



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL THE STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION 2022

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Amnesty International is a movement of 10 million people which mobilizes the humanity in everyone and campaigns for change so we can all enjoy our human rights. Our vision is of a world where those in power keep their promises, respect international law and are held to account. We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and individual donations. We believe that acting in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere can change our societies for the better.


First published in 2023
by Amnesty International Ltd
Peter Benenson House
1 Easton Street
London WC1X 0DW
United Kingdom

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Index: POL 32/7160/2023 English
Language: English

Layout Design by Off Colour Design.

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 Cover photo: *Bibata Ouedraogo (left), Leader of the Association of Women for the Development of Burkina Faso, with her adopted daughter Fatimata Guedraogo and Adama Sawadogo (right), both of whom are survivors of forced marriage.*

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WELCOME

Across the globe, 2022 was marked by continuing violations of human rights fuelled in large part by new and existing conflicts, discrimination, the climate emergency, and environments that are increasingly hostile to human rights, where freedom of expression and the ability to protest are being eroded. 2022 was also marked by the inspiring action of human rights defenders, activists, and educators, speaking up in defence of human rights, taking action to address violations, and working tirelessly to strengthen awareness and knowledge of human rights. This report focuses on the work of Amnesty International's human rights educators, their partners, and the communities they work with, which includes, amongst others, members of Indigenous communities, young LGBTI people and their allies, traditional leaders, teachers, school children, and local and national authorities. Through diverse programmes, resources and innovative practices, Amnesty's human rights education (HRE) is making a difference despite the many challenges faced.

In 2022, Amnesty International's HRE initiatives reached 4.15 million people, directly contributing to the movement's vision of a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and other international human rights instruments.

As many countries roll back human rights protections, we need – now more than ever – to invest in building the foundations for rights-respecting societies. Amnesty works with its members, supporters, activists and partners to carry out HRE in local, national, regional and global contexts. Today, educators at many of Amnesty's national sections across the world raise awareness and equip people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to be able to take informed action in support of the international human rights movement.

HRE enables people to learn about human rights and how to claim them. HRE can be defined as any learning, education, training, or information efforts aimed at building a universal culture of human rights.¹ It encompasses:

“Human Rights Education is central to the work that Amnesty International carries out across the globe, it builds knowledge, understanding and supports reflection on human rights issues. When people are empowered to think critically about human rights, they are more likely to stand up for their own rights and to act in support of other's human rights. In 2022, our education programmes reached more than 4 million people. They were diverse in terms of both thematic issues and audiences, engaging communities to secure an end to Female Genital Mutilation; delivering multicounty education programs with activists on LGBTI rights; and developing lesson plans for children in countries neighbouring Ukraine to help them understand the conflict. In 2022 Amnesty's human rights education continued to change lives, influencing attitudinal and behaviour change, and supporting learners on a journey towards human rights action and activism.”

Agnès Callamard

Secretary General, Amnesty International

1. The global HRE team uses the United Nations' definition for human rights education.

- Knowledge – learning about human rights and human rights mechanisms.
- Values, attitudes and behaviours – developing values and reinforcing attitudes and behaviours which uphold human rights.
- Skills to take action – acquiring skills to apply human rights in a practical way in daily life and taking actions to defend and promote human rights.

HRE is a core capability within Amnesty International's Strategic Framework 2022-2030. The overall aim is to ensure a world where everyone knows and can claim their human rights. This report highlights some of Amnesty's HRE work and achievements in 2022. However, it cannot do justice to the richness of the education work being undertaken and supported by all the Amnesty sections who have contributed to the report, providing information on over 140 HRE initiatives. Together this work reached people in more than 60 countries across the world. In addition, Amnesty's regional and global HRE work has further complemented the work at national level, including reaching audiences in countries where Amnesty does not have a presence or is prohibited from operating.

This report also reflects on the global human rights environment in which Amnesty's education on human rights takes place, and the growing restrictions faced by human rights educators as governments hostile to human rights restrict opportunities for HRE in formal and non-formal settings. Overall, the report provides a snapshot of HRE from around the Amnesty movement, and the critical role it plays to enable individuals, groups and communities to understand human rights and to defend them.



Kate Moriarty
Head of Human Rights Education



© Amnesty Iceland

👁️ ↑ *Amnesty International Iceland collected signatures and read a poem to raise awareness of Write for Rights 2022.*

INTRODUCTION

While the COVID-19 crisis finally eased in 2022, allowing a return to pre-pandemic normalcy for many, for others the reality of their everyday lives continued to be fraught with restrictions amounting to human rights violations. Millions have seen their rights disrupted because of conflict. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has resulted in violations of humanitarian and human rights law. Conflicts which have continued to disrupt lives and undermine human rights raged on in Syria, Ethiopia, Yemen, the Sahel and elsewhere. Palestinians in the West Bank experienced more deaths last year than they have in a decade, as Israel's apartheid regime tightened its grip. High levels of violence and human rights violations continued in Haiti, Mali, and Venezuela, to name but a few. These all added to the global refugee crisis, with a surge in the numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons worldwide reaching more than 108 million, 19 million higher than the end of 2021.²

The climate crisis was acutely felt in 2022, with record high temperatures, rising concentration of greenhouse gases, a number of European countries experiencing their highest summer wildfire emissions for at least the last 20 years, and devastating floods across a third of Pakistan's territory. Yet in the face of this, at COP27 in Egypt, world leaders failed to take the necessary measures to keep global temperatures below the 1.5C threshold. Climate change remains one of the greatest threats to human rights today, posing a serious risk to the rights to life, health, food, water and sanitation, and adequate housing.

Women's human rights have come under attack around the world, and 2022 saw a rolling back of advances made in previous decades. The Taliban's repression of girls and women in Afghanistan continued to intensify: Girls and young women were banned from secondary education and from universities and women were also prevented from working for NGOs. The United States of America's Supreme Court overturned a long-standing constitutional guarantee of abortion access.

2022 also saw further erosion of the right to protest, with violations of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, occurring in over 75% of countries where protests were recorded, and protesters detained in over 90 countries during the year.³ Demonstrators have been met with excessive use of force, including use of water-cannons, batons, and tear-gas, in over 40% of the countries recording protests.⁴ Protesters faced severe repression in Brazil, Perú⁵ and Sri Lanka, to name but a few, and protest rights in the United Kingdom were eroded through new legislation. In Iran protesters took to the streets in the greatest challenge to the Islamic Republic's rule since it took the reins of power in 1979, following the death in police custody of Mahsa Amini, who had been arrested for failing to cover her hair. Iranian security forces' response to the protests was brutal: By December 2022 they had killed 450 protesters and begun publicly executing protestors convicted – in rushed trials – for crimes against the state.

Against this backdrop, HRE assumes an even more crucial role in building a solid foundation of knowledge and skills in the defence of human rights. Whilst the challenges faced are great, this report contains important reminders of the

2 The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), *Global Trends*, June 2023, www.unhcr.org/global-trends

3 Civicus Monitor, *Global Assessment of Protest Rights 2022*, www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/reports-publications/6189-global-assessment-on-protest-rights-2022

4 Ibid.

5 For more information on violations of protest rights in Perú, see Amnesty's 2023 report *Racismo letal: Ejecuciones extrajudiciales y uso ilegítimo de la fuerza por los cuerpos de seguridad de Perú* [Lethal Racism: Extrajudicial Executions and Unlawful Use of Force by Peru's Security Forces] (Index: AMR 46/6761/2023), 23 May 2023, www.amnesty.org/es/documents/amr46/6761/2023/es/ (in Spanish).



valuable and relevant HRE work taking place around the world. This work must be built on, strengthened and improved, if we are to combat the deterioration in respect for human rights which we witnessed in 2022.

Amnesty's HRE around the world is varied and diverse in the methods used – covering formal and informal education, online and offline formats, encompassing short courses, academies, educational campaigns and videos. It is also diverse in who it targets, across age groups, gender identities, urban and rural settings, ethnic identities, and geographies. This report give insights into some of the diversity, depth and breadth of this work, from the overall reach, types of change, audiences and partners across the movement, to contextual highlights including: education projects with Indigenous communities on environmental and land rights in Perú; education on political participation and accountability among rural communities in Kenya; teaching young people across the Middle East and North Africa about the human rights situation in Palestine and the Israeli apartheid; integrating HRE into formal school curriculum in Kyrgyzstan; and changing cultural norms to prevent female genital mutilation and child marriage in West Africa. We hope you are as inspired by these tireless and brave efforts as we are.

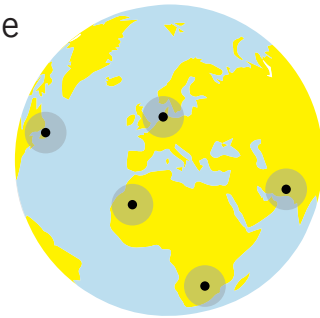
©↑ A 'Training for Teachers' event in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan as part of Write for Rights 2022.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

Globally in 2022, Amnesty International's HRE work

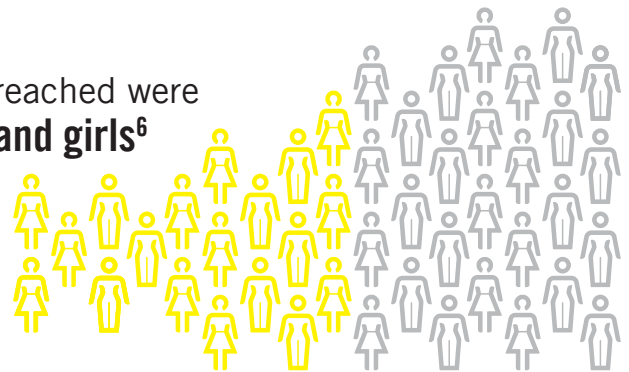
In 2022 Amnesty International's HRE work was carried out in both formal and informal education spaces

Engaged over **4.1 million** people in **61 countries and territories** worldwide

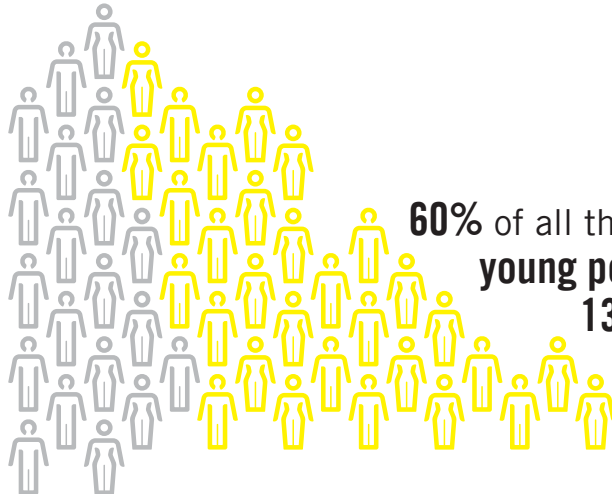


141 projects led by Amnesty sections

44% of those reached were **women and girls**⁶



60% of all those reached were **young people** and **13%** were **children**⁷



56% of HRE projects were conducted in **formal education spaces**, such as **schools, colleges, or universities**.

