

Intro slide

Hello everyone we are Collaborative group No. two and this semester we were lucky enough to partner with amnesty international Detroit chapter

Establishment Slide

Amnesty International was established in 1961 after a British lawyer named Peter Benenson Saw a story about Portuguese students who were jailed for toasting their glasses to freedom. Feeling outraged, Benenson wrote an article in the Observer newspaper titled “The Forgotten Prisoners” and launched a campaign that provoked an incredible response. This article in the Observer was re-printed in newspapers across the world. The article encouraged people to write letters on the behalf of people imprisoned for exercising human rights. This call to action sparked tremendous response which led to thousands of letters to government leaders. Which led to the idea that people everywhere can unite in solidarity for justice and freedom. The groups of letter writers in different countries became the backbone of Amnesty International.

Mission Slide

Amnesty International envisions a world where everyone can enjoy the human rights listed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments to pursue this vision AI's mission is to undertake research and action focused on preventing and ending grave abuses of these rights.

AI brings torturers to justice, changes oppressive laws and free people jailed for voicing their opinions. Their core work includes: Protecting human rights defenders, refugee and immigrant rights, abolishing the death penalty, national security and human rights, deadly force

and police accountability, ending gun violence, gender sexuality and identity, and individuals at risk.

Goals & Tasks Slide

Now I'm going to talk about the goals and tasks of Amnesty International. Similar to what's mentioned in the Mission part, Amnesty International's founder has described the goal of Amnesty International as: "Only when the last prisoner of conscience has been freed, when the last torture chamber has been closed, when the United Nations' universal declaration of human rights is a reality for the world's people, will our work be done." The briefly summarized what our goals are in Amnesty. We work to protect people wherever justice, freedom, truth, and dignity are denied. When human rights are denied, Amnesty International finds the facts, exposes what's happening, and rallies people together to force governments and others to respect everyone's human rights. Amnesty holds campaigns through a bunch of different formats in order to address different global issues. The format includes write for rights, holding monthly meetings as information sessions to address issues, etc.

What We Accomplished Slide

This school year, our CG partnered with the Detroit chapter of Amnesty International in a number of meaningful ways. Our first project was for each member to write 3 letters for AI's 2019 Write for Rights Campaign. Write for Rights is considered the organization's premier letter-writing campaign, as it features 10 individual case appeals from around the world. We engaged in a similar project during the second semester by once again writing three letters, this time chosen from AI's list of "Urgent Actions" - cases that are under pressing circumstances and need action right away. In between these two projects, we also promoted AI's mission via social

media outreach for Human Rights Day, and tabled in Mason Hall in order to educate and engage in dialogue with the campus community about the global refugee crisis. Finally, we each choose a topic from one of AI's priority issues to write about for an analysis paper in which we explored root causes, what steps AI was taking to address them, and why it matters to us.

Impact Slide

The impact of CG2's International Internship starts with our tabling event at Mason Hall. This gave us the chance to have conversations with other students about the mission of Amnesty International and the impacts of refugees in our community. Our impact is also shown through our Urgent action and write for rights letters which we wrote first and second semester. The global impact of writing these letters will likely remain unknown, as few responses are ever recorded. However, learning about these global cases had an impact on the writers, as it was informational and empathy evoking for the group.

Future Focus Slide

As we wrap up our GEI with Amnesty International Detroit, we come away from this experience with a plethora of learning outcomes. First and probably most obviously, working on these projects enhanced our knowledge of the global social justice issues AI advocates for both here and abroad. Specifically, we learned a lot about wrongful convictions and criminal justice practices across the globe from working on the Write for Rights campaign and Urgent Action Cases; we then gained more knowledge about migrant rights pertaining to the refugee crisis from our campus outreach project and researched more about specific AI issues like gun violence from individually producing bodies of writing on those subjects.

Something really cool that we were able to take away from this project was witnessing

and learning about how an international organization with millions of members like AI truly works by mobilizing chapters and individuals to create change across the globe. For example, for the urgent action cases we wrote to leaders all over the world to ask them to free someone who had been wrongfully imprisoned or suffered unprovoked state violence. While it was only two dozen or so letters on our part, by having all chapters around the world do this AI gets thousands, if not tens and hundreds of thousands, of people to write on behalf of those whose personal rights have been wrongfully abused by their state. In that sense, we were able to see and really understand how grassroots-based change can be not only sustainable but effective. Lastly, we were able to grow our professional skills during our GEI, as we worked together to successfully complete long-term projects while holding each other equally accountable. We all had to learn how to communicate and coordinate professionally with our GEI supervisors, Ken and Geraldine.

As we end our time with Amnesty International Detroit, we will definitely take what we have learned in regards to global social justice issues, grassroots level organizing, and professional development into our future careers and political lives. Working on this project also inspired Chloe and I to start a chapter of Amnesty International here on campus, since we really enjoyed the work we were doing for our GEI project. Plus many people approached us at our tabling event asking to get involved, so we thought we should take this opportunity to fill that space here on campus and continue AI's work. So many of us will be getting involved with that come fall semester.