

# HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION THAT SAVES LIVES

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**EMPOWER YOUR  
STUDENTS TO  
CHANGE THE  
WORLD.**



**WRITE FOR RIGHTS  
TEACHERS' GUIDE**



## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

## WELCOME TO THE WRITE FOR RIGHTS TEACHERS' GUIDE

We would be thrilled for you and your students to join Write for Rights, the world's largest human rights campaign.

Classrooms are more than just spaces for academic learning—they are places where young people can discover their voice and power to make a difference. By bringing Write for Rights into your school, you are educating students about important human rights issues and empowering them to take action.

This Teacher's Guide aims to support you in making your Write for Rights activities as impactful and engaging as possible. Inside, you will find ready-to-use Write for Rights lesson plans, tips for aligning the campaign with your curriculum, and insights from other educators and students who are a part of Amnesty International's global community.

Thank you for inspiring the next generation of human rights defenders. Together we can make a difference!

With light and hope,

**Tawa & Lysanne**  
The Write for Rights Team

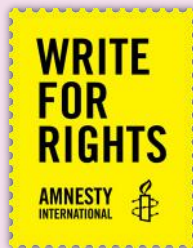
## SUPPORT STUDENTS TO EARN VOLUNTEER HOURS WHILE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By organizing events, writing letters, and participating in the Write for Rights campaign, students can fulfill their mandatory volunteer hours required by many Canadian provinces for high school graduation!

Amnesty International Canada can provide an official certificate detailing your students' contributions and hours, or we're happy to sign off on your school's volunteer hours forms.

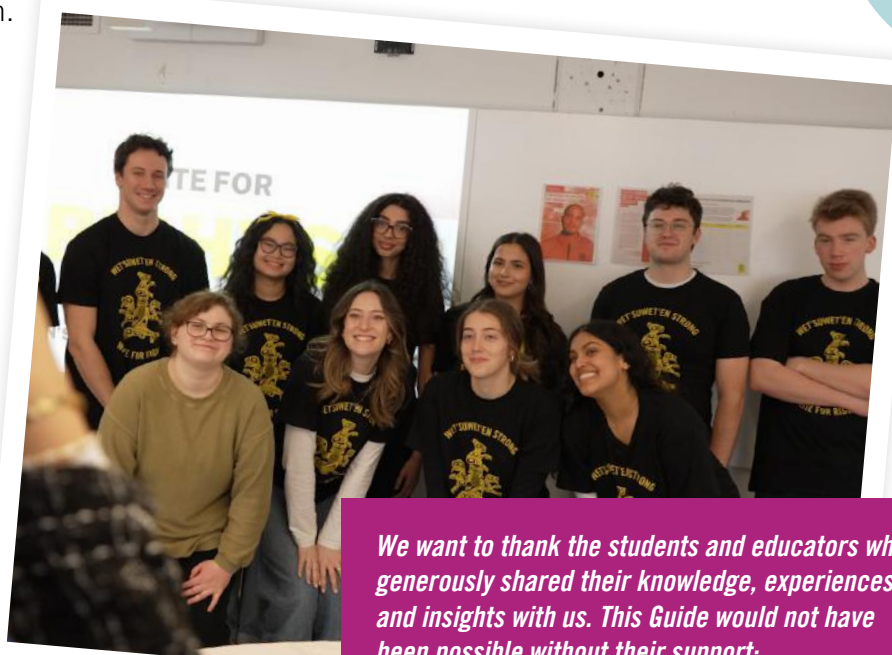
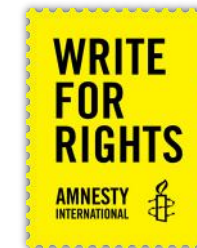
**Email us** with the student's name and the number of hours they contributed, and we'll gladly provide an authorized certificate.

  
[activism@amnesty.ca](mailto:activism@amnesty.ca)



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*We want to thank the students and educators who generously shared their knowledge, experiences, and insights with us. This Guide would not have been possible without their support:*

- Samaaya Gupta
- Aarya Gupta
- Natalie Khallouf
- Maureen Peats
- Gillian Doyle
- Liz Sproat
- Laura McCarron
- Suzanne Walford
- Patrick Forbes
- Mike Coleman
- Bob Woosnam



## WRITE FOR RIGHTS

## WRITING LETTERS CHANGES LIVES

Write for Rights started more than 20 years ago in Poland when a small group of activists ran a 24-hour letter-writing marathon. In the years that followed, the idea spread. Today, it is the world's largest human rights campaign.

Every year around December 10th, International Human Rights Day, millions of people write letters and host events to free people from wrongful imprisonment, torture, or unjust persecution.

From 2,326 letters in 2001 to nearly 6 million letters, tweets, petition signatures and other actions in 2023, people the world over have used the power of their words to unite behind the idea that geography is no barrier to solidarity.