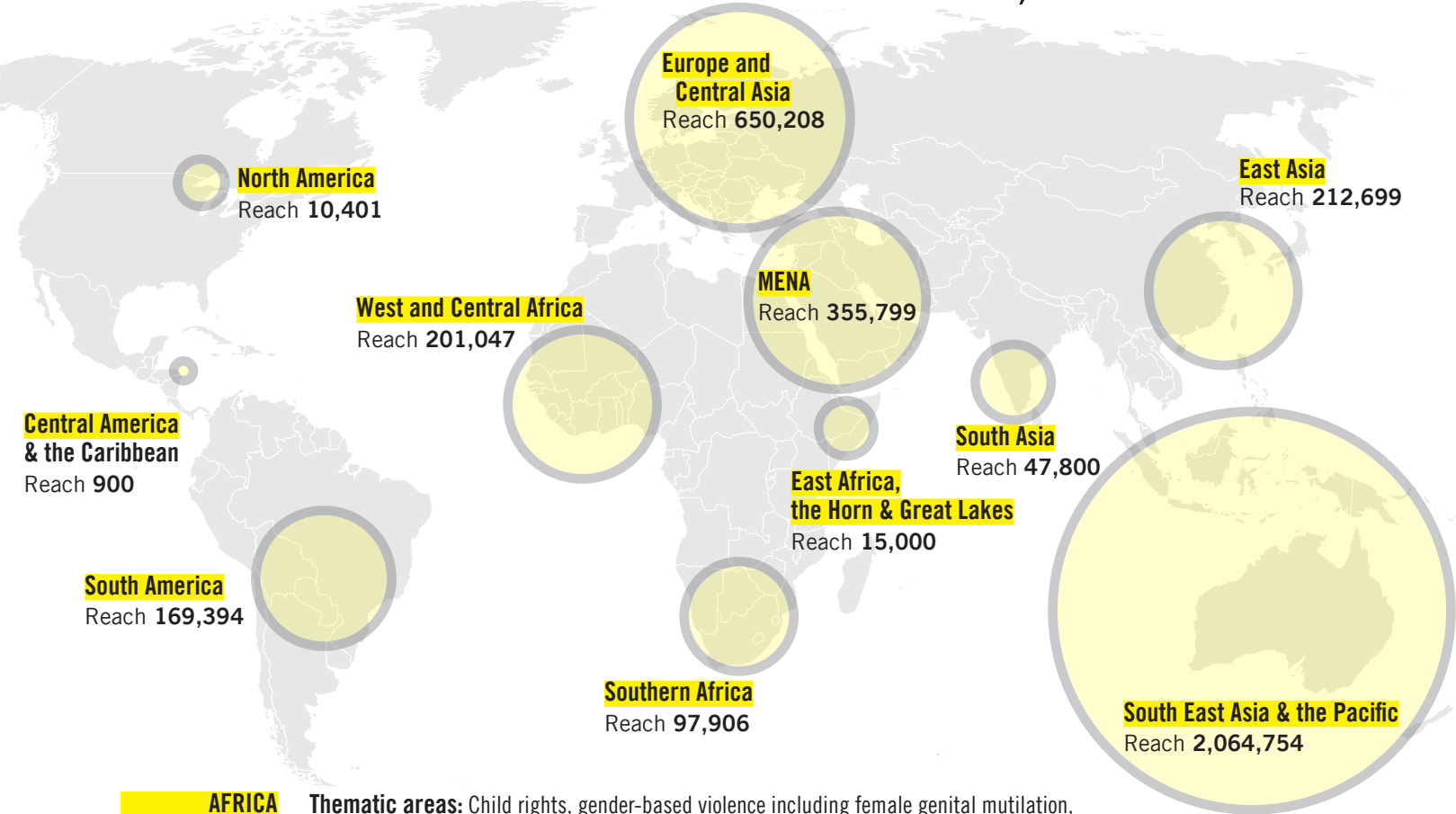


41% reported that **HRE** is included in **formal curricula** in their country

⁶ This percentage is based on the number of projects where disaggregated data is available. Children are defined as under 18 years of age and young people are defined as under 25 years of age.

⁷ This percentage is based on the number of projects where disaggregated data is available.

GLOBAL SNAPSHOT OF PEOPLE REACHED BY REGION, 2022



AFRICA

Thematic areas: Child rights, gender-based violence including female genital mutilation, early [and] forced marriage, promotion of holistic HRE in formal education

Key target groups: Children and young people, teachers, formal education communities, community leaders and duty bearers

AMERICAS

Thematic areas: Gender based violence, LGBTI rights, comprehensive sexuality education, sexual and reproductive rights

Key target groups: LGBTI people, young people and children, young activists.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Thematic areas: Freedom of expression, LGBTI rights, child rights, climate justice, general introduction to human rights, discrimination

Key target groups: Young people and children, students, activists

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Thematic areas: Right to protest, violence against women, general introduction to human rights, promotion of holistic HRE in formal education

Key target groups: Teachers, children and young people, women and girls, activists, and human rights defenders

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Thematic areas: Freedom of expression, violence against women, gender justice, migrant rights

Key target groups: Young people, women and girls, activists, human rights defenders, migrants and migrant domestic workers

GLOBAL


Thematic areas: Right to protest, climate justice and human rights


Key target groups: Digital learners, youth activists, teachers, human rights defenders


SUPPORTING FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING TO TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

HRE takes many shapes and forms and each teaching and learning activity is designed to build knowledge and understanding of human rights in order for individuals and groups to know and be able to claim their rights. Holistic action-oriented HRE aims not only to build foundational knowledge – a valid and important action in and of itself – but also to enable learners to take action. Amnesty's HRE initiatives aim to support learning journeys encompassing this spectrum from foundational learning to transformative change.

In 2022, Amnesty's HRE work supported participants on a journey of learning and action:

55 projects contributed to foundational knowledge and supported action  **Example:** Working closely with *Instituto Maíra*, a local partner, and with *Associação Kowit*, the Indigenous community association, Amnesty International Brazil introduced human rights principles and values to Indigenous communities, presenting them as tools for defending Indigenous lands. This laid the foundation for human rights action.

63 projects contributed to mobilisation and informed action.  **Example:** Members of the *Vivan las Mujeres* (Long Live Women) Network use the tools provided by Amnesty International Mexico to carry out human rights education activities, positioning the rights of women to a life free of violence as a fundamental issue, raising awareness and inviting people to take action in favour of women's rights.

23 projects contributed to transformational change and mobilised others.  **Example:** Amnesty International Benin's school clubs are run by the students and operate independently of Amnesty. They work to educate their peers, equipping them with human rights knowledge and skills, and supporting them in taking action for human rights. They identify human rights issues in their schools, using tools developed by Amnesty Benin, and then actions are proposed and implemented by the members of the groups. In 2022, the Akodena Secondary School in southern Benin carried out a series of actions for the right to a healthy environment, working with the leaders of the school and advocating for the local government to increase the number of bins in the courtyard of the college and provide equipment for the school to be cleaned.



 → Activists from Amnesty Benin at the launch of *Write for Rights 2022*.

REACHING DIVERSE AUDIENCES

Amnesty's HRE efforts are reaching a diverse population, not only across national boundaries, but also different age groups, genders, minorities and marginalised groups.

For Amnesty, broadening the diversity of people we work with is key to the change we seek. It is in this way that our movement can reflect the needs and realities of people with different backgrounds and identities and our work can be grounded in the perspectives of a wide diversity of people facing different kinds of discrimination or other restrictions to their rights. Most Amnesty sections worked with a diversity of people and groups in their HRE projects and programmes, for example:



64% of projects reported working with groups facing discrimination based on one or more protected grounds of

discrimination. Most frequently projects identified their participants as facing discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation and/or age.

Most projects either involved an awareness of the needs and challenges faced by individuals and groups that are discriminated against, and its activities were adapted accordingly, or had an explicit intent to adopt a comprehensive, intersectional approach to tackling constraints that prevent full and equal access to, and enjoyment of, human rights for groups facing discrimination.

Very few projects did not consider the differential needs of individuals and groups that are discriminated against.



An additional measure of the success of the HRE work being undertaken by Amnesty's national sections is indicated through the level of, and different types of, engagement that participants of HRE programmes have following their initial education experience with Amnesty. Overall, the top types of engagement observed were: people choosing for themselves to participate in the HRE activities; people taking part in HRE activities they were enrolled in within their formal education institutions; and people taking action as a result of participating in the HRE. Across the projects as a whole, engagement was reported to be very high, with people thoroughly engaging with the issues and topics.

 [↑ Amnesty Netherlands supporters and members take part in Write for Rights 2022, Amsterdam.](#)

PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships and alliances are key to the effectiveness of people-powered movements. They are essential to HRE having an impact and broadening the scope and reach of HRE. Much of Amnesty's HRE work takes place within the context of partnerships with schools and education institutions, with activist groups and coalitions, and with community-based organisations and NGOs, among others.

80% of projects involved different partners at some stage, most frequently in the implementation of HRE activities, highlighting the importance of work with partners to deliver HRE. **61 projects (43%)** involved working with partners throughout the whole project cycle, from planning and implementation through to evaluation. Working with partners not only increased our reach, but also helped us to attain value for money by achieving high level impact with manageable investment.


