

Activism FOR YOUTH



HOW DOES IT WORK?

An Amnesty youth activism group, what's that? **4**

Reasons why an amnesty group would be good for you! **6**

Go ahead and create your Amnesty group! **8**

What are human rights again and what's Amnesty International? **12**

Take action! ...and it works! **16**

More questions about Amnesty International? **18**



LET'S GET STARTED!



AN AMNESTY YOUTH ACTIVISM GROUP ...WHAT'S THAT?

‘A CHANCE FOR THE YOUTH COMMUNITY TO JOIN A WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT WHICH DEFENDS HUMAN RIGHTS.’

We've all seen things that happen to people and think, "That's not right!"

We even learn about people who have stood up for their rights, and the rights of others – Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Aung San Suu Kyi, Malala Yousafzai... So why can't you?

Just because you're young, doesn't mean you can't do your bit to make the world a better place. Okay, so you might need to shout a little louder to be heard, and people may not notice you at first. But if enough young people start talking about things that are important, people will sit up and take notice.

YOUR VOICE WILL BE HEARD.

An Amnesty youth group is a place for you and your fellows to learn about human rights and

DO something about the issues that are important to **YOU**. Collect petitions, sign a pledge or support an awareness campaign about human rights issues that affect you and your peers.

Whether it's bullying at school or something else that you think is against human rights either in your institution or in your country – an Amnesty group is a place for you to

DISCUSS, LEARN, SPEAK UP AND TAKE ACTION.



AMNESTY GROUPS ARE SPACES WHERE YOUTH GETS A CHANCE TO LEARN AND TALK ABOUT REAL-LIFE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES.

It's also a place where young people understands the responsibilities that come with having rights.

While we choose to do this in a **FUN** and **CREATIVE** way, we're pretty serious about it. 'Coz let's face it... changing the world is not going to be a piece of cake.

The good news is that the things you learn about in your group don't need to stay there. You can take it out to your classmates, your parents and even your communities. **THE MORE PEOPLE YOU SPEAK TO, THE MORE AWARENESS YOU RAISE ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS.** That is the crucial part... it's your first step to making a difference to the world.



10 REASONS

WHY AN AMNESTY YOUTH GROUP WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU!

YOU THINK THAT:

- Injustice, discrimination and inequality are unacceptable.
- Age is no barrier to doing the right thing – students are citizens too!
- Your thoughts and opinions on human rights issues should be heard.
- Ensuring your rights and the rights of others is important, and should be part of your daily life.
- Every human being is responsible for safeguarding the rights of their peers.

YOU WANT TO:-

- **SPEAK UP** about the injustice you see around you.
- **DO** something to make a change in the world around you.
- **MOTIVATE** others around you to care about human rights.
- **INTERACT** with people who feel the same way about human rights as you.
- **PIONEER** a youth network across Luxembourg interested in promoting and protecting human rights.



WE THINK YOUNG PEOPLE ARE AMAZING FIREBALLS OF CREATIVITY.



WE LOVE YOUR ENTHUSIASM...
GO TEAM!



WE WANT STUDENTS LIKE YOU TO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD.

WE BELIEVE THAT AS FUTURE ADULTS YOU ARE THE KEY TO BUILDING A HUMAN RIGHTS FRIENDLY WORLD.



WE THINK YOU HAVE GREAT POTENTIAL TO TAKE HUMAN RIGHTS INTO EDUCATIONAL SPACES.



GO FOR IT! CREATE YOUR YOUTH GROUP!

A LET US KNOW

As you can imagine, we need to be informed about everything that is done in the name of Amnesty. That's why we need you to let us know about the launch of your Amnesty youth group and all its activities. So we can give you the information and all kinds of tips and suggestions, and also answer any questions you might have about Amnesty's campaigns.

Your contact in Amnesty will be in-charge of notifying Amnesty International Luxembourg about your group and manage any paperwork. Send us an email at jugend@amnesty.lu to get things started. Whenever possible, we also provide the equipment available for the realization of your actions.