In 2023 alone, more than 1.4 million people were engaged through human rights education activities. In Canada, 125,000 actions were taken and more than 210 events were organized nationwide. Many of these actions and events were taken by students all across the country! In Canada alone, the Write for Rights campaign received 118 media mentions, with a potential reach of more than 36 million people.

This year's campaign once again includes people from around the world. They are connected because their human rights have been violated simply for who they are or because they exercised their rights.

**“ Write for Rights had a profound impact on our classmates. Reading about real cases, processing that knowledge, and then taking the time to write letters gave them new perspectives on what other people, outside their world, face. Many students had never encountered stories like these before, and knowing they could support sparked a sense of purpose and inspiration. ”**

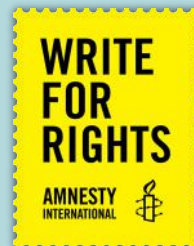
**Samaaya Gupta**  
Write for Rights Student Organizer

Together, we can fight for them to receive justice.

Through Write for Rights, each of the individuals will receive personalized messages of solidarity from thousands of people across the globe. Public attention and the media spotlight Write for Rights offers reassurance to the people featured in the campaign and their families that they are not forgotten. By writing directly to the authorities to demand an end to the injustice, we can create a more just and equitable world.

Individuals and groups featured in previous years report the difference these actions make, and often describe the strength they get from knowing so many people care about them.

Often, there is a noticeable change in the treatment of these individuals and others in a similar situation. Charges may be dropped and people released from detention. People are treated more humanely, and new laws or regulations addressing the injustice are introduced.



## YOUR WORDS ARE POWERFUL

Together, our actions have helped transform the lives of more than 100 people over the years, by releasing activists from detention, securing justice for those whose rights have been abused and protecting people who advocate for change.

## DEATH SENTENCE DROPPED

Rocky Myers, a Black man with an intellectual disability, spent three decades on death row in Alabama, USA, for murder. Rocky was convicted following testimonies blighted by inconsistencies. He was sentenced to death against the jury's wishes, a practice abolished in Alabama in 2017. Rocky featured in Write for Rights 2023, leading to a huge global campaign calling on the Governor of Alabama to grant him clemency and commute his death sentence. In February 2025, this was granted. Rocky's fight for justice is not over as he remains under life imprisonment without the possibility of parole, but the threat of execution has ended.



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**“ Not only did this campaign bring awareness to his case, but it was done in such a way that honoured Rocky as a person, father and grandfather. I know the outpouring of support meant the world to Rocky, and to know that so many people felt called to action is truly inspiring. ”**

**Miriam Bankston**  
Member of Rocky Myers's legal team

## FREED FROM PRISON

Angolan TikTok Ana da Silva Miguel, known as Neth Nahara, a mother of two young children, was jailed for criticizing Angola's president on TikTok. She was summarily tried, convicted, and sentenced to six months in prison – later increased to two years. On January 1, 2025, she was released from prison following a presidential pardon granted on December 25, 2024. Her release came after a year of international campaigning for her freedom, led by Amnesty International and other human rights advocates.

**“ I want to say thank you to Amnesty International for everything you did for me... and for everyone who demanded my freedom. Right now, I am in my house, with my kids, and speaking to my husband and everybody. I want to say thank you. ”**

**Ana da Silva Miguel**  
Known as Neth Nahara



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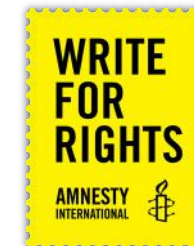
## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER FREE

Bernardo Caal Xol, a teacher and father, worked tirelessly to defend communities affected by hydroelectric projects on the Cahabón river, in northern Guatemala. In November 2018 he was sentenced to more than seven years in prison on bogus charges aimed at preventing his human rights work. During Write for Rights 2021, more than half a million actions were taken for Bernardo and, in March 2022, he was released from prison.



**“ Knowing that so many people in Canada were writing letters to call for my freedom gave me such hope when I was feeling I would die behind bars. Your messages of solidarity raised my spirits so I could continue to resist. I ask you to write now for others who really need our support, as I once did. The truth is that your letters can have a huge impact. ”**

**Bernardo Caal Xol**  
Guatemala





## EMPOWER YOUR STUDENTS WHILE MEETING CURRICULUM GOALS

Students in more than 200 countries play an important role in Write for Rights every year, infusing the campaign with their energy, creativity, and passion for justice. After participating and witnessing how every action they take contributes to meaningful change, students grow into global citizens.

**Aligned with the Canadian provincial curriculums, Write for Rights makes it easy to integrate human rights education into your teaching.** Through this campaign, your students will engage with real-world issues like social justice, social responsibility, and global citizenship, helping them develop critical thinking, empathy, and advocacy skills.

“Write for Rights is one of my favourite projects! I think all schools should participate as long as it's not time-consuming for students. It helps them become global citizens and it makes a difference for kids to see themselves as changemakers.”