Donors are also partners in supporting Amnesty to achieve HRE impact, where there will be a benefit to the organisation's human rights work without compromising our mission, independence and credibility. This

includes a range of local and international philanthropic trusts and foundations. Amnesty also accepts funding from governments to implement HRE, from national governments via ministerial departments, and intergovernmental organisations such as the European Union and the United Nations.

Local partners who understand the context, challenges and opportunities to build sustainable human rights understanding and knowledge are invaluable in delivering national and local HRE, and to informing work at regional and global levels. Their expertise and partnerships are central to locally driven work that support enabling communities to access quality and contextualised HRE to know and claim their rights.



© Musinguzi Reagan Sitima

 ↑ A letter writing event held by International members at a school in Jamada Kalinda Musa, Uganda, for Write for Rights 2022.

SHRINKING CIVIC SPACE AND GROWING RESTRICTIONS ON HRE

In recent years we have witnessed the impact of some of the biggest protests in decades. Black Lives Matter, climate change movements, and protest movements in Iran and Sri Lanka, amongst others, having inspired millions around the world to take to the streets and online to demand racial and climate justice, freedom, equity and livelihoods, and an end to gender violence and discrimination. Yet this wave of mass protest has been largely met with obstructive, repressive, and often violent responses by state authorities. Instead of facilitating the right to protest, governments are going to great lengths to quash it.

In July of 2022, Amnesty launched its global campaign “[Protect the Protest](#)” to address the growing attacks on the right to protest globally. The campaign aims to challenge the attacks on peaceful protest, act in solidarity with those targeted and work alongside social movements pushing for human rights change. HRE is contributing to this campaign at local, regional and global levels. The theme of the Amnesty’s 2022 “[Write for Rights Campaign](#)” was the right to protest. In 2022, more than half of the Amnesty sections contributed through HRE to the campaign. Additionally, 5,559 people enrolled in Amnesty’s [online course on the “Right to Protest”](#), available in 9 languages. As a result of this HRE work, there is a greater awareness of the issue and activists have enhanced their understanding, knowledge and skills to take action on the issue and take part in the Protect the Protest campaign.

The restrictions being imposed on human rights activists are also evident in authorities’ responses to HRE. Despite the momentum gained in the



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- 👁️ ↑ *Amnesty Academy’s online courses included one on the “Right to Protest*
- 👁️ ↑↑ *Iranian schoolgirls participate in a peaceful protest by removing their mandatory hijabs while in their school uniforms, Iran 2022.*

field of HRE, many state actors are still not doing enough to advance a human rights culture.

In countries where the human rights situation is worsening, HRE has stalled as increasingly repressive States become hostile to human rights in general. HRE projects face several barriers, from the inability to access schools due to legislation restricting the access of NGOs to formal education, to self-censoring by teachers afraid of backlash. Amnesty sections across different regions have grave concerns about the risks for human rights educators and participants facing retaliation, prosecution or detention for engaging in human rights work. This limits Amnesty's ability to provide HRE and challenges us with the question of how to safely conduct HRE in a worsening human rights climate. In providing input for this report, 15 Amnesty sections specifically mentioned restrictions imposed on human rights activists and closing civic space as challenges they face. They stressed the importance of learning to work in repressive contexts, the need for flexibility and to work without visibility or Amnesty branding at times. Sections included among the challenges they face a 'hostile environment for human rights', the 'criminalisation of protest' and 'tense relationships with government authorities'. Several entities specifically mentioned hostility faced by LGBTI activists in the form of LGBTI-phobic laws, homophobic and conservative leadership, and threats to LGBTI activists' personal security. Some Amnesty sections are accused of being supporters of armed opposition groups, and in a number of countries anti-human rights sentiment poses a serious barrier to the work of sections and their partners.

Despite these challenges and growing restrictions, the highlights from Amnesty's national and regional HRE initiatives, as set out below, demonstrate the power and effectiveness of our education work to strengthen knowledge and understanding of rights, to bring about attitudinal and behaviour change, and to lead to transformative action.



© AI Morocco

🕒 ↑ Young leaders of Amnesty Morocco's Advisory Committee support Write for Rights 2022, whilst attending the section's Annual National Youth Forum.

🕒 ↑ Members and supporters of Amnesty International Ghana take part in the launch of Write for Rights 2022

SHOWCASING REGIONAL AND COUNTRY HRE HIGHLIGHTS



Amnesty understands the importance of local knowledge and action to create global change and while our HRE work supports universal rights, it is contextualised to address local and regional challenges. Below are highlights from across different regions and national HRE initiatives, which are illustrative of the rich diversity and impact of our education work⁹.

⁹ Appendix A provides a snapshot of HRE work in other national sections, beyond those highlighted in this section.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

AFRICA

WEST AFRICA: COMBATTING FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION AND CHILD MARRIAGE

Amnesty sections in Burkina Faso, Senegal and Sierra Leone are working to defend the rights of girls and young women. Their efforts are focused on reducing the rate of female genital mutilation (FGM) and early and forced marriage of girls. HRE is the fundamental tool for building knowledge of the harm and risks of these practices. It helps change attitudes and behaviours away from supporting these practices, dismantles myths and misconceptions, and enables people to see them as human rights violations. HRE also supports people to build the skills to take action in defence of the rights of girls who are subjected to, or are at risk of being subjected to, FGM and early and forced marriage. The project supports the empowerment of women and girls, and enables whole communities, including men and boys, to support women and girls' rights.

Amnesty **Sierra Leone** undertook a series of HRE activities as part of this work, including:

- Creating safe spaces for girls in 12 rural communities (of which eight are still functional). These are spaces where girls can meet regularly to discuss their concerns and participate in human rights trainings (two trainings in each community were delivered in 2022). The safe spaces created a platform for emotional support for the affected girls, while empowering them to stand up for their rights.
- Organising two debate competitions for girls in rural schools that was attended by 1,093 learners (550 girls and 543 boys). The debates supported them to express themselves freely, identify human rights abuses, discuss them and demand justice. The debates improved the knowledge and awareness of the attendees on various dynamics of FGM, while at the same time cultivating their confidence and esteem to shun the harmful practice.
- Organising three football matches for girls in two rural communities, which served to increased awareness of FGM and empower participants to talk about human rights and demand one's rights.

Many of the communities Amnesty Sierra Leone has been working with have begun to abandon FGM. Of the 12 communities that Amnesty Sierra Leone has been working in,¹⁰ of them reported that the community has stopped support for the practice of FGM, and have committed to respecting human



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© Amnesty International/Sven Dauphin

👁️ This page: *The END FGM European Campaign hosted the seminar 'Towards European action to end female genital mutilation' at the European Parliament, 2013.*

👁️ Previous page: *Amnesty Zimbabwe's Youth Power Action 2022 brought together young people from different parts of the country for training on leadership and campaigning for human rights.*

¹⁰ This is based on information reported by the community.

rights principles as a result of continuous efforts by Amnesty and partners. In the other two communities, the [FGM] Alert Committees (comprised of teachers, pastors, chiefs, Imams etc.) continue to work towards ending the practice and mitigating its effects.

Because of this work, women and girls have started to discuss issues more openly, including human rights abuses and discrimination. The team has seen an increase in reporting of cases such as rape, domestic abuse, and forced and early child marriage. For instance, in Moyamba District, four cases of FGM, including one in which a victim died during the process, were reported to the police. The case involving the death of the child went to court, but unfortunately was dismissed on the grounds that it is a cultural and traditional issue. Nonetheless, the case increased public awareness of the issue as it was covered by many media outlets and radio stations, contributing to turning public opinion against the practice.

In comparison to previous years, 2022 also saw an increase in women and girls exhibiting leadership behaviour and taking on leadership roles. As a result of training which built skills and confidence, girls have become ambassadors in their communities for human rights and Amnesty Sierra Leone reported there is enhanced capacity among hundreds of women and girls to lead. The space created by Sierra Leone's Gender Empowerment and Women's Equality Act, which secures a 30% quota for women in leadership positions (both appointed positions, including cabinet, ministry, and ambassador roles, and elected positions, such as parliamentary and local council seats), provides some opportunities for these young women to take on leadership roles. While some men are hostile to the changes, through HRE interventions such as training in inter-generational dialogue sessions on gender-based violence, discrimination and inequality, many men and boys have embraced the fact that women and girls should be equal counterparts in their communities. Many male local leaders have supported efforts to eliminate FGM and child marriage, and men have become active members of the Alert Committees.

Amnesty's evaluation process, which involved interviews with different community members, including teachers and heads of schools in the project areas, as well as local chiefs, men, women and girls themselves, found that 60% of respondents attested to the fact that this work has led to an increased number of girls in schools, and an increase in girls' confidence and ability to talk about their rights.

Amnesty International Sierra Leone is also advocating for a change in legislation within the country to criminalise FGM. Amnesty Sierra Leone and the Child Rights Coalition have reviewed and suggested amendments to the Child Rights Act of 2007. The revised bill seeks to protect the rights of

“We received a very important training today and we thank you very much. We have acquired new knowledge on the rights of the child and of women in general. This knowledge will allow us as a monitoring committee to take care of the children and to act if necessary.”

Imam in Thietty

“I am your champion, and I will amplify your voice against FGM to my peers in ECOWAS parliament.”¹¹

ECOWAS parliamentarian
from Kaffrine

11 ECOWAS is the Economic Community of West African States



© Astrid Chitou/Amnesty International

children and to also criminalise FGM and child marriage for girls under the age of 18. They advocated and consulted parliamentarians, the public and government bodies. Unfortunately, the bill was rejected by parliament. FGM as a cultural practice remains deeply embedded and this continues to present major challenges to eliminating the practice and protecting girls' rights. Amnesty Sierra Leone will continue these efforts, working to garner support for legislative change on these issues. The section is also part of the technical committee which continues to advocate for the proposed Safe Motherhood Bill, which would allow women the right to abortions.

