Clean it up
The activist standing up to Shell in Nigeria

Seeking refuge
The Syrian family settling in Norway

Activism toolkit
3 steps to changing lives this year

2016: A YEAR FOR JUSTICE
WIRE CONTENTS

FEATURES

6 3 steps to changing lives in 2016
Make it a year for justice with our activism toolkit.

10 ways your donations help us respond to a crisis
How our researchers gather evidence during war and conflict.

14 The big picture: Write for Rights
Writing letters, changing lives – worldwide.

16 Safe at last
The refugee family from Syria finding refuge in Norway.

20 Finding their smile again
Supporting survivors of forced marriage and rape in Burkina Faso.

22 Fighting for a pollution-free future
How one activist is standing up to Shell in the Niger Delta.

27 5 myths about the death penalty
Get your facts straight with our quick guide.

REGULARS

2 Amnesty around the world
4 Behind the scenes
5 Dates and editorial
26 60-second interview
28 Ask the expert
My Body My Rights in 2016

My Body My Rights, our campaign for sexual and reproductive rights, continues to gain momentum. In March, we launch our latest research on Burkina Faso, highlighting the obstacles that women and girls face when trying to make decisions that affect their bodies, lives and futures (see page 20). Our petition urging Ireland to stop criminalizing abortion has attracted hundreds of thousands of signatures – join them http://bit.ly/MBMRIreland. And turn to the last page of Wire to find out how you can get Tunisia to stop punishing survivors of rape and other gender-based violence once and for all.

26,000+ people signed up to Amnesty’s first online human rights course in December.
235km
of fences built by EU member states at the EU’s external borders, costing in excess of €175 million.

3
countries abolished the death penalty in three months: Madagascar, Fiji and Suriname.

800,000
activists sent letters demanding justice for Moses Akatugba, a Nigerian death-row inmate released in May.

17 years
was the prison sentence given to Myanmar community leader Dr Tun Aung in 2012 for trying to calm a riot. He was finally released in January.

£55m
was awarded in January 2015 by Shell’s Nigerian subsidiary to 15,600 people devastated by oil spills in Bodo, Nigeria.

Jan–Mar 2016
devastated by oil spills in Bodo, Nigeria.

Nigerian subsidiary to 15,600 people
£55m

11
February
Nelson Mandela freed, South Africa, 1990

24
February
Amnesty’s 2015/16 Annual Report published

21
February
Protests in Egypt begin, part of the “Arab Spring”, 2011

25
January
Nelson Mandela freed, South Africa, 1990

6
February
President Hosni Mubarak steps down, Egypt, 2011

8
March
International Women’s Day

15
March
Syria’s conflict starts, 2011

21
March
International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

1
March
International Day for the Abolition of the Death Penalty

21
March
First tweet sent, 2006

24
March
Military coup in Argentina, 1976

2015 IN NUMBERS

BEHIND THE SCENES

DIARY DATES AND ANNIVERSARIES 2016

STAND WITH REFUGEES AFTER THE PARIS ATTACKS

Solidarity with everyone fleeing mindless violence matters more now than ever, says Jean-Francois Dubost, who leads Amnesty France’s work on refugees and migrants.

When I discovered that many people were killed in simultaneous attacks across Paris, I struggled to comprehend the horror. Then the realization dawned that the refugees we are working to protect will also suffer. Politicians started calling them “undesirables”, even saying that they should all be sent back.

On public transport, the tension was palpable. I felt fragile, vulnerable. Refugees, despite their sheer determination to survive and protect their loved ones, are some of the most vulnerable people among us. And now, they will be doubly so.

Vulnerable because they have been forced to flee, sometimes from unimaginable dangers, taking risky journeys to seek sanctuary abroad. And vulnerable once more, because now they’ll be suspected of being dangerous themselves. We must not let refugees be victimized twice over – first in their own countries, where some have experienced the kinds of threats happening here now, and again after these attacks.

Our ongoing work encouraging French towns and cities to host more refugees now seems more important than ever. And suddenly also very fragile.

