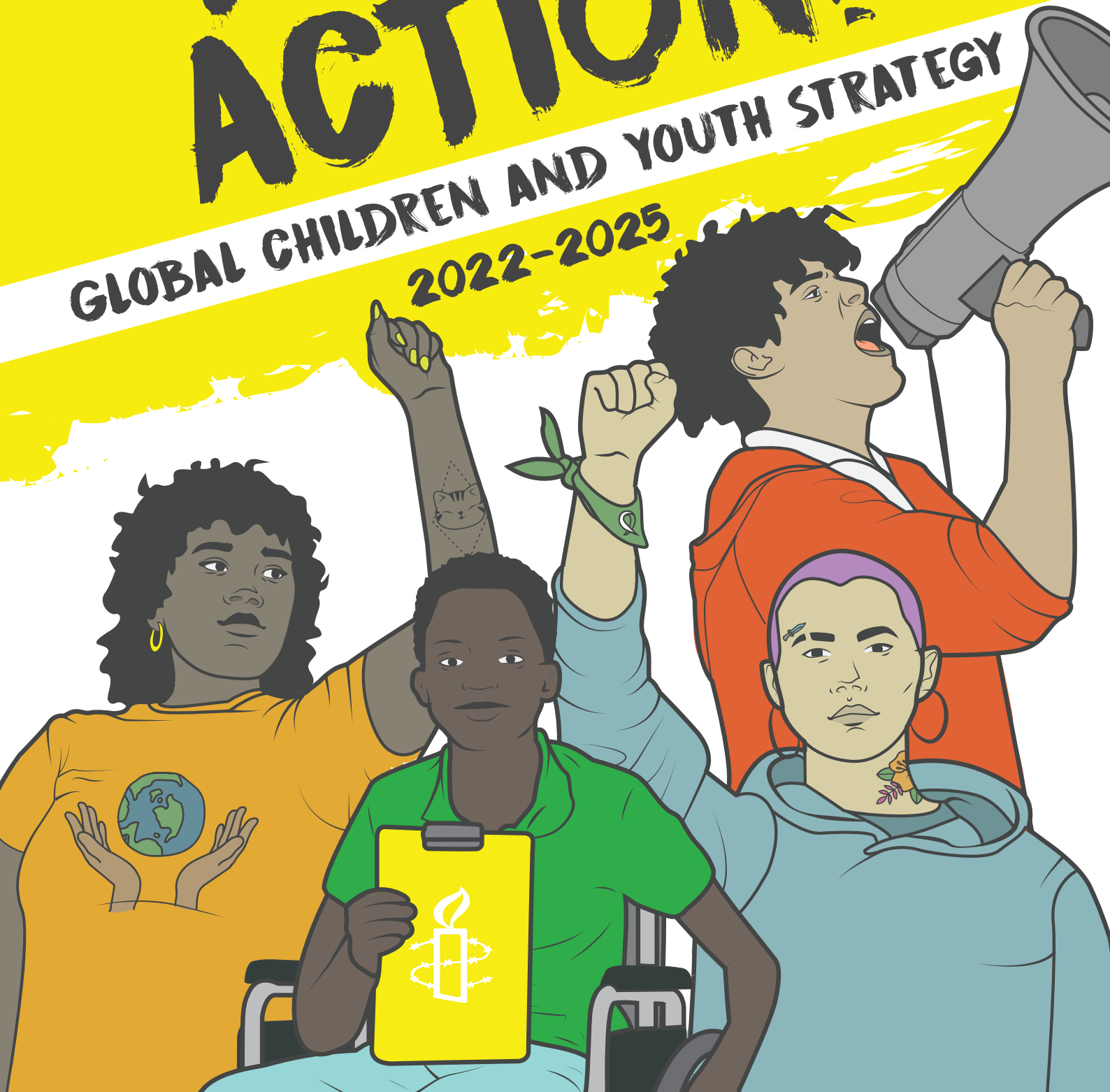


YOUTH POWER ACTION!

GLOBAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY
2022-2025





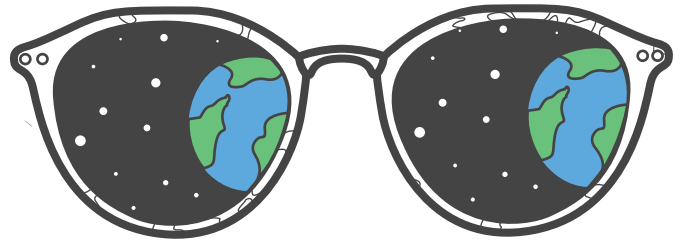
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *Youth, Power, Action! Global Children and Youth Strategy (2022-2025)* sets the direction for Amnesty International's work for, by and with children and young people. It will be delivered by people from all generations, with children and young people themselves in the driving seat.

We are inspired by a vision where children and young people play active roles in creating a world where everybody enjoys human rights.



By **drawing on the energy, creativity and skills** of children and young people, and by **enabling and empowering their active participation** across all levels of our work, we aim to create an environment in which they actively contribute to human rights impact and play an integral role in achieving our vision and the priorities of the *Global Strategic Framework*.



The development of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* was led by Amnesty International's [Global Youth Collective](#) with input from child and youth activists, as well as staff across Amnesty International's global movement.

The *Global Children and Youth Strategy* has been updated to reflect the current context and realities that we are leading the fight for human rights within. The strategy is also closely aligned with Amnesty International's *Global Strategic Framework (2022-2030)*; children and young people's daily experiences and realities are relevant across the *Global Strategic Framework's* priorities and as such, this strategy has been developed to ensure active participation of children and young people across the realisation of Amnesty International's global priorities.

The goals of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy (2022-2025)* which will guide Amnesty International's work for, by and with children and young people are:



GOAL 1:

Children and young people's perspectives and agency are at the centre of Amnesty International's work in the protection and promotion of human rights.



GOAL 2:

Children and young people, in all their diversity, are enabled and empowered to actively participate and lead at all levels of our work, underpinned by mutual respect and trust.



GOAL 3:

The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International members, activists and supporters continues to grow and form an increasingly diverse, empowered, and integral part of the global movement, connected to grassroots campaigning in their efforts to deliver human rights impact.

To ensure consistency and quality in efforts towards the realisation of these goals, Amnesty International commits to:



Strengthen diverse and intersectional approaches



Champion child and youth participation and leadership



Build intergenerational respect and trust



Invest in partnerships



Protect child and young human rights defenders



Reduce our environmental footprint



Invest in safeguarding children and youth



Foster spaces to balance well-being

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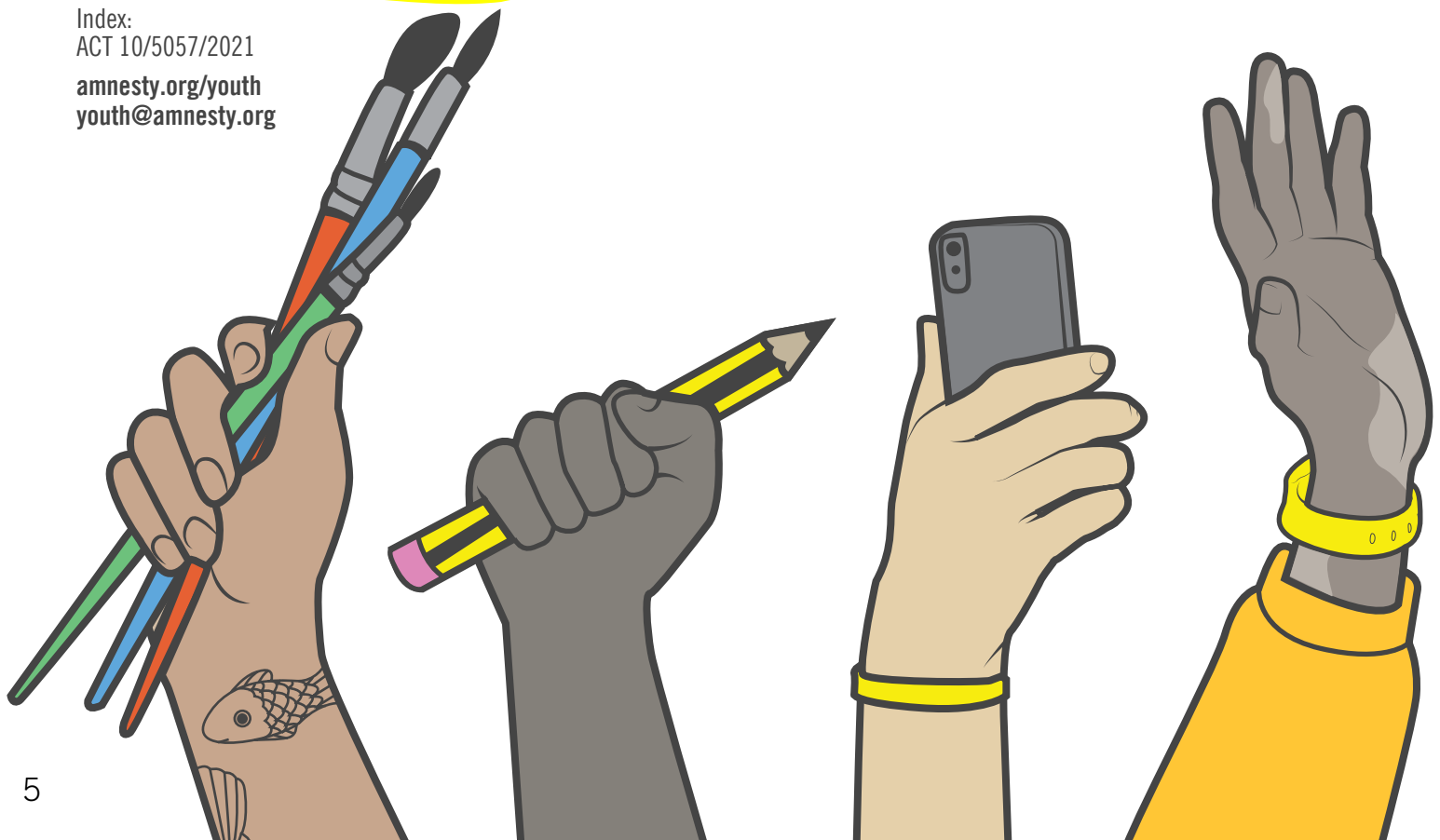
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[amnesty.org/youth](https://www.amnesty.org/youth)
youth@amnesty.org

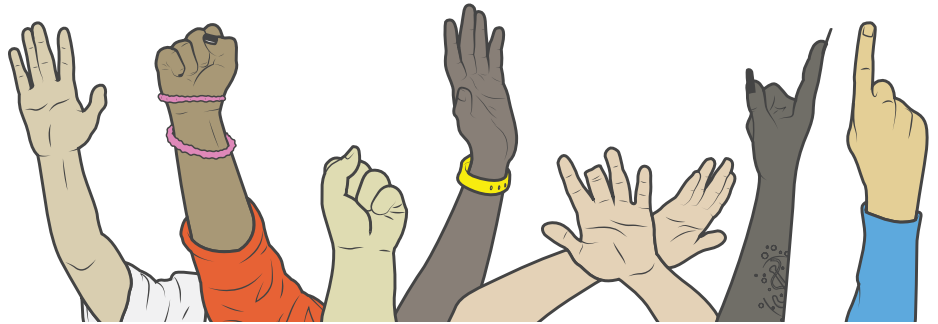




INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

Ever since Amnesty International was founded in 1961, children and young people have played an integral role in the organisation's campaigning, leading the fight for human rights across the world.