In **Senegal**, the Amnesty team is working in 20 target communities across eight departments in the country. The team has focused on training key stakeholders, reaching 1,400 teachers, members of Alert and Watch committees, midwives, journalists and community radio hosts, as well as children. The training is focused on human rights, and in particular children's rights and women's rights, participatory methodologies, gender-based violence (GBV) (including FGM), discrimination and prejudice, protection and child protection mechanisms, and international, regional and national human rights frameworks. The 10 days of activism, an annual international campaign that kicks off on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, presented an opportunity to make the human rights work visible through popular forums and radio broadcasts, which reached between 5,000 and 15,000 listeners.

 [↑] *Schoolgirls in the Manonkoh community in Sierra Leone.*

The presence of local and administrative authorities (mayors, prefects and/or sub-prefects) in the forums was powerful, contributing to convincing communities to abandon the harmful practices of FGM and child marriage.

There is anecdotal evidence that the number of girls being subjected to FGM in some communities in Senegal has reduced. There are two notable occasions where committee members have intervened to prevent FGM. In one instance, in June 2022, a village was planning to subject 10 young girls to FGM during a ceremony commemorating the death of a village exciser (a person who performs the act of FGM). One of Amnesty's partners called the prefect and the gendarmerie and warned the village chief and fathers that they would be arrested if they went

ahead, as FGM is illegal in Senegal. As a result, they did not perform FGM on the girls. Similarly, a committee member in a village near Koussanar prevented the FGM of 10 young girls and carried out awareness raising among their families.

As was the case in Sierra Leone, the team in Senegal has also seen an increase in reporting of cases of rape, domestic abuse, and child marriage. The reporting of three cases of rape led to the arrest of the perpetrators, with one being sentenced to seven years in jail and two sentenced to ten years. This was the first time that cases of rape were reported in these villages due to deeply rooted cultural views on rape and the shame attached to it. Training and awareness raising helped people to break the silence and encouraged survivors to report the cases.

In Senegal, Amnesty has garnered support and commitments from duty bearers and has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Education that aimed to get public commitment to eradicate Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early and Forced Marriage in their respective communities, by urging parents to protect their children from these harmful practices. Amnesty was able to train 25 parliamentarians on these issues. As a result of training and a series of advocacy measures, two parliamentarians, one of whom was a former exciser (person who carries out the act of FGM), became lead mobilisers against FGM. Similarly, religious leaders from the target communities are also supporting changes in attitudes and behaviours, and some now only carry out wedding ceremonies on the condition of receiving the girl's birth certificate to ensure she is not underage.

Amnesty **Burkina Faso** has focused its efforts on training personnel in charge of law enforcement, supporting public declarations and signatures of abandonment of FGM and child marriage, and carrying out advocacy with administrative authorities (including prefects, mayors, heads of administrative services such as the head of the social action service, the police, the gendarmerie, the justice system, and the human rights service). The national section carried out two training workshops and world cafés, each for 36 police officers, 9 gendarmes, local government actors, including 22 agents of the Social Action¹² Department, and the City Council.

As a result, law enforcement personnel have become more adept at protecting young girls from the practice of FGM and child marriage, in particular by carrying out swift investigations when they receive reports. Three communities (Titon, which has 357 inhabitants, Yaoghin, which has 5,800 inhabitants, and Basgana, with 3,020 inhabitants) organised public declarations and signed commitments to end FGM and child marriage. The commitments were made by the village chief of each community after



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👁️↑ *Zalissan Olabaloum was just 14 years old when she resisted a forced marriage, after having training at school.*

👁️↑↑ *Women meet to discuss FGM and forced marriage issues in Labien, Burkina Faso.*

👁️↑↑↑ *Mother and child the village of Labien.*

¹² These are agents and community players in the communities who are involved in awareness-raising activities, in particular midwives, matrons, and other health staff.





consultations. The local populations were involved in the chief's decision and parents participated in the public declaration ceremonies. The heads of administrative services (such as the Social Action Department) were also present at these ceremonies. Religious and customary leaders also supported the decisions.

The administrative authorities Amnesty engaged with committed to protecting and caring for victims of FGM and child marriage by prosecuting perpetrators and making funds available to support victims. Three cases of FGM, including a case against an excisor who had excised five girls in Tierkou, and a case in the Municipality of Tcheriba in the Boucle du Mouhoun Region involving the forced marriage of a young girl who committed suicide, have been taken to court and are currently under trial.

Amnesty Burkina Faso's collaboration with the Legal Assistance Fund has been fundamental to this work. A key success of the section's advocacy efforts, ongoing since 2021, has been extending the beneficiaries of the Legal Assistance Fund (a fund established by the government in 2016 to support victims of various forms of violence). Previously, GBV was not one of the categories which would allow victims to benefit from the fund, and the government changed this to extend the Legal Assistance Fund to GBV survivors.

As a result of the advocacy work of the National Coalition Against Child Marriage in Burkina Faso – of which Amnesty International is a member – the government made a commitment to review the Persons and Family Code and to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 for girls and boys. This is a landmark achievement for girls' rights in Burkina Faso!

  *Amnesty Burkina Faso delivers solidarity messages to girls who had been victims of early and forced marriage as well as early pregnancy during Write for Rights 2015.*

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

KENYA: EFFECTIVE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ORGANISING

Amnesty Kenya's HRE efforts have focused on building community members' understanding of human rights and contributing to movement building and community organising. This has been done in large part through "Circles of Conscience", which form the backbone of Amnesty Kenya's HRE. Circles of Conscience (which are established in communities, schools and universities) are organised groups of human rights campaigners, supporters and partners across different identities, interests and geographical locations, who advocate for the protection and promotion of human rights. They offer a practical platform to self-organise and engage various levels of government and are mainly led by an emerging young and dynamic generation of human rights defenders that are forging social movements to realise change, beyond traditional offline, bureaucratic structures. Of the 70 Circles of Conscience, spread over 14 counties in Kenya, 61 are youth-led.

One of the key challenges Kenya faces is a lack of awareness and knowledge of human rights among the general population. In 2022, the Amnesty team used a myriad of strategies to raise awareness and build knowledge, including art and music, protests and walks, workshops, films, concerts and legal clinics. Amnesty Kenya trained and built the skills of 14,098 members of the Circles of Conscience, who have in turn used this knowledge and skills to directly reach community members and policy makers, both online and offline. They were also able to reach 80,000 school head teachers with messaging on the education rights of children with special needs during the teachers' annual conference organised by the Kenya Primary School Heads Association and Kenya Secondary School Heads Association. They communicated to 12 million Kenyans through national newspapers and social media platforms like YouTube, where



👁️↑ Amnesty Kenya in collaboration with Amnesty South Africa and grassroots HRDs organizing a webinar on movement building.

👁️↑↑ Amnesty Kenya Nairobi Circles of Conscience commemorating the 2022 16 days of Activism.

👁️↑↑↑ Amnesty Kenya Circles of Conscience merchandise.



☞↑ Amnesty Kenya’s HRE manager facilitating an HRD awards ceremony.

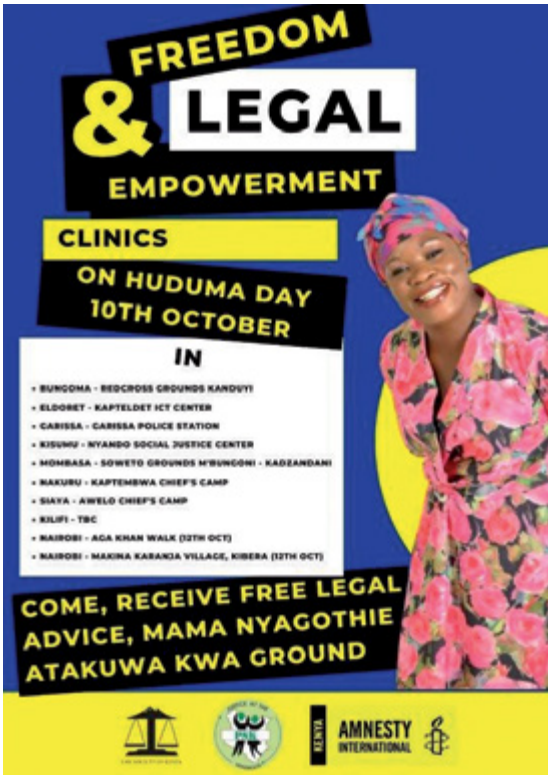
☞↗ An Amnesty Kenya Nakuru social media post, sensitizing the community against Gang Violence.

☞→ Amnesty Kenya in collaboration with other Civil Societies and 1000 Voices advertising an event on free fair and peaceful general elections.

the teachers’ annual conference was streamed. Additionally, Amnesty Kenya’s Executive Director was interviewed during the conference on prime-time news.

Amnesty Kenya’s HRE work has created a growing and diverse movement of human rights defenders from amongst a broad spectrum of actors, including media professionals, filmmakers, educators, community activists, and students. It has built alliances with county governments, CSOs and community-based organisations through engagement, skills-building, and mobilisation. The Circles of Conscience have campaigned for the rights and dignity of migrant workers, LGBTI rights, social and economic rights, including special needs education, against excessive use of force by the police, extra-judicial killings, corruption, and GBV. Ahead of the August 2022 general election, the Circles of Conscience brought a greater focus on accountability and inclusive leadership through the #ChambuaUongozi campaign, by organising 32 election debates between political candidates and community members.

HRE work has led to the development of empowered communities capable of holding national and county governments to account. As a result of local advocacy



efforts informed by HRE, the section has seen a clear shift in the attitudes of law enforcement agencies and their willingness to engage on human rights issues. A few weeks prior to the election, there was an increase in incidents of violence in Nakuru County, and the police response was to randomly arrest young men in the towns. The Nakuru Circle of Conscience carried out a campaign so that the police stop this practice, organising community meetings that brought together police, commissioners, and political leaders as well as the community, and carrying out a media campaign as well as a Twitter chats to raise attention to the issue. The Circles of Conscience have reported that, as a result, there has been a reduction in arbitrary arrests carried out by police in Nakuru County.

Amnesty Kenya has developed partnerships with the Ministry of Education and the teachers' union. They formalised an MoU with the Ministry of Education, which also involves training 90,000 teachers on human rights. Amnesty Kenya has regional coordinators/HRE champions, who are teachers in schools in different counties. Amnesty Kenya will train these regional coordinators, who will then cascade the information to others (training of trainers).