LIVING WITHOUT FEAR

Telling people why refugees are arriving at our borders is paramount. Their stories (see page 16) will send one simple message: refugees are like everyone else. They too used to enjoy a normal life, until violence turned it into a news story that eventually reached our own borders. And we share the same goal: to live safely and freely.

We now face the twin challenges of keeping people safe while welcoming many more refugees. We need to show how the two are not mutually exclusive – just two sides of the same coin.

To achieve that, we need unity and solidarity. Together, we can show the fear mongers that we stand with all those who have suffered mindless violence – and that includes refugees.

2016 can be a year for change, if we want it.

It can sometimes feel as though our world is spinning off its axis. Conflict is escalating, fuelling the largest global refugee crisis since the Second World War. Discrimination against minority groups is rampant. Repressive regimes are ruthlessly cracking down on people who stand up for human rights.

We cannot hide the reality of the world we live in. But we can fight for the world we want.

This year, let’s join with people across the world who are rising in protest. Let’s say to our governments that 2016 is the year for justice.

Let’s tell them that they cannot talk about free speech and at the same time arrest peaceful protesters and dissenters. They cannot lecture about peace while being the world’s largest manufacturers of arms. And they cannot preach about human rights while denying refugees safe and legal ways to seek sanctuary abroad.

Whenever and wherever governments fail us, we must hold them to account. We must stand together and make sure no-one is left behind.

We have influence – let’s use it. We want justice – let’s make it happen in 2016.

Salil Shetty, Secretary General
@SalilShetty

Take action in your community today – start with our activism toolkit over the page.
With your help, 2016 can be a big year for justice. We spoke to three expert campaigners for their tips and advice on taking action in your community. »
STEP 1
START A LOCAL GROUP

Organizing or joining a campaigning group in your local community is a great way to meet like-minded people and take action on the issues you care about. “It's all about feeling part of a movement that brings together people of all ages from across the world,” says Jennifer Jaynes, who is secretary of an Amnesty group in the UK. Here's her easy guide to starting a great activist group in your area.

HOW TO START A GREAT CAMPAIGNING GROUP

1. Make sure every member has a role related to their skills or interests. For example, former teachers could help link up with schools, or musicians could help connect you with the local music scene.
2. Meet every month, and have a regular activity such as writing letters to support the people we work with.
3. Make sure your meeting venue is somewhere light, bright and inspiring, rather than a dark depressing hall.
4. Inspire your group with films, speakers, Amnesty literature, conferences and campaign info.
5. If people don’t have time to come to meetings, keep in touch with them by email and on social media, and invite them to your events.
6. Spread the word about Amnesty’s campaigns with stalls at music events, bars or festivals.
7. Organise public events which raise awareness, raise money and encourage action on the big issues.
8. Put on an annual fundraising event, for example a dinner or cake sale, so you can cover your costs and make a donation to Amnesty.
9. Have fun! Find out what inspires the group, such as going on marches or attending local festivals.

STEP 2
MEET YOUR POLITICIANS

Amnesty’s campaigns often involve trying to push our elected leaders to take action. They can raise issues in parliament, talk to government ministers about campaigns, and help to build international pressure for change. Randa Warda, an Amnesty group manager in Sydney, Australia, gives her top tips on engaging your politicians.

WHY WE NEED TO TALK TO POLITICIANS

The nature of Amnesty’s work makes it necessary to build relationships with politicians. Just about everything we work on locally, be it refugees or indigenous issues, or globally, including campaigns like the Arms Trade Treaty, requires conversations with them. I used to be nervous about it. But now I follow the premise that since I represent nearly 10,000 voters in my local area alone, as well as the breadth of the Amnesty family, they should want to talk to me.

TOP TIP!
Reach out to new members and others in your community with public meetings on particular issues.

TOP TIP!
Remember the power of Amnesty. We are 7 million strong, with more than 50 years of campaigning on human rights. We also have a wealth of strong, evidence-based research on the issues. Politicians know and respect that.