Children and young people are agents of change and are essential contributors across all areas of Amnesty International's work, enabling us to realise our vision of a world in which every person enjoys all human rights. By drawing on their energy, creativity and skills, we will be able to achieve our vision, mission and the priorities of Amnesty International's *Global Strategic Framework (2022-2030)*. We can only do this by standing hand in hand with other movements, such as...

THE CLIMATE JUSTICE MOVEMENT



THE FIGHT AGAINST RACISM



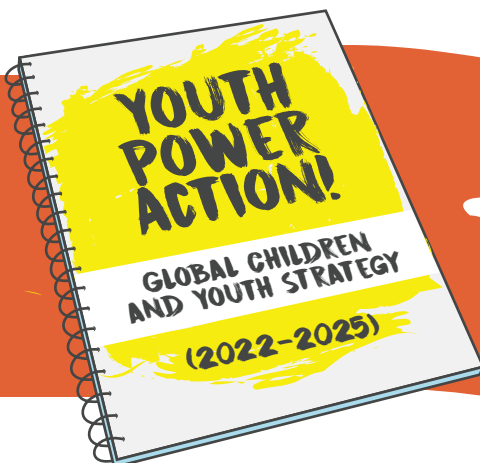
THE ADVANCEMENT OF GENDER EQUALITY



THE RECOGNITION OF LGBTI RIGHTS



to mention a few.



The Youth, Power, Action! Global Children and Youth Strategy (2022-2025) sets the direction for the movement's work for, by and with children and young people. It builds on the previous youth strategy's goals, recognising that although progress has been made towards the goals, we still have a considerable way to go to make them a reality.

At the conclusion of the strategic implementation period of the previous youth strategy, Amnesty International had made significant progress in engaging a diversity of young people across the global movement.

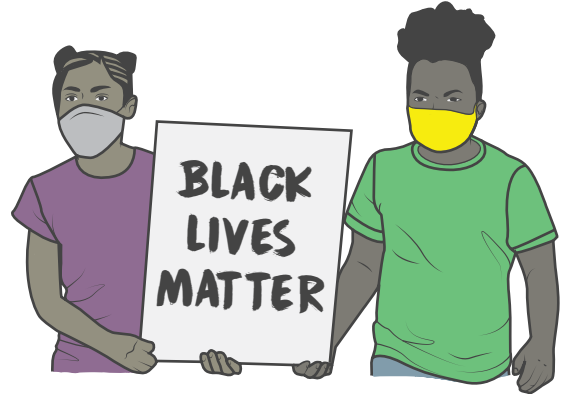
During the four years of the strategy's implementation, there was also a small but notable shift towards the active participation of young people across many of Amnesty International's areas of work, such as campaigning (particularly activism) and Human Rights Education. However, in other areas, progress remained slow; Amnesty International's research and fundraising remained areas of work with low levels of youth participation, and the movement is yet to reach one-third of its supporter base being under the age of 25. At the strategy's conclusion in 2020, 8.2% of National Board members across the movement were young people under 25; an increase from 2017 but still yet to reach the target of 15%. The varied progress of the previous youth strategy has informed the development of the *Youth, Power, Action! Global Children and Youth Strategy (2022-2025)*.



Amnesty International's Global Youth Collective with input from

- Child and youth activists across the global movement
- Staff from Amnesty International national entities
- Staff from Amnesty's International Secretariat
- External organisations

Through global consultations with these key stakeholders, the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* has been updated and expanded to strengthen our work for, with and by children and young people, and to reflect the current contexts and realities that we are leading the fight for human rights within. The strategy has also been aligned with Amnesty International's *Global Strategic Framework (2022-2030)* to ensure that children and young people meaningfully participate in the realisation of the organisation's global priorities.



THE GLOBAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY EXPLICITLY INCLUDES CHILDREN, DEFINED AS YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER THE AGE OF 18.

The previous youth strategy did not have a lower age limit and was applicable to anyone under the age of 25; however, in practice, Amnesty International recognizes that the strategy was predominantly applied to work with 18–25-year-olds. During the four years of the previous strategy's implementation, Amnesty International made small but consistent steps towards increasing its work for, with and by children and young people under 18 years old. The explicit inclusion of children in this strategy reflects this direction of travel and responds to calls from across the movement—including by people under 18 themselves—for the increased meaningful participation of young people under 18 years old across Amnesty International's work.

We are inspired by a vision where children and young people play active roles in creating a world where everybody enjoys human rights. Through this strategy, Amnesty International affirms its commitment to strengthen diverse and intersectional approaches, build intergenerational respect and trust, protect child and young human rights defenders, commit to safeguarding children and youth engaged in its work, making its human rights work relevant and relatable to children and young people, champion safe child and youth participation and leadership, including during crises and fast-paced or changing situations, invest in partnerships, reduce our environmental footprint, and foster spaces to balance well-being.



Age should not be a barrier to children and young people's active participation within Amnesty International. Worldwide, children and young people who are at the forefront of the protection of human rights face persistent barriers to exercising their own human rights and are silenced as young human rights defenders. Meanwhile, other forms of oppression compound the age-based discrimination which many children and young people face. Therefore, Amnesty International will work to protect children and young people's rights and will empower them to play a central and active role within the organisation in order for their engagement to be meaningful.



With this in mind, the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* sets key directions for the whole movement and provides a framework for implementation at the global, regional and national levels, delivered by people from all generations and with children and young people themselves in the driving seat. It is important to remember that the environment for youth empowerment differs between the global North and global South, as well as between global, regional and national contexts. Therefore, national strategies will be required to implement the strategy in different contexts.



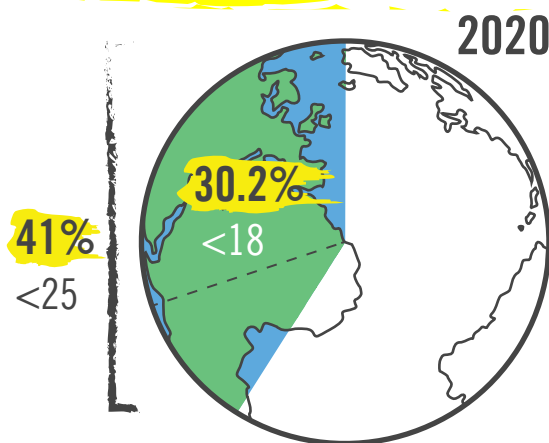
The strategy will be resourced at the global and regional levels by the International Secretariat, with staff and financial resources made available in annual budgets. The International Secretariat will also dedicate resources to fundraising for projects linked to particular goals of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy*. To ensure the strategy's progress across all areas of Amnesty International's work, the International Secretariat will support the coordination of Amnesty International's Global Youth Collective, who are champions for youth engagement and participation. The Global Youth Collective will bring the thought leadership that is needed to reach the goals of this strategy and will look for opportunities to advance its implementation. At the national level, the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will be pursued by entities by integrating its goals into their strategies or developing national youth strategies, which will be resourced in their annual budgets.



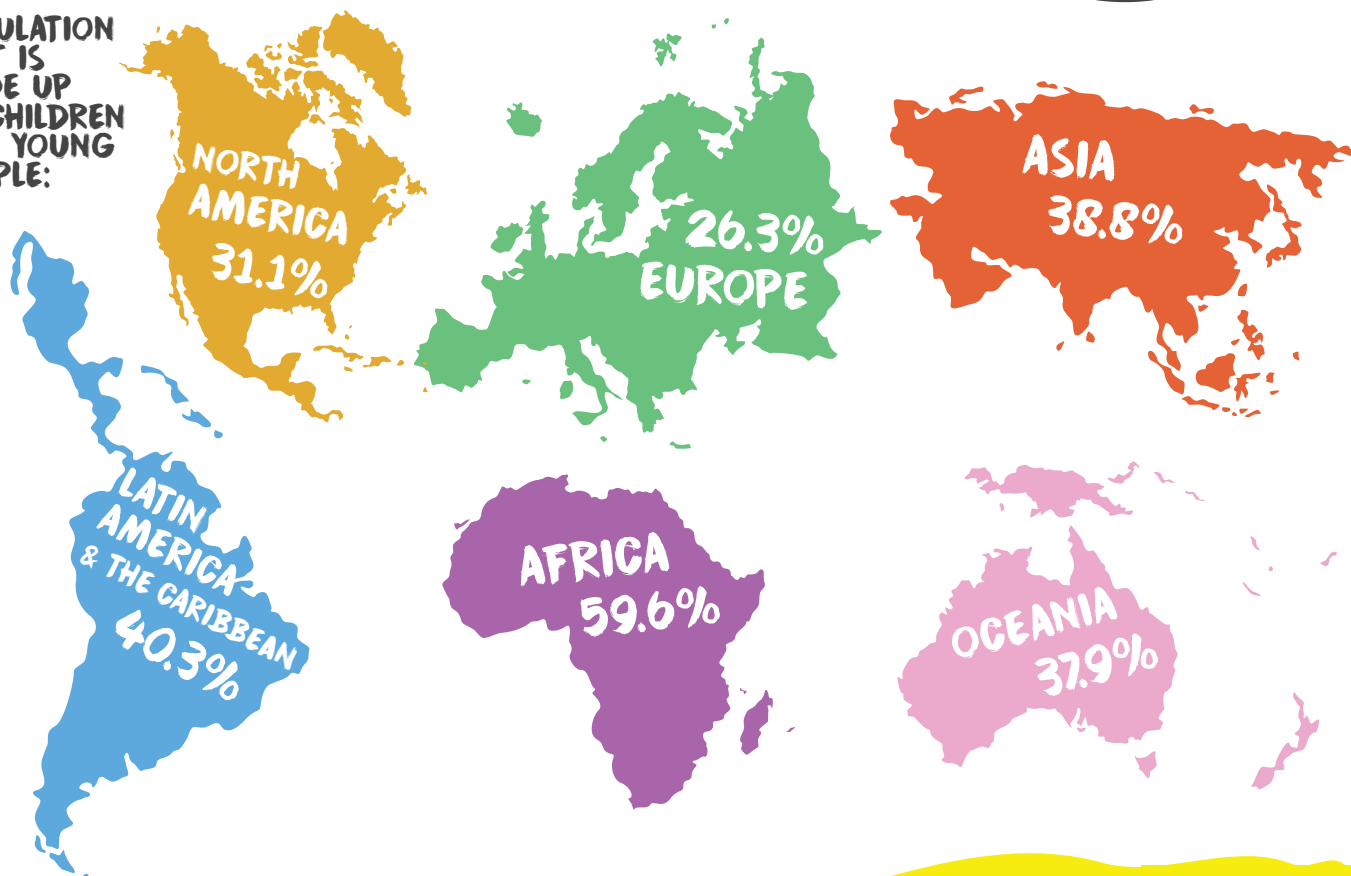
CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEFINITIONS

CHILDREN AND YOUTH DEFINITIONS

Children and young people under the age of 25 made up 41% of the world's population in 2020.¹ Between regions, there are significant differences in the proportion of the overall population that is made up of children and young people: Africa (59.6%), Asia (38.8%), Latin America and the Caribbean (40.3%), Oceania (37.9%), North America (31.1%) and Europe (26.3%).² It is worth noting that, globally, the majority of people under 25 are children under the age of 18, accounting for 30.2% of the world's population.