Maureen Peats  
Educator from Breslau Public School



Here are some of the ways that Write for Rights fits into the curriculum:

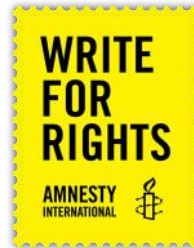
- [Write for Rights and Ontario's Curriculum](#)
- [Write for Rights and British Columbia's Curriculum](#)



## ENGAGE YOUR STUDENTS WITH READY-TO-USE LESSON PLANS

The Amnesty International Write for Rights team has you covered with ready-made lesson plans that help students deepen their understanding of human rights and prepare them to take action. The activities are all based on participatory learning methods where learners can explore, discuss, analyze and question issues relating to the stories in each activity.

- [Human Rights Education: A Short Guide to Write for Rights](#)
- [Learning About Human Rights in Primary and Middle Schools](#)
- [Human Rights Education Introduction](#)
- [Human Rights Education Activities: South Africa](#)
- [Human Rights Education Activities: Freedom of Expression Cases](#)
- [Human Rights Education Activities: Climate Cases](#)



## THE TREE OF PEACE

BY RACHEL LIM

Rachel Lim created this design in solidarity with Dorgelesse Nguessan. Dorgelesse Nguessan, a single mother and hairdresser from Cameroon, was arrested while attending a peaceful protest demanding a better future for her family and her country. She was sentenced to five years in prison.

“The Tree of Peace’ is an illustration dedicated to Dorgelesse Nguessan. I drew inspiration from the imagery of her arrest, whereby she was seen holding a Tree of Peace (a type of corn plant, *Dracaena fragrans*). This plant is a cultural symbol in Western Cameroon that brings peace and wards off evil. As an activist who values the power of social movements and resistance through peaceful demonstrations and symbolic art, this case resonates with me deeply. No one should be criminalized for exercising their right to freely protest against corruption.”

Rachel Lim  
Artist



RELEASED  
FROM PRISON

DORGELESSE NGUESSAN





# GETTING STARTED IS EASY



Display posters of the individuals and communities featured in the campaign. Share case sheets with students so they can write informed letters to the appropriate authorities and share heartfelt messages of solidarity with the Individuals at Risk.

## CASE SHEETS

*Each year, the Write for Rights team develops high quality, assessable multi-media learning resources to help teachers and students easily join the campaign and make a difference.*



Engaging **videos** that explain Write for Rights, highlight the cases, and showcase the campaign's powerful impact.



An adaptable PowerPoint presentation that includes an overview of Write for Rights, the impact of the campaign and case descriptions.



### Looking to sharpen your students' critical thinking skills?

Assign different cases to student groups. After watching the video and reading the case sheet, each group can present their case to the class, explaining which Articles in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are being violated and why.

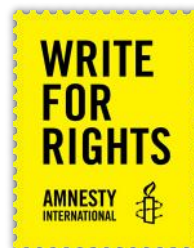
Provide students the sample letters to support their letter writing. These templates show how to write impactful letters with proper structure and the key information needed for advocacy. Students can copy or rewrite them in their own words to make the message more personal.



## SAMPLE LETTERS

*Students and educators we interviewed tailored their letter-writing sessions to suit their students' interests and needs.*

- Natalie Khallouf, a student leader from Thornlea Secondary School, created sample letters for each case and invited classmates to sign those that resonated with them.
- Samaaya and Aarya Gupta, student organizers from Woodlands Secondary, encouraged participants to write one deeply personal letter for a case they felt connected to.
- Gillian Doyle, an educator from Fieldcrest Elementary School, awarded students bonus points for writing letters in different languages.
- Maureen Peats, an educator from Breslau Public School, engaged students in a geography game to identify the locations of the Individuals at Risk, and used word searches to familiarize her students with the case sheet language.



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO HOST A WRITE FOR RIGHTS EVENT



## PETITIONS

Petitions offer quick and accessible ways for students to participate, especially those with limited time or capacity. Amnesty International offers **print** and **electronic petitions** to suit all your students' needs.



### Inspire your students to take Write for Rights beyond the classroom!

Encourage students to collect signatures from family and friends, building their advocacy skills and witnessing firsthand how they can influence others and spark meaningful change.

When we spoke to Elizabeth Sproat, a Canadian educator who works at an alternative school, she found that petitions worked well for her students, as they provided accessible and meaningful ways for them to engage.

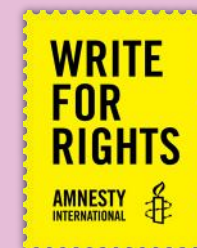


## GET YOUR FREE CLASSROOM TOOLKIT

**Register your event** at [amnesty.ca/write](https://amnesty.ca/write) to get a free Classroom Toolkit with colour printed Write for Rights resources and merchandise like student planners, t-shirts, pens, stickers, and more!



Students report Write for Rights merchandise helps draw more people to their events. Some even played music to create a lively atmosphere, while others raffled off t-shirts and other branded materials, making the event even more engaging for high school students.





