

# TAKING INJUSTICE PERSONALLY

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S  
STRATEGIC GOALS (2016–2019)

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# INTRODUCTION

**The world is changing...** These are challenging times for justice and human rights, with battles over natural and other resources, rising inequality, increasing movement of people within and across borders, ongoing crises and conflicts, and unlawful actions by states in the name of public order and ending terrorism. More and more people are striving to get their voices heard – speaking out on the streets and via social media. States are responding with ever more organized and vicious crackdowns on dissent. Civil society space may be shrinking, but people remain determined.

**And so are we...** Just as the world is changing so too is Amnesty International. We're completing the biggest transformation in our history to become a truly global movement of people passionate about defending human rights for all. We're rolling out a new operating model and shifting resources to the Global South so that we have a stronger presence in key strategic locations, supporting people and communities to know, claim and enjoy their rights, and applying national, regional and international pressure on those that commit human rights abuses. By better harnessing the energies of our growing movement, and enhancing our legitimacy, speed, capacity and relevance, we are positioning Amnesty International as a truly international people's voice for justice, making a difference on the ground where it matters most.

## **AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WANTS TO SEE A WORLD IN WHICH:**

- Everyone knows and can claim their rights
- Human rights and justice are enjoyed without discrimination
- People are protected during conflict and crises
- Human rights abusers are held accountable

To achieve this, we will be a truly global movement, defending human rights for all.

**How we will do it...** We are deepening our commitment to an intelligent and holistic approach to human rights change by:

- Analysing how and why human rights abuses happen - linking causes with effects and problems with solutions – with the active agency of those affected
- Using the most appropriate mechanisms to achieve the greatest impact and make real change in people's lives – whether through actively involving young people, lobbying decision makers, organizing multimedia campaigns, leading independent investigations on the ground or flagship publications like the Annual Report
- Taking on those who violate rights – states, corporations or international institutions – and exposing links between inequality, discrimination, injustice and repression
- Acting quickly and effectively in support of Prisoners of Conscience and individuals facing injustice, always linking this to long-term structural changes
- Strengthening our commitment to innovation – through the use of digital technologies and new tactics and tools to empower people, expand our research and campaigning capabilities, and grow our movement
- Promoting women's human rights and gender equality will be a central driving force in the implementation of all Strategic Goals
- Remaining flexible, agile and relevant in the face of emerging challenges and opportunities
- Working with partners at all levels and increasing people's capacity to claim their own rights, through human rights education and other means.

These Strategic Goals will only be achievable through the combined efforts of our movement - all entities operating at the international and national levels and our members and supporters. It will therefore be accompanied by clear operational directions to ensure we are continuing to improve the systems and processes needed to ensure we deliver effectively as One Amnesty, with greater accountability and transparency and the ability to assess our impact. Each Goal is important in its own right, but this strategy is more than the sum of its parts. Our aim is to shift how human rights are fought for and achieved, engaging where we can and confronting where we must.



*Activist Shahzadi Bi demands justice for victims of the factory disaster in Bhopal, India, which claimed up to 10,000 lives within three days in December 1984.*  
© Giles Clarke/Getty Images Reportage

# GOAL 1 – RECLAIMING FREEDOMS

## A WORLD IN WHICH EVERYONE KNOWS AND CAN CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS

Deep disappointment and at times outrage at unaccountable and unethical leadership by those in power have resulted in widespread protests across the world, often led by young people using mobile phones and the internet. Increasing demand for greater involvement in decision-making has triggered crackdowns on dissent and violent attacks on peaceful protestors, journalists and human rights defenders, as well as civil society organizations. Public order, national security and anti-terrorism efforts are increasingly used to justify online surveillance and other human rights abuses.

### OUTCOME 1.1 THOSE DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS ARE SAFE AND SUPPORTED

- Violations against human rights defenders are reduced, building on emblematic individual cases
- Human rights defenders – with a particular emphasis on women human rights defenders and those from marginalized communities - are comprehensively protected and empowered through new technologies, training and other tools that support their work
- New measures are put in place to ensure an enabling environment for civil society
- Laws and policies that restrict the work of HRDs are repealed, amended or prevented,
- and state or private mechanisms to support HRDs are established.

### OUTCOME 1.2 PEOPLE KNOW THEIR RIGHTS AND ARE EMPOWERED TO CLAIM THEM

- Foundation for a society that respects human rights is built through reframing the discourse
- Access to human rights education is ensured through government policy and action, and offline and online efforts are scaled up in formal and non-formal education.
- Significantly scaled-up efforts so that people, especially young people and human rights defenders, are empowered globally with skills and knowledge to get active locally to defend human rights.