POPULATION THAT IS MADE UP OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE:



Children and young people can be mistakenly viewed as a single, homogeneous subset of society, defined exclusively by age. In reality, they have multiple identities shaped by different factors such as, but not limited to, access to formal education, disability, gender identity and expression, geographical location in rural or urban areas, immigration status, nationality, political beliefs, race, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and being members of Indigenous Peoples or of ethnic, religious or linguistic groups.

THESE MULTIPLE IDENTITIES CAN RESULT IN MULTIPLE FORMS OF INTERSECTING DISCRIMINATION AND OPPRESSION.

1 Population.un.org. 2019. World Population Prospects 2019. www.population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf

2 Population.un.org. 2019. World Population Prospects 2019. www.population.un.org/wpp/Publications/Files/WPP2019_Highlights.pdf

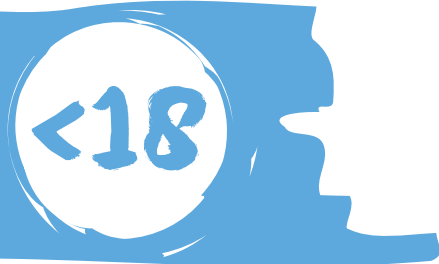


Recognition of the multiple and intersecting identities of children and young people reveals that different groups within this population may have varying and differentiating needs in different contexts. Therefore, Amnesty International will remain flexible to ensure that the implementation of this strategy is responsive to the varying needs of children and young people with diverse identities and across different countries and regional contexts, in order to empower them to create change within Amnesty International and beyond.

Amnesty International defines children and youth based on the following overlapping age-based definitions:

CHILDREN

Every human being below the age of eighteen years (this includes those who are 17, but excludes those who are 18).³




YOUTH

Every human being between the age of 15 and 25 (this includes those who are 15, and includes those who are 24, but excludes those who are 25).⁴



As there is no universally agreed definition of 'youth', and as the definition of 'youth' overlaps with the definition of 'child' under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, this strategy allows for flexibility in terms of engagement with children and young people in a fluid and tailored approach. This means that, although children are legally defined as under-18 and as such must be granted all rights associated with this status, national entities might use different language or terms to refer to children and youth based on their context and history. Equally, young people within these age brackets may identify differently with the definitions; for example, in some contexts children aged 13–17 years old may feel more comfortable being referred to as 'teenagers' or 'young adults' than 'children'. Therefore, the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* should be implemented using relevant approaches which may differ between groups, for example, approaches for the engagement of 12-year-olds may be different to those for 22-year-olds. In addition, adequate safeguarding policies must be in place when working with children and young people to ensure the best interest of the child or young person is the primary consideration.

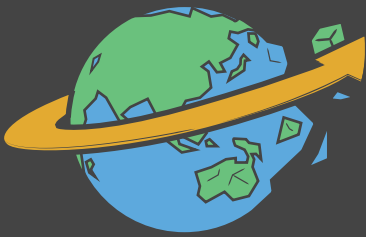
3 Ohchr.org. 1989. OHCHR | Convention on the Rights of the Child. www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx
 4 Un.org. n.d. www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

THE WORLD IS CHANGING



These are challenging times for justice and human rights amid disputes over natural and other resources, increasing movement of people within and across borders, ongoing conflicts and the global climate crisis, the growing use of digital technology to monitor, control and persecute movements and individuals, and unlawful actions by states in the name of public order and national security. The world is dealing with the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic which has greatly impacted human rights, increased inequality and added pressure on children and young people's futures. In response, ever more people strive to get their voices heard—speaking out on the streets and via social media. States increasingly respond with organised crackdowns on dissent.

In the *Global Strategic Framework (2022-2030)*, Amnesty International has set two global priority areas:

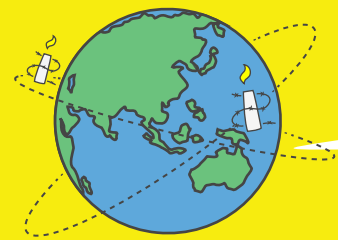
FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CIVIC SPACE



EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The two priorities outline how we will reinvigorate our movement as a campaigning force which brings together our local roots and our global reach, and how we will defend, assert and help to further evolve human rights norms, rules and practices so that they are truly fit for this changing world and for the challenges it must confront.

As we do this, we will work with and for children and young people on the issues that are most relevant to their lives, and by maximising their involvement at all levels of our work, we will build a stronger global presence which supports more people to know, claim and enjoy their human rights.



Children and young people's daily experiences and realities are relevant across the *Global Strategic Framework's* priorities and will inform the context in which this *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will be operationalised.

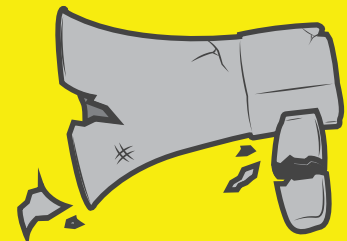


PRIORITY 1: FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION AND CIVIC SPACE

1.1 Strengthening freedom of expression and association

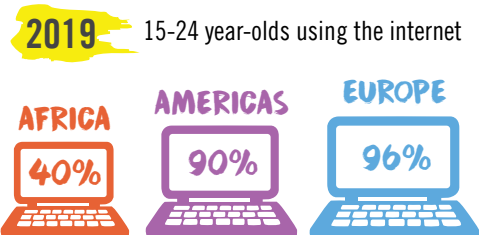
Although the space for civil society is shrinking, children and young people remain determined. It is not always easy for children and young people, as they can be perceived as immature and labelled as either troublemakers or unrealistic idealists. This especially affects young people under the age of 18, who are often depicted as the voices of tomorrow rather than as agents of change today. Such a negative perception is one of the barriers that children and young people face when claiming their human rights, and can contribute to their lack of inclusion in, and representation by, political processes. This means that young people are often denied their due recognition, respect and security, and this in turn limits the capacity of child and young human rights defenders to acquire equal access to information, as well as the skills necessary to fully realise and defend their rights.

**AS A RESULT,
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
MAY FEEL UNABLE TO FULLY
PARTICIPATE AND UNSUPPORTED
IN THEIR FIGHT TO CHALLENGE
REPRESSIVE SYSTEMS.**



Children and young people who have the courage to speak out can be silenced or met with oppression, including intimidations, threats, attacks on their community, stigmatisation and reprisals. For example, in Mongolia a group of young people created Ugluu, a project which aimed to increase young people's participation in political elections. The project gained momentum during the 2020 Mongolian parliamentary election and contributed to the highest turnout of young voters. In 2021, Ugluu continued to raise awareness of young people's right to vote and to share information about the upcoming Mongolian presidential election until, due to pressure from the majority party, the project was shut down one month before the election. Such attacks on young people's rights serve to curb their right freedom of expression.

Many young people also use online spaces for organising and mobilising. By the end of 2019, 69% of young people aged 15–24 worldwide were using the internet.⁵ Young people's level of access to the internet varies depending on their location and socio-economic status; for example, in 2019, in Africa, 40% of 15–24 year-olds were using the internet, while, in the Americas, this figure rose to 90% and, in Europe, 96%.⁶



5 ITU. 2020. ITU-D ICT Statistics. www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/ff2020interactive.aspx

6 ITU. 2020. ITU-D ICT Statistics. www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/ff2020interactive.aspx



In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic increased the engagement of children and young people in online spaces, including social media and messaging platforms. However, these platforms do not always provide users with privacy, and children and young people are increasingly subject to digital surveillance by governments, the private sector, family and peers. It is important to recognise that, with increased surveillance and censorship in digital spaces, young online activists risk intimidation, harassment, arrest and attacks. This risk intersects with other characteristics and identities of young people; for example, LGBTI young people may experience increased violence, sexual abuse and cyberbullying in digital life.⁷

In Greece, authorities have used the COVID-19 pandemic to curb the right to peaceful protest. In the months after **Greece** exited their first lockdown, people took to the streets to voice their concerns over issues such as unlawful use of force by police, gender-based violence and a weak public health system. The state responded with blanket bans on peaceful protests and by dispersing peaceful assemblies through unnecessary and excessive use of force, particularly targeted at young people. In 2021, students occupied Aristotle University in protest of the new education bill passed by the Greek parliament, which established an on-campus university police force. The police used teargas on the students to disperse the peaceful protest and arrested a number of young protesters.

Despite exclusion and shrinking civic spaces, children and young people have found ways to reclaim freedom online and offline in creative and non-violent ways, from peaceful demonstrations to writing music; from high-level advocacy to painting murals.



1.2 Securing the right to peaceful assembly for all

Demonstrators around the world are being targeted as they exercise their right to protest. Children and young people face increasing dangers when exercising their right to peaceful assembly, both in physical and digital spaces.

In **Egypt**, in 2019, children were included among those arrested for participating in protests against the government.

In **Hong Kong**, since 2019, young protesters have been standing their ground against the police, fighting for their right to be in the streets.

During the summer of 2020, youth-particularly Black youth-in the **United States of America** faced violent police repression for marching for Black lives.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL RECOGNISES THAT THE RIGHT TO FREEDOM OF PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY IS A CRUCIAL, INTEGRAL COMPONENT IN THE WELL-BEING AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE.

⁷ Cannataci, J., 2021. Artificial intelligence and privacy, and children's privacy. United Nations.



PRIORITY 2: EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

2.1 Promoting gender and intersectional justice

Children and young people, as individuals and members of groups, may face intersecting and mutually reinforcing forms of discrimination due to one or more aspects of their identity. In addition, children and young people face age-based discrimination, which is a barrier to the enjoyment of their economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political ones.

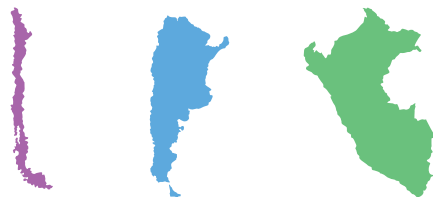


Young women and girls may also face distinct forms of discrimination, leading to other human rights violations and abuses. In Chile, there are still restrictions on legal abortion, so the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls are not guaranteed. Although the Chilean Congress ended the 28-year blanket ban on abortion in 2017, the law decriminalized abortion in only three limited circumstances:

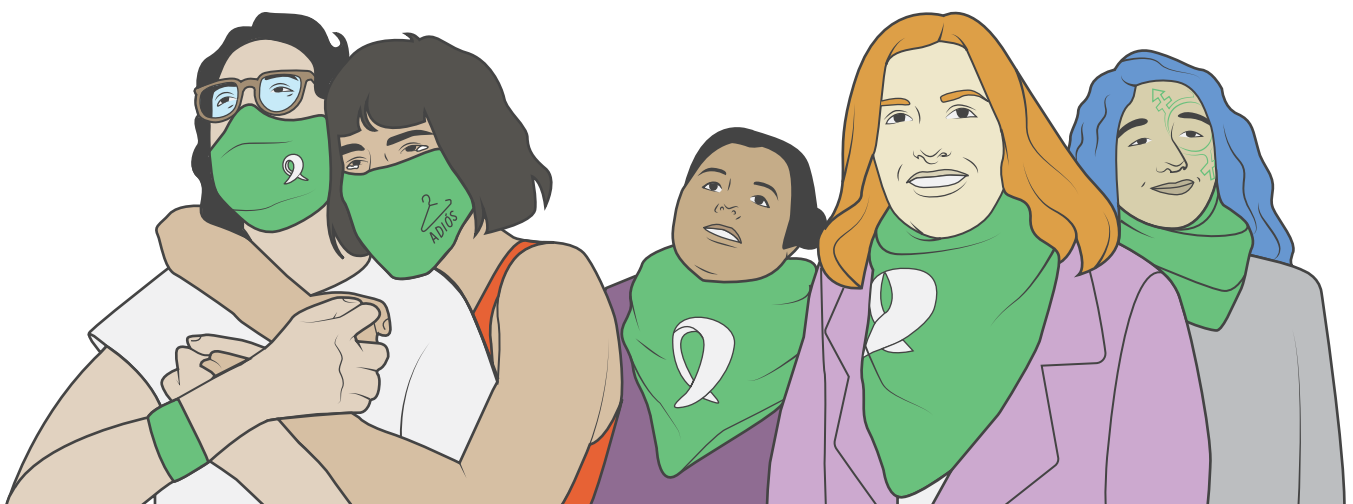


if the life of the pregnant woman or girl is at risk, if the pregnancy is the result of rape, or if the foetus has severe conditions not compatible with life outside the womb. Despite its introduction, the reform still does not guarantee the right to abortion even in these circumstances, as it allows doctors to refuse to perform abortions on the basis of conscience.