## WRITE FOR RIGHTS IN ACTION

During our conversations with students and educators, we were deeply inspired by the diverse and thoughtful ways they brought Write for Rights to life in their schools. We're excited to share some of their incredible initiatives to spark ideas and motivate you on your Write for Rights journey.

### FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION

**Write for Rights Campaign Helps Identify and Address Gaps in Human Rights Education**

In 2022, Natalie Khallouf, who was 15 years old at the time and founder of her school Amnesty group, led in organizing a Write for Rights event in her school library. The event was a resounding success, generating 350+ petition signatures and 450+ letters! However, during the event, the organizers noticed a trend: many students hesitated to sign a petition that supported the rights of trans people.

*“If even one person shows up and learns something, it makes such a difference and makes me so happy. It's a lot of work but incredibly rewarding—I truly love it.”*

**Natalie Khallouf**  
Thornlea Secondary School

Recognizing the need for awareness, the next year, the Amnesty group collaborated with their school's Gender Sexuality Alliance Club and focused on educating students about 2SLGBTQQIA+ rights. They organized campaigns and held discussions, advocating for spaces where everyone could embrace their true selves without discrimination.

Over time, Natalie reported seeing a positive shift, as more students became more informed and accepting of gender-diverse people. The Amnesty Group even grew from 10 to 80+ members in one year—making it one of the biggest groups in their school!

The success of the Write for Rights events didn't end there! Natalie spoke of how organizing these events helped her develop life-long skills. She strengthened her advocacy abilities, mastered the art and importance of delegation, and became comfortable explaining complex topics and educating her peers on sensitive issues.

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## WRITE FOR RIGHTS IN ACTION

### BUILDING COMMUNITY THROUGH ADVOCACY

**Creating Safe Spaces with Write for Rights**

Inspired to make a difference, twin sisters, Samaaya and Aarya Gupta started an Amnesty Group at their school, Woodlands Secondary High School in 2022. As their first initiative, they organized a Write for Rights event. To get started, they secured a teacher sponsor, **registered their group on Amnesty's website**, and assembled an executive committee to help plan, promote and carry out the event.

Over a six-week period, the team dedicated between six and eight hours each preparing for the event. They had determined that promotion was key to the success of the event. The first thing they did was to create an Amnesty Woodlands social media account to raise awareness of the Write for Rights campaign. They posted interactive content, including videos and social media posts highlighting the stories of people whose human rights were at risk. To boost interest and excitement, they also incorporated a countdown-to-the-event-date feature in their social media posts.

In addition to these digital efforts, they designed and distributed posters all over the school and coordinated with teachers, encouraging them to participate in the letter-writing activity.

*“Yes, you can make change alone, but when you do it with others, the more powerful it becomes. Through Write for Rights, we were able to form a community at our school, creating a space where people felt safe to share experiences that are not usually discussed on a regular day. It required vulnerability, and it felt meaningful to be part of these conversations.”*

**Aarya Gupta**  
Woodlands Secondary High School

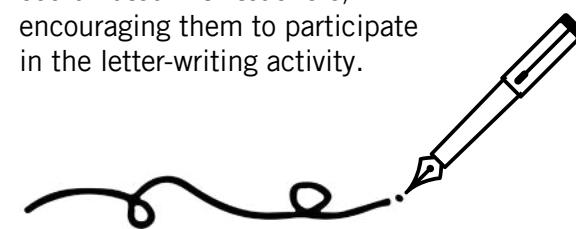
The event was featured daily in morning announcements, for nine consecutive days.

Each executive member was responsible for bringing at least five people to the event, a word-of-mouth tactic that proved successful. On the day of the event, they decorated the space with Write for Rights (W4Rs) merchandize, played music to create a welcoming environment, and offered delicious winter-themed snacks as an incentive for all those who participated. In the beginning of their event, they presented the Write for Rights cases, explained how to write letters, and encouraged participants to take action for the cases they felt most connected to. This approach led to a heartfelt, open environment where students shared personal stories and wrote meaningful letters, spending 30-40 minutes on each. Their event was an incredible success, with students writing over 200 letters!

Samaaya and Aarya have since graduated from Woodlands Secondary School and are pursuing their bachelor's degrees. They plan to continue Write for Rights events at their University while also exploring other ways to exercise their power for social change. Samaaya and Aarya's journey highlights how advocacy that begins in the classroom can inspire change far beyond its walls.

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# WRITE FOR RIGHTS IN ACTION

## WALKING TOGETHER IN JUSTICE

### Catholic Teachings and Write for Rights in Harmony

St. John Catholic High School in Perth, Ontario, is a great example of how Catholic schools can fully embrace the Write for Rights campaign to align with their values and teachings. For almost 25 years, the school has organized Write for Events, led by the student-run Justice Action Committee (JAC). The annual event inspires impressive participation generating 400 to 600 letters each year, with engagement from the majority of classes.

Every year, the JAC selects four cases to champion. The members visit classrooms to promote the campaign, share powerful success stories from previous years, and

provide sample letters to guide participants. On the event day, the school's atrium transforms into a vibrant advocacy hub, where students gather for letter-writing sessions while some classes take materials back for in-class participation.