☉↑ Amnesty Kenya's Executive Director and HRE Manager at the Annual Delegate Conference involving teachers and other stakeholders in the education sector.

☉↑↑ An anti-GBV community football competition organised by Amnesty Kenya Uasin Gishu CoC.

☉↶ Advert for a free legal clinic organized by Amnesty Kenya.

☉→ Amnesty Kenya Kisumu CoC's event on women's participation in politics.



ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HRE ACROSS THE AFRICA REGION



MALI

Through HRE materials and training, Amnesty Mali strengthened its organisational and structural capacity through coordinated actions against injustice and impunity in the country.



BURKINA FASO

Amnesty Burkina Faso mobilized students to take part in solidarity actions against the victims of human rights violations.



TOGO

Amnesty Togo worked with school clubs to improve student knowledge on human rights through animations.



BENIN

Amnesty Benin supported human-rights friendly schools to identify problems, propose and implement actions, including advocacy towards governments for decision-making and behaviour change among peers.



NIGERIA

Amnesty Nigeria educated communities on the rights of children especially girls.



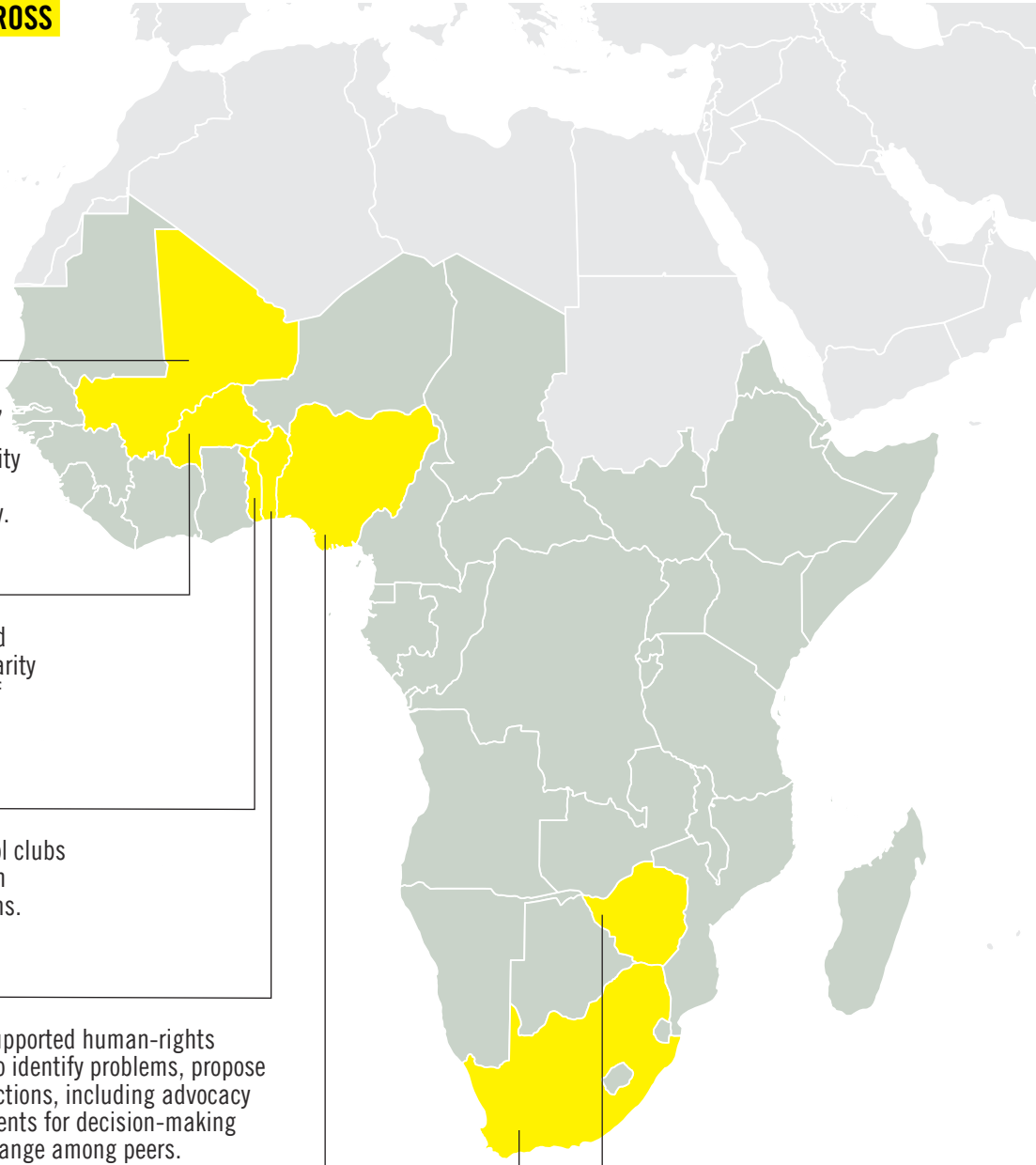
SOUTH AFRICA

Through a radio series, Amnesty South Africa enabled community members to act on gender-based violence cases.



ZIMBABWE

Amnesty Zimbabwe supported targeted groups to take solidarity actions on key violations affecting the country, such as child marriage and other gender related issues.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

AMERICAS

AMERICAS: DIVERSXS ACADEMY

“Diversxs” is an Amnesty project which was launched in 2018 to promote the empowerment, training and mobilisation of young people for the defence and recognition of the rights of LGBTI people in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The project supports and works with young people and young activists who identify as LGBTI, as well as young leaders and activists who do not identify as part of this population but who are interested in knowing, promoting and defending human rights and LGBTI rights in particular. It is aimed at supporting activists to acquire knowledge and skills, as well as to develop capacities that will enable them to empower people, question and transform attitudes, values and behaviours, and raise awareness, as well as cultivating a constant commitment to and passion for human rights. Diversxs also works together with LGBTI civil society organisations, states and UN bodies in the region to promote knowledge, build capacities and provide tools that dignify the lives of LGBTI people and build safe spaces for the exercise of their rights.

Through the Diversxs Academy training spaces, young activists acquire knowledge, tools and skills that enable them to respond to the prevailing LGBTI rights contexts in their countries. The Academy’s modules and

content are designed and delivered in collaboration with partner organisations and experts on human rights and LGBTI rights, who, in addition to knowing the realities and needs in their communities, have mapped and identified priorities in LGBTI rights agendas. The young people who participate in the Academy receive and replicate training with a focus on popular education,¹³ and develop materials with a focus on HRE, ensuring the knowledge they gain is a key element in the development of a human rights-based approach to education.

In **Perú**, the online version of the Academy had 20 participants in 2022 from different cities, who were selected through an open call disseminated among collectives working on LGBTI rights, as well as organisations working on intersectional LGBTI rights agendas. This targeted selection process seeks to identify new leaders from different regions in the interior of



© Amnesty International Perú

👁️ ← Young LGBTIQ+ in Diversxs Peru’s national forum.

13 “Popular Education” is specific methodological approach to education pioneered by the Brazilian educator Paulo Freire.



© Amnesty International Paraguay

the country, as well as to identify profiles from other agendas and movements, thus allowing Amnesty Perú to find young people with an interest in LGBTI rights and who identify themselves as feminists, or who work on agendas for Indigenous rights, migrants' rights and the environment, among others. The Academy in Perú facilitated face-to-face training in the cities of Iquitos and Arequipa. Participants learned about LGBTI people's rights, as well as how to replicate training, activism and campaigns. Through the face-to-face training, the Academy engaged 2,643 adolescents, trained students from nine different schools and developed content and trained teachers to help the prevention of LGBTI-phobic bullying in schools, contributing to mainstreaming gender and human rights in education. In total, 542 people (students, teachers, school staff) were trained.

In **Paraguay**, the two Academy cohorts focused on strategies to promote democratic and inclusive education, Latin American feminisms, the history of the fight for LGBTI rights and the different types of activism that are currently taking place, LGBTI childhoods and family relationships, and communication strategies. The training was delivered to 150 young people using both online and offline formats, with the majority being face-to-face. As a result of the course, 10 activists went on to organise their own activities on the rights of LGBTI people. For instance, on the International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT), a

👁️ ↑ *“Soy real, mi nombre debe ser legal” campaign in Paraguay, which has mobilized trans women across the country.*

workshop was held in the Amambay region on stigma, violence and discrimination faced by LGBTI people. Young activists from Asunción developed a communications campaign on LGBTI rights based on knowledge gained through the Academy, using educational information to raise awareness of how to address people with diverse sexual orientations and gender identities. A [podcast series](#) with nine episodes was developed by young people who participated in the Academy to raise awareness of LGBTI historical memory, activism, health and sexual rights, education, queer theory, communication, diverse families and activist experiences.

The Diversxs Academy in **Puerto Rico** produced the [Manual of Educational Activities on LGBTI Rights](#). The manual was presented at the

University of Mayaguez, and the materials developed were put into practice. The National Forum of Queer Youth took place in 2022, which created a safe space for young LGBTI people in the south of the island to exchange and share experiences, and to strengthen their capacities through training workshops. A panel discussion “We Exist, We Resist” enabled activists to share life stories and lessons learned from their activism through Diversxs, while training included workshops on social entrepreneurship, intersectionality, queer memory, and self-care. The Forum also contributed to decentralising activism away from the metropolitan area. The Academy also carried out its course for Young LGBTI Human Rights Defenders 2022. Fifteen young LGBTI rights defenders participated, mainly virtually, and the curriculum was designed in a participatory manner with the young activists and according to their particular interests in the following topics: neurodiversity, fatphobia, colonialism and anti-racism, digital communication tools, as well as freedom of expression in the queer community.