CHILE ARGENTINA PERU



In Chile, as well as Argentina and Peru, young people have been at the forefront of the growing movement calling for legalised abortion. In doing so they have faced continued resistance from groups of adults when expressing their opinions both physically and digitally, but they continue to fight for the sexual and reproductive rights of women and girls.



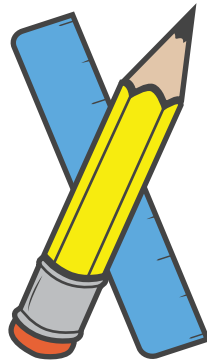
2.2 Strengthening enjoyment of rights to health, housing and social security

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a systematic, deep and disproportionate impact on children and young people realising their economic and socio-cultural rights. In early 2021, UNICEF data estimated that schools for more than 168 million children globally were closed for almost a year due to COVID-19 lockdowns.⁸



In many countries where schools have closed, a move to online learning has not been a viable option due to resource constraints which particularly affect marginalised children and young people who lack access to the required technology. In addition, where healthcare systems are stretched and schools closed, responsibility for caring for other members of the family is frequently shifted to girls, who often bear the burden of unpaid care work while boys' education is prioritised.⁹

In **Kenya**, girls already faced multiple forms of discrimination in accessing education before the COVID-19 pandemic; compared to boys, girls were more likely to be expected to take on greater housework responsibilities, were less likely to have access to the internet, and, due to societal or familial restraints, sometimes faced greater constraints



on their interactions with others. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many girls in Kenya faced additional barriers to continuing formal education because of lockdowns and distance learning. Alongside this, girls in Kenya who are out of school are at a greater risk of abuses such as child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence than out-of-school boys.



Data from the International Labour Organisation in 2020 showed that one in six young people who were employed before the pandemic stopped working once the pandemic hit. Severe disruptions to learning and working, compounded by the impact of the pandemic, have resulted in deterioration of children and young people's mental health. It has been particularly hard on young women, younger youth and youth in lower-income countries.¹⁰



Young people are concerned about the future and their place within it. This strategy is written as we are still living with the COVID-19 pandemic, which means that longer term impacts will have to be monitored.

⁸ Unicef.org. 2021. COVID-19: Schools for more than 168 million children globally have been completely closed for almost a full year, says UNICEF. www.unicef.org/press-releases/schools-more-168-million-children-globally-have-been-completely-closed

⁹ Amnesty.org. 2021. Right to Education: New Challenges Require Stronger Global Commitments. www.amnesty.org/en/documents/ior40/3762/2021/en/

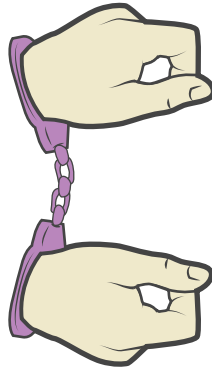
¹⁰ Ilo.org. 2020. Youth & COVID-19: Impacts on jobs, education, rights and mental well-being. www.ilo.org/global/topics/youth-employment/publications/WCMS_753026/lang--en/index.htm

2.3 Securing Climate Justice

Around the world, children and young people are at the forefront of the climate movement and have shown up in the millions to demand that leaders and decision makers secure climate justice, to ensure a future for the planet and, in turn, a future for them.



In **Canada**, in 2019, *One Time*, a nonpartisan campaign, was launched by the global environmental group 350.org to encourage Canadian voters to support candidates in favour of a Green New Deal, to tackle the climate crisis and rising inequality in the national elections. A week after voters elected a number of candidates who supported the Green New Deal,



twenty-seven *One Time youth* activists were arrested for staging a sit-in on the floor of Canada's House of Commons to demand the nation's lawmakers prioritise combating the climate emergency. Throughout the sit-in and eviction, participants and supporters continued sharing updates on social media to draw attention to their call for their politicians to take decisive action on climate change.

CANADA



With thousands of children and young people self-organising globally and leading the fight for climate justice, Amnesty International will look for opportunities to partner with and support child and youth-led climate movements and organisations to strengthen and amplify their activism.

In the *Global Strategic Framework*, Amnesty International is calling on governments to ensure a 'just climate transition' that secures racial and gender justice and the rights of all disadvantaged groups, and this must include children and young people.



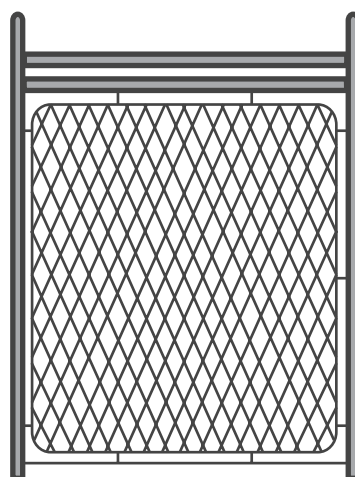
2.4 Protecting the rights of refugees and migrants, and rights of people on the frontlines of crisis

Young people, including unaccompanied children and minors, are at greater risk of exploitation and abuses in conflict and crisis situations than their adult counterparts. In Europe, in 2019, nearly a third (202,945) of asylum seekers were children, a 6% increase on the year before.¹¹



Adolescent and young women refugees and migrants often face multiple forms of intersecting discrimination and a corresponding lack of access to opportunities, which has been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This group is also believed to be disproportionately represented among those who are trafficked for sexual exploitation, and in many receiving countries, children and young people with an irregular migration status become more vulnerable to exploitation, with no access to complaint mechanisms or other justice systems, partly due to their migration status and age.

Children and young people who are refugees, migrants or on the front lines of crisis often do not have an immediate support system and may experience limited or no access to education, health and other basic services. In 2019, UNHCR data estimated that, worldwide, 48% of primary school-age refugee children were out of school compared with 15% of primary school-age children globally, and 69% of adolescent refugees at secondary education level were



out of school, compared with 35% of adolescents globally.¹² In 2020, over 400,000 Rohingya children aged between 3 and 18 years old living in refugee camps in **Bangladesh** had their access to education in the camp delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Amnesty International's priority focus on protecting the rights of refugees, migrants and people on the front lines of crisis is an opportunity to work together with young refugees to strengthen the protection of their rights.

BANGLADESH



LIBYA



Crisis situations present particular challenges for young people.

In **Libya**, the economic impact of COVID-19, border closures, movement restrictions, and the national security situation put additional pressure on children and young people who were in the country as refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants. In 2020, thousands of refugees and migrants—including children and young people—disembarked in Libya following the interception of their vessels at sea, and were subjected to enforced disappearance or otherwise went missing after their transfer by Libyan coastguards to detention facilities controlled by militias. Young refugees, asylum seekers and migrants held in Libyan detention centres have been subject to rape and sexual violence, forced labour, torture and other ill-treatment, and unlawful killings.

11 Unicef.org. 2020. Latest statistics and graphics on refugee and migrant children. www.unicef.org/eca/emergencies/latest-statistics-and-graphics-refugee-and-migrant-children

12 UNHCR.org. 2019. www.unhcr.org/uk/education.html ; Unicef.org. 2019. www.data.unicef.org/topic/education/secondary-education/

STRENGTHENING AMNESTY'S PEOPLE-POWERED MOVEMENT

The Global Strategic Framework defines People Power for Amnesty International as the intrinsic power of a critical mass of people acting at community, national and/or global levels to create human rights change by exerting influence over governments, corporations and broader society.

IT IS BUILT AND DEPLOYED BY PEOPLE WITH THE NECESSARY SKILLS AND ATTITUDES WHO INSPIRE, SUPPORT, ORGANISE AND MOBILISE OTHERS STRATEGICALLY.



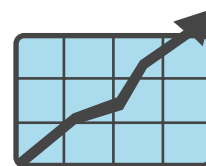
A PEOPLE-POWERED MOVEMENT HAS SOME OR ALL THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS:

A non-hierarchical people-powered structure at all levels of the movement; creates the space for people to develop and use their skills, with Amnesty enabling this process through training, resources, operational support etc.; local autonomy to develop and implement community level strategies and tactics; encourages and supports direct communication and collaboration between activists, rights-holder leaders, partners and supporters; prioritises and provides training and resources to activists, rights-holder leaders and partners at the community level; works in collaborative partnership with rights-holder communities and other organisations and movements; foregrounds and celebrates the role of rights holders, activists, partners and supporters.

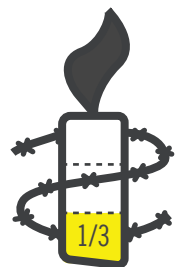
We will strengthen our ability to bring about human rights change through investment in our people-powered movement. In all this work, we will particularly prioritise supporting partners and movements that are youth-focused and/or led by those directly affected by the human rights issues we seek to address.

Amnesty International recognizes that its members, supporters and activists include diverse and fluid groups of children and young people. From 2015 to 2020, across the global movement, we have seen sustained growth in the number of supporters under the age of 25. While we do not have accurate global data collection mechanisms, we estimate that almost one-third of Amnesty International's supporter base is under the age of 25; this means that the majority of Amnesty International's supporters are above the age of 25.

2015-2020



Number of supporters under the age of 25

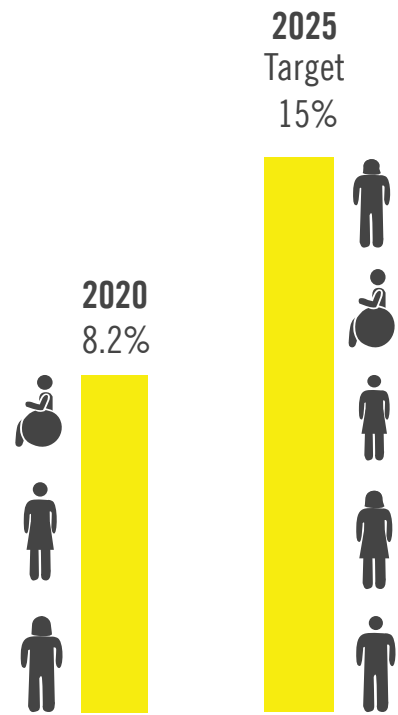


Amnesty International's supporter base under the age of 25

This might limit the space and trust young people are given to design and implement their own campaigning efforts. In order to produce our desired human rights impact, we need our youth constituency to continue to grow in size and diversity, and to focus on the retention of children and young people already engaged in the movement. Amnesty International will also need to focus on strengthening the role of children and young people within our people-powered movement by empowering child and youth activists, members and supporters to lead our campaigning work, by providing them with the relevant tools, space and opportunities to be leaders.

