Champions of hope in Kenya
Human rights education in the world’s biggest urban slum

Across space and time
The new generation of online human rights investigators

YOUR WORDS CAN CHANGE LIVES

Our global Write for Rights campaign featuring women activists
WIRE is Amnesty's global magazine – published four times a year – to inform, empower and inspire people worldwide to take injustice personally.
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**AMNESTY AROUND THE WORLD**

**1. WHISTLEBLOWER RELEASED**

Russia: On 18 July, a court sentenced former court secretary and whistleblower Aleksandr Eivazov to one year and 10 months in an open penal colony for “interfering with the course of justice”. A new law which had come into force stipulates that one day in pre-trial detention is equivalent to two days in an open penal colony. On 21 July, Aleksandr Eivazov was released, having served his sentence in full in pre-trial detention. His lawyer is appealing the sentence on the grounds of an initial unjust detention. bit.ly/2Mi8oHs

**2. GOVERNOR COMMUTES DEATH SENTENCE**

USA: On 20 July, the Governor of Ohio commuted the death sentence of Raymond Tibbetts, who was scheduled for execution on 17 October. In so doing, the Governor rejected the parole board’s 8-1 recommendation against clemency. The Governor announced that he was commuting the death sentence as there had been fundamental flaws in the sentencing phase of Raymond Tibbetts’ trial. bit.ly/2MhuXfh

**3. ENVIRONMENTALIST CONDITIONALLY RELEASED**

Cuba: Dr Ariel Ruiz Urquiola, a prisoner of conscience and environmental activist, was released with conditions on 3 July. He was sentenced to one year in prison for contempt for allegedly disrespecting two forest rangers. Authorities granted Ariel a conditional release following a prolonged hunger strike. This form of conditional release means that the authorities could arrest him at any time and return him to prison to complete his sentence. We’ll monitor his situation. bit.ly/2oXhvUC

**HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST TRAINING**

Sign up for our new short online courses on Amnesty’s Human Rights Academy which will give you basic knowledge on how to take action on human rights. The new microlearning courses cover the issues of torture, the death penalty, freedom of expression and Indigenous Peoples’ rights. You can complete the courses anywhere, anytime and at your own pace. You don’t need any prior human rights knowledge, just register on our Human Rights Academy platform. The courses are free and available in English and Spanish. bit.ly/2oWBaE2
Sudan: The authorities have released from prison and dismissed the trumped-up charges against activist and teacher Matar Younis Ali Hussein. He was arrested on 1 April for criticizing the Sudanese government’s human rights violations in Darfur. On 24 June, he was charged with allegedly “undermining the constitutional system” and “waging war against the state”, both of which carry the death penalty or life imprisonment. He was also charged with espionage. On 26 July, the State Security Prosecution Office of Crimes Against the State dropped the charges following outcry from human rights organizations and activists.

Angola: Afonso S. Muatchipuculo (22), António J. Fernando (18) and Justino H. Valente (21) were released from detention on 17 July. The three had been sentenced to seven months in prison by a court on 9 April after an unfair trial. They were arrested in Malange province on 4 April for allegedly throwing stones at the Vice-President’s convoy during a demonstration. The Supreme Court ruled that there was insufficient evidence to prove their involvement during the protest.

Cambodia: Land rights activist Tep Vanny has been released from prison following a royal pardon after more than 700 days in detention for her peaceful activism. On 23 February 2017, Phnom Penh’s First Instance Court convicted Tep Vanny of “intentional violence with aggravating circumstances” and sentenced her to two years and six months’ imprisonment. We supported her as part of our Brave campaign and more than 200,000 people around the world called for her release.

Royal Pardon for Activist

Cambodia: Land rights activist Tep Vanny has been released from prison following a royal pardon after more than 700 days in detention for her peaceful activism. On 23 February 2017, Phnom Penh’s First Instance Court convicted Tep Vanny of “intentional violence with aggravating circumstances” and sentenced her to two years and six months’ imprisonment. We supported her as part of our Brave campaign and more than 200,000 people around the world called for her release.

Tajikistan: Journalist and prisoner of conscience Khayrullo Mirsaidov was released on 22 August by a court after more than eight months behind bars for making allegations of government corruption. He was arrested on 5 December 2017. The court replaced his jail term with a fine and sentenced him to a year of community service. We’ll continue to call for his conviction to be quashed and for an impartial investigation into his allegations of government corruption.