In **Venezuela**, 142 young people were trained in issues of diversity and human rights as part of the Diversxs Academy, in collaboration with a partner organisation. These young people were selected from an open call that was disseminated on social media, as well as among Amnesty Venezuela’s networks of activists and allied organisations, which also participated in the selection process. The Diversxs Academy training in Venezuela involved an educational curriculum of more than 120 hours. Fifteen modules were designed with key topics relevant to the human rights and LGBTI rights context in Venezuela, all of them facilitated by members of the project’s partner organisations. Amnesty Venezuela also worked with 413 people from educational institutes, universities and education policy makers to tackle the topic of violence and bullying prevention. Two workshops were designed and tested: one focused on Human Rights and diversity issues, and the second one on prevention of bullying on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and expression. They also disseminated educational materials produced by the Categorized Manual for Diversity



© Amnesty International Peru



© Amnesty International Venezuela

and Friendly Education for Diversity. The manual was produced together with teachers, experts in children’s and adolescents’ rights, as well as LGBTI rights organisations. The objective of the manual is to provide tools for teachers, administrators and coordinators of educational institutions, to prevent harassment and discrimination against LGBTI people in schools, with a focus on human rights education and based on the recognition of diverse sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions.

👁️↑ Meeting with young LGBTIQ+ activists held in collaboration with partner organizations in Caracas, Venezuela.

👁️↑↑ A voguing workshop and event in Lima, Peru.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

PERÚ: INDIGENOUS WOMEN'S RIGHTS

A priority for Amnesty Perú has been working to develop the capacities of young Kukama women to defend their individual and collective rights, as well as protection of the environment, or “Mother Earth”, as referred to by the community. The Kukama are Indigenous communities based in the Loreto region of Perú. These groups are faced with immense environmental challenges, with oil spills impacting their lives and livelihoods, and Kukama women in particular face significant barriers to participation in governance and decision-making. Amnesty's work here was undertaken in partnership with the National Organisation of Andean and Amazonian Indigenous Women of Perú and Amnesty Denmark, without whom the work would not have been possible.

Amnesty Perú carried out a training school on individual and collective rights aimed at young people from three Kukama communities in the Loreto Region, through four modules, each comprised of two sessions. The content covered was Indigenous identity, good living, individual and collective rights, sexual and reproductive rights, defence of Mother Earth, and advocacy and campaigns. A total of 45 Kukama adolescents and young people from the Shapajilla, Nuevo San Juan and Parinari communities participated, with most participants between 12 and 17 years old. In addition to working on human rights issues, Amnesty developed their capacity to conduct local campaigns to defend and promote their rights. The participating young women held dialogue sessions to share what they had learned with other women and members of their communities. Local campaigns were then designed and led by young Kukama women to promote and defend their rights and the protection of the environment.

As a result, the young Kukama women gained confidence and skills and were able to raise their voices and be heard by other people in their communities, especially the local authorities and the Kukama adult women's organisations. The young Kukama reported that they felt more empowered, able to speak and be heard by others.

This HRE work with remote and marginalised communities, who directly experience and are victims of human rights violations and who often do not benefit from digital literacy and access to the internet, is some of the most important and impactful work Amnesty supports. These efforts to increase knowledge and facilitate these groups' empowerment contributes to the important foundational knowledge which will be key to human rights action further down the line.



👁️ ↑ Trucks from the mining company transporting raw materials.

👁️ ↑↑ An image from a social media campaign supporting environmental rights defenders in Perú and other South American countries.

👁️ ↑↑↑ Máxima Acuña was by security personnel from a mining company when she stood up for environmental rights in Perú.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HRE ACROSS THE AMERICAS REGION



CANADA

Amnesty Canada trained young people to educate their schoolmates to engage in human rights projects and promote activism.



MEXICO

Amnesty Mexico empowered over 2,500 youths on human rights, addressing the challenges faced by individuals of sexual diversity.



PERÚ

Amnesty Perú developed capacities of LGBTI people to act and connect with other people and organizations that work to defend their rights.



PARAGUAY

Through the “Diversity Under Attack” HRE project Amnesty Paraguay supported activists to organise their own activities within the framework of emblematic dates related to their struggles in favour of the rights of LGBTI people.



CHILE

Amnesty Chile trained activists, who later undertook initiatives to advocate for comprehensive sexuality education.



ARGENTINA

Amnesty Argentina empowered youth groups to work on initiatives that were related to gender-based violence, climate justice and online violence.

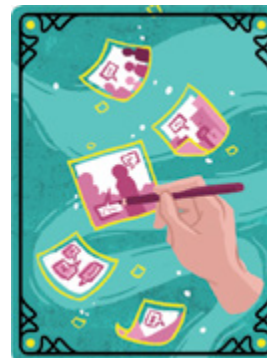
REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

ASIA PACIFIC

ASIA: RIGHTS ARCADE

The South Asia Regional Office saw its [game](#), “Rights Arcade”, officially launched in 2022 and achieve impressive reach. The game app, available for Android and iOS users, was built for young people to strengthen their human rights understanding through play. The game unpacks human rights principles and concepts around peaceful protest, national laws and international standards on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly using human rights violation cases from **Bangladesh, Thailand** and **China**. The stories are fictionalised experiences inspired by real world events and the game is available in English, Thai, Korean and Simplified Chinese.

The game was officially launched in January 2022 to coincide with the International Day of Education. It reached over 3,000 downloads within the first week of the launch and was covered by over 40 global and national media outlets. It was also pulled down in China and then reinstated. The game helped strengthen the global campaigns “Write for Rights” and “Protect the Protest”, reaching out to audiences in an engaging manner, including in countries without Amnesty sections. The completion rate of the game is over 48% and the number of people taking action through signing petitions after playing the game is 75%. Right Arcade ensures access to HRE content for diverse audiences, including in remote areas without internet access, by providing downloadable games that do not require an internet connection to be played.



© ↑ Screenshots from the 'Rights Arcade' game.

A central pillar in strengthening HRE across the region is strengthening Amnesty's own HRE network. The "Asia Pacific Human Right Education Forum 2022", the first face-to-face Amnesty International Asia Pacific Regional Human Rights Education meeting in recent times, took place in Bangkok, Thailand from 7 to 9 November 2022. The meeting was attended by HRE program team and management team members from nine Amnesty International entities in the Asia Pacific region. It was organized by the International Secretariat Asia Pacific HRE programme with the support of Amnesty International Thailand.

At the end of the three-day meeting, the group identified **themes** as priorities for collaborative working. The group then developed the stronger themes into two regional project proposals:

1. Strengthening Asia Pacific Regional HRE

Network a project to develop a road map, resources, and funds.

2. Regional HRE People's Power Project

focused on the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly.

The working group members have been meeting regularly to further develop the plans and the implementation of these two co-led projects, to enhance the reach and impact of HRE across the region.



↑ Screenshots from the 'Rights Arcade' game.



👁️ ← *The South Asia HRE team at the Regional HRE forum, November 2022.*

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

PHILIPPINES: COMMUNITY BASED HRE

Amnesty Philippines works with Indigenous peoples (IP) and small-scale farmers, who have been historically discriminated against and often neglected from government programmes and services. The section's work in 2022 sought to empower communities to shift power and claim their rights, starting from their communities and sustainably expanding their sphere of influence. The section engaged a loose group of human rights NGOs in its project with the Manobo-Pulangiyon IP community. The partnerships centre on providing assistance to the community with regards to documenting human rights violations.

HRE learning sessions, which took place using hybrid and face-to-face formats, covered basic HRE concepts as well as focusing on IP rights, the free, and prior informed consent process, and the agricultural free patent law. These sessions led to increased understanding, knowledge and skills, resulting in community mobilisations demanding human rights and accountability from duty bearers. Community leaders took collective action to gather data related to the issues the communities face; they mobilised their communities, and approached government entities to claim their rights, standing up and articulately expressing their demands.

As a result of the HRE sessions and mobilisations, certain Indigenous groups saw significant gains in securing their rights. In Manat, Trento, Agusan del Sur, agrarian reform beneficiaries, who are now Amnesty members, were granted a land rental increase from Agusan Plantation Inc for palm oil production, up to PHP 7,500.00 per hectare per year, improved from a grossly unfair rental rate of PHP 365.00 per hectare per year, raising the cost of environmental exploitation as well as generating a fairer income for the farmers. In the village of Carmen, Jimenez, Misamis Occidental, 13 families are actively involved in securing their right to the land their ancestors have been cultivating for more than 70 years. They mobilised themselves to secure documentary evidence (individual affidavits, *barangay* certifications,¹⁴ photo documentation). Currently a participatory land survey is being facilitated to finalise the requirements to secure their land rights. The Manobo-Pulangiyon Indigenous cultural community in Barangay Kiantig, Quezon, Bukidnon, has been awarded their Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title (CDAT) after many years of struggle against the Kiantig Development Corporation, who had occupied the land, and the slow actions of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP). A national campaign began in 2022 to highlight their rights, which included a legal judgment in their favour. This contributed to pushing the NCIP to award their title in January 2023.

Engagement in activities and actions related to the national campaign for IP rights and ancestral domain has increased, and this has garnered support, for example, resulting in the UN Special Rapporteurs' joint communication urging the government to address the violations of the rights of the Indigenous cultural community of the Manobo-Pulangiyon tribe in Barangay Kiantig, Quezon, Bukidnon.

¹⁴ A *barangay* is the smallest political unit in the country.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HRE ACROSS THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION



JAPAN

Empowered the youth to campaign on climate justice



SOUTH KOREA

The target group for Amnesty South Korea's project was LGBTI youth, increasing their solidarity against human rights violations and strengthening the LGBTI movement within the country.



TAIWAN

Amnesty Taiwan worked with students to undertake various Amnesty-focused campaigns.



PHILIPPINES

Amnesty Philippines worked with Indigenous peoples and small-scale farmers to help them claim their rights.

NEPAL



Worked with the government to integrate HRE in the formal education system

INDONESIA



Engaged Amnesty supporters to undertake individual grassroots HRE initiatives

AUSTRALIA



Increased the capacity, confidence, and connections of activities through transformational learning and skill development.



SA REGIONAL OFFICE

"Rights Arcade" game app was launched on Android and iOS.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA

POLAND AND MOLDOVA: RESPONSE TO THE UKRAINE WAR

Even though the sections were not set up with the financial and human resources to do a lot, all sections in countries that hosted refugees fleeing Ukraine adapted their work and made efforts to respond and provide support. Amnesty Moldova implemented a project called “Child Human Rights Defenders: Help me claim my rights!”, which enabled discussions for students between the ages of 13 and 18 about mental health and children’s struggles as a consequence of the war in Ukraine. The 36 workshops explored the different ways children and students act to defend their rights, what rights are most commonly being infringed upon in their schools and local communities, how to ask for support when such instances occur and who to ask for help. The workshops also provided the 747 children participating with a safe space to express their feelings and experiences.

