

WRITE A LETTER CHANGE A LIFE

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

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WRITE FOR RIGHTS **STUUR JE BRIEF NAAR** **DE MINISTER** **DE MINISTER**

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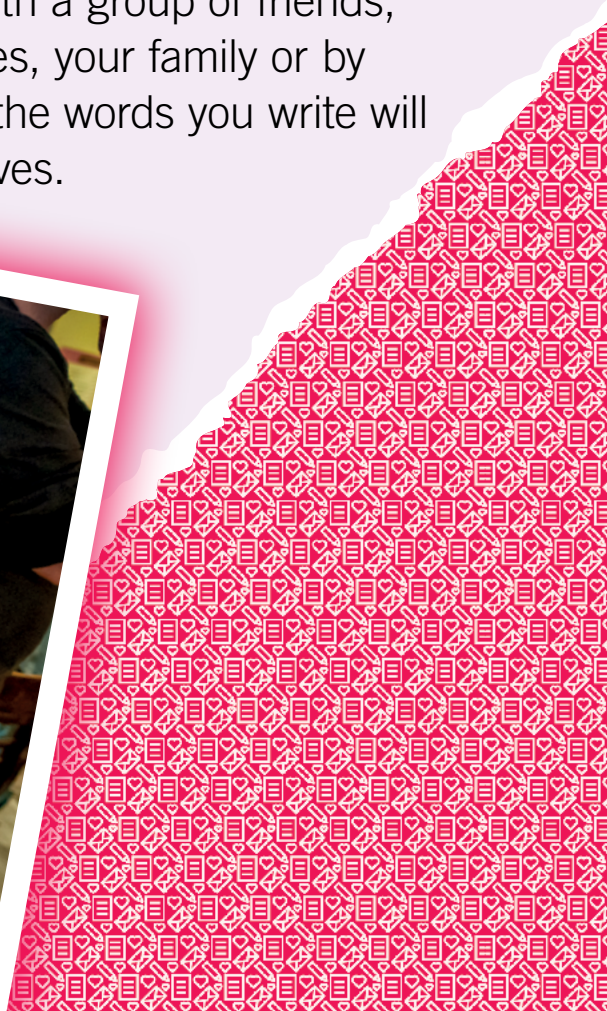
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Welcome to Amnesty International's Write for Rights letter-writing kit. Here you will find everything you need to successfully take part in the Write for Rights 2024 campaign.

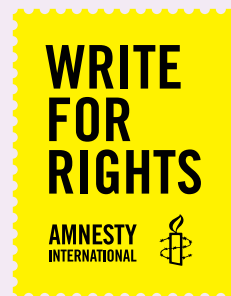
Write for Rights changes lives and your words matter.

The people featured in this year's campaign are from all around the world – from a TikTokker in Angola to a women's rights defender in Saudi Arabia, all these amazing people are connected because their human rights have been violated. This is your chance to make a real difference to their lives.

You're here because you want to make a difference. You want to speak truth to power. Whether you do this with a group of friends, classmates, your family or by yourself, the words you write will change lives.



“I would like to express my huge, huge gratitude... Your timely actions – these letters, petitions, signatures, and the huge number of letters that went to the court, that went to the prosecutor’s office – it was all very powerful. In fact, it was very empowering to us all... Of course, the acquittal was totally unexpected. I don’t even know how to process it in my head. We had been playing with all sorts of scenarios, different outcomes in our heads, but we didn’t think we would all be acquitted!... I thank you all.”



Rita Karasartova from Kyrgyzstan

Rita is a human rights defender and expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice, helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. Alongside 26 others, Rita was arrested for opposing a new border agreement giving control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan. Charged with attempting to “violently overthrow the government”, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years’ imprisonment, Rita and at least 21 other defendants were acquitted on June 14 2024.



WHAT IS WRITE FOR RIGHTS?

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A letter can change someone's life. That's the idea behind Write for Rights, our global letter-writing campaign.

Over two decades ago, a small group of activists in Poland decided to run a 24-hour letter-writing marathon for December 10 – Human Rights Day. The idea took off and today, Write for Rights has grown into the world's biggest human rights event.

Every December, supporters across the globe write millions of letters, cards and tweets, and sign petitions for those whose basic human rights are being attacked.

These supporters form a vibrant community of people like you, continuing a long tradition of writing letters to right some of the world's biggest wrongs.



HOW DOES WRITE FOR RIGHTS WORK?