### OUTCOME 1.3 PEOPLE CAN CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS TO SPEAK OUT, ORGANIZE AND CHALLENGE INJUSTICE

- Laws that unduly restrict freedom of expression, association and assembly are repealed, amended or prevented
- Legal protections for whistle blowers are strengthened and enforced in practice
- Surveillance programs are made to fully conform to human rights standards



*Women's human rights defender Fawzia Nawabi shares stories with women at a refuge in Afghanistan, March 2015. © Marcus Perkins.*





*Standing up for the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community, Japan, April 2015. © Reuters/Thomas Peter*

# **GOAL 2 – SECURING EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL A WORLD IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS AND JUSTICE ARE ENJOYED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION**

Inequality and exclusion are both a cause and consequence of human rights abuses. Despite legally binding economic, social and cultural rights and anti-discrimination laws, far too many people in many countries are still politically, economically, culturally and socially excluded. Women have less economic and political power than men and face high levels of violence, even in countries where their rights are well protected by law. The situation is particularly severe for those discriminated against on multiple grounds, including combinations of race, ethnicity, Indigenous identity, national origin, immigration status, language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, social origin or caste, class, religion or belief, political or other opinion, age, disability, etc.

Fighting for gender equality will continue to be a global priority for Amnesty International. We will also work nationally and regionally to protect the rights of groups who are discriminated against on multiple grounds and those deprived of their economic, social and cultural rights. As such, the proposed outcomes, especially the first two, are closely interconnected.

## **OUTCOME 2.1 DISCRIMINATION AND IDENTITY-BASED VIOLENCE ARE REDUCED**

- Communities and individuals who face discrimination, particularly intersecting and multiple discrimination, are enabled and empowered to enjoy significantly higher levels of agency, voice, and access to justice and remedies, as well as:
  - Reduced incidence of hate crimes, and stronger national protections against identity-based violence
  - Reduced discriminatory application of criminal justice measures, including pre-trial detention and the death penalty
  - Repeal of discriminatory laws, policies or institutional practices
  - Stronger national-level legal frameworks for the promotion of equality and identity and improved implementation of these frameworks

## **OUTCOME 2.2 PROGRESS TOWARDS EQUALITY ON THE BASIS OF GENDER, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, AND GENDER IDENTITY AND EXPRESSION IS ACHIEVED**

- Stronger laws against discrimination on the grounds of gender, gender identity and sexual orientation are put in place and implemented
- Those who face discrimination because of their gender identity or sexual orientation can claim and enjoy their human rights, including through improved access to information, justice and remedies