HOW TO GET IN TOUCH WITH A POLITICIAN

1. Start with an email or letter, articulating what the issue is and what you want from them.
2. Wait a week, then follow-up with a call and arrange to meet. You could even invite them to one of your events.
3. At the meeting, explain why the issue is important and repeat what you would like them to do.
4. Follow-up on the meeting by phone or email to make sure they do what they said they would do.
5. Wait for the next campaign or issue to get in touch again.

“We participated in Blackpool Pride this year for the first time. We had so much fun and felt a real sense of unity.”

Jennifer Jaynes, Fylde Coast Amnesty Group, Scotland
STEP 3
ORGANIZE A STUNT

An eye-catching street action or stunt will make sure the authorities and the media hear your message loud and clear. It’s also a great way to help your supporters and volunteers understand the issues. Connie Chan, senior campaigner at Amnesty in Hong Kong, gives her top tips for an effective action.

HOW TO CREATE A GREAT EVENT

1. Before organizing an action, think of the best time and day – for your volunteers, for the media, and for the location – so you achieve maximum impact.

2. Think of a single, simple message you want to get across, so it is easy to understand. Because it’s usually so urgent, you have to react quickly, and it has to be simple so others can understand it and encourage people to join in.

3. Think of some great slogans – they should be simple and precise. Don’t be afraid to use humour if appropriate.

4. The most important aspect of any street action or stunt is people. Engage Amnesty activists, members and other local groups as early as possible, so they feel part of the action. Allocate roles – for example, you’ll need a spokesperson, volunteer manager, someone to speak with the police, and a photographer.

5. Promote your action to the public. Send out a press invitation, too.

6. Make sure your activists are safe. Plan your action route and avoid unsafe places.

7. Make sure you have all the materials and equipment you need – loudspeaker, placards, and action cards or flyers.

8. Join with activists from other local groups – it helps to feel that we are working together for human rights, and makes our voice louder.

9. Take pictures and video of your action, and post updates throughout the day on social media to raise awareness.

10. Don’t just stop on the day – keep promoting your message on social media afterwards.

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”
Margaret Mead, American anthropologist

IF YOU DO ONE THING...
Get in touch with your nearest Amnesty country team at www.amnesty.org/countries and find out how you can get involved in your local area.

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Get in touch with your nearest Amnesty country team at www.amnesty.org/countries and find out how you can get involved in your local area.
1. TRAINING
I've had training in first aid, facing hostile fire, and dealing with hostage situations. I’ve seen how high-velocity bullets can penetrate steel. But being prepared is much more about experience than training.

2. PREPARATION
First of all, I buy a good, detailed map! Then I read everything that has been published about the country – from Amnesty, other human rights organizations, the UN, and the press.

3. ESSENTIAL KIT
I’ll bring a first aid kit, anti-malaria drugs, and a satellite phone, local phone and UK phone, as communications are so important. I’ll also pack a still camera, video camera, and a GPS tracker so colleagues can track my location.

4. SECURITY
I talk with a lot of people on the ground to work out where not to go, what roads to avoid, when to travel. For example, they might tell us not to drive a particular type of car as it’s a favourite for car-jacking. In some situations, there are serious risks – of getting shot, hit by a mortar, kidnapped, killed…

5. TRANSPORT
In some countries, for example the Central African Republic, I usually just travel with a driver. Often the roads outside major towns can be terrible so we use a four-wheel drive. I’ve been in a few difficult situations because there can be robbers on the road, and it can be scary.

6. INTERVIEWING WITNESSES
We always get first-hand testimony. After a massacre, you have an obligation to document exactly what happened. I ask people to detail the circumstances, the basic who, what, when and where. “What did you see?” “What were they wearing?” “Who was shooting?”

7. FILM AND PHOTOGRAPHY
We don’t repeat rumours – we get testimonial, written documentation and forensic evidence. We go to the place something happened and take photographs of bodies, bullets and shrapnel, and other physical evidence. Some of the photos you can’t even look at; we don’t publish those, but keep them as proof.