Amnesty International is aware that it needs to put more focus on offering children and young people more agile and flexible ways of engaging in order to grow their number and diversity. Although good retention strategies exist in a few Amnesty International entities, more must be done to take young people through rewarding supporter journeys that contribute to leadership development and sustainable growth. This way, Amnesty International can grow the number of young people in decision-making roles from 8.2% in 2020 to reach the 15% target by 2025.

Young people in decision-making roles

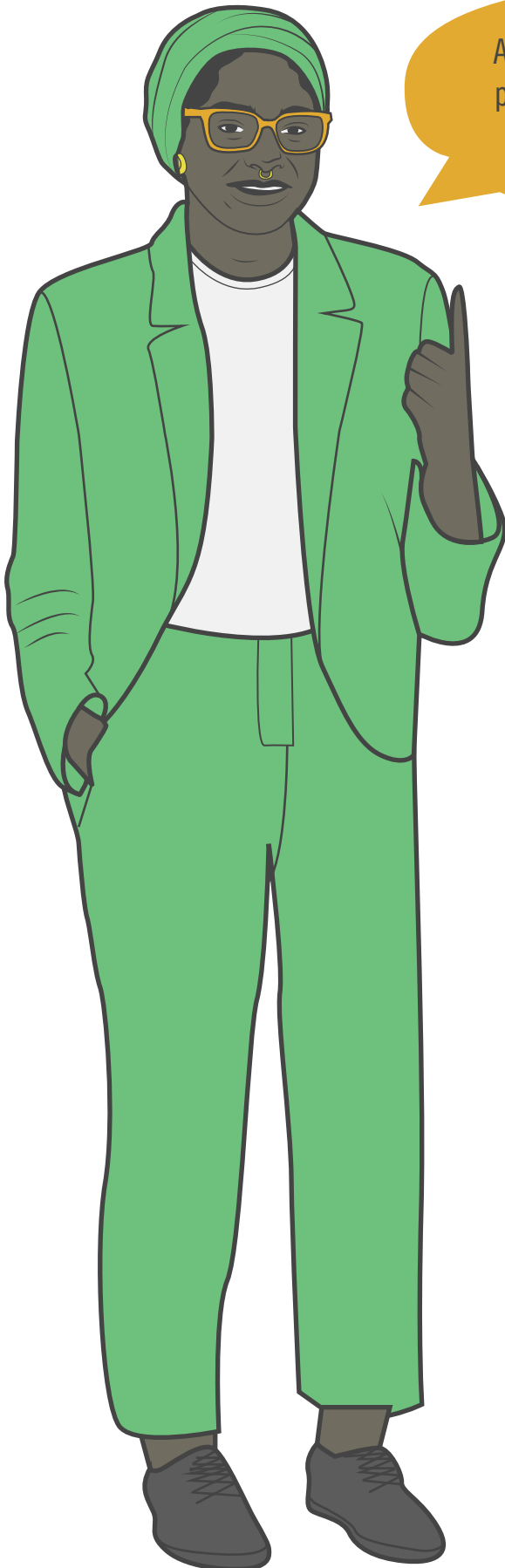


THROUGH THE GLOBAL STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK AND THIS GLOBAL CHILDREN AND YOUTH STRATEGY, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL COMMITS TO SUPPORT AND CONNECT GRASSROOTS, LOCAL, AND PEOPLE-POWERED MOVEMENTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH CO-CREATION, SHARING OUR POWER AND RESOURCES, AND STRENGTHENING OUR DIVERSITY.



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES



Amnesty International commits to these eight guiding principles to ensure consistency and quality in efforts towards the realisation of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy's* goals:



1. Strengthen diverse and intersectional approaches



2. Build intergenerational respect and trust



3. Protect child and young human rights defenders



4. Invest in safeguarding children and youth



5. Champion child and youth participation and leadership



6. Invest in partnerships



7. Reduce our environmental footprint



8. Foster spaces to balance well-being



1. STRENGTHEN DIVERSE AND INTERSECTIONAL APPROACHES

Multiple forms of intersecting discrimination affect children and young people in specific ways, creating different and complex barriers to their full enjoyment of human rights. Amnesty International will work towards an intersectional and anti-oppressive culture, cultivating spaces where young people do not feel judged. Celebrating the rich diversity of our movement, Amnesty International will work towards creating a more inclusive, anti-racist, organisational culture.

What is diversity?

The concept of diversity is understood as the variety or difference that exists among us and makes us unique. The dimensions along which diversity exists include race, ethnicity, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, disabilities, language, people from rural and urban communities, and a host of other groups or categories that can be considered diverse. Diversity is fundamental to guaranteeing human rights and ensuring equal access to opportunities and rights regardless of our differences.

IT RECOGNISES THAT WE ARE UNIQUE AND THAT THERE MUST BE RESPECT FOR OUR DIFFERENCES.



What is intersectionality?

The concept of intersectionality was coined by Dr. Kimberlé Williams Crenshaw and comes out of black feminist legal scholarship in the USA that was concerned that anti-racism approaches and anti-sexism approaches were at cross purposes and failing to recognize the full lived experiences of black women. Intersectional approaches recognize that, while groups may share some characteristics, their experiences of the world can be different, and may result in them having different priorities.¹³

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By deepening knowledge and strengthening action so that substantive equality (taking into account the different needs, rather than imposing the same expectations on everyone), inclusion and racial justice become embedded in core operations, as well as management and leadership's values.



By considering the very different realities that children and young people face and tailoring our approaches in all areas of our work to their needs.



By diversifying the themes and topics that we work on within our global priorities, in order to speak to the diversity of issues that children and young people care about and take action for.



By working in less formal language and, when possible, expanding to languages other than English, French and Spanish, including but not limited to sign language and local languages, to be more inclusive.

13 Amnesty International (2018) Body Politics: The Criminalization of Sexuality and Reproduction, p. 33. www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/POL4077712018ENGLISH.PDF



2. BUILD INTERGENERATIONAL RESPECT AND TRUST

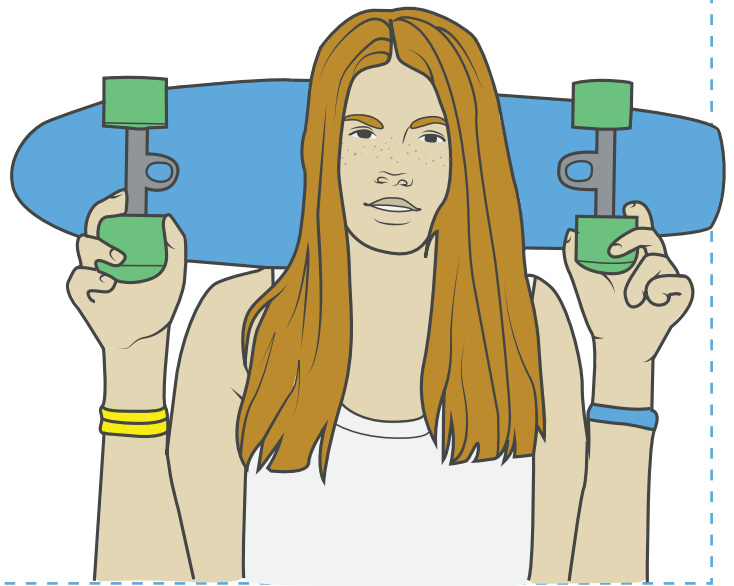
Children and young people are sometimes portrayed in society as troublemakers-irresponsible, unreliable and lacking knowledge because of their age. Amnesty International recognises its responsibility to challenge and work to eliminate these preconceptions and acknowledges the great value of young people within the movement. It is crucial to build safe spaces free from behaviours that impede intergenerational respect and trust such as ageism, adult-centrism and tokenism.

What is adult-centrism?

It is an asymmetrical social relationship that can constitute a form of exaggerated egocentrism where adults hold power and privilege over children and young people, whose opinions and ideas are invalidated due to age.

What is ageism?

Stereotyping and discrimination against individuals or groups because of their age. This may be casual or systematic.



HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By encouraging the creation of more projects that are focused on and led by children and young people.



By empowering young people to work on the issues that they care about, so they themselves can build their ownership of the Amnesty International projects they are leading on.



By having child and youth representation in governance and decision-making spaces, and providing training and support to children and young people, so that they can grow in the leadership positions they take on.



By challenging our informal and formal power structures to ensure they support and do not undermine empowerment and participation for all.



By listening to the voices and needs of children and young people in order to respond to them appropriately.



3. PROTECT CHILD AND YOUNG HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Amnesty International recognizes that young human rights defenders often face oppression, including intimidation, threats, and attacks on their communities, and stigmatization. They meet additional barriers and discrimination due to other intersecting aspects of their identity. The State has the ultimate responsibility to protect human rights defenders, including child and young human rights defenders, to prevent and investigate any human rights violations and abuses committed against them, and to ensure that they can carry out their work in a safe and enabling environment. Amnesty International will continue to hold states to account in ensuring the safety of young human rights defenders.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By creating protection resources and protocols for child and young human rights defenders.



By creating national action plans for cases where children and young human rights defenders face human rights violations in their activism (for example, restrictions to the right to protest).



4. INVEST IN SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Amnesty International works with children and young people as co-creators and partners across all areas of its work, including, but not limited to: programmes, activism, campaigns, research, fundraising and decision-making structures. A core feature of this approach is a shift in thinking and strategy from 'doing' programmes for children and young people, to working with them and supporting them to lead on our efforts to reduce human rights violations. This way of working with children and young people has consequences for their safety, security and well-being, and for those working with children and young people. Amnesty International must consider its duty of care to children and young people across all areas of its work where they are engaged, ensuring that safeguarding processes are implemented to strengthen, not hinder, the participation of children and young people. At the global level, Amnesty International's work with children and young people will adhere to the International Secretariat's *Children, Youth, and Adults at Risk Safeguarding Policy*; at the national level, each entity should ensure that safeguarding policies and processes are implemented and adapted to their national context and laws.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By creating and implementing safeguarding policies at the national and global levels.



By considering safeguarding as part of the annual budget planning for activities when working with children and young people.



By investing time and resources in safeguarding training for staff and in the promotion of the safeguarding processes required for working with children and young people.



By ensuring that safeguarding processes enable, not hinder, the participation of children and young people in Amnesty International's work.



By providing a safe and healthy space for encouraging children, young people and adults to constructively challenge attitudes and behaviours that are unacceptable as part of group activities or events.