## **OUTCOME 2.3 ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS ARE BETTER REALIZED IN PEOPLE'S LIVES**

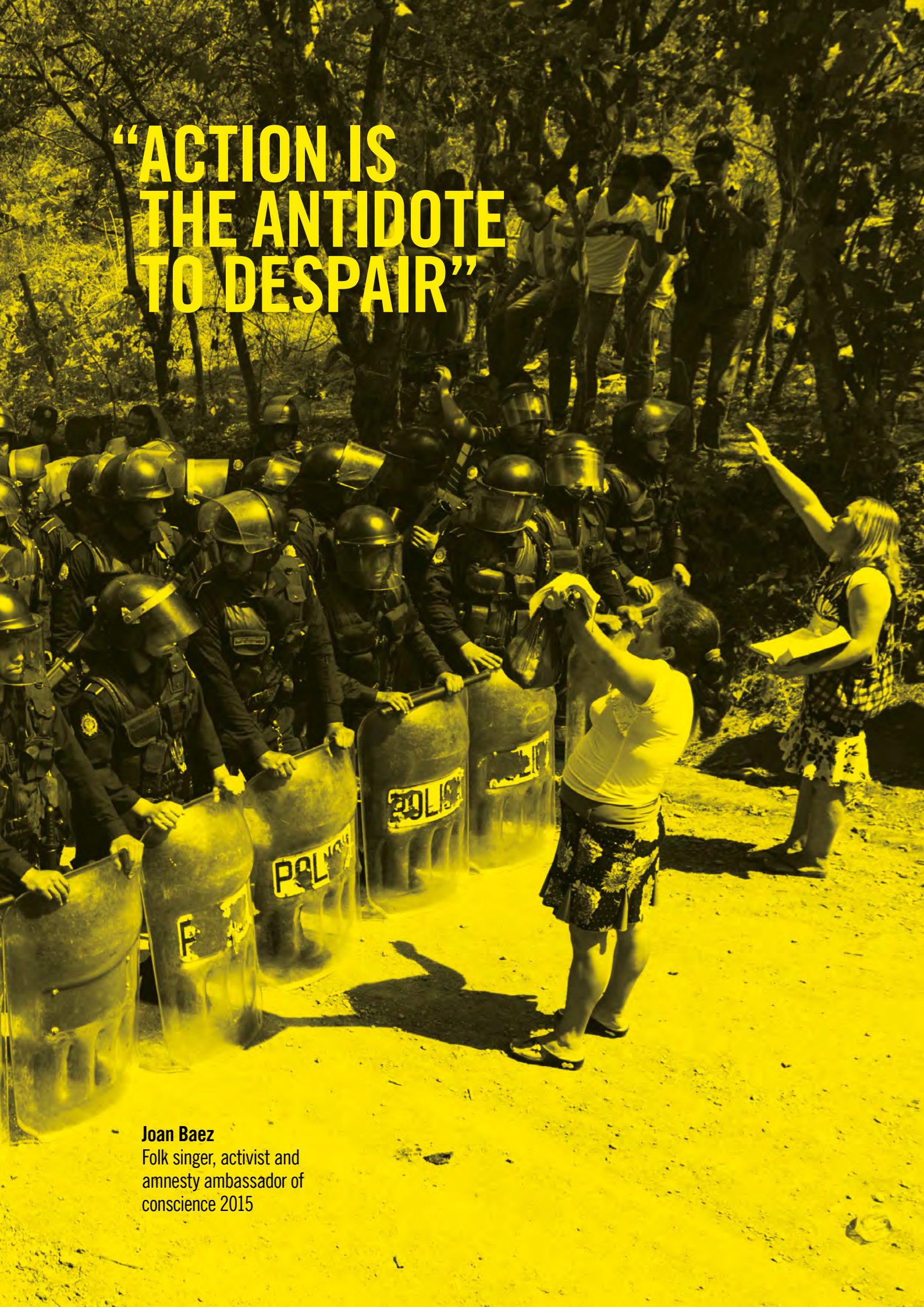
- People, particularly marginalized communities and individuals, have the necessary tools and capacity - including access to information and justice - to monitor and demand their economic, social and cultural rights, and to hold states and other actors to account
- People, particularly marginalized communities and individuals, have improved access to services essential to realize their economic, social and cultural rights
- Stronger legal and other accountability frameworks for economic, social and cultural rights and the Sustainable Development Goals exist at all levels



A protestor confronts police sent to clear roads to a proposed gold mine in Guatemala, May 2014.  
© James Rodriguez/  
MiMundo.org



**“ACTION IS  
THE ANTIDOTE  
TO DESPAIR”**



**Joan Baez**

Folk singer, activist and  
amnesty ambassador of  
conscience 2015

# **GOAL 3 – RESPONDING TO CRISES**

## **A WORLD IN WHICH PEOPLE ARE PROTECTED DURING CONFLICT AND CRISES**

Every year, conflicts and crises claim hundreds of thousands of lives, displace millions and leave civilians in desperate need of international protection and assistance. The plight of civilians is often exacerbated by widespread availability and misuse of weapons, including explosive weapons that lead to massive casualties when used indiscriminately in populated areas. Regional and international bodies often fail to protect civilians, and perpetrators of war crimes and other conflict-related violations escape accountability, creating a cycle of abuse and impunity.

Amnesty International will play a leading role in mobilizing effective action to protect civilians in situations of conflict and crisis. We will strive to ensure that institutions and mechanisms, such as the Security Council and peacekeeping missions, act effectively when civilians are in danger. We will work to protect people from the effects of irresponsible arms trade and failures to duly restrict the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. With the number of people forced to flee exceeding 60 million, we will seek to ensure that borders are never closed for humanitarian aid or those seeking refuge, and that those who need to leave are protected and provided for.

