

## Note from Naomi



*You did some pretty amazing things last year. As we shake off the summer break and go headfirst into 2018, I wanted to remind you of the amazing wins you helped make happen in 2017:*

### **You saved lives**

*Thousands of people writing appeals to the Iranian authorities helped save the lives of Hamid Ahmadi and Salar Shadizadi – young men sentenced to death for crimes they committed when they were just 17 and 15 years old respectively. Amnesty activists also successfully campaigned to save the life of Ukrainian national Ivan Teleguz, with the US authorities commuting his death sentence.*

### **You changed lives**

*Workers on Wilmar's plantations in Indonesia have started to see improvements to their working conditions following our report, *The Great Palm Oil Scandal*. Workers are now being paid a daily wage not linked to targets, have received a pay increase, and the majority now hold permanent positions. These improvements came after activists called out Wilmar's biggest palm oil buyers, including Kellogg's and Nestlé, and targeted retailers in Australia who stocked their products.*

### **You created equality**

*Australia finally passed marriage equality for same-sex couples! Amnesty's NSW LGBTQI Network Convenor Lizzi Price says, "This is a historic and long-overdue moment for Australia. This outcome is due to the hard work, determination, and courage of so many people. LGBTQI Australians, community groups, activists and allies stood up, spoke out and built an unstoppable movement for equality. For that alone, there is such a lot to celebrate here."*

*But, there is always more to be done.*

***And 2018 is going to be massive. We're really excited about what campus groups will achieve for human rights this year and the leadership and skills you bring to our movement.***

*Semester 1 and O-Week are just around the corner and in this campus bulletin you'll find everything you need to know about what's coming up:*

- *A snapshot of our women's rights campaign, and how you can call on Twitter to help stop violence against women online, and*
- *The basics to get your group off to the best start possible in 2018.*

*I can't wait to see what you get up to in 2018. Please always reach out to the crew in your Amnesty action centre – your community organiser and activism support coordinator – with any questions, ideas and feedback.*

*2018 – Let's do this. :-)*

*Cheers*

**Naomi**

*National Youth Coordinator*

*Amnesty International Australia*

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS**

# KEY DATES: SEMESTER 1

## 8 MARCH: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Since 1975, 8 March has been a rallying point for people worldwide to celebrate women's achievements while also highlighting serious systemic inequalities. Women and girls may have scaled unimaginable heights in politics, science, arts, sports and business, but the fight for their basic human rights is ongoing. Nowhere is this plainer than in women's struggle for their sexual and reproductive rights, and the right to live free from violence and harassment. With the popular "Time's Up" and #MeToo campaigns a turning point to stop violence against women, International Women's Day is more important than ever.

**You could:** Get active on Amnesty's women's rights campaign (see inside for more info) and attend an International Women's Day rally in your city.

Here are 3 dates we think you should get active on ....

## 27 MAY- 3 JUNE: NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Amnesty is committed to reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – including acknowledging the wrongs of the past, addressing current inequalities and working together for a better future. National Reconciliation is built around two dates - **27 May** acknowledges the 1967 referendum in which Australians voted to have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people counted in Australia's census and to give the government the ability to make laws for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and **3 June** is the anniversary of the the Mabo decision when the High Court of Australia overturned 'terra nullius'. These events changed Australia for the better. However, we still have a long way to go in addressing inequalities.

**You could:** Partner with the Indigenous Learning Centre on your campus for an event and get your group together to participate in Reconciliation Week events in your city.

## 28 MAY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S BIRTHDAY

Since 1961 we have grown from a single office in London to a global human rights movement of over 7 million people in more than 150 countries and territories.

Amnesty has grown from seeking the release of political prisoners to upholding all human rights. Our work protects and empowers people – from abolishing the death penalty to protecting sexual and reproductive rights, and from combating discrimination to defending refugees and migrants' rights. We speak out for anyone and everyone whose freedom and dignity are under threat. Fifty-seven years of human rights activism – sounds like a great reason for cake!

**You could:** Arrange a film screening on campus (with cake) or have an Amnesty birthday party on the campus lawns (with cake).

**Q:** Ever wanted to know what was happening at Amnesty around the country? Wondered what the key campaigns were and how to join in the fun? Keen to try something new, but want some training first?