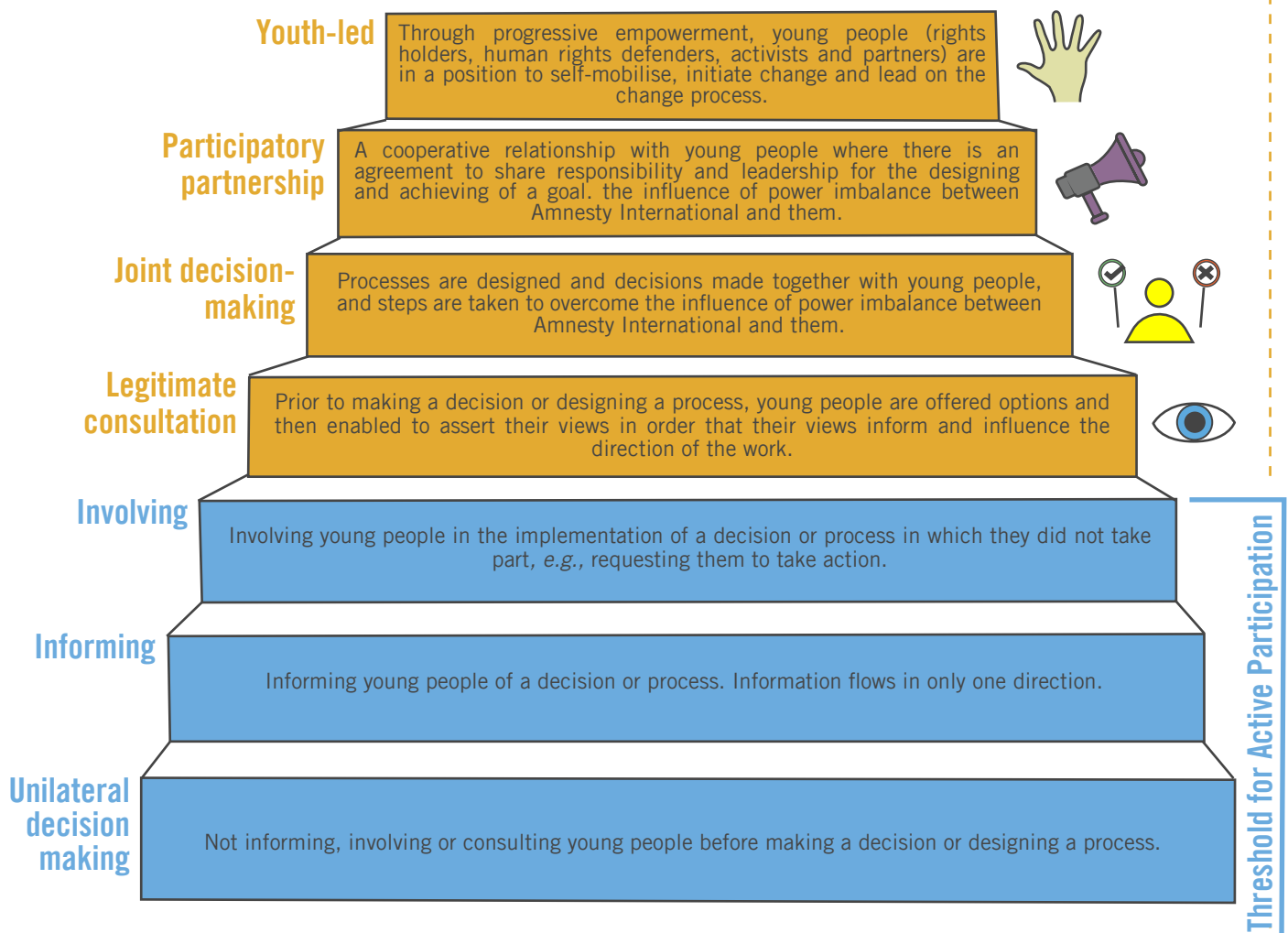
5. CHAMPION CHILD AND YOUTH PARTICIPATION AND LEADERSHIP

Meaningful child and youth engagement and empowerment is vital to ensure that children and young people are listened to, trusted and respected in their roles within Amnesty International. This is important in order to ensure successful child and youth participation and to avoid the traps of a tokenistic approach. Amnesty International recognizes the importance of creating pathways to leadership roles and opening up spaces for children and young people to take leadership positions across the organisation, including in its internal governance. Amnesty International will strive to create opportunities for children and young people to develop the knowledge, skills, qualities, values and experience necessary to enable them to lead effectively.

What is active participation?

Active participation is an empowering and enabling practice through which young people participate in processes and can influence the decisions which affect them in their daily lives, and within Amnesty International. Active participation allows young people to empower themselves and to multiply that power to other young people, in all their diversity.

The ladder of participation was originally coined by Roger Hart and distinguishes levels of decision-making, agency, control, and power that children and young people can have. Different approaches meeting the diverse needs and realities of children and young people will call for different levels of participation per project, or even within a project. The top four levels are referred to as active participation, the bottom three levels are not.



What is tokenism?

Tokenism is so deep-rooted in our society that we often do not even see or notice it. Tokenism of children and young people happens when adults involve them without any substance, purpose, or power. Tokenism is a form of oppression and unintentional silencing. By portraying children and young people as unreliable or lacking knowledge, tokenism can reinforce adult-centrism. Some people might perceive young people as irresponsible. Perceptions are shaped by implicit bias, meaning that people act on the basis of prejudice and stereotypes without intending to do so.¹⁴



HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



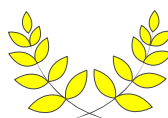
By exploring a range of different tools beyond the local group structure to meaningfully engage children and young people. This includes pop culture, digital engagement, entertainment and activism.



By supporting children and young people in developing the necessary skills, knowledge, experience and confidence that will enable them to lead effectively through successful human rights education.



By providing children and young people with the material and immaterial means necessary to implement their ideas.



By investing in feminist leadership and building trust and power sharing between and across generations. part of group activities or events.



By creating time and space for meaningful engagement from the outset of project design and development, so processes are more collaborative and transparent.



By recognising the contributions of time, energy and experience that children and young people make to Amnesty International through their engagement, and putting mechanisms in place to fairly compensate them.



By creating pathways to leadership roles and opening up spaces for children and young people to take leadership positions across the organisation, including in governance.

14 Amnesty International (2020) Staying Resilient while trying to save the world: A well-being Workbook for youth activists, pp. 41. www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/ACT1032312020ENGLISH.PDF



6. INVEST IN PARTNERSHIPS

Amnesty International is part of a wider human rights movement, and supporting and working with youth-led human rights organisations is an aspect of our approach which we will continue to strengthen. Collaboration and partnerships with child and youth networks and child and youth-led and focused organisations are as much about supporting and empowering youth movements as they are about Amnesty International learning from youth movements to diversify its skills and competencies to jointly achieve human rights impact.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By supporting and connecting with child and youth-led, grassroots, local, and people-powered movements for the protection of human rights, through co-creation and by sharing our power and resources.



By increased sharing of our media and campaigning platforms to amplify the voices and causes of our partners, and providing effective support and training which is appropriate to our partners' needs.



By enhancing our capacity to join forces in equitable and mutually beneficial partnerships with other people-powered movements working on the protection of human rights, and increasing our collaboration with others in research, campaigns, and advocacy.



By increasing the quality and quantity of joint actions and encouraging peer-exchange of tools and methodologies with other movements and communities, specifically with those working for equality, non-discrimination and gender, social and climate justice.



7. REDUCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT

Climate change is one of the greatest human rights challenges of our time. Climate change is impacting the rights to life, health, housing, water and sanitation among others, and it disproportionately affects those who are already disadvantaged or facing discrimination. Young people have been at the forefront of climate justice movements and face many risks as a result. Beyond continuing to support and amplify child and youth-led climate activism, Amnesty International's climate justice work will be supplemented by steps to limit Amnesty International's own contribution to climate change.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By partnering with or amplifying voices from child and youth-led climate justice movements and organisations.



By implementing staff awareness and engagement initiatives that foster a culture where our environmental footprint is considered as part of planning activities.



By taking steps to reduce our carbon footprint by making choices that lower the environmental impact of our work, such as decisions around how and when we travel, the production of campaign materials and resources, and energy and waste management.



8. FOSTER SPACES TO BALANCE WELL-BEING

Recent years have seen increased recognition of the importance of self-care and well-being among youth leaders and activists within Amnesty International, as well as more widely across activist spaces.¹⁵ In the global consultation regarding the development of this strategy, youth activists responded that three top challenges emerged when balancing activism and well-being: dealing with a sense of being overwhelmed, responding to family and peers who do not support activism, and dealing with a sense of feeling hopeless. As a principle, well-being is the experience of health, happiness, and prosperity. It includes having good mental health, high life satisfaction, a sense of meaning or purpose, and ability to manage stress.

HOW CAN WE MAKE THIS PRINCIPLE REAL?



By fostering spaces for more open and honest conversations about well-being and mental health.



By recognizing that children and young people engaging within Amnesty International are confronted with ageism, racism and other forms of discrimination, which impact their well-being.



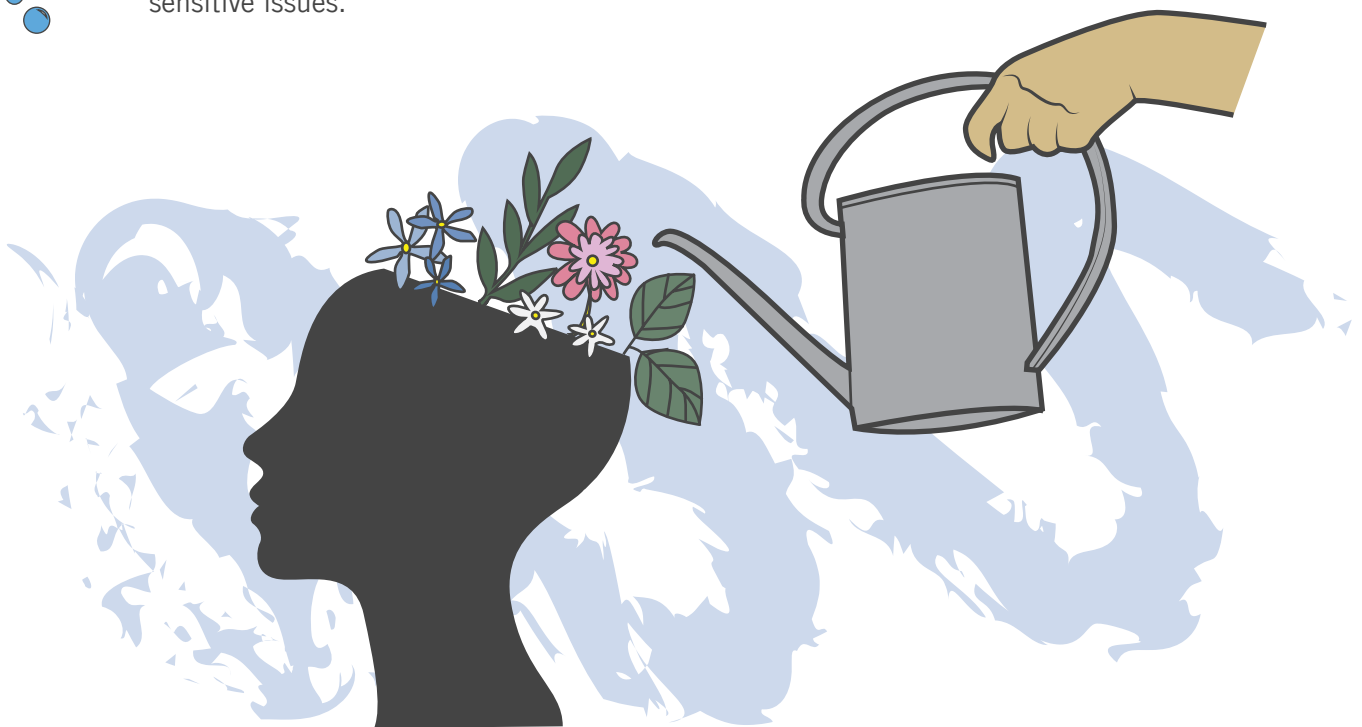
By offering support and debriefing spaces for children and young people working on sensitive issues.



By raising awareness among children and young people about the potential stress and other risks of participating in activism on sensitive or polarizing topics.



By focusing on the belonging, connectedness and well-being of our activists, staff and partners, treating all with respect, empathy and dignity.



¹⁵ Reflecting this, Amnesty International has published a well-being [fanzine](#) and [workbook](#) for youth activists: Staying Resilient While Trying to Save the World.