First Instance Court convicted Tep Vanny of “intentional violence with aggravating circumstances” and sentenced her to two years and six months’ imprisonment. We supported her as part of our Brave campaign and more than 200,000 people around the world called for her release.

bit.ly/2oVPOM3

bit.ly/2QhRwn8

© Tang Chhin Sothy/AFP/Getty Images
There is a phrase that 24-year-old Soraya from Afghanistan repeats to herself and her friends: “Remember that in front of you, there is a door. If you open this door, you will see light. You just have to reach that door.”

When we meet Soraya at a centre for migrant and refugee women in Athens, her one-year-old daughter is sitting on her lap. She was born in Greece, thousands of miles away from Iran where Soraya grew up, her family having fled their homeland Afghanistan.

The perilous journey Soraya undertook to reach Europe, and the struggle to keep her three children safe, has taught her not to underestimate her own strength.

“Women have rights. I want to decide about my future. The most important thing is to achieve this and for men to understand this too”, Soraya told us.

Soraya is one of the many resilient women we’ve met while working on a project about refugee and migrant women in Greece.

Even though harsh European asylum policies have put their lives on hold, with many living in terrible conditions in overcrowded and unsafe refugee camps, they refuse to give in. Regardless of nationality, personal circumstances or hopes, all had one thing in common: they had crucial things to say about their rights, safety, wellbeing and the challenges ahead. They also had clear demands for change.

It’s time that European leaders hear what they have to say – and act upon it.

READ MORE
Refugee and migrant women’s experiences in Greece on www.amnesty.org
MAKING CHANGE TOGETHER

It’s a time of new beginnings at Amnesty International, with Kumi Naidoo taking over as our new Secretary General in the summer – and he has answered some of your questions on his vision for the future (page 8).

This year there’s also a new focus for our Write for Rights campaign, which for the first time in its 16-year history is solely covering cases on women (page 12).

From Kenya to Viet Nam and Kyrgyzstan to Venezuela, Write for Rights 2018 features 10 brave females who have faced human rights violations, threats, discrimination and violence as a result of their work as human rights defenders.

The campaign aims to celebrate their courage and support their fight for justice – and that’s where you come in.

In 2017, Amnesty supporters taking part in Write for Rights around the world sent 5.5 million messages. It’s the world’s biggest human rights event. This December, we’re asking you to once again take a stand in support of 10 inspirational women, whether it’s through a letter, a petition, an email, a tweet, a Facebook post, a photo or a postcard. Every message counts.

As always, the objective is to encourage supporters to take action to achieve real human rights change by putting pressure on those in power. As Kumi Naidoo declares in his pledge to help Amnesty reach out to like-minded people from all four corners of the globe, “We’ll be united by refusing to adjust to injustice.” Are you in?

THE WIRE TEAM

Editor: Deborah Odumuyiwa-Baker
Contributors: Alex Grigor, Amy Choi, Angela Singh, Ariela Levy, Cathy Palmer, Monica Costa Riba, Sang-Min Kim, Sonia Hamilton, Victoria Tse
Designer: Dina Silanteva
Photo editor: Richard Burton
“Our world is facing complex problems that can only be tackled if we break away from old ideas that human rights are about some forms of injustice that people face, but not others. The patterns of oppression that we’re living through are interconnected.”

Kumi Naidoo
Olufemi Adebowale, Nigeria: “Is it possible to design a better way of reporting injustices around the world that will get immediate global attention? Maybe an app?”
Using technology for justice is essential for our human rights movement to stay effective and relevant. Technology offers us unprecedented opportunities to connect over time and space. In 2014, we launched our Panic Button app. Activists around the world can use this app to report threats of or actual arrest, attack, kidnapping and torture. We’re currently looking into developing more such apps.

Aaron Kwizera Joe, Uganda: “How are you planning to involve the youth, especially university students, to be part of the struggle for human rights in the world?”
Young people are the role models that we need today; it’s vital for our movement to engage with young human rights activists. I want young people to know that we’re open to you and need you to challenge us to do better. It’s my abiding belief that young people are not the leaders of tomorrow, but the leaders we need here and now. This May, we held our first-ever Youth Power Action Summit where more than 100 young people from around the world shared stories, ideas and skills. Seek connections and get involved wherever you are.

Xiaojun Wang, China: “When and how are you starting some work in China? So much needs to be done there.”
The human rights situation in China has always been on our radar. But Amnesty is denied visas to work there. So, to find out what’s happening on the ground, we often closely follow reporting by other organizations and use technology to interview people. The human rights situation in China remains of great concern with the authorities censoring information and harassing and prosecuting human rights defenders. At the moment, we’re running a campaign to tell China to close its secret “re-education” camps for ethnic minorities. You can take action on our website.