**A:** [You need the Online Activism Planner](#)

Everything about current campaigns, key dates, suggestions for activities, workshops and training for action groups and activists. Please check it regularly for updates. You can use it live in a group meeting, or check out the printable version if you need hard copies.

# 0-WEEK 2018: TIME'S UP FOR TWITTER

New research by Amnesty International has revealed the impact that abuse and harassment on social media are having on women, who are reporting stress, anxiety or panic attacks as a result.

Social media plays such a huge role in our everyday lives – we use it to keep in touch with friends, family and what's happening in the world. It's how we learn about music, movies and sport, how we share stories and how we reach out to change makers. But, for too many women, social media is a space of fear, threats and potential violence.



## THE ISSUE

Online abuse and violence against women is escalating on Twitter with little accountability, stifling women's right to freedom of expression.

## THE GOAL

We want Twitter to become a platform where women are able to express themselves freely, equally and without fear.

## THE RESEARCH

### In Australia

In December 2017, Amnesty conducted a research poll of 500 women in Australia aged between 18-55 on their experience of social media abuse and harassment:

- **30%** of women 18-55 in Australia said they had experienced abuse or harassment online
- **Nearly half (47%)** of 18-24s said they had experienced online abuse or harassment.
- **More than half (51%)** had received abuse or harassment from people they knew personally, with **15%** saying it was a current or former partner
- **20%** said that this included threats of physical or sexual violence.

### Around the world

Amnesty International also surveyed 4000 women between the ages of 18 and 55 in Denmark, Italy, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, the UK and the US.

- **Nearly a quarter (23%)** of the women surveyed said they had experienced online abuse or harassment, and of those:
  - **41%** said that on at least one occasion, these online experiences made them feel that their physical safety was threatened.
  - **46%** said it was misogynistic or sexist in nature.
  - **55%** said they had experienced stress, anxiety or panic attacks afterwards.

## Women are being silenced

Social media, especially for women and other marginalised communities, is a critical space for individuals to exercise the right to freedom of expression. Online violence and abuse are a direct threat to this freedom of expression.

A real impact of this is that women are being silenced. Over three quarters of the women surveyed who had experienced abuse or harassment on a social media platform made changes to the way they use the platforms, such as no longer posting content that expressed their opinion on certain issues.

Social media has helped enhance freedom of expression, including access to information in many ways. But as offline discrimination and violence against women have migrated into the digital world, many women are stepping back from public conversations, or self-censoring out of fear for their privacy or safety.

## Social media companies not doing enough

All social media platforms have rules – terms of use rules, participation guidelines that state that they do not tolerate targeted abuse on the basis of a person's gender or other forms of identity. Now they need to enforce their own community standards. They should also enable users to utilise security and privacy measures such as blocking, muting and content filtering.

This will allow women, and everyone who uses social media, to have a less toxic and harmful online experience. Social media companies, like everyone else - have a responsibility to respect human rights.

## Why Twitter?

Twitter started with a simple, but powerful idea: Let people tell their story about what's happening in the world right now.

Well, this is what's REALLY happening – abuse and threats are running rampant on Twitter, making it a toxic platform, particularly for women. Time is up. The world is watching and calling out the abuse women face at work, at home, in public life and online. It's time for Twitter to get on board.

Twitter isn't doing enough to address the toxic levels of abuse and violence that women are facing online. It's their duty to make sure that women can use Twitter equally and without fear.

### **SUPPORT**

Online abuse of women has a devastating impact on the people experiencing it and can also be confronting for the people in their lives.

If you have experienced online harassment or bullying please reach out to someone - a mate, a family member. You can also speak to someone at:

**Lifeline: 13 11 14**

**Or online at [headspace.org.au](https://www.headspace.org.au)**

It's also important to be familiar with the counselling services provided at your campus in case you need to refer someone to them during O-Week.



# O-WEEK ACTIONS

It's time for Twitter to properly address violence against women on their platform.

## Here's what you can do at O-Week:

- **Sign and collect action cards** telling Twitter to provide a safe space on social media and help stop online violence against women. We'll be doing a stunt outside Twitter's Head office in Sydney in March.
- **Get creative with a photo action!** Ask passers-by to take a picture in a social media prop frame (ask your action centre to hook you up) and share to social with **#AmnestyOnCampus #TimesUp**. In their photo people can share how they feel about online violence against women with giant prop emojis. The frame's caption will read, "Violence against women online makes me feel..."