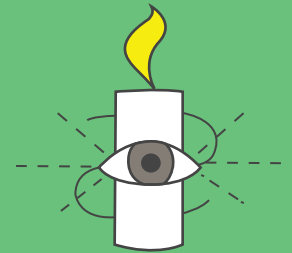
GOALS AND THEORIES OF CHANGE

GOALS AND THEORIES OF CHANGE

Through this *Global Children and Youth Strategy*, we envision that children and young people play active roles in creating a world where everybody enjoys human rights. By 2025, we will reach the following goals which cut across the priority areas of work in the movement's *Global Strategic Framework*:

GOAL 1:

Children and young people's perspectives and agency are at the centre of Amnesty International's work in the protection and promotion of human rights.



GOAL 2:

Children and young people, in all their diversity, are enabled and empowered to actively participate and lead at all levels of our work, underpinned by mutual respect and trust.

GOAL 3:

The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International members, activists and supporters continues to grow and form an increasingly diverse, empowered, and integral part of the global movement, connected to grassroots campaigning in their efforts to deliver human rights impact.



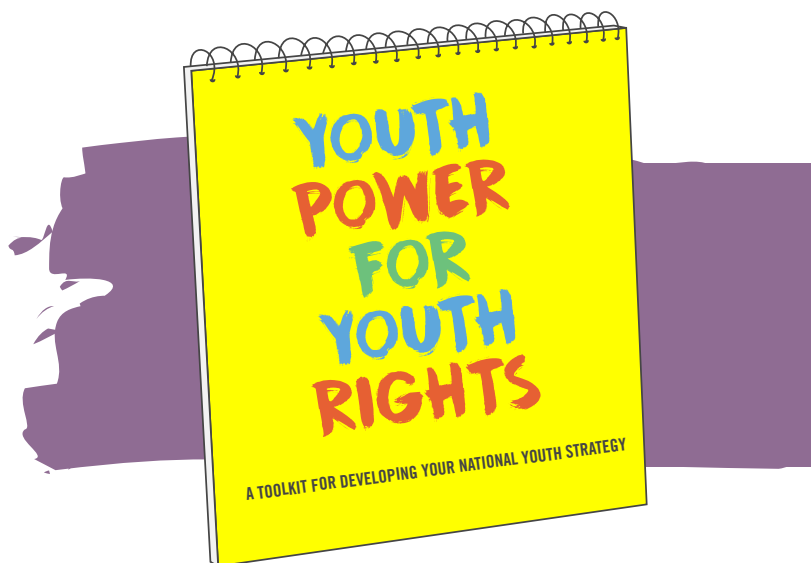
Amnesty International has identified key steps which will be taken to realise the three goals of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy*, which cut across the priorities and areas of work under the *Global Strategic Framework (2022-2030)*. While some of the goals within the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* are specific, others are deliberately broad to allow for adaptation to the diverse realities at the national and regional levels, and for phased implementation.



The *Global Children and Youth Strategy* provides a framework for Amnesty International’s work for, by and with children and young people, to be implemented in conjunction with other strategies at the national, regional and global levels. The successful delivery of this strategy will primarily depend on its integration into global, regional and national strategies, and resourcing them.

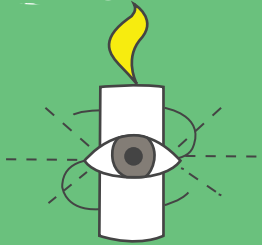
Throughout the three goals, references to ‘Amnesty International’ include but are not limited to entities at the national, regional and global levels, as well as staff with and without a youth brief at all levels of the organisation and across all areas of Amnesty’s work.

At the national level, a critical element of achieving the goals of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will be through the development and implementation of national youth strategies, which provide a vision and roadmap for meaningful youth participation at all levels of an entity’s work and are adapted to their local context.



The *Youth Power for Youth Rights!* Toolkit has been developed to support Amnesty International entities in the development of their national youth strategies. At the global and regional levels, the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will guide the work of the International Secretariat, will inform ways of working and will be integrated into the global and regional strategies as they are developed.





ACHIEVING GOAL 1:

Children and young people's perspectives and agency are at the centre of Amnesty International's work in the protection and promotion of human rights.

1.1 Amnesty International's strategies, as well as its policies, programmes and projects, are developed together with children and young people, integrating their realities, concerns, and experiences, including and beyond children and youth matters specifically.



1.1.1 Amnesty International will **develop frameworks and tools to integrate child and youth engagement** into all areas of its work (including but not limited to activism, advocacy, campaigning, fundraising, human rights education, media and research), and will actively promote and integrate the meaningful participation of children and young people across the movement.

1.1.2 Amnesty International will ensure **there are inclusive and meaningful spaces and platforms for children and young people to lead national, regional and global actions and projects** that are in line with the priorities of the Global Strategic Framework, supporting youth leadership at all stages of the project cycle, including planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment.

1.1.3 Amnesty International's project teams, including but not limited to campaigns and research teams, will improve their **methodologies and approaches to integrate non-adult centric perspectives** which are respectful of children and young people's backgrounds and overall well-being. The research and campaign outputs will be accessible to and engaging for wider audiences, including, and specifically, children and youth.

1.1.4 Amnesty International entities at the global, regional and national levels will reflect on the possible impact and continue to **prioritise and resource the meaningful and active participation of children and young people during crises and fast-paced or changing situations.**



1.2 Children and young people are empowered through human rights education and capacity-building to defend human rights.



1.2.1 Amnesty International will provide training and capacity-building for a diversity of children and young people to become **peer human rights educators**.

1.2.2 Amnesty International will **foster activism in their human rights education initiatives** to a diverse group of children and young people, and will support and train them to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes to participate in, and create their own, actions and campaigns with the aim of defending and promoting human rights, particularly those which could disproportionately affect them.

1.2.3 Amnesty International will **provide children and young people with digital security training** to enable them to safely engage in digital spaces to defend human rights. Hand in hand work will be done with children and young people to develop training and tools on digital security to support their online activism and campaigning efforts.

1.2.4 During crises and fast-paced or changing situations, Amnesty International will consult with children and young people to understand the support needed for their continued engagement, participation and development, and will enable this by **adapting their capacity building and human rights education work** by making relevant changes.

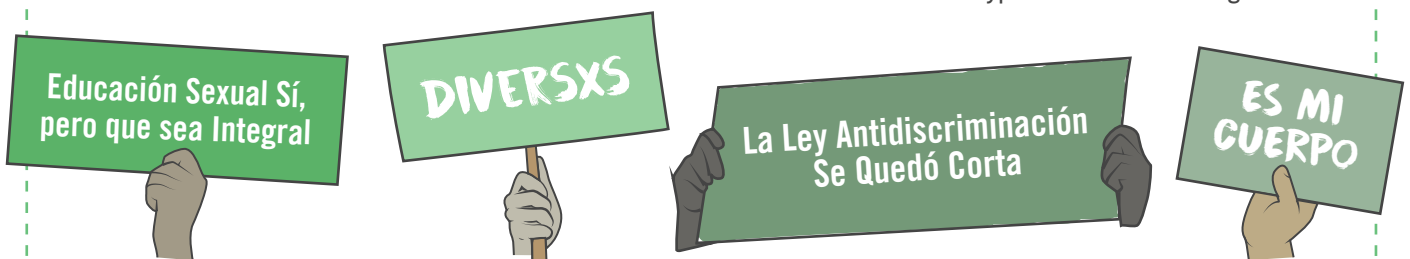


STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Youth-led campaigning at Amnesty International Chile

Across the regional projects 'Diversxs' and 'Es Mi Cuerpo,' the national campaigns 'La Ley Antidiscriminación Se Quedó Corta' and 'Educación Sexual Sí, pero que sea Integral', and the regional campaign '#ESIgualdad,' Amnesty International Chile has implemented processes to ensure that young people and youth-led organisations lead the design, implementation and evaluation of the projects and campaigns, to strengthen their capacity and autonomy as young activists. The entity hired young experts and professionals to advise on the development of the projects, alongside putting young people at the centre of the projects' design and execution. There was a focus on a 'training of trainers' approach, which built the capacity of the projects' youth activists, so that they could train young people within their communities and collectives, and carry out advocacy actions targeting a variety of authorities.

Amnesty International Chile also focused on removing financial barriers to youth participation in the projects by ensuring that funding was allocated for young people's travel and internet costs, and worked to engage a diversity of young people including young people from different geographic regions of Chile, LGBTI young people, and youth-led groups. Perceptions are shaped by implicit bias, meaning that people act on the basis of prejudice and stereotypes without intending to do so.



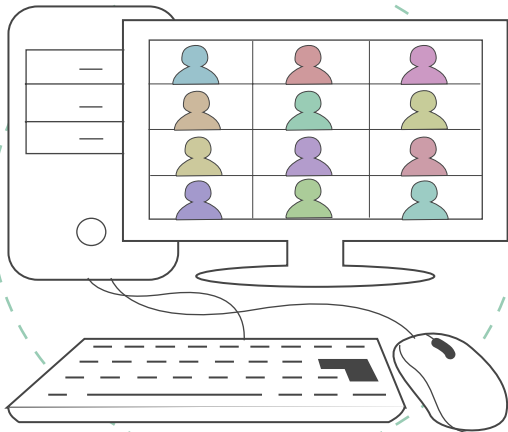
CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 1.1

STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Youth engagement through International Members

In 2019, Amnesty's International Secretariat established the Youth Advisory Board of young international members (who are based in countries where there isn't an Amnesty International formal presence) to increase and amplify the perspectives and participation of young international members across Amnesty's work. The Youth Advisory Board has twelve members from across the global movement, all of whom are under 25 years old, who meet virtually on a monthly basis to share knowledge, ideas and suggestions and feed into Amnesty International's development of campaigns, actions, policies, and strategies. The Youth Advisory Board members amplify the voices of young international members on issues that are relevant and matter to young people within and outside Amnesty International, and provide consultation and feedback on the direction of Amnesty's movement. They are also directly connected to other youth engagement groups and initiatives, including Amnesty International's Global Youth Collective.

The Youth Advisory Board has twelve members from across the global movement



CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 1.1.1



three-day
**YOUTH AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**
training camps

STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Human Rights peer education at Amnesty Canada (Francophone)

Young people from Amnesty Canada (Francophone)'s National Youth Committee who are interested in Human Rights Education (HRE) are trained as HRE peer-educators by the entity to empower them to deliver three-day youth and human rights training camps for other young people. During the three-day camps, National Youth Committee members facilitate workshops, role plays, debates and more for their peers to participate in, so that after the camp participants can mobilise their communities around Amnesty's current campaigns, take action on human rights issues and organise events and actions.



CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 1.2.1



ACHIEVING GOAL 2:

Children and young people, in all their diversity, are enabled and empowered to actively participate and lead at all levels of our work, underpinned by mutual respect and trust.

2.1 Amnesty International will champion collaboration across generations and remove age-based discriminatory practices and barriers across the organisation:



2.1.1 Amnesty International will promote actions to **identify and remove barriers to children and young people's participation** across all areas of work and all levels of the organisation, and will showcase and promote successful examples of diverse engagement.

2.1.2 People policies and related processes, including but not limited to recruitment for roles at Amnesty International entities, will be adapted to make them more accessible to young people, to increase diversity amongst Amnesty International employees.

2.1.3 Amnesty International will adopt **internal guidelines and agreements to create safe spaces for the active participation** of children and young people, and to **promote intergenerational dialogues** and mutual trust between people of all ages across the movement. The voices of children and young people will be respected and integrated into decision

making processes and spaces, from conception to implementation, even beyond children and youth issues.