Norma Leticia Arriaga Cardona, Guatemala: “What do you think Amnesty can do for Indigenous people of our country who the government has not supported or helped?”
We stand with Indigenous Peoples around the world. We join them in their fights to have their human rights recognized and we call on governments to implement laws and policies included in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. We want governments to make sure that Indigenous People have a say in decisions that affect them, for example on how their land is used, and we ask for their cultural identities to be protected and that they can live free from discrimination.
“You cannot talk about the climate change crisis without recognizing that it is also an inequality and race issue; you can’t address sexual discrimination without recognizing that it is bound up in the economic exclusion of women; and you can’t ignore the fact that people’s civil and political rights are often suppressed exactly when they are trying to demand basic economic justice.”

Kumi Naidoo

Rani Eid, Lebanon: “Where do you see the movement in the future in comparison to where it is right now?”

We want to be a truly global and more inclusive movement. I want to make it clear that Amnesty is now opening its arms wider than ever before to reach out to like-minded people in all four corners of the world, especially in the global south. In the future, our human rights activists should come from all walks of life, representing all kinds of different backgrounds and communities. We’ll be united by refusing to adjust to injustice and fight for a better world in lots of different areas.

Wahabn Obe, Nigeria: “Apart from signing petitions, are there other ways we international members can get involved?”

Many of you have told us that by joining Amnesty, you want to feel part of a community that is changing the world. Over the next year, we’ll be looking into creating more ways for you to connect. In the meantime, you can use our range of local social media channels to join up with other supporters. We also encourage all our members to take part in the growing number of digital campaign actions – from tweeting at governments to contributing to our Amnesty research. Last year, for example, as part of our Digital Decoders project, thousands of international members collected data about oil spills in the Niger Delta in Nigeria. We’re now using their findings to influence the Nigerian government to re-open investigations into oil spills. You can also join our Human Rights Academy where we offer you a range of online courses to learn more about human rights.
Each December, Amnesty supporters worldwide join forces to run the world’s biggest human rights event – Write for Rights – supporting and celebrating brave people fighting for what they believe in. With this global campaign, activists around the world send millions of letters, emails, tweets and other messages for those whose basic human rights are being attacked.

This year, for the first time, we’re featuring only women human rights defenders to shine a spotlight on the courageous work that they do.

Around the globe, every day, people are standing up against injustice and for human rights. Many of these individuals and communities face harassment, threats and attacks just for raising their voice.

Women activists are targeted not just for their actions defending human rights, but often also for their gender. By choosing women human rights defenders for this year’s Write for Rights campaign, we want to honour the role of women who challenge power, stand up for what is right and lead the charge for change.

Our women activists are from 10 different corners of the globe, fighting for different causes. What unites them is their strength and their vision to create a more equal world. But they’re also united by facing the same obstacles: discrimination, abuse, intimidation and violence which uniquely and disproportionately affect women, and in particular those who speak out.

We want to support these women to overcome these difficulties. We want to see a world in which all women can raise their voice without fear, and where they’re no longer targeted for who they are.

The women featured in this year’s Write for Rights campaign are from Brazil, India, Iran, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, South Africa, Ukraine, Venezuela and Viet Nam. They represent the struggles of countless women across the world.

Please send your messages to back up our amazing activists – together we can make change happen. You can write letters, send petitions, emails, tweets, Facebook posts, photos and postcards – discover how on the next pages.
Indigenous rights activist facing threats and intimidation after fighting for Adivasi people forced from their land by private companies that want to set up a power plant.

© Midia Ninja

Pavitri Manjhi, India

A defender of the rights of black women, LGBTI and young people, who fearlessly condemned unlawful killings by the police. She was murdered in March 2018.

© Amnesty International

Maríelle Franco, Brazil
SENGWER INDIGENOUS PEOPLE, KENYA

Fighting to keep their land, livelihoods and culture against attempts by the Kenya Forest Service to forcibly evict them, burning hundreds of homes.

ATENA DAEMI, IRAN

Serving a seven-year prison sentence in Tehran’s brutal Evin prison after speaking out against the death penalty.
GULZAR DUSHENOVA, KYRGYZSTAN

Campaigner facing daily discrimination after fighting for the rights of people with disabilities, and in particular women and girls.