8. REPORTING
We describe exactly what happened, characterize and analyze the crimes that have been committed, and make recommendations for reform. We’re not criminal investigators, but we’re just as rigorous. Our goal is to provide real-time documentation, to hold people to account and get justice for the victims.

9. PRESS AND MEDIA
In breaking news situations, we’ll tweet out news, speak with journalists, put out press releases, and write blogs, opinion pieces and briefing papers. It’s so important to show the world what’s going on and create pressure on governments to act.

10. ADVOCACY AND CAMPAIGNING
We put in a huge effort to ensure our recommendations for reform are enacted. We meet with UN and government officials across the world to explain the need for urgent action.
Supporters in the Netherlands (pictured) and right across the world wrote millions of messages, letters, emails and more for human rights in December. It was all part of Write for Rights, our global letter-writing marathon to protect people such as Phyoe Phyoe Aung, a student protestor locked up in Myanmar. She told us: “I thank everyone very much for their support. The letters give me real inspiration... I have begun to notice that the world is watching and cheering us – we are not alone.”

www.amnesty.org/writeforrights
SAFE AT LAST

A young refugee family from Syria tells us what a huge difference being resettled in Norway has made in their lives.

“The Norwegian authorities deliberately scheduled the call on our son’s first birthday,” remembers Sherihan, a 29-year-old musician. “They said: ‘We have a gift for you. You can come to Norway!’ We didn’t know anything about Norway, but we were so happy.”

In a bright apartment in a modest 1950s building in a quiet corner of Oslo, Norway, she and her husband are teasing each other. “This is how I see Norway,” says Hennan, an artist aged 31: “Children come first, then the woman, then the dog, and at last the man!” They both laugh.

“Those days were hard,” says Hennan. “I saw a man being shot by snipers on the way from the bakery. He was carrying a loaf of bread above his head to show that he was unarmed. Around his dead body there were blood-spattered pieces of bread. I saw a woman gathering the pieces – she probably had hungry children at home.”
BARELY SURVIVING IN SYRIA

“In Aleppo our life was simple,” says Sherihan. “We went to work and spent time with family or friends. We were saving up to buy a nice car and big house – a place to raise a child. You know, stuff that everyone wants.”

But when their neighbour was shot and killed, they decided to move to the countryside. “It was cold,” Sherihan recalls. “There wasn’t a lot to eat, and no water or electricity. I was pregnant by then. We couldn’t think about the future – we only had the capacity to survive.”

TOUGH TIMES IN TURKEY

“When our son Kahraman was a few months old, we noticed that he wasn’t responding well to our movements,” Sherihan continues. “A doctor told me he was blind and would be for his whole life. I was devastated.

“I decided to go back to Aleppo to get a second opinion. It took 13 hours and I had to cross a street where snipers had shot and killed many people. I took Kahraman in my arms, and then I ran.”

When the doctor in Aleppo said she would need to bring her son back for regular check-ups, the family left for Turkey. “Turkey was even more difficult than Syria,” says Sherihan. “We stayed in a small flat with three other families. We couldn’t get Kahraman the medical care he needed. It was the worst time of my life.”

After registering with UNHCR, the UN’s refugee agency, the young family were told that they qualified for resettlement.

SAFE AT LAST

Two months later, they were finally on their way to safety. “We travelled light, carrying only our most prized possessions: the laptop with pictures of Hennan’s artwork and our life, and my flute,” says Sherihan. “I remember the very moment we touched ground in Oslo, on 23 September 2014. It was such an important moment – we were safe at last!”

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**CAMPAIGN: MY BODY MY RIGHTS**

**FINDING THEIR SMILE AGAIN**

If you’re a girl in Burkina Faso, chances are your childhood won’t last long. Forced early marriage is common, as is early pregnancy. But Martine Kaboré is giving girls like these a second chance to live the lives they want.

Martine Kaboré is on a mission. For the past eight years, the 37-year-old psychology graduate has been a social worker at Pân Billa, a shelter for survivors of forced marriage, rape and unwanted pregnancy.

“I chose this profession because it is noble,” she says. “It’s noble to help girls who are in such a difficult situation to find their smile, their hope and their self-esteem again.”