2.1.4 Amnesty International will fairly compensate children and young people for their engagement. This will include removing financial barriers, sharing training and development opportunities, and promoting well-being as enablers for participation.

2.1.5 During crises and fast-paced or changing situations, Amnesty International entities, teams and colleagues working with children and young people will act with special care and **understanding to consider the needs, perspectives and well-being of children and young people**, and will adapt ways of working to reflect this to ensure a continuation of safe spaces free from age-based discriminatory practices or barriers.

2.2 Amnesty International will enable children and young people to make and influence decisions across the organisation, including human rights work and other decision-making processes.



2.2.1 Amnesty International, its Boards, Committees and other decision-making bodies will **enable youth participation in decision-making at all levels of the organisation by making the mechanisms, procedures and processes accessible to young people**. This includes, but is not limited to, providing guidelines, capacity-building and sharing of best practices to support young people to engage in decision-making spaces at the national level, as well as the regional and global levels (*i.e.*, Regional Forums and the Global Assembly).

2.2.2 Amnesty International will provide **specific training and support to children and young people who are in decision-making roles** within the organisation, enabling them to grow and develop in the leadership roles they take on.

2.2.3 Amnesty International **Nomination Committees at the national, regional and global levels will promote young people's perspectives and lived experiences as criteria for diverse Committees and Boards**. They will include 'youth' as a priority criterion for being co-opted if no young person becomes a member through election processes.

2.2.4 Amnesty International will increase the **number of young people participating in decision-making bodies at all levels of the organisation by election or co-option from 8.2% in 2020 to 15% in 2025**. This will reflect the expected growth and retention of youth supporters over this period, and ensure a balance of diverse backgrounds and gender representation among the leadership.



STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Youth-led restructuring at Amnesty International Poland

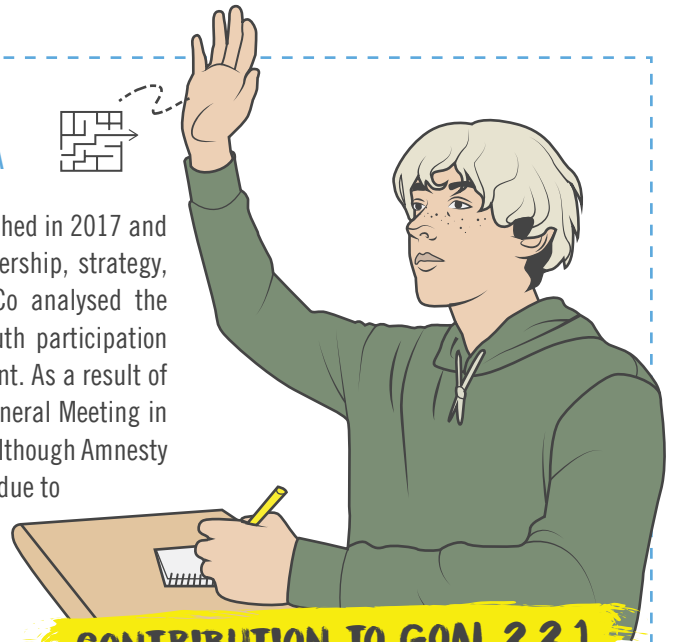
In 2020, a group of Amnesty youth activists from across Poland formed an intercity collaboration between people from various towns and cities across the country. The youth activists' aim was to create the first national working group focusing specifically on LGBTI rights. Their commitment and determination led to a restructure of the National Activism Network at Amnesty Poland, as well as key amendments being made to internal documents that would enable their work. As a result, Amnesty Poland now has 'thematic teams' which are grassroots and youth-led alternatives to the traditional forms of engagement for young people in sections.

CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 2.1.2

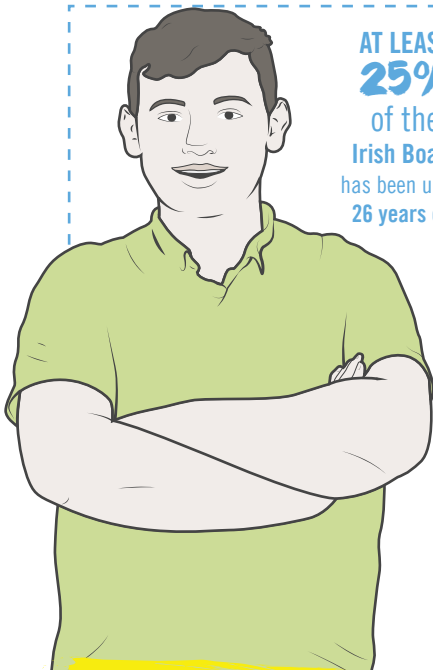
STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Youth-led resolutions at Amnesty International USA

Amnesty International USA's Youth Collective (YoCo) was established in 2017 and is a national youth leadership body that provides thought leadership, strategy, consultation and guidance to Amnesty USA. Members of YoCo analysed the National Board election process, identifying the barriers to youth participation and offering solutions to make it more accessible and transparent. As a result of their analysis, YoCo submitted two resolutions at the Annual General Meeting in 2020; both resolutions were passed with a 78% vote of support. Although Amnesty USA's National Board overturned these resolutions in April 2021 due to concerns related to resource allocation and timelines, they have established two Task Forces - which include youth members - to draft recommendations addressing the intent of the resolutions.



CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 2.2.1



**AT LEAST
25%**
of the
Irish Board
has been under
26 years old

STRATEGY IN ACTION:

Youth in governance at Amnesty International Ireland

For over a decade, Amnesty International Ireland has had a National Board member who is under 26 years old. The Board elects this person to the role of Youth Secretary, a designated role within the Board which liaises between the Amnesty Ireland's Board and youth members and structures. In 2017, with buy-in from the whole Board, the Youth Secretary began a project to increase youth participation in Amnesty International Ireland's governance. This was a three-pronged approach: to educate youth activists about governance so they knew how to affect decision making; to increase the number of young people on Amnesty International Ireland's Board and create a plan for youth Board member sustainability; and to increase the reporting to the Board on youth matters. Outcomes of this work include that, in 2019, an additional two young people joined Amnesty Ireland's Board, and since then, at least 25% of the Irish board has been under 26 years old. Progress was also seen at Amnesty Ireland's Annual General Meeting in 2019, where its membership voted unanimously for the Amnesty Ireland's Board to work to increase youth engagement and participation in Amnesty International's governance both in Ireland and internationally.

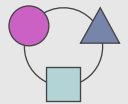
CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 2.2



ACHIEVING GOAL 3:

The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International members, activists and supporters continues to grow and form an increasingly diverse, empowered, and integral part of the global movement, connected to grassroots campaigning in their efforts to deliver human rights impact.¹⁶

3.1 Amnesty International will strive for true diversity among the children and young people it engages with, by using and prioritising an intersectional approach in its work.



3.1.1 The **internal processes, ways of working and allocation of resources will be adjusted to consider the needs and realities of children and young people from different backgrounds** to ensure they can participate in a meaningful way across all areas of Amnesty International’s work. Efforts will be made to act with special care and understanding to consider the needs, perspectives and well-being of children and young people in all their diversity during times of crisis and fast-paced or changing situations.

3.1.2 Amnesty International will **strengthen existing partnerships and will build new partnerships with diverse child and youth-led and youth-focused groups** and organisations in order to jointly achieve human rights goals.

3.1.3 Amnesty International will **create an inclusive culture and resiliently anti-racist movement through** increasing our diversity by attracting more children and young people to the movement, and by being relevant to child and youth-led groups who are under-represented in Amnesty International’s supporter base.

3.1.4 Amnesty International will act to **foster belonging, connectedness and well-being among our child and youth activists**, staff and partners, acting towards each other with respect, empathy and dignity, and evaluating our relationships together to better uphold our accountability to our core values. This will be specifically addressed in times of crisis and changing circumstances.

3.2 Amnesty International engages an increasing number of children and young supporters on inspiring and impactful journeys towards becoming human rights defenders.



3.2.1 Amnesty International will **strengthen its digital engagement by working with children and young people**, ensuring that their perspectives inform the organisation’s digital strategies are reflected in Amnesty International’s digital content.

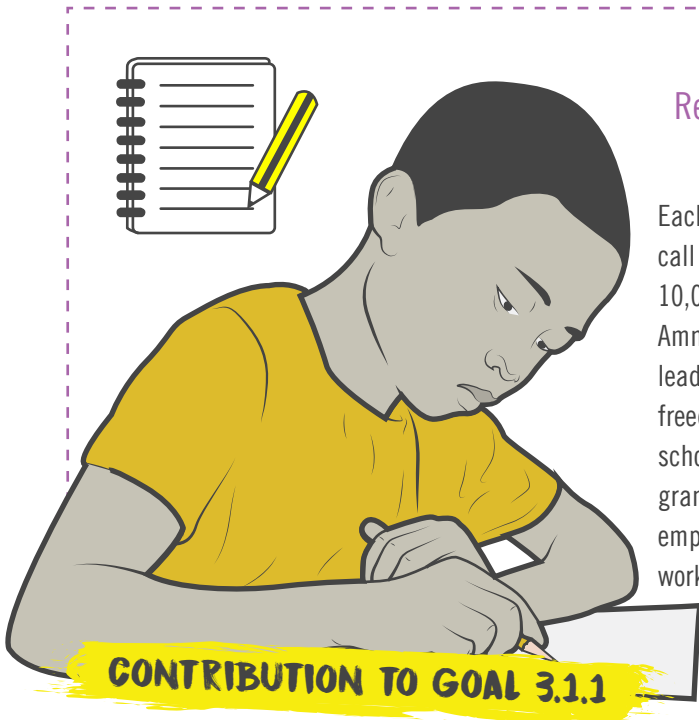
3.2.2 Recognising that access to technology and digital spaces - and the ability to do so safely

- varies greatly for children and young people globally, Amnesty International will **strengthen its offline, in-person engagement by working with children and young people to ensure that it is inclusive of their perspectives**. together to better uphold our accountability to our core values. This will be specifically addressed in times of crisis and changing circumstances.

¹⁶ The previous youth strategy (Youth, Power, Action! International Youth Strategy 2017-2020) included a target for young people to make up one-third of Amnesty International’s supporter base, in line with Goal 5 of the Strategic Goals that guided the movement’s work at that time. To align with the Strategic Global Framework (2022-2030) and calls to focus more on diversity among youth supporters instead of solely growth in numbers, quantitative targets for youth supporter growth have been removed.

3.2.3 Towards the realisation of strengthening Amnesty International’s people-powered movement as outlined in the Global Strategic Framework, Amnesty International will **develop robust supporter journeys for children and young people**. These supporter journeys will prioritise growth, provide diverse entry points and meet the realities of children and youth supporters we are engaging, strengthening their engagement and retention.

3.2.4 Amnesty International will develop **supporter journeys to address sustainability as a key factor for young people who move out of the youth constituency as they reach the age of 25**, and ensure continued engagement with Amnesty International across generations.




STRATEGY IN ACTION:
Resourced youth-led projects in Amnesty International Thailand

Each year since 2018, Amnesty International Thailand has opened a call for applications from youth activists to apply for a grant of up to 10,000 baht (£200) from their Seed Fund. The Seed Fund invites young Amnesty members to submit a proposal for a project they would like to lead that is consistent with and promotes human rights, in particular, freedom of expression, children’s rights, human rights education in schools and