NAWAL BEN AISSA, MOROCCO

Activist who faces constant harassment for speaking out for the rights of people in the Rif region.
VITALINA KOVAL, UKRAINE

Activist facing violence and intimidation for her outspoken defence of LGBTI rights.

NONHLE MBUTHUMA, SOUTH AFRICA

Faces intimidation and threats after standing up against the destructive impact of a titanium mining company in her community.
GERALDINE CHACON, VENEZUELA

Defender of youth rights facing persecution for promoting the rights of vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. She was jailed and conditionally released in June 2018.

ME NAM, VIET NAM

Blogger (aka Mother Mushroom) sentenced to 10 years in jail for speaking out against injustice, including police brutality.

FREED
17 OCTOBER 2018
Last year, your Write for Rights messages to Shackelia Jackson in Jamaica made a huge difference. Shackelia continues to demand justice for her brother, who was unlawfully killed by police. This tragedy led her to become a leader in the battle against police killings in Jamaica. Here’s her message back to you:

“You gave me not only a safe space and the shoulder of giants to stand on; but also an outlet to redefine the optics and manufactured perception of Jamaica and our leadership. The decision-makers no longer controlled the narrative and we were disrupting the nostalgia they exported.”

TAKE ACTION
bit.ly/2N9A5r8
Tweet your support to @Amnesty using the hashtag #W4R18
FINALLY FREE
Taner Kılıç, the Honorary Chair of Amnesty International Turkey, was released from prison on 15 August after more than 14 months behind bars. He was reunited with his family after being released by a court in Istanbul.

During the last 14 months, the whole movement came together as we had never seen before and relentlessly campaigned for Taner’s freedom. Nothing will erase the injustice Taner has suffered, locked up and kept away from his family and friends without a shred of evidence against him.

Taner has thanked his supporters and said he hopes the campaign for his release helps to highlight the situation of other victims of politically motivated prosecutions in Turkey.

More than one million people signed our appeals demanding the release of Taner Kılıç and 10 other Turkish human rights defenders after their arrest last summer. Taner was arrested in June 2017 on baseless charges of “membership of a terrorist organization”. He was accused of using an encrypted messaging app called ByLock, which the Turkish government said was used by members of the banned Fetullah Gülen group. Two police reports and two independent forensic analyses found no trace of ByLock on his phone.

“I was jailed despite the fact that I did not use ByLock. I hope it was not for nothing, that the awareness generated around the world will help others face fair trials in Turkey,” said Taner.

Taner’s trial is scheduled to resume on 7 November.

“I want to thank everyone. The international board, the Secretary General, the boards of sections, the staff, our members, activists and supporters. I want to express my deep gratitude to the activists who participated in protests for me in the rain, the mud and the blazing sun; to everyone who sent me countless letters, cards from Canada to Japan, from Norway to Benin. Thank you so very much.”

Taner Kılıç
The online Digital Verification Corps (e-DVC) students are the next generation of human rights investigators. They verify user-generated videos and photographs of human rights abuses and war crimes. Their work backs up and strengthens Amnesty’s traditional human rights research.

Originally, the DVC teams worked in isolation but to increase collaboration and impact, e-DVC teams were created. Victoria Tse and Alex Grigor (University of Cambridge, UK) and Amy Choi, Sang-Min Kim, Ariela Levy and Sonia Hamilton (Berkeley, USA), tell us how it all started, what lessons they have learnt and what a typical work day looks like.

The first e-DVC team we built consists of researchers from the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Cambridge. They have been focusing on the ongoing situation in Togo where the authorities curtail freedom of expression and security forces use excessive force against protesters. Our teams would assist each other in monitoring what was going on and giving open-source research support to Amnesty’s Togo team based in Senegal, thereby creating a global partnership.

As the project unfolded, we started looking for ways to monitor projects that require constant engagement over the long-term. The thinking was: the more hands on deck the better. However, there was no blueprint or precedent for such a collaboration. We had to create one.

A typical day of research starts with scrolling through various sources. These can include social media sites like Twitter, Facebook and YouTube, or other open sources like news sites or satellite imagery. Next, the team targets certain dates and events of interest to narrow the scope of open source content. They then take steps to verify and geolocate the media that has been collected.

