Amnesty International

How to make a banner

1. Get a large piece of cloth
The best material to use is washable non-stretch cotton, such as tough calico, linen or sailcloth. These materials comes in a wide range of colours.
2. Pin or tape your banner onto a flat wall
3. Design your banner on a computer
Keep the message clear, powerful and simple. Include images and also Amnesty's name and candle logo where relevant. Print your design onto a sheet of acetate used for Over-Head Projectors (OHPs)
4. Project your design onto your banner
Use an OHP. Carefully trace the outline of the letters and any images onto your banner with chalk or a pencil.
5. Lay the banner down flat on a large table
with plastic sheeting or newspaper underneath.
6. Paint directly onto the banner
Fill in the lettering and other designs with water-based paint. Emulsion paint is cheap, effective and comes in any colour you want, but it may need two coats. Acrylic paints cost more but also work well. Make sure you work in a well ventilated room.
7. Or… cut the image and words out of another piece of cloth and glue them onto your banner. Lining silk or rayon can look spectacular! Use water-based PVA glue – it dries clear.
8. If you want to carry your banner, you will need three poles to make a frame: two vertical poles and a top horizontal pole. Bamboo poles are cheap and sturdy. Sew or glue a set of cloth loops along the top of the banner, or make a long pocket by folding over the top of the banner and sticking it down. Hang your banner from the top pole.
9. Make your banner fire-retardant if is to be used indoors for public events (like backdrops for stage performances)**.** You can buy fire-retardant spray such as *msl Firecheck* from art shops or builders shops.

Banners can be made from plastic sheeting too. You can paint directly onto the plastic sheeting with spray paint, emulsion paint or acrylic paint.