Amnesty Poland published two lesson plans: one on human rights violations during war (focusing on the violations in Ukraine) and a second one focusing on how to talk with young people about war (based on an idea from colleagues from Amnesty Hungary). These lesson plans were published on the Amnesty website and distributed via email and social media.

LUXEMBOURG



Amnesty Luxembourg mobilised HRE “Write for Rights” activities in schools.

GERMANY



Amnesty Germany mobilized students and teachers to take part in campaigns.

UK



From Amnesty UK’s online training on human rights, **91%** of those who attended stated that they were motivated to take an action, while **98%** said they gained new knowledge.

NETHERLANDS



Amnesty Netherlands worked with students to organise initiatives especially in the “Write for Rights” campaign.

SWITZERLAND



Amnesty Switzerland worked on anti-racism and structural discrimination.

AUSTRIA



Amnesty Austria worked with students to undertake their thesis on a human rights related subject.

KYRGYZSTAN: HRE IN SCHOOL CURRICULUM

The HRE team and Kyrgyz partners succeeded in having HRE explicitly included in the mandatory school curriculum in the country for the first time ever (details in Russian can be found [here](#)).

The “Individual and Society” Subject Standard was a significant milestone for the country and a huge result for a group of national and international NGOs that led the process and worked with the government to achieve it. This process was a high priority for Eastern Europe and Central Asia’s HRE team. In the revised Subject Standard, human rights became one of the three content lines of the subject “Individual and Society” (along with “socialisation” and “sustainable and security development”). The subject is for 5th to 11th grades,¹⁵ and covers topics such as gender equality, protection against discrimination and the rights of people with disabilities.

This significant milestone, which will contribute to a more aware and active Kyrgyz population and enable the promotion of human rights in formal education, was achieved through collective action by local civil society, academic institutions and practitioners. Amnesty was part of a working group of experts working directly on the content. The subject was approved by the Ministry of Education at the end of 2022 and will be introduced in all schools in Kyrgyzstan from September 2023, at the start of the new academic year. Amnesty International will monitor progress on its implementation.

¹⁵ Ages ranged from approximately 11 to 17.

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

KAZAKHSTAN: INCREASING REACH AND RELEVANCE OF HRE

In Kazakhstan, Amnesty International was able to vastly increase its reach and relevance by launching “Introduction to Human Rights” as part of the Amnesty Academy in the Kazakh language (making this the 20th language the course is available in!). This was made possible by Amnesty’s partnership with Kazakh human rights foundation Erkindik Qanaty, which has aimed at building a vibrant constituency of human rights learners and supporters in Central Asia. This course is the most popular course on the Amnesty Academy platform, with more than 50,000 people globally having participated in 2022, and 12,060 participants from Central Asia. Translating and adapting the courses into national languages in Central Asia is part of Amnesty’s effort to implement an anti-colonial approach to delivering HRE.

The launch of the course included promotion by Kazakh influencers, paid promotion on social media and the launch of a contest by Erkindik Qanaty. The contest involved randomly identifying winners from those who had completed the course, submitted the course certificate and shared the post on social media. The launch reached 9,519 users on social media and in a period of just six weeks after the launch more than 60 people were in the process of taking or had completed the course, with praise given for the learning that could be achieved:

With the course available in Kazakh, Amnesty’s partners carried out the first blended-learning course for Kazakh-speaking activists and human rights defenders, where 25 activists completed the online course and participated offline in the bilingual two-day workshop in Almaty. Participants went on to organise “Write for Rights” events. Amnesty’s Central Asia HRE team, together with the support of Kyrgyz Academy of Education under the Ministry of Education, conducted the third blended-learning course for teachers from Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, with 25 teachers from all three countries.

“I would like to thank the entire Amnesty International team for their support during difficult times and for organising the “Write for Rights” campaign. Letters that I received from all over the world gave me strength and support! I consider the closure of the case against me a victory and a triumph of justice.”

Temirlan Yensebek



© A ‘Training for Activists’ session in Almaty, Kazakhstan as part of Write for Rights 2022.

School and university teachers who participated went on to conduct lessons and events for students in universities and schools. 68 teachers at 38 schools across all three countries (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan) conducted 237 lessons and reached 10,120 students between 2020 and 2022. Five universities were also engaged, as well as eight partners. Twelve new NGO activists who joined in 2022 conducted 86 events and reached 3,276 youth. Training in 2022 showed consistently high success rates of over 60%, – defined as those participants who went on to implement HRE action plans after training, based on lesson plans that were shared during the blended-learning courses.

A successful campaign to stop the detention and persecution of Temirlan, a blogger detained over satirical Instagram posts, was aligned to the launch of an “Introduction to Human Rights” course, which was part of ongoing HRE work and supported additional knowledge and understanding of human rights. A “Write for Rights” [lesson plan in support of Temirlan](#) was developed. As a result of the campaign, the criminal investigation against Temirlan was closed, he no longer faces prosecution and he continues his blog. Further details of the case and the HRE work leading to the actions that pressured the authorities to release him can be found [here](#).

Learning about human rights through real-life stories makes campaigns accessible to new audiences, mobilises young people for action, and strengthens the concept of human rights which is under attack in many countries. Key to success was the combined force of Erkindik Qanaty’s local leadership and Amnesty’s international solidarity. Erkindik Qanaty promoted “Write for Rights” with dedicated events and spaces for activities at larger community events. Temirlan joined Amnesty’s HRE training workshop and shared his personal experience of surveillance, intimidation, fear of prosecution and how the campaign had helped him. Temirlan’s testimony also boosted Amnesty’s visibility in Kazakhstan.

“The tragic events of January 2022¹⁶ clearly demonstrated that the human rights community must literally speak the same language as the people of Kazakhstan, Kazakh. We face a huge but at the same time inspiring task: to make sure that the people of Kazakhstan know their rights, that they value their freedoms and can defend them – whether in court, in everyday life, and not only as social activists, but as ordinary people and citizens.”

Elena Shvetsova, Executive Director, Erkindik Qanaty (public foundation)



👁️ ↑ A ‘Training for Activists’ session in Almaty, Kazakhstan as part of Write for Rights 2022.

👁️ → A session in support of Temirlan Ensebek at Write for Rights 2022 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.



“I am glad that the basic human rights course has become more inclusive by including Kazakh in its list of languages ... I think the course has great potential for teaching young people who do not speak other languages besides Kazakh, the topic of human rights.”

Course participant

¹⁶ Thousands of people took to the streets of Kazakhstan in early January 2022, initially to protest a dramatic rise in fuel prices, which quickly turned into broader protests against corruption, political stagnation, and widespread injustice. Authorities responded with hostility to

the protestors, silenced journalists and activists, and suppressed freedom of expression and the flow of independent information.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HRE ACROSS THE EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA REGION

ICELAND
 Amnesty Iceland supported teachers to adopt HRE.

POLAND
 Amnesty Poland supported community learning on human rights issues.

FINLAND
 Amnesty Finland trained teachers and students on how to protect themselves against violations, take part in human rights campaigns, and establish Human Rights Friendly Schools.

CZECH REPUBLIC
 Amnesty Czech Republic supported schools with human rights materials to facilitate and supplement formal education.

BELGIUM
 Amnesty Belgium trained teachers and students on advocacy letter writing, petitions and pledges.

ITALY
 Amnesty Italy empowered children through “Amnesty Kids” courses.

TURKEY
 Amnesty Turkey empowered activists to work on child trafficking issues.

PORTUGAL
 Amnesty Portugal worked with schools and local communities to advance human rights education..

HUNGARY
 Amnesty Hungary established nine Hungarian language courses, which were delivered to teachers who supported students to create their own campaigns on pressing human rights issues.

Please note that the map shows actions from sampled countries from different regions and does not show work from all Amnesty International’s sections, offices, or structures. See icons key on page 43

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA: CAMPAIGN TO END ISRAELI APARTHEID

In 2022, the Middle East and North Africa Amnesty team tested new HRE approaches to accompany new campaigns. For the campaign to end Israeli apartheid, they accompanied the launch of the movement's [report on Israeli apartheid](#) with a learning journey aimed at enhancing activism within the campaign and bringing in new grassroots activists as allies. An online course "[Deconstructing Israel's Apartheid Against Palestinians](#)" was produced in Arabic and Hebrew, as well as English, Spanish and French, making the legal frameworks and findings of the report engaging for a range of audiences in the region and beyond. As a result of a new social media marketing strategy, the Middle East and North Africa regional secretariat saw 4,800 new Arabic users registering on the Amnesty Academy platform, and a major increase in course enrolments, with more than 4,500 people enrolling, mainly for the apartheid course, and courses on freedom of expression and right to protest. A promotional video produced by the HRE team at the Middle East and North Africa secretariat engaged 4,776,648 people on Facebook and Instagram (meaning they watched, liked, commented on or shared the video).

A 5-day workshop was held for activists and staff from Algeria, Israel, Morocco and Tunisia, in addition to Palestinian activists (from the Gaza strip and the West Bank, as well as the diaspora). This HRE programme built the skills of human rights defenders in storytelling and amplifying local voices, and digital campaigning. Sections engaged more than 1,500 youth in the campaigning efforts in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, who all took actions as part of the campaign. This involved replicating the training, integrating elements of the training into campaigns, and holding workshops and roundtables.

Following the workshop, twenty activists went on to implement their own initiatives, including campaigns or training activities to spread awareness about the apartheid campaign. One Palestinian activist – who has a podcast named 'In their Twenties' addressing the problems that Palestinian women in their twenties face in their everyday lives under apartheid, with a listenership of more than 30,000 – was inspired by the training and is now using their knowledge of human rights to reach more people.

“My journey in this workshop directed my attention to the importance of knowledge of international law and the applicable legal framework in particular and how we can use it to the benefit of the fight against the Israeli apartheid and in favour of the Palestinian just cause.”

Participant in 5-day workshop on ending Israeli apartheid

“I am dedicating 30% of my podcast content to monitor violations of human rights and to voice human rights issues following the activism training.”