We realized quickly that working between the UK and the west coast of the USA, the eight-hour time difference would allow us to continually monitor situations and to respond to real-time events on the ground. This would ensure both continuity and coverage of information and events. Communication between teams would take the form of round-the-clock messages via our collaborative messaging platform on which we share updates on searches and place requests for additional assistance.
GOODWILL AND COMMITMENT
But what we thought would be straightforward collaboration turned out to be anything but. Initially, we encountered extensive confusion about who was responsible for carrying out tasks and how to assign them. However, goodwill and a commitment to make this experiment in collaboration work saw us through the tough times. Eventually, things started to fall into place. What were previously messages of frustration transformed into late night calls for help. “Is anyone able to translate from French to English right now?” and “A protest just started – can someone look at this tomorrow?” have become commonplace.

We also learnt that the division of work between teams needs careful planning. Combing through YouTube and Twitter to find content and then verifying it, which involves establishing where and when the content was captured, fits nicely into a two-team model. However, at the beginning there was a near constant, “Wait, are we doing this, or are they?” Since then, we have found that assigning specific tasks requires further oversight, negotiation between teams and near daily check-ins.

SENSE OF JOINT IDENTITY
We solved some of these challenges by establishing a buddy system, pairing each member of the Cambridge team with a member of the Berkeley team. As the Cambridge team had already worked on the Togo project for several months, we established a workflow where the Cambridge buddy conducts initial discovery and verification and then assigns items of interest to their Berkeley buddy for further investigation.

The buddy system has led to higher quality work and increased accountability and improved communication among the teams. Besides, it has had the unexpected benefit of giving us a new sense of joint identity across campuses. What was previously the “Berkeley Team” and the “Cambridge Team” became the hybrid “Togo e-DVC Team” with a new, rewarding team culture.

Working closer together also increased the resilience of our teams. Human rights investigations are by nature demanding and emotionally taxing. A team member may spend hours verifying a single piece of content, which can often be very violent or distressing. Frequent exposure to such graphic content can trigger secondary trauma. Having a work partner who has seen the same materials fosters a sense of solidarity and mutual support and gives us another method to help reduce the effects of secondary trauma. DVC team members also often privately share ethical and emotional concerns with their buddies.

LOOKING AHEAD
Despite the added complexity in workflows, late-night and early morning messages, fuzzy video calls and organizational stresses, the collaboration between DVCs has led to a noticeably higher-quality monitoring campaign. These types of international, cross-campus interactions bring together different expertise, varied perspectives and alternative approaches to human rights work. We hope the connections that we built with our Berkeley-Cambridge e-DVC will continue to grow and stand the test of time, ultimately helping to strengthen a global network of students impacting human rights worldwide.

FIND OUT MORE
bit.ly/2MQTPQi

TERMS & TOOLS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS INVESTIGATIONS

**Discovery** involves combing through various web platforms (Twitter, YouTube, Facebook and news sources in particular) to find content surrounding a specific or ongoing event.

**Verification** is the process of locating when, where, and by whom the content was captured. If we were already given that information, verification then requires authenticating those details.

**E-DVC** is an online Digital Verification Corps that works digitally across time and space. Participants in the e-DVC may never meet in person, but nevertheless form a collaborative team with additional benefits not afforded to a traditional DVC.
Kibera, in Kenya’s capital Nairobi, might be the largest urban slum in Africa, but it’s home to a group of dynamic young activists who are spreading the importance of human rights, through action-packed theatre, poetry and dance. Wasanii Sanaa, a youth organization, and Amnesty are tackling poverty, drug addiction and child trafficking by teaching the community why it’s important to know and claim their rights. Led by 27-year-old human rights defender and part-time paralegal Vincent (right), education has never been so entertaining. Angela Singh, Communications Manager, went to Kibera to meet the activists.
“Poverty and unemployment is a huge problem in Kibera,” said Vincent. “Young people take drugs from an early age, gender-based violence is rife and police brutality is at an all-time high.” Many of his friends dropped out of school, but he was determined to take a different path. “I developed a passion for the arts at school and after I met Charles Nyukuri, Human Rights Education and Activism Campaign Manager at Amnesty Kenya, I knew I wanted to be a champion for human rights. He mentored me and taught me how to stand up and speak out for people’s rights.”

After Vincent left school, he decided to combine his performance skills with his passion for human rights and set up his own youth organization, Wasanii Sanaa, under the mentorship of Amnesty. Even though he had no money, he printed posters, found a space in a local organization and held auditions. “We started rehearsing poems, traditional dances and short skits in a bid to educate Kibera about human rights issues relevant at a local level. Our group has grown from four people to 25!”

Vincent’s parents, Leonard and Eunice, had reservations, questioning whether art would pay, but they can see the difference he’s making. “I am proud of Vincent’s work – he has changed the lives of other young people and he has helped reform so many,” said Leonard, who makes shoes for a living. “Some of the young people he works with were involved in criminal activities, but now they understand human rights issues and they’ve changed.”