### **OUTCOME 3.1 THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND VICTIMS HAVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE, TRUTH AND REPARATION**

- National laws are put in place that criminalize and allow for prosecution for acts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances, and torture; and there are strengthened laws and practical measures to ensure universal jurisdiction for crimes under international law
- Hybrid and international courts are effectively used to ensure accountability for crimes under international law where domestic systems are insufficient
- Victims of conflict-related violations, particularly women, have improved access to justice, truth and reparation
- Irresponsible transfers of weapons are exposed; those responsible are held to account; indiscriminate use of explosive weapons in populated areas is reduced

### **OUTCOME 3.2 PEOPLE AFFECTED BY OR FLEEING CONFLICT, CRISIS, TORTURE OR PERSECUTION HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE**

- Refugees and asylum seekers in transit and host countries, and people internally displaced by conflict, have safe access to humanitarian assistance, protection and essential services
- International protection of refugees and asylum seekers is improved (including fair refugee status determination processes and more resettlement places) and unlawful practices focused on protecting borders (including closing borders, push backs and unlawful detention) are ended

### **OUTCOME 3.3 CIVILIANS ARE BETTER PROTECTED THROUGH EFFECTIVE ACTION BY NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND MECHANISMS**

- Permanent members of the UN Security Council agree not to use their veto powers in situations of mass atrocities
- Strengthened human rights protection, gender and accountability are integrated into peacekeeping operations
- Security Council resolutions relating to women, peace and security are more consistently implemented
- Early warning mechanisms are better developed and implemented



*A house burns during attacks on property belonging to Muslims in north Bangui, Central African Republic, January 2014. © Amnesty International*



*A man takes a wash after being rescued from an overcrowded boat in the Mediterranean, Italy, September 2014. © Giles Clarke/Getty Images*



## **GOAL 4 – ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY**

### **A WORLD IN WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE**

Far too often, lack of accountability and enforcement have made human rights treaties and laws an empty gesture. Justice systems in many countries (whether authoritarian or democratic) struggle to deliver accountability, particularly for people who are poor and marginalized. Holding governments to account is even more challenging when human rights abuses are carried out by businesses or other non-state actors, or when governments fail to respect the rights of people outside their borders. Regional accountability mechanisms are patchy and overstretched but could become increasingly important, especially where the international justice system is failing. Despite its current challenges, the International Criminal Court is an essential check on impunity at the national level. Persuading emerging powers to consistently take a pro-human rights stance is becoming ever more important. Our work in these areas will focus on the national level, with selective regional and international efforts.

#### **OUTCOME 4.1 HUMAN RIGHTS GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ARE STRENGTHENED AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON SUPPORTING DELIVERY OF GOALS 1–3**

- Laws, policies, institutions and national justice systems comply with international human rights laws and standards and genuinely deliver access to justice, including for those who are poor and marginalized
- Impunity for perpetrators of crimes under international law is reduced - and justice, truth and reparation delivered for victims - through stronger accountability mechanisms
- Progress is made to eliminate the death penalty and combat regressive trends in its use
- Stronger national (including extraterritorial) and international-level protection against human rights abuses involving corporations are in place
- Key states, particularly emerging powers, improved promotion of human rights in their foreign policies

#### **OUTCOME 4.2 REGIONAL AND GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS ARE REINFORCED WHERE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION IS FAILING**

- Access to justice is improved using the regional human rights systems, with a sharp focus on supporting delivery of Goals 1–3
- Global human rights and international justice mechanisms are strengthened and used where states have failed to deliver accountability for the most serious human rights abuses



*Every year, oil from Shell's broken pipelines  
and wells seeps into the water and soil of the Niger Delta.*  
© Amnesty International



## **GOAL 5: MAXIMIZING OUR RESOURCES AND ENGAGEMENT**

### **WE WILL BE A TRULY GLOBAL HUMAN RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL**

Our ability to make the changes we want in the world depend on our ability to engage and mobilize millions of people around the world. This will therefore be a particular focus during this period – building the strongest possible global movement of people who are passionate about defending human rights for all and ensuring that we are equipped to deliver on the human rights aims set out elsewhere in our Strategic Goals.

#### **OUTCOME 5.1 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS A LARGER, STRONGER AND MORE DIVERSE MOVEMENT WITH GREATER CAPACITY TO ACHIEVE HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT**

- Amnesty International engages more and more diverse voices, including members, for human rights impact
  - By 2020, 25 million people will be inspired each year to take action for human rights
- More funds are raised for human rights
  - By 2020, 4 million donors and high value donations will commit at least EUR 400 million a year to defend human rights

#### **OUTCOME 5.2 AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS STRENGTHENED THROUGH ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF A MORE DIVERSE CONSTITUENCY AT ALL LEVELS.**



*Letter writing marathon 2014 © Amnesty International Netherlands*