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WHY DO WE NEED TO TAKE ACTION?

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In country after country, people's freedoms – to speak out against injustice, to not be discriminated against – are under threat. Your letters, words and actions will put pressure on authorities to take immediate action, so that people's rights are protected and those who abuse people's rights will be brought to justice.



WHO DO WE WRITE TO?

Every year, we ask supporters to write two types of letters. One is to the person in authority – it could be a king, president or head of police – who can help make change happen. The other letter is to the person (or group of people) we are fighting for, so they know we will never forget them.

DOES IT WORK?

Yes! Every year, real change happens because of your letters and actions. People wrongfully imprisoned are released. Abusers are brought to justice. And people in prison are treated more humanely.



WHEN DOES IT HAPPEN?

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Write for Rights centers around Human Rights Day on December 10 but precise dates will vary depending on where in the world you live. Check your local Amnesty website for details.



“I feel so relieved, and I thank you for the amazing Write for Rights campaign. I am forever indebted. It is like a huge weight has been lifted off my shoulders. Reading all the letters and cards made me feel so loved and appreciated.”

Cecillia Chimbiri from Zimbabwe

Opposition activists Cecillia Chimbiri, Joanah Mamombe and Netsai Marova were abducted, tortured and imprisoned after attending a protest. They were charged with “communicating falsehoods” and “obstructing the course of justice”. Following their participation in Write for Rights 2022, on July 4 2023 Cecillia and Joanah were acquitted by the High Court.

HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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1

READ THE STORIES

This year, Write for Rights features a range of people, young and old, all of whom have had their freedoms attacked.

They are from 10 countries, and you will find 10 information sheets enclosed at the end of this kit, summarizing their stories. Take a look.



2

PRINT OUT OUR SPECIALLY DESIGNED STATIONERY

We've created some special stationery which you can download and print. You can use it for any of your Write for Rights letters.

3

WRITE YOUR LETTERS

At the back of each information sheet are two addresses.

One is to a government or similar authority: that's the target address. This is the person in authority we are trying to persuade to help the person or people featured. (To make things easier, we've put these addresses on the sample target letters as well: see point 4 for more information.)

The second is for a solidarity letter to the person we want to help, or someone they are close to. This is your chance to write them a personal message of friendship or support. Feel free to draw pictures – be creative.



HOW TO WRITE FOR RIGHTS

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4. USE THE SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS IF YOU NEED THEM

This kit contains 10 sample letters to your target. You can either copy these out in your own handwriting (great!), or rewrite them, adding your own words (even better!).

You can write as few or as many as you like.

4

5. POST YOUR LETTER ONLINE AND TAG US

Once you've written your letter, please take a photo of it (or a part of it) and post it on your social media channels, tagging it #W4R24. Please also tag @amnestyusa in your posts on X and Instagram so we can find you.

We'll try to retweet and post the best letters during Write for Rights.

5

6. POST YOUR LETTER OFFLINE!

You've written to an authority or to someone who really needs your support right now. Please remember to put that letter in an envelope, stamp it and send it on its way. Your words will change someone's life. Thank you!

6



WHY DOES SOLIDARITY MATTER?

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You might think that writing to someone you don't know will make no 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 someone tell you they believe in you matters a lot. They may feel anxious and alone, and your words will bring comfort and hope to them.

Through the solidarity she received in 2023, Ana Maria Santos Cruz felt the embrace of a global community of allies, keeping her hope alive after the death of her son, Pedro Henrique. An activist and advocate of racial justice and human rights, Pedro organized "Walks of Peace" in Tucano, Bahia, Brazil. The annual marches brought people together to speak out about police abuses primarily against Black communities. These moments of solidarity were met with hostility and intimidation from the police and on December 27, 2018, Pedro Henrique was murdered, aged 31.



Ana Maria has bravely sought the truth about Pedro's death, calling on the authorities for a thorough investigation and trial. With thousands of letters of support from around the world, Ana Maria felt more able to cope with ongoing threats and the grief of losing her child.

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“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.”



SAMPLE TARGET LETTERS

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There are 10 sample target letters. Feel free to either copy these out in your own handwriting or, even better, rewrite them, adding your own words. You can use the special printable stationery we've provided, or your own paper. You can do as few or as many as you like. If you've already taken action online, please write a solidarity letter instead. If you only want to write a solidarity letter, that's brilliant, too!



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Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 10 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

We are independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion and are funded mainly by our membership and public donations.