Palestinian activist and training participant

COUNTRY HIGHLIGHT

MOROCCO: COMBATting CLOSING CIVIC SPACE

Amnesty Morocco has been working with young people to increase their understanding of human rights and to map out realities and problems related to shrinking civil society space. In 2022, the section facilitated around 20 online and face-to-face exchanges among approximately 400 young people to share tools, carry out local actions and compile activities and HRE exercises for other youth workers, young people and youth organisations who want to work on addressing the issue of closing civic space. Young people were provided with teaching materials and logistical support to facilitate this. Amnesty Morocco has also managed to build good partnerships with civil society organisations, who share campaign tools and materials through their own networks and platforms. As a result of this work, the majority of the target groups organised further actions, such as awareness-raising workshops, webinars or face-to-face seminars, and posts on social networks, using campaign or HRE materials.

Amnesty Morocco also reported the challenges they themselves faced regarding closing civic space, as the relationship between Amnesty and the Moroccan authorities worsened following reports issued by the movement on the harassment of human rights defenders by Moroccan authorities. In this context, the section's access to schools has been blocked and some teachers trained as part of AI Morocco's HRE Master Class encountered difficulties organising training workshops on human rights for their students.

Despite this, the HRE Master Class did take place in 2022. The Master Class is a new educational initiative of Amnesty Morocco with a core mandate to strengthen the knowledge and skills of teachers in HRE and equip them with methodologies and techniques so that they can promote a human rights culture among students and teaching colleagues. The HRE Master Class project involves teachers themselves choosing to join this free Amnesty training programme on a voluntary basis. In return, they organise training sessions for other target groups, primarily students and young people in colleges, high schools, youth centres, or associations, as well as for the benefit of their fellow teachers. In the 2022 HRE Master Class, 25 teachers from 25 schools from two regions of Morocco participated (Rabat Salé Kénitra and Casablanca Settat) and benefited from 6 training workshops of two days each. This led to the teachers increasing their knowledge and skills, their involvement in Amnesty campaigns, as well as arranging follow-up HRE sessions. 21 of the 25 participants organised HRE activities in the framework of the AI campaigns, mainly "Writing for Rights", "Freedom of Expression and Civic Space", and "Discrimination



👁️ ↑ *Write for Rights 2022 in Morocco.*

and Gender-based Violence". As a result, 419 students took part in solidarity actions and signed petitions and sent messages of support for Zineb Redouane, one of the cases of the "2022 Letters Marathon". These 21 teachers also managed to raise awareness among their students on different human rights issues and organised human rights clubs, which hosted several HRE activities and raised the awareness of 3,262 students, and around 100 other teachers. According to testimonies from the teachers, students' knowledge on human rights has been significantly improved, and many of the students' prejudices and behaviour in the face of discriminatory practices (against women and migrants for instance) have changed.

ADDITIONAL EXAMPLES OF HRE ACROSS

THE MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA REGION



MOROCCO

Amnesty Morocco worked with young people to increase human rights understanding and highlight problems related to shrinking civil society space.



ISRAEL AND OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

Amnesty supported target groups to carry out HRE related initiatives and equip others with the same skills to conduct human rights related activities.



WORKSHOPS WITH ACTIVISTS FROM

- Algeria
- Israel
- Morocco
- Palestinian
- Tunisia

Please note that the map shows actions from sampled countries from different regions and does not show work from all Amnesty International's sections, offices, or structures. See icons key on page 43

GLOBAL HRE INITIATIVES

AMNESTY HUMAN RIGHTS ACADEMY



“Short free courses like this one are an eye opener. They are not about the certification but a great tool for introducing people to burning issues that they otherwise knew nothing about and triggering interest and action.”

Participant, Climate change and human rights training



A key pillar of Amnesty’s HRE work is its internationally accessible e-learning courses, freely available and providing HRE on 34 unique topics, in more than 29 different languages. In 2022, a total of 214,861 learners were enrolled in the Human Rights Academy, from 198 different countries. New courses launched in 2022 included: the “Deconstructing Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians”; “Climate change and human rights”; “Decoding descent-based discrimination”; “Police and human rights”; “Lépéselőny” (“Gender discrimination in the workplace”); and the Diversxs courses: “La urgencia de tomar acción por los derechos LGBTI” (“The urgency to take LGBTI Rights action”); and “La Educación Sexual Integral es un derecho humano” (“Integral sexual education is a human right”).



Creative collaboration is essential to achieve our goal of promoting human rights worldwide. In 2022, global, regional and national sections worked together to develop these new courses, decentralised learning and knowledge generation.

🕒 From top left:
 “Deconstructing Israel’s apartheid against Palestinians”; “Climate change and human rights”; “Decoding descent-based discrimination”; “Police and human rights”; “La urgencia de tomar acción por los derechos LGBTI” (“The urgency to take LGBTI Rights action”); “La Educación Sexual Integral es un derecho humano” (“Integral sexual education is a human right”)



ANTI-RACISM HRE FRAMEWORK

In 2022, Amnesty's global HRE team began a new scope of work on anti-racism, decolonisation and anti-oppression in education spaces, designed to support reflection, review and discussion on our work as human rights educators through unpacking and challenging power dynamics, discrimination and intersectionality in human rights education practice. In growing recognition of how colonial legacies, systemic racism and covert discrimination influence our practice, HRE is looking to strengthen a new generation of educators, facilitators and trainers-of-trainers. It hopes to support them to be equipped and prepared to help others understand and address contextual definitions, realities and lived experience of discrimination and oppression in their different forms and how they influence, unconsciously or not, human rights education and its learning and engagement spaces. In 2022, a start was made with a small-scale scoping study to understand initial reflections and possible entry points for this work, which will form the basis for future work.



👁️ ↑ Amnesty Togo launches its Write for Rights 2022 campaign.

👁️ ← A Write for Rights 2022 event in Warsaw, Poland

WRITE FOR RIGHTS

Each year HRE creates new educational material in the framework of Amnesty International's "Write for Rights" campaign, the biggest annual human rights event. Many sections around the world, about 74%, employ HRE as one of their main approaches to the campaign, working with schools, clubs and activists. While several sections create their own material, other sections use or adapt the educational material provided by the International Secretariat HRE team. Our internal survey showed that 80% of staff who responded found the materials useful to extremely useful, a result in line with previous years. In 2022, [eight different activities](#) were developed and disseminated to the movement, of which two were created by Americas regional staff and staff from the French section, with support from Global HRE.

AMNESTY'S HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION NETWORK

A core pillar of Amnesty's human rights education work is both its external partnership (as noted earlier in the report) and its internal network that provides a space for cross regional and global learning. In 2022, the work began to enhance knowledge sharing through the network, initiating regular opportunities for exchange of knowledge on thematic topics and skills. Work also began on developing a searchable resource collection of HRE material that will come online in 2023. Investment in building the Amnesty HRE network is fundamental to ensuring local knowledge and expertise is accessible and informs our education work for human rights.

CONCLUSION

This report demonstrates how diverse and impactful the HRE work supported by Amnesty International was throughout 2022. We recognise that the report only provides a snapshot and does not do justice to the **141 projects** across more than 60 countries and territories. The highlights shared in this report aim to show the different approaches and focus HRE takes, as well as the types of outcomes and change that it brings about. However, incredible work is taking place across the world, which we have not been able to adequately showcase within the scope of this report, for example: work in **Argentina** to counter gender ideology narratives and push for a comprehensive sexuality education; Amnesty **Czech Republic's** “human books” work, which gives opportunities for participants to hear the life stories of, and engage directly with, individuals from minorities, or members of marginalised or excluded groups; gender justice and LGBTI rights focused HRE in **South Korea**; Amnesty **Taiwan** creating poker cards and a board game as fun educational materials; and the development of nano-learning experiences on **Instagram** on topics such as the human rights implications of climate change, providing HRE in digestible, engaging and accessible formats on platforms where learners are already present. We are thankful to all the Amnesty sections which took the time to share their impressive work with us.

It is important to recognise that much of this work is taking place in environments that are hostile to HRE and that colleagues and partners across the globe are finding innovative and brave ways to work around the restrictions they face. This increasingly hostile environment for human rights work makes the need for HRE even more pressing, as it is with the greater awareness that HRE brings that solidarity can be built and the human rights movement can gain greater strength and become a bulwark against oppression, discrimination and restrictions to our rights and freedoms.



© Tomás Ramirez / Amnistía Internacional Argentina



👁️ ↑ Images from Amnesty's nano-learning experiences on Instagram.

👁️ ↑↑ Amnesty International members and supporters take part in the Buenos Aires Pride parade, Argentina, 2022.

ANNEX




















We understand foundational learning to mean that learners have basic knowledge and skills on human rights and how to take action, that they use their human rights knowledge to understand human rights violations, and to participate either in actions organised by Amnesty or others, or in HRE activities.

The next stage of change we seek through HRE is mobilisation. We understand this to mean that learners feel an increased sense of solidarity and connectedness and feel motivated to take action for human rights, that they develop their own activities and campaigns for human rights based on human rights principles, and that their acquired knowledge and skills on human rights help them to the increase legitimacy of their work.

We understand transformational change to occur when learners take their knowledge and skills to the next level to catalyse change. This means that learners use human rights standards and practical experience in activism, campaigning and evidence-based advocacy, to push for states to implement human rights or to hold states accountable. It also means they carry out their own HRE to equip others with human rights knowledge and skills, leading and accompanying others in taking action for human rights. It also means a transformational change in their approach: that they have challenged and changed their attitudes and perceptions, combatting and eradicating discrimination, racism, stereotyping and incitement to hatred, and the harmful attitudes and prejudices that underlie them.

KEY FOR REGIONAL MAP AND SHORT COUNTRY SUMMARY ICONS

AMNESTY WORKED WITH/ON

-  Child Friendly Schools
-  Climate Justice
-  Communities
-  Discrimination
-  Empowering Children
-  Empowering Young People
-  Indigenous rights
-  Letter Writing
-  Learning
-  LGBTQI+
-  Mobilise Students
-  Online Courses
-  Organisation
-  Schools
-  Sexuality Education
-  Target Groups
-  Trafficked Children
-  Workshops
-  Write For Rights

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION 2022

Index: POL 32/7160/2023

Original language: English

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