Julian (right), 24, is a member of Wasanii Sanaa. Like many others, she was inspired by Vincent and was eager to become part of the group. She earns a wage, while performing in public has helped her grow in confidence. “I enjoy educating people about human rights, but in Kibera, you can’t give information without entertainment. That’s why we put the two together. I didn’t know how to do traditional dances, poetry or acting, but now I enjoy performing. We perform in schools, in the community, so I encounter different people every day. I am trusted as people can see what I am doing. Parents often ask if their children can join our group.”

Every group needs an energetic master of ceremony (MC). Step forward John (far left), 24, who firmly believes Kibera is a place of hope. “I’m aware of the issues that exist in the slums, I grew up here, but the fear of them remaining encouraged me to speak out. There’s great potential here. I’ve been to primary and secondary school here and now I’m taking electrical engineering at university.”

From police brutality and drug abuse, to gender-based violence, the young MC fuses hard-hitting content with humour to make sure performances have maximum impact. “If our event focuses on police reforms, I talk about our rights. If I want to tackle violence, I back it up with statistics. I do
research before my gigs, as I want to have enough content to share and inspire people. The truth comes out when we speak out – that’s the only way people will listen and recognize our potential.”

Wasanii Sanaa, in partnership with Amnesty, also host Human Rights Clubs in schools, providing a safe space for young people to learn about their rights and how to claim them. “Human Rights Club ensures young people have the chance to enjoy a better life,” said Charles Nyukuri. “I've seen so many children grow in confidence, including Vincent. He learnt a lot about human rights with the support of Amnesty and it gave him the encouragement to start his own organization. Other children and young people can now speak freely and share issues in an articulate manner, while many have gone on to university.”

It’s also having an effect across Kibera. “Many children come to Kibera from rural areas. They're told they will go to school, but many of them ended up working at home, just to earn their stay,” said Sylvia. “Students have been standing up for themselves and using what they've learnt to educate the community so they can go back to school.”

Across Kibera, young people are leading the charge and changing the way the community works, ensuring it is a place of hope. “A human rights defender should not have any limits,” said Vincent. “I've faced a lot of challenges as a human rights activist, but people understand what I’m trying to do, and I’m determined to carry on. I want to make a change and empower my community. Living under a rusty roof cannot make your mind rusty.”

FIND OUT MORE
Amnesty’s human rights education project: bit.ly/2oMKx9o

All photographs © Angela Singh/Amnesty International
Amal Agourram, aged 21, from Morocco, was one of the youth activists at our first-ever Youth Power Action Summit, held in May in Nairobi, Kenya. More than 100 young people from around the world took part and shared stories, ideas and skills. Amal tells us how she became an activist and what inspires her.

**How did you get into activism?**
Women’s rights are violated every day in Morocco. I know people who have been harassed and assaulted, whose right to freedom of expression has been violated, and those who have faced unfair trials. That's what makes me want to fight for human rights. After I graduated, I started working with Amnesty at a local level on its Brave and I Welcome campaigns.

**What do you want to achieve?**
My aim is to create an environment where people are tolerant, open-minded and there's an understanding of human rights. Through I Welcome, I encourage people to see beyond the refugee label and listen to the stories behind it.

**Do you campaign with other people?**
I mostly work with other young people on these campaigns. It’s an opportunity to meet people who have had similar experiences. By taking part, young people tell me they feel a lot less lonely and part of something important. Many of us have also used the skills we've gained to educate people at home, about issues such as women's rights.

**What keeps you going?**
I'm always thinking about ways I can make a change and have an impact. For me, it's a hobby. Even when my parents tell me to rest, I tell them that promoting the importance of human rights makes me feel good!

**Who inspires you?**
Nelson Mandela. He inspires us all. I also seek inspiration from people from my hometown. They motivate me to make a difference.
The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted on 10 December 1948. It consists of 30 Articles which lay out the foundation for a just world in which every person is born with fundamental rights. The UDHR is universal and indivisible and the basis for the protection of human rights. It’s up to all of us to uphold them.

We all have the right to make up our own minds, to think what we like, to say what we think, and to share our ideas with other people wherever they live, through books, radio, television and in other ways.
‘LET US PICK UP OUR BOOKS AND OUR PENS, THEY ARE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPONS’

Malala Yousafzai (born 1997)
Pakistani activist and youngest Nobel Prize laureate