Teachers at St. John appreciate how seamlessly Write for Rights integrates with a Catholic Social Teachings, such as promoting solidarity, economic justice, human dignity and the common good. They also found that the campaign complements the curriculum, particularly in senior-level law and religion classes, offering students a real-world application of critical concepts.

St. John Catholic High School's longstanding commitment demonstrates the unique role Catholic schools can play in Write for Rights, combining faith, education, and action to empower students and and foster meaningful global change.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

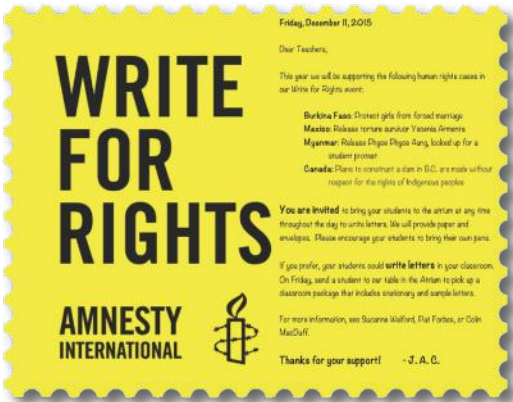
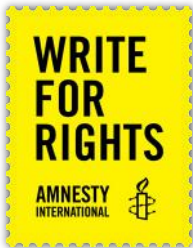
Here are some additional tools to support you in bringing Write for Rights into your classroom and empowering your students to take action!

- [The Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [Write for Rights Event Poster](#)
- [Address Labels](#)
- [Letter Writing Toolkit](#)
- [Simple Printable Case Sheets](#)
- [Sample Letters to Officials](#)

### AS A BONUS...

The students and educators we interviewed made some incredible resources that we had to share! Feel free to adapt and localize them to fit your classroom needs.

- [Write for Rights Pre-Event Checklist \(Created by St John's Catholic School\)](#)
- [Write for Rights Event Production Schedule \(Created by St John's Catholic School\)](#)



## ACTIVITY

# APPLYING THE UDHR TO REAL-LIFE SCENARIOS

Here's a classroom activity shared with us by a Canadian educator who has over 20 years experience organizing Write for Rights in her classrooms.

### AGE GROUP: 12+

### TIME NEEDED: 50 MINUTES

### MATERIALS NEEDED

- Dot stickers in multiple colors
- Copies or digital access to the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)**
- A whiteboard or flipchart for class discussion notes

### PREPARATION

Choose or adapt the below scenarios to the align with the students' cultural and social environment:

- Getting hired at a retail store with a dress code banning students from wearing earrings or having facial hair while working.
- Access to the school has a ramp, but it is rarely cleared after winter storms.
- A student is sent to their room for disagreeing with a parent.
- A worker is sent home for refusing to change a shirt that the employer considered inappropriate content on it.
- A student quits school at age 16.
- A classmate shares a photo of you without permission and shares it with others.

## STEP 1: SCENARIO WALK

- Assign each participant dot stickers.
- Ask participants to walk around the room, read the scenarios, and place a sticker under one of the following columns for each scenario:



AGREE



DISAGREE



UNSURE / IT DEPENDS

## STEP 2: CONNECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS

- After the scenario walk, form small groups or pairs.
- Distribute copies of the UDHR or provide digital access.
- Ask each group to discuss the scenarios and identify relevant UDHR articles that connect to the issue presented.

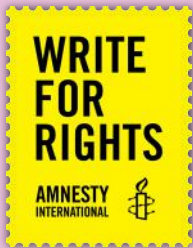
Encourage participants to think about the broader implications:

- Which rights are being upheld or violated?
- Are there multiple interpretations of the same situation?

## STEP 3: GROUP DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

Facilitate a class discussion using the following prompts:

- Were there any scenarios where opinions varied? What influenced participants' views?
- How do these situations reflect the relevance of human rights in everyday life?
- How can participants apply these rights in their community or school?



