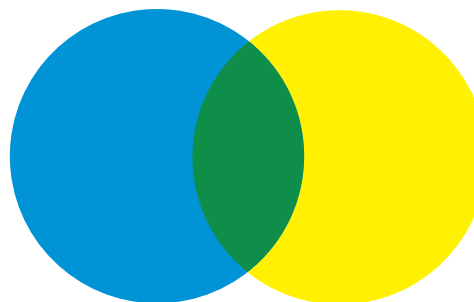


Human Rights, Human Wrongs

A thought-provoking studio debate with young people, including Amnesty youth group members, discussing human rights and Amnesty International. What are human rights? Should everyone have the right to express their opinions? Why do we campaign to Stop Violence Against Women, not men?

Young people then decide what they themselves might do by way of response. The first step might be to consider some of Amnesty's current campaigns. Ten such campaigns are listed in Handout 21. Which of these sounds most important for the young people themselves? Why? They could then, at the least, write letters to key figures, as recommended and explained on the Amnesty website. More elaborate campaigning ideas are also outlined on the Amnesty website.

Instead or as well, young people can go to the Cageprisoners or Liberty website. The Cageprisoners website has a wealth of information about the injustices of Guantanamo Bay and the Liberty website has information on many campaigns in the UK. There are also suggestions on both of these websites for what people may do in response. A flavour of information on the Amnesty website is given in Handout 21.



Identity, Empowerment and Change, Handout 21

Human Rights Around The World

Cambodia

Forced evictions are one of the most widespread human rights violations affecting Cambodians in both rural and urban areas. At least 150,000 Cambodians across the country are known to live at risk of being forcibly evicted because of misguided development projects, land disputes and land grabbing.

Columbia

Numerous members of trade union and human rights organizations have received death threats against holding marches and demonstrations on International Workers' Day

China

The Tiananmen Mothers is a group of Chinese democracy activists promoting a change in the government's position over the suppression of the Tiananmen Square protests of 1989.

Egypt

In 2007, Egyptian blogger Karim Amer was sentenced to four years' imprisonment for the 'crime' of publishing on the internet material critical of Islam and President Mubarak.

Honduras

Journalist Dina Meza, a former member of the Association for a More Just Society (Asociación para una Sociedad Más Justa, ASJ), is at risk of attack because of her human rights work with the organization.

Iran

Iranian Kurdish human rights defender Farhad Haji Mirza'i is being held in Tehran's Evin Prison, and is believed to have been mentally and physically tortured. Reports suggest that he may have been sentenced to death.

Macedonia

The Macedonian Government has failed to uphold the rights of Romani women and girls in Macedonia who face double discrimination on the basis of race and gender resulting in violations of their rights to education, to the highest attainable standards of health care, to work, and the right to freedom from violence.

Palestine

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) considers Palestinians, especially those at the al-Tanf refugee camp, to be among the most vulnerable of the two million refugees who have fled Iraq.

Sierra Leone

Between 1991 and 2002, all parties to the conflict in Sierra Leone perpetrated rape, sexual slavery and other violent crimes. The government has failed to provide reparations to the women affected.

United Kingdom

The UK has tried to justify extraditions and other transfers of individuals to Algeria, a country with a known record of torture and ill-treatment.

Source: from the website of Amnesty International, Summer 2008

