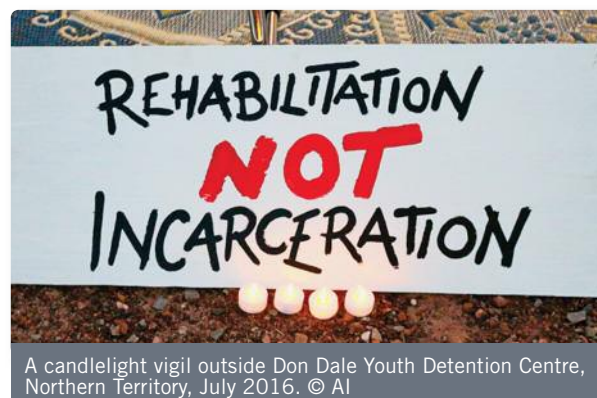
### WHO CAN MAKE THE CHANGE HAPPEN?

Federal Attorney General George Brandis can put this topic on the table to discuss with the state and territory leaders. This will be critical in changing the experiences of children nationally.

On top of this, there's plenty of evidence that prison for young kids is actually unhelpful – not only does it increase the likelihood that they will become entrenched in the justice system, but it also causes them psychological harm.

The evidence also tells us that when kids who come into contact with police at such a young age, it is too often a result of disadvantage. The vast majority of police contact from these primary school aged kids is for minor offences.

Amnesty is campaigning to end the over-representation of Indigenous kids in the justice system, and a big part of the solution is to stop perpetuating unfair laws like the age of criminal responsibility, and instead start supporting kids and families to lead the best life they can.



**ACT NOW >>**

You and your school can help push to change the age kids can be sent to prison by sending as many emails as possible on the topic to Attorney General George Brandis at [senator.brandis@aph.gov.au](mailto:senator.brandis@aph.gov.au).

The perfect time for you to push for change is during National Children's Week on 21–29 October.

#### WHAT TO PUT IN YOUR EMAIL?

Start your email with the current problem – that right now, 10 and 11 year olds can be sent to prison – and end your email with the solution – all states and territories should raise the age of criminal responsibility to at least 12.

For the middle of your email, you can write a little about what were you doing when you were 10 to 12 years old. What experiences shaped who you are today? Did you play sport? What was your favourite topic at school? Do you still have friends from primary school?

For bonus points – think of a creative aspect to add. It could be a photo of you as a kid, a painting or drawing you made, or even a photo of your class.

#### TEMPLATE EMAIL:

Dear Attorney-General

Every kid deserves to enjoy the freedom of childhood, surrounded by their community, family and friends. At the moment we allow 10 and 11 year olds to be put behind bars, this freedom is stripped away. Every state and territory in Australia, currently locks up kids below the minimum age set by experts on the rights of the child.

When I was / we were 10...

Locking children up at ages 10 and 11 increases the likelihood of reoffending, reducing a child's ability to engage with community and build resilience for life's challenges.

I/we urge you to put the issue of over-representation of Indigenous kids on the agenda for discussion with your fellow Attorneys-General at the next Law, Crime and Community Safety Council meeting.

The age of criminal responsibility should be raised to at least 12 in all states and territories! Kids deserve to enjoy the freedom of childhood in safe and encouraging environments.

Sincerely

Your name/ School

#### SHORT ON TIME?

If you're short on time, you can sign the online pledge to fix the justice system [www.amnesty.org.au/act-now/lets-fix-the-justice-system](http://www.amnesty.org.au/act-now/lets-fix-the-justice-system)

#### WANT TO DO MORE?

You can also let your Premier know you're concerned about the over-representation of Indigenous kids in the justice system.

Track down the social media details of your state or territory Premier and share your support for Indigenous kids.

#### EXAMPLE POSTS

Twitter: @\_\_\_\_\_ kids don't belong behind bars. Support national action to help close the justice gap.

Facebook: Hi \_\_\_\_\_, I'm a student in your state/territory and I'm concerned about the over-representation of Indigenous kids in prisons. Kids don't belong behind bars. Please support national action to help close the justice gap.

# Child labour and Indonesia's palm oil plantations

How much do you know about the products you consume?  
Would you still buy the same brands if you knew child labour and unfair working conditions helped create them?

Some of the world's best known companies, including Nestle, Colgate-Palmolive and Kellogg's, are using palm oil from Indonesian plantations where child labour is the norm and workers suffer from hard labour and long hours.

## WHAT IS PALM OIL?

Palm oil comes from the fruit of palm trees. Palm oil is found in many food products such as breakfast cereals, margarine, chocolate, ice cream, biscuits and snack food. It is also used in household detergents, shampoos, soap and lipsticks. It's in your Total toothpaste, your Magnum ice cream and your Dove soap. In fact, palm oil and palm-based ingredients are found in roughly 50 per cent of common consumer products.



Palm oil ingredients are found in 50 per cent of common consumer products like cereals, chocolate, ice cream and biscuits.

Wilmar International controls 43 per cent of the world's palm oil trade.