15 MINUTES



20 MINUTES



15 MINUTES





**Juan López**

📍 HONDURAS

Defender of Rivers and  
Forests Murdered**Mother Nature Cambodia**

📍 CAMBODIA

Convicted for Protecting  
the Environment**Guerreras por la Amazonía**

📍 ECUADOR

'Fighting to Protect our  
Amazon, and your Future'**Ellinor Guttorm Utsi**

📍 NORWAY

Fighting to Protect their  
Ancestral Lands and Culture**Sai Zaw Thaike**

📍 MYANMAR

Locked up and Beaten  
for his Journalism**Damisoa**

📍 MADAGASCAR

Displaced by Droughts  
and Facing Starvation**Sonia Dahmani**

📍 TUNISIA

Silenced, Harrassed, and  
Intimidated for Speaking Out**Unecebo Mboteni**

📍 SOUTH AFRICA

Lost his Life where he  
Should Have Been Safe

# MAP OF CURRENT CASES





# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

## WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words related to human rights?

p	o	c	d	k	e	g	w	j	a	y	g	j	l	w
j	u	e	l	e	g	e	m	u	l	y	s	a	e	r
a	e	m	m	l	a	s	r	e	v	i	n	u	f	s
r	m	e	q	u	a	l	i	t	y	o	r	r	u	w
e	g	c	r	p	v	s	e	a	i	l	y	i	n	l
g	l	i	q	f	e	y	e	t	d	r	t	z	a	e
n	s	t	c	m	e	o	a	c	q	d	i	x	r	h
b	p	s	p	l	i	n	p	z	u	n	n	l	t	n
n	r	u	c	a	r	q	s	l	k	r	g	e	i	k
k	y	j	p	e	m	a	q	m	e	r	i	e	l	o
b	k	q	t	e	e	n	o	r	t	p	d	t	e	u
s	u	n	m	o	d	e	e	r	f	v	o	t	y	j
x	i	q	u	i	t	s	i	s	e	r	t	w	v	x
b	s	o	l	i	d	a	r	i	t	y	d	i	e	u
b	j	w	p	s	k	z	i	v	t	y	k	v	l	r

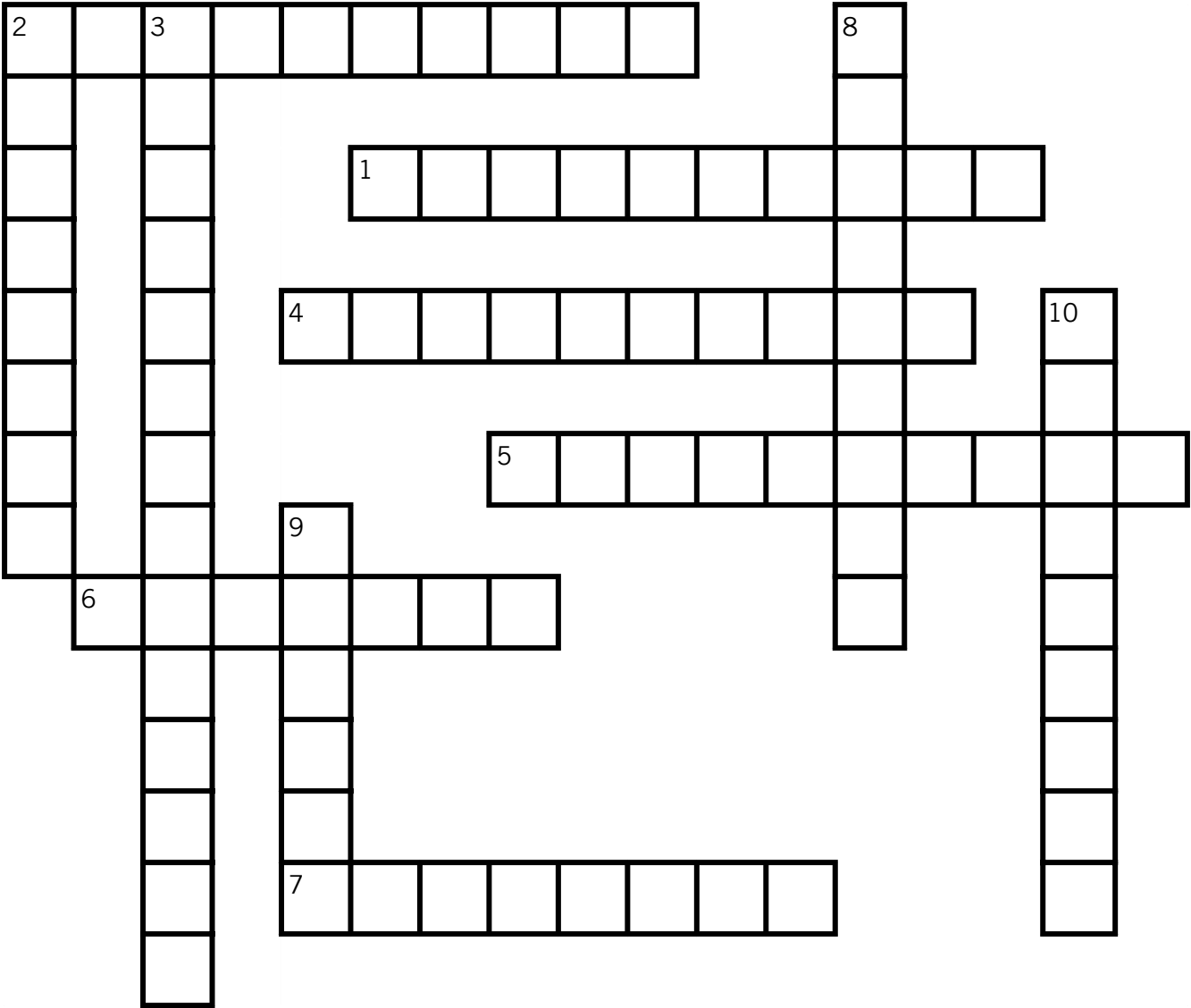
- amnesty
- freedom
- resist
- asylum
- international
- security
- dignity
- justice
- solidarity
- equality
- people power
- universal



# WRITE FOR RIGHTS

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Can you solve all of the clues below?