Getting these girls to laugh again takes compassion and determination. On any given day, Martine is ready to go from 7.30am, praying and meditating with the girls who share a broad range of beliefs, from Christianity to animism. She does household chores with the girls, including cooking and cleaning, after which they go to school or literacy classes.

Four girls currently at the shelter are now in college. In the afternoon, Martine organizes debates on issues such as forced marriage. “We also discuss the possibility of the girls returning to their families to see how they feel about this. We do a lot of mediation between the girls and their families to diffuse tension and help them reintegrate.”

At the same time, Martine monitors the health of the girls and their babies, ensuring that everyone is up to date with their vaccines. She organizes classes for the pregnant girls to prepare them for birth. “Finally,” she says, “I visit families to try to convince them to abandon the practice of forced marriage.”

**OVERCOMING OBSTACLES**

Located just outside Burkina Faso’s capital, Ouagadougou, Pân Billa currently accommodates 20 girls and 11 babies. But with more than half of all girls in Burkina Faso married before they are 18, there are many more girls in need of this kind of support. Shelters often struggle to give them the help they need because of the few resources available to them.

“We have no car,” says Martine. “When a pregnant girl has to go to hospital, we have to take her there by motorcycle! It’s very difficult. The road is chaotic, unpaved, and very risky for pregnant girls.”

For Martine, the biggest challenge, however, is not the meagre resources at her disposal, but the resistance she encounters from parents.

“One day,” she recalls, “a father who forced his daughter to get married threatened me. He said that if I dared enter his home, I’d soon find out who I was dealing with. I was really scared and I didn’t return.”

At the same time, Martine monitors the health of the girls and their babies, ensuring that everyone is up to date with their vaccines. She organizes classes for the pregnant girls to prepare them for birth. “Finally,” she says, “I visit families to try to convince them to abandon the practice of forced marriage.”

**NEW LIVES**

For every setback, there are successes which keep Martine determined to carry on. The girls she works with may arrive desperate but with her support go on to build new lives for themselves.

“Four years ago, a 15-year-old girl arrived at our shelter after refusing a forced marriage and fleeing her family home,” recalls Martine. “She was really broken. She had been banished by her family. She cried for a year.” Martine and her colleagues provided her with psychological treatment and once she was well enough, they sent her to a training centre.

“Today, I’m proud of the journey she has made. She now has a profession and works at Pân Billa as a cook. Today she has blossomed, she is independent. She has become my colleague.”

**TAKE ACTION**

Support Martine and the girls she is trying to help

© Sophie Garcia/Corbis

Dedicated and determined. Martine Kaboré, co-ordinator at Pân Billa, a shelter for survivors of early and forced marriage, rape, and unwanted pregnancy.

Like Pân Billa, this shelter in Ouagadougou also helps girls learn new skills such as cooking and carpentry, while giving them the opportunity to reconnect with their childhoods.

“I chose this profession to help girls find their smile, their hope and their self-esteem again.”

Martine Kaboré

© Sophie Garcia/Corbis

© Sophie Garcia/Corbis
Meet Fyneface – a young Nigerian activist challenging Shell to clean up massive oil pollution across the Niger Delta.

“People talk about pollution,” says Fyneface Dumnamene Fyneface. “But many have not experienced it. I have felt pollution. I have drunk polluted water. I have spent my whole life in a polluted environment.”

This life steeped in pollution propelled Fyneface into a movement made famous by another tenacious activist: the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa, an icon of the struggle for human rights and environmental justice in Nigeria who was executed in 1995.

Fyneface may indeed have a “fine face”, but he has made a name for himself as a vocal opponent of the oil companies that started pumping oil out of the Niger Delta long before he was born.

“People’s livelihoods have been destroyed,” he says, his energy and anger palpable as he stands in front of a Ken Saro-Wiwa poster in his office in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

“They don’t have good water to drink. Seafood has been destroyed. Their cassava and other things they plant on the farms are no longer doing well.”