## KICK OFF 2018 WITH AN O-WEEK TO REMEMBER!

O-Week is the best opportunity all year to get new people involved in Amnesty – so it's really important to make your O-Week activity as engaging, bright and fun as possible.

### The basics

- **Have fun:** It might seem obvious but be sure to have fun! It can be daunting for new students to approach a stall. If they see you smiling, laughing and generally being the awesome people that you are – they are more likely to want to be a part of your group
- **Roles and responsibilities:** make sure you and your group know what is going on. Who is taking photos? Who is looking after the sign-up sheet? Who is in charge of handing out freebies. Who is making sure everyone has sunblock on? Teamwork is essential!
- **Theme it:** We're talking Twitter and social media – and that means emojis. Get creative, keep it colourful and make it something that people will cross the lawns to get a closer look at.
- **Set a goal!** How many actions do you think you can get done during O-Week? 500? 800? Set a target for the team and work out how you're going to reach it. Look at ways to keep a tally and make it visual. A clock maybe (times up for twitter) ...
- **Food!** Cupcakes, lollies and other goodies are always a hit (be sure to mention what contains nuts/gluten/dairy etc)
- **Merchandise:** who doesn't love a good Amnesty totebag, highlighter, or stickers. These are things that students will use throughout the year and remind them that your group exists! Ask your community organiser to hook you up.
- **Music:** though not actually a giveaway, a killer upbeat spotify playlist is a must
- **Info:** be sure to include a pamphlet/handout that has all your details on it. Email, social media details, convener name and even time and day of meetup if you have that established. Make sure you have a way for new people to sign up.
- **And remember ... TAKE PHOTOS!** We're keen to use these photos on the website and social media -- keep your hands steady and check '[Taking Photos At Events](#)'



# O-WEEK: CHECK. WHAT'S NEXT?

O-Week is just the start of Amnesty activism for 2018. Leading a campus group is a big role. It can be challenging but it's such a rewarding way to be involved in Amnesty International, and will be one of the best things you'll do at university, promise!

These basic steps can help you start Semester 1 on the right foot.

## Before your first meeting:

### Spread the word

- Decide on a date for your first group meeting of the year! [A doodle poll](#) is a great way to select a date: just list 2 or 3 dates and times in the poll, then ask your members to vote. The most popular date is when you host your first meeting!
- O-Week provided your group with the opportunity to find new members. Now you can divide the phone numbers from the **'sign-up' sheet** you had at your stall between existing group members. Ask your current group members to call or text an invite to each person on their list about your upcoming meeting.
- Think of some other ways to promote your group – is there a bulletin board on campus? Let people know they are welcome to join you for a meet and greet!
- Make sure you save all your contact details of your members somewhere, including any new faces at your meetings, so you can let them know when the next one is happening.

### Plan for Semester 1

- Working on one campaign per semester might be better than focusing on two or three. Think about tactics that could help further that campaign – maybe your group is interested in MP engagement or hosting an event.
- Are there there things you need to do to make sure your Amnesty Group is affiliated to the Students' Association or Clubs Association? Make sure you know what is expected of clubs on your campus.
- Know someone else involved in a club on campus? Have a chat to them about tips and tricks they ave for a successful club on campus.

## Not everything happens on campus ...

Campus activists are a vital part of Amnesty International in each region – and we'd love to get to know you more.

## Be a part of your action centre

Need a space to run a planning or training session? Need to make banners and materials for an event? Use the action centre. It is a great space to utilise for your campus group. Get to know other activists and volunteers, make a time to catch up with your Community Organiser and Activism Support Coordinator or just pop in to say hi. This is your space. Most days there is cake.

## What's a BAGM?

Your 2018 Branch Annual General Meeting (BAGM) is your opportunity to tell us your thoughts and take part in the conversation that shapes the future of the Amnesty movement in your region. It's a chance to engage more deeply with human rights protection, meet other Amnesty activists, get the low-down on our campaigns and successes over the past year and learn about Amnesty in your community. Watch out for details and make sure you head along to BAGM this May.