### ACROSS

- 1 Unjustly-imprisoned Angolan TikToker who was released in 2025
- 2 Death-row inmate who was freed in 2025 after being featured in Write for Rights
- 4 Indigenous Nation featured in Canada's Write for Rights campaign in 2024
- 5 Profession of Sai Zaw Thaike, unjustly imprisoned in Myanmar
- 6 Prison where lawyer Sonia Damani is held after speaking out against the inhumane prison conditions and racism in Tunisia
- 7 Month of International Human Rights Day

### DOWN

- 2 The animal whose annual migration will be disrupted by several hundred wind turbines proposed across Sámi territory in Norway
- 3 U.S. whistle-blower whose 35-year sentence was cut short by outgoing President Barack Obama after a Write for Rights campaign in 2017
- 8 Country that unjustly imprisoned Indigenous water defender, Bernardo Caal Xol, for four years
- 9 Country where Write for Rights started
- 10 Source of toxic fumes and environmental devastation in the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador



# 'FIGHTING TO PROTECT OUR AMAZON, AND YOUR FUTURE'

Colouring Sheet

GUERRERAS POR LA AMAZONÍA  
ECUADOR

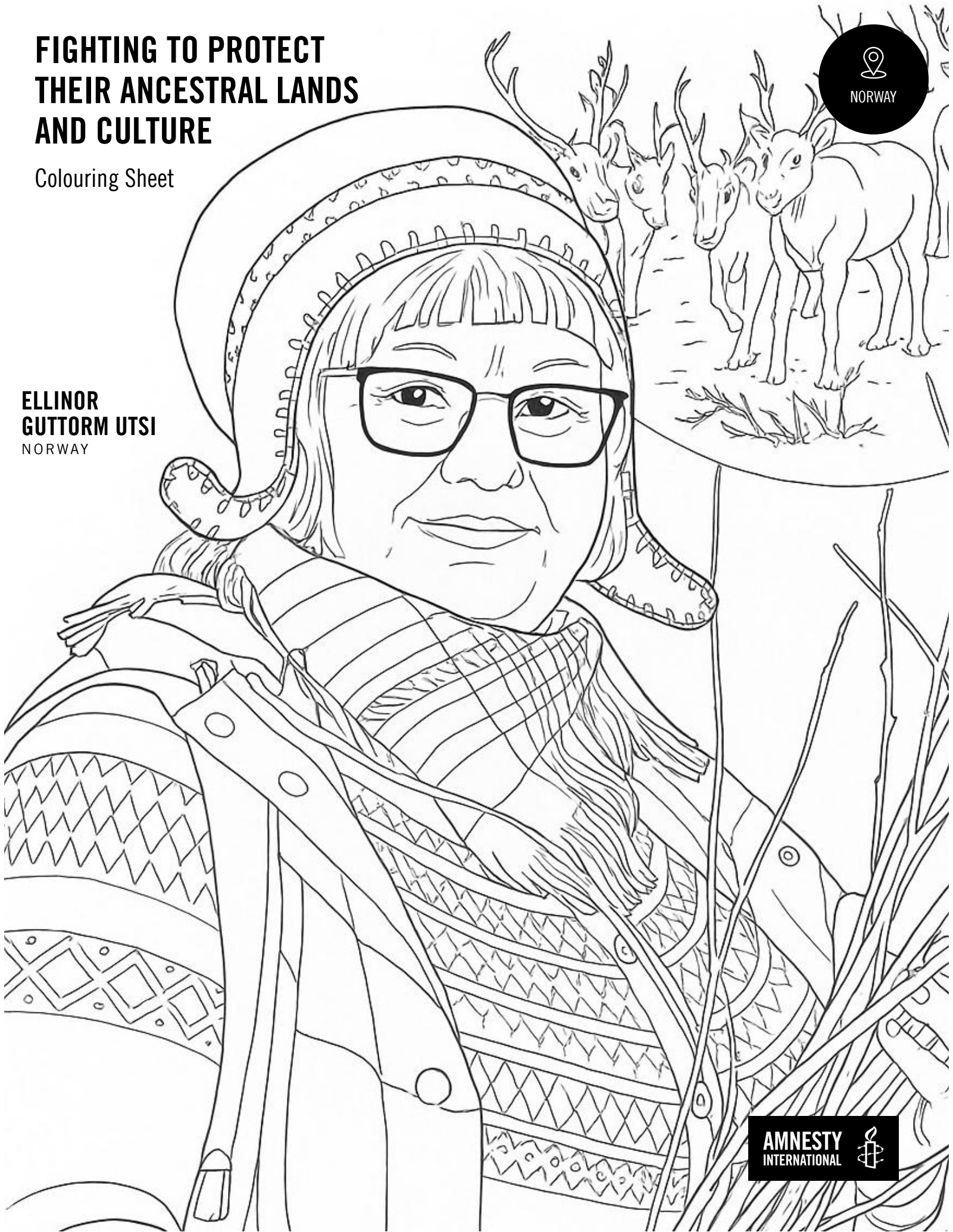


# FIGHTING TO PROTECT THEIR ANCESTRAL LANDS AND CULTURE

Colouring Sheet



ELLINOR  
GUTTORM UTSI  
NORWAY



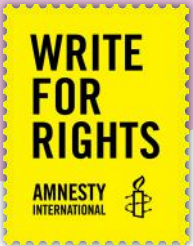


CONDITIONALLY RELEASED  
BUT STILL SILENCED

Colouring Sheet



SONIA DAHMANI  
TUNISIA



ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS

Human rights are the freedoms and protections that belong to every single one of us. They are based on principles of dignity, equality and mutual respect – regardless of age, nationality, gender, race, beliefs and personal orientations. Your rights are about being treated fairly, treating others fairly and having the ability to make choices about your own life. Human rights are universal – they belong to everyone, everywhere. They are inalienable – they cannot be taken away from us. And they are indivisible and interdependent – each right is equally important and they are interconnected. Since the atrocities committed during World War II, international human rights instruments, beginning with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have provided a powerful framework for national, regional and international legislation designed to improve lives across the world. Human rights are laws for governments. Human rights are not optional privileges or luxuries to be granted only when convenient. They create binding obligations for governments and public officials to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all people, both within their borders and beyond.

THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)



© UN Photo

The UDHR was drawn up by the newly formed United Nations in the years immediately following World War II. Since its adoption on 10 December 1948, it has formed the backbone of the international human rights system. Every country in the world has agreed to be bound by the general principles expressed within the 30 articles of this document.

As its name suggests, the UDHR is a declaration of intent by every government around the world that it

will abide by certain standards in the treatment of individual human beings. Human rights have become part of international law: since the adoption of the UDHR, numerous other binding laws and agreements have been drawn up on the basis of its principles. These laws and agreements provide the basis for organizations like Amnesty International to demand that governments end the abuses experienced by the individuals featured in our Write for Rights campaign.