AN INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY

“Ken Saro-Wiwa’s activism played a significant role in my life,” Fyneface continues. “It inspired me to work for the Ogoni people [Ogoniland is part of the wider, oil-rich Niger Delta region]. I saw him once speaking in 1992, three years before he was killed.”

Saro-Wiwa formed the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People in 1990 to challenge the oil companies’ toxic legacy. Thousands of oil spills have killed plants and wildlife, stolen people’s jobs and poisoned the land and water there since the 1950s.

He led a mass movement challenging Nigeria’s then military rulers to give Ogoniland political autonomy, and a bigger share of the oil wealth.

The region’s unfolding environmental disaster made international headlines when the Nigerian military government condemned Saro-Wiwa to death alongside eight other men in 1995. Together, they became known as the Ogoni 9.

Their execution on 10 November 1995 sparked a worldwide outcry. Nigeria’s environmental movement had lost a dynamic leader. But since then a new generation has stepped in to carry on the legacy. »

The creeks around K. Dere village in the Niger Delta are heavily polluted with oil.
CLEAN IT UP
Fyneface started young. As a university student, he coined the term “Fynefaceism” to fight corruption in the school exam system.

Today, he works hard to keep the issue of pollution alive, often appearing on radio and TV programmes. He has also been trained by Amnesty and our local partner organization – the Centre for the Environment Human Rights and Development (CEHRD) – alongside many other activists to monitor how Shell responds when oil spills happen in their communities.

Amnesty’s recent research shows that at least four oil spill sites, which Shell publicly says it has cleaned up, are still contaminated today.

“Shell needs to do more,” he says. “Wherever they go, they must protect our environment for the present generation and the generation yet unborn.”

CARRYING ON THE LEGACY
Candlelit vigils were held worldwide last November, remembering the sacrifice Ken Saro-Wiwa and his colleagues made 20 years ago, hanged after a grossly unfair trial.

To Fyneface, the anniversary is an opportunity for us all to carry on their legacy. “I will not forget Amnesty International and other groups that have come together to make the Ogoni voice heard,” he says, smiling broadly. “But more needs to be done.”

He can’t help feeling frustrated by the failures littering the landscape of the past.

“Twenty years and Ogoniland is still polluted,” says Fyneface. “Twenty years and no justice has been achieved. Twenty years have gone by and what they fought for still hasn’t been addressed. That can’t continue.”

And this is what really gets Fyneface going. This refusal to accept the status quo. This determination to achieve what Ken Saro-Wiwa and his movement fought so hard for.

“I’m ready to continue from where Ken Saro-Wiwa stopped,” he says. “Let’s carry on his legacy, and make the future clean in the Niger Delta.”

All images © Michael Uwemedimo/cmapping.net

FIND OUT MORE
Shell’s slick PR can’t hide the sticky black truth about its pollution of the Niger Delta: http://bit.ly/ShellCleanItUp

Shell’s Bomu Manifold site in the Niger Delta, where there have been several oil spills and a huge fire in 2009.

Oil pollution near K. Dere village, Niger Delta, September 2015.

“Shell needs to do more,” Fyneface says.

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“Shell needs to do more,” Fyneface says.
WHEN BLOGGING CAN GET YOU KILLED

Secular bloggers are being hacked to death in Bangladesh. When blogger Charbak* saw his name on a hit list he knew it was time to leave. Here he tells Wire what it’s like to live in the shadow of the machete.

How dangerous is it for secular bloggers in Bangladesh?
On 26 February 2015, prominent blogger and Bangladeshi scientist Avijit Roy was hacked to death. I, and my fellow writers, demanded the immediate arrest of those responsible but the government remained silent. Later, Washiqur Babu, Ananta Bijoy Das, Niladry Neel and Arefin Dipon, all fell victim to the “machete-reply” – an extremist response to scientific questions, opinions and secular activities. To date, there has been no serious investigation into any of these murder cases.

How did the killings affect you personally?
I stopped going to the office. I tried to confine myself to my home. But of course that was impossible. You can’t imagine the panic I felt, thinking I might be chopped to pieces at any time by anyone in the street. I monitored people around me constantly, checking whether anyone was following me. It was as if everyone in the street was my possible killer. It was a horrible, haunting situation.