B GET THE REQUIRED PERMISSION

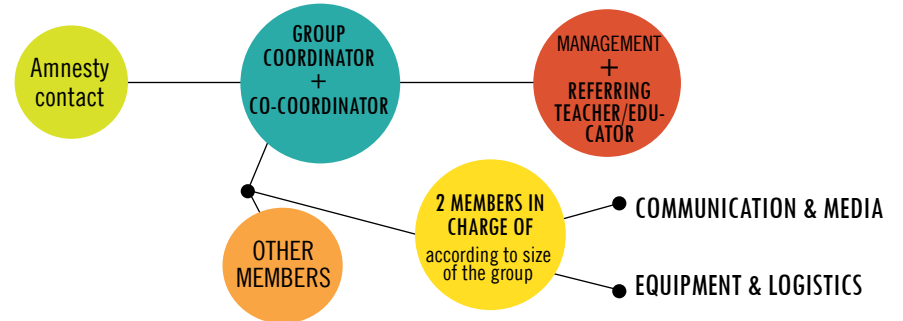
We don't really support you breaking rules, so make sure you have the permission to carry on your activities. What usually works best is to approach the management and submit a request for all our activities be it in your school, your youth house or your Scout group etc. Also, you can be helped by a teacher or an educator who will be the contact person supervising the activities of the group and may consult with the management if necessary.

The teachers/educators may want to contact us before giving you permission to launch your group. Ask them to send us an email at jugend@amnesty.lu and we'll get back to them.

C ORGANIZE YOUR YOUTH GROUP

First you need to find other students who are interested in joining your Amnesty group. The best way to do this is to make an announcement in your school or your youth house. If you're enthusiastic, a few of you can go around asking your friends and fellow classmates to join. Then you will have to divide the tasks amongst the group and organize meetings to discuss the activities you want to achieve. For example, you may ask the management's permission to provide you with a room for your meetings or a quiet place where you can be without being disturbed by other students.

Always keep us informed about the activities you choose to do and what you need. The simplest way is to use social networks to create a forum which will allow all members of the group, the contact teacher and Amnesty to have to know about the group's activities.



THE COORDINATOR

- Coordinates all activities of the group
- Regularly communicate with Amnesty
- Is in charge of consultation with the management including authorizations

THE CO-COORDINATOR

- Assists the group coordination
- Reports on the data and activities of the group

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA:

- In charge of promoting the group / actions
- Take pictures of the activities and possibly shares them on social networks

EQUIPMENT & LOGISTICS

- Is responsible for the material provided by ALL
- Assesses the material needed for activities

PROJECTS & ACTIONS WITH AMNESTY



WE WANT TO INVOLVE YOU EVEN MORE

Apart from the activities that you organize in your youth group, we also offer you assistance for activities that Amnesty Luxembourg wants to organize with young activists. Here are some examples...

TO CALL ON AUTHORITIES

A delegation of students from the Lycée Technique du Centre (LTC) school group was **received by Prime Minister Xavier Bettel for an official submission of letters signed by more than 230 students** from 11 different high schools. The letters were addressed to the leaders of the UN member states asking them to respect their international obligations in terms of sexual and reproductive rights.



TO MOBILIZE THE PUBLIC

Students from the Lycée Classique de Diekirch (LCD) and the LTC school groups have collected signatures for our petition for girls and women rights in Burkina Faso during Girls' Day. For the occasion, we presented the exhibition **"Girls defend human rights"** which features portraits of high school girls from our school groups in which they claim respect for sexual and reproductive rights.



TO MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

During our press conference for the launch of the annual death penalty report, **the Amnesty European School group coordinator spoke of her group's commitment to the abolition of death penalty.** Then she submitted nearly 200 signatures that her group had collected in her school for our petition on the death penalty for minors in Iran.

TO ORGANIZE EVENTS WITH US

We organized for example the "Youth & Refugees World Café" which aimed to create a venue for social meetings between young refugees and young people from Luxembourg. **On the program: quizzes, tasting of Luxembourgish pastries and Dabka (traditional Syrian dancing).** On both sides, the participants enjoyed the meeting, the discussions and the team games. A successful experience and therefore to be repeated!



TO LET YOURSELF BE SURPRISED

To thank the LTC school group for their action on the "Stop Torture" awareness campaign, we wanted to give them a big surprise. The group had collected signatures to save people from various countries who were imprisoned and tortured, including the Mexican Claudia Medina. After she had been released, we organized a visit with **Claudia to their high school to thank the members of the group for having contributed to her release.**



WHAT ARE HUMAN RIGHTS AGAIN?!