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Amnesty activists in Togo during Write for Rights 2024.



# WHY DOES SOLIDARITY MATTER?

You might think that writing to somebody you don't know can't make a difference, or that they won't want to hear from you. But, when you're locked up or in fear for your life, or you're desperately seeking justice for a loved one, having somebody tell you that they believe in you matters a lot. They may feel anxious and alone, and your words can bring comfort and hope to them.

Through the solidarity she received in 2023, Ana Maria Santos Cruz felt the embrace of a global community. It helped her to keep hope alive after the death of her son, Pedro Henrique. Pedro was an activist and an advocate of racial justice and human rights. He was murdered in 2018.

Ana Maria has bravely sought the truth about her son's death, calling on the authorities in Brazil to conduct a thorough investigation and trial. When she received thousands of letters of support from around the world, she felt more able to cope with her grief and with the ongoing threats against her. She said:

**“I always say that Pedro taught me a lot, including how to be a tireless fighter for justice. It was also Pedro who connected me with Amnesty International, as he was a supporter of the movement. He used to say to me, joking, that Amnesty International would one day take him to countries of Africa, to Jamaica and other places to do human rights work. Who would imagine that he was right? After his murder, through the Write for Rights campaign, Pedro Henrique and I were, in a way, taken to different countries through this story of the fight for justice. I'm very happy and feel strengthened by this wave of solidarity, which comforts my heart.”**

Above: Amnesty activists in Zimbabwe work on Pedro's case.  
Right: Ana Maria Santos Cruz, with a portrait of her son Pedro Henrique at the Passo Staircase, Salvador.



**ANA MARIA SANTOS CRUZ**  
BRAZIL



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# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## ABOUT

Amnesty International is a movement of 10 million people that 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 accountable for their actions. We investigate and expose abuses wherever they occur. By amplifying the powerful stories of the people we work with, we mobilize millions of supporters around the world to campaign for change and act in solidarity with activists on the frontlines. We also support people to claim their rights through education and training.

Our work protects and empowers people – from abolishing the death penalty and advancing climate justice and equality, to combating discrimination and defending the rights of refugees and migrants. We help to bring torturers to justice, change oppressive laws and free people who have been jailed solely for voicing their opinion. We speak out for anyone and everyone whose freedom or dignity is under threat.

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IS A GLOBAL MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS. WHEN INJUSTICE HAPPENS TO ONE PERSON, IT MATTERS TO US ALL.**



Amnesty supporters and members take part in Write for Rights 2024 in the Netherlands.





# Thank you!

**We can't wait to see the incredible impact this campaign will have, and we're grateful to have you as part of this movement for change.**



Please scan the QR code on the left to report your actions. Reporting helps Amnesty track the impact of the Write for Rights campaign.

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