Are you safe now?
Somehow, with help from Amnesty and other humanitarian organizations, I managed to flee Bangladesh. Apparently, I am now in a safer place. But each time I read about another killing, I know how my friends feel in Bangladesh, and remember how I felt, too – how the cold current of fear would flow up my spine.

*Not his real name.

FIND OUT MORE
Read Charbak’s blog: http://bit.ly/banglabloggers

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FACTS
5 MYTHS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY

Get your facts straight about the death penalty.

1. THE DEATH PENALTY PREVENTS CRIME
Not according to the research. There is no conclusive evidence that the death penalty deters crime more effectively than a prison term. In fact, crime figures from countries which have banned the death penalty have not risen. In some cases they have actually gone down. In Canada, the murder rate in 2008 was less than half that in 1976 when the death penalty was abolished there.

2. IF YOU MURDER SOMEONE, YOU FORFEIT YOUR HUMAN RIGHTS
No. Human rights apply to the best of us – and the worst of us. They can’t be taken away, no matter what we have done. Any society which executes offenders is committing the same violence it condemns.

3. IT’S OK TO EXECUTE IF IT’S PAINLESS
There’s no such thing as a humane execution. The lethal injection is often touted as more humane because, on the surface, it appears less barbaric than beheading, electrocution, gassing and hanging. But looking for a “humane” way to kill is really just an attempt to make executions more palatable to the public, and to make the governments that execute appear less like killers themselves.

4. IT’S BETTER TO EXECUTE THAN LOCK SOMEONE UP FOREVER
Every day, men, women, even children, await execution on death row, trapped in a system that values revenge over rehabilitation. As long as a prisoner remains alive, he or she can hope for rehabilitation, or to be exonerated if they are later found innocent.

5. THE CAMPAIGN TO END THE DEATH PENALTY IS PURELY WESTERN
Human rights – including the most basic right to life – are universal and endorsed by the vast majority of countries in the world. To date, 140 countries in almost every region in the world have abolished the death penalty in law or in practice.

FIND OUT MORE
What has climate change got to do with human rights?

Extreme weather-related disasters and rising seas will destroy homes and ruin people’s ability to earn a living. What’s more, unless emissions are reduced significantly, around 600 million people are likely to experience drought and famine as a result of climate change. So you can see there’s a direct link between climate change and human rights, including the rights to life, health, food, water and housing.

How are women affected by the changing climate?

Across the world, women form the majority of self-employed, small-scale farmers, so droughts, floods and crop failures will hit them first and hardest. They’re also more likely to take on the burden of collecting water, so will be acutely affected by severe water shortages.

What does it mean for Indigenous Peoples?

Indigenous Peoples are often at the frontline of global warming because of their dependence on the environment. Many live in fragile ecosystems that are particularly sensitive to changes in climate. This threatens their cultural identity, which is closely linked to their traditional land and livelihoods.

Will climate change mean more refugees?

As famines, droughts and natural disasters become more frequent, so the numbers of people on the move across borders will increase. While not all of these people will meet the legal definition of “refugees”, they should still be entitled to support from the countries most responsible for climate change.

Will things like rising temperatures and sea levels lead to more wars?

Quite possibly. We do know that climate change will exacerbate well-known causes of war, such as competition over natural resources. And this will increase the risk of violent conflict in the future.

What should governments do?

They must do all they can to reduce carbon emissions, including phasing out subsidies for fossil fuels. They must also help people adapt to climate change, and provide compensation, for example to those who have lost their homes because of rising sea levels.

What is Amnesty doing?

Together with partners, we’re pressing governments and institutions like the UN to take concrete and urgent actions on climate change. This isn’t about charity or aid, it’s about human rights and justice.
‘EXTREMISTS HAVE SHOWN WHAT FRIGHTENS THEM MOST: A GIRL WITH A BOOK.’

Malala Yousafzai, education campaigner