‘ HUMAN RIGHTS ARE BASIC RIGHTS TO WHICH EACH PERSON IS ENTITLED SIMPLY BECAUSE SHE OR HE IS A HUMAN BEING. ’

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR) is the most famous document on human rights. It was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10 December 1948. Countries that have signed the Declaration are obliged to follow these principles and safeguard these rights for all of their citizens. Luxembourg was one of 51 founding member states of the United Nations and among the first few countries to sign the Declaration.

The Universal Declaration recognizes that the inherent dignity of all members of ‘the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world’.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE:

UNIVERSAL – applicable everywhere.

INALIENABLE – cannot be taken away.

INTERDEPENDANT – everyone ensures the other persons’s rights.

HUMAN RIGHTS INCLUDE:

CIVIL & POLITICAL RIGHTS – the right to life, liberty, free speech and privacy are some examples.

ECONOMIC, SOCIAL & CULTURAL RIGHTS – the right to social security, health and education are some examples.

‘ **HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (HRE)** IS ABOUT **I** AND **U** AND OUR ABILITY TO **RECOGNIZE** AND **RESPECT** EACH OTHER’S **RIGHTS** AND **RESPONSIBILITIES**, ’

HRE = I+U+R

SO HRE IS...

ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

What are our human rights?
What do they mean?
Can **LEARNING** about them change our lives?

WE MAY BE DIFFERENT
BUT WE ARE EQUAL



THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

Just learning is not enough. **PRACTICE** makes perfect, right? Try being inclusive, participatory, democratic and see the difference it makes.



FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

It’s **EMPOWERING** when we stand up for our rights and those of others. That’s when real change happens.



WHAT'S AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

In 1961, **PETER BENENSON** read about two students in Portugal who were sent to prison for seven years because they made a toast to freedom – something that their government denied its people.

A lawyer by profession, Benenson was aware that many countries would similarly imprison people who spoke against their governments, often without lawful trials. He wrote an article entitled “The Forgotten Prisoners”, inviting people to join their voices together to speak out against these violations of human rights across the globe. He believed that the power of people’s voices could make governments take action to end human rights abuses. He believed that the power of the people’s voices, when they meet, could make governments take action to end violation of human rights.

That’s why he created Amnesty International which has now grown into a global movement of over 7 million people who share and defend a vision of a world where every person – regardless of where they are born, what religion they follow or whether they are rich or poor – enjoy the freedoms and rights as listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.



DID YOU KNOW?
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL WAS AWARDED THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR ITS FIRST GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST TORTURE IN 1977.

FUN FACT

Amnesty International’s logo is a candle wrapped in barbed wire. It is inspired by the ancient Chinese proverb, “It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness”. Peter Benenson, the founder of Amnesty International, hoped that the organization would shine a light in the darkest places where human rights abuses go unpunished.

LIGHT AN AMNESTY CANDLE AT YOUR WINDOW ON DECEMBER 10

Every year, on the occasion of Human Rights International Day on December 10, we invite people who want to express their solidarity to individuals whose human rights are violated, to buy and light an Amnesty candle at their window. With this gesture, you commemorate with us this important day by lighting a spark of hope for all the people caught in the darkness of human rights violations. At the same time, selling our candles allows us to raise funds to carry out independently our mission and to take concrete actions for the defense of human rights.



TAKE ACTION!

Amnesty regularly suggests you to work for one or more campaigns to raise awareness of human rights abuses among both the public and governments. These campaigns take place over the long term and are generally devoted to problems that concern several countries.

To help you to learn about these issues, you can receive on request our educational files as well as the Amnesty materials that will be used to carry out your actions.

WITH YOUR YOUTH GROUP create your own actions at school or outside to defend people at risk:

- ✓ Organize a petition stand during recess, school events etc.
- ✓ Take symbolic action-photos and publish them on social networks.
- ✓ Take shock-action: flash mob, demonstrations etc., film them and then publicise them.
- ✓ Set up an event in your school like a concert, a show, a play, etc.

PARTICIPATE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FESTIVAL, the indispensable end-of-year event that Amnesty organizes around December 10. **FILMS PROJECTIONS, EXHIBITIONS, CONFERENCES, DEBATES, CONCERTS AND DANCE EVENING** panoply of activities that join the useful to the pleasant will be proposed! The festival highlights individuals in danger to encourage participants to mobilize in their favor through the write4right action This action mobilizes hundreds of thousands of people around the world to send as many letters as possible to change the lives of people in danger. Thus, in a few weeks, millions of letters, faxes, emails, tweets and SMS will be sent to the concerned authorities. Use your recreation, lunch breaks or other opportunities during this period and encourage your friends, classmates and teachers to write **WRITE4RIGHTS** letters.