A child transports a wheelbarrow full of heavy palm fruit bunches over a narrow bridge on a plantation in North Sumatra, Indonesia. © AI



**ACT NOW >>****WHAT'S HAPPENING ON PALM OIL PLANTATIONS?**

The world's largest producer of palm oil, Wilmar International, is in Indonesia. Wilmar International controls over 43 per cent of the global palm oil trade, selling to many household-name companies.

Amnesty has uncovered Wilmar exploiting their plantation workers, including children as young as eight doing hard labour. A 10-year-old boy told us he works six days a week. "I don't go to school...I carry the sack with the loose fruit by myself but can only carry it half full...I do it in the rain as well but it is difficult...My hands hurt and my body aches."

Workers on these plantations labour for long hours to meet high targets. Tasks are physically demanding, such as cutting fruit from 20-metre-tall palm trees. On top of this, Amnesty found that women on Wilmar plantations have been forced to work long hours under threat of pay cuts. They are paid below minimum wage – earning as little as US\$2.50 a day in extreme cases.

Corporate giants like Colgate, Nestlé and Unilever assure consumers that their products use 'sustainable palm oil', but our findings reveal that the palm oil is anything but. There is nothing sustainable about palm oil that is produced using child labour and forced labour.

**HOW IS PALM OIL PRODUCED?**

- Oil palm trees can grow up to 20 metres tall and live for 25 years.
- Oil palm fruit bunches are collected from the tops of trees. Each bunch can contain thousands of plum sized fruits weighing 10 to 25 kg a bunch. Harvesting the fruit is an extremely physical process, using long steel poles with a sickle at the end to cut the palm fruit from the trees.
- The bunches are loaded onto wheelbarrows and taken to collection points over uneven terrain.
- This fruit is then transported to mills and processed to create palm oil.

**WHICH BRANDS USE PALM OIL?**

- Unilever, which owns Dove, Magnum, Ben and Jerry's
- Kelloggs
- Cadbury, particularly their Dairy Milk, Roses and Oreo sub-brands
- Nestle
- Procter and Gamble, which owns Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Olay and CoverGirl.

**1. WRITE A LETTER TO THE BIG BRANDS**

Find the customer enquiry details for Unilever, Kelloggs, Cadbury, Procter and Gamble, and Nestle. Ask brands to do the following:

- Tell palm oil giant Wilmar to stop abusing children's right and improve their working practices immediately.
- Address, in cooperation with Wilmar, the harms suffered by children, as well as all other workers, who have been involved in hazardous work on plantations.
- Publicly disclose which of your products contain palm oil from Wilmar's Indonesian operations.

**2. WRITE A LETTER TO YOUR LOCAL SUPERMARKET MANAGER**

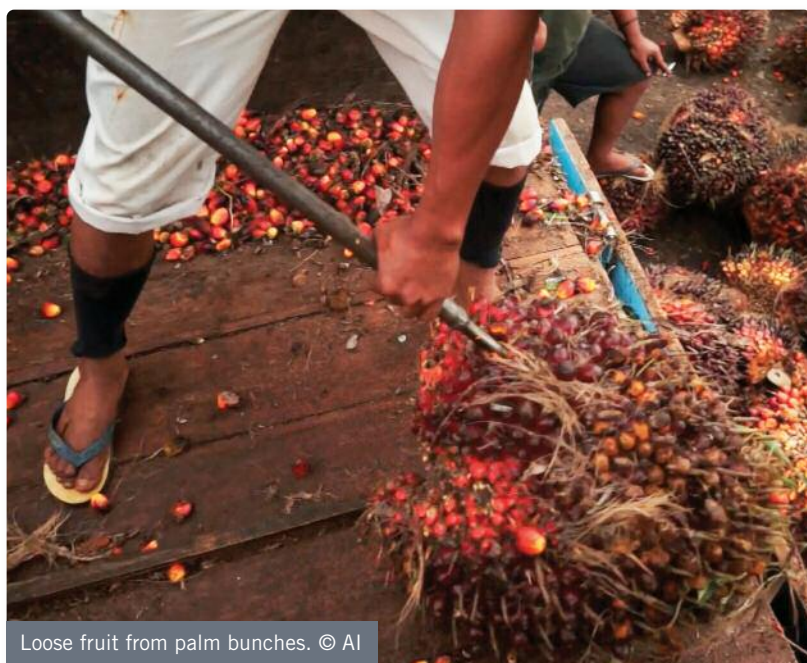
Let them know your thoughts on the products they are stocking. Ask supermarkets:

- are they conducting human rights audits of the products they are selling to customers?
- to demand the big brands come clean and provide transparency on which products have palm oil sourced from Wilmar's plantations.

**3. WHAT DOES YOUR CANTEEN SELL?**

Start a conversation with your principal, teachers, student councils and school canteen.

- Do they sell or have supplies of any of the products that use Wilmar palm oil?
- Are there alternative products they could use instead?



Loose fruit from palm bunches. © AI



Harvesting palm oil © AI