BECOME A CYBERACTIVIST by taking part in our online mobilization actions. You can:

- ✓ Act by SMS.
- ✓ Sign a petition online.
- ✓ Write directly to the authorities targeted by our urgent actions on (www.amnesty.lu)
- ✓ Share our posts on your Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.
- ✓ Join our actions and share our tweets or tag @AmnestyLux

... AND IT WORKS!

It is thanks to the work of human rights activists like you, the people supported by Amnesty are saved, released or their situation evolves. Activists around the world contributed to the liberation and saving of the lives of several people from different countries of the world including these two cases:

PHYOE PHYOE AUNG and dozens of students imprisoned for participating in a student demonstration were released in Myanmar. Several thousand people around the world including Luxembourgers had written letters to demand the release of Phyo Phyo Aung.



000 1000

FRED BAUMA ET YVES MAKWAMBALA, two pro-democracy activists unjustly imprisoned in the Democratic Republic of Congo for over a year, were freed. In Luxembourg, more than 1,000 people campaigned for their release.

MORE QUESTIONS?

WHY SIGN PETITIONS?

Petitions represent one of the means to action that we can work on together to ensure that human rights are respected, protected and fulfilled. Only one signature does not carry much weight. But when it joins thousands of others, it brings change. Each of them is essential. There is no doubt about it, you have more power than you think!

CAN I SIGN A PETITION IF I'M UNDER 18?

You have the right to exercise your right to freedom of expression and therefore to sign a petition. Of course, don't forget you should not sign anything we don't know about, research what you are advocating!

IS AMNESTY'S WORK EFFECTIVE?

Amnesty's work is paying off throughout the world: prisoners and prisoners of conscience are released, death sentences commuted to prison sentences and people who committed torture are prosecuted. Governments themselves can be convinced of the need to change their laws and practices. Almost half of the Urgent Actions carried out in favour of people in danger are successful.

DO THE AUTHORITIES READ MY LETTERS?

What to remember is that each letter is likely to be read. You must therefore be very vigilant about the contents of your letter and the manner in which you address yourself to the recipient. Remaining formal is the best way to be heard.

WHERE DOES AMNESTY'S MONEY COME FROM?

Amnesty exists thanks to contributions and donations from its members and sympathizers, as well as from the sale of candles. The international movement does not accept money from governments. The Luxembourg section, however, receives certain subsidies from the Luxembourg Cooperation for Human Rights Education Projects for an amount that represents on average 9% of its annual budget.

HOW DOES AMNESTY SPEND ITS MONEY?

On average 10% of money collected by Amnesty International Luxembourg is sent to the International Secretariat in London; 33% is devoted to growth; 8% in operating costs; 9% in human rights education and 40% to campaigns and activism.

WHAT'S THE CANDLES CAMPAIGN?

THE CANDLES CAMPAIGN has a very strong symbolic value for our movement and is an indispensable source of income for the Luxembourg section. The candle is the well-known symbol of our organization since Peter Benenson lit the human rights flame in 1961. For every Amnesty International candle you sell, you are helping to fund the largest independent network of human rights defenders in the world.

This campaign allows us to:

- finance the actions of Amnesty
- reach out to as many of our fellow citizens as possible
- pursue our mission of human rights education among young people
- finance the international movement researchers who conduct in-depth investigations into human rights violations.

SOME FIGURES

10%

of Amnesty Luxembourg's incomes comes from the sale of candles

1/3

of the volunteer candle sellers are teachers and students in schools



250 =

250 large candles = 1 month of basic equipment for an Amnesty International researcher in Syria

IN BRIEF, Amnesty International is a global citizen movement that finances:

- its researchers to conduct independent investigations into the human rights issues
- its experts who denounce the violations by publishing impartial reports
- and finally its actions which call on the concerned authorities and urge them to remedy the violations and to respect their international obligations in terms of human rights.

CONTACT

The human rights education contact person will advise you and help you to launch your youth group in order to carry out your actions of defense of the human rights. So do not hesitate to contact us.

GET INFORMED & ACT



www.amnesty.lu

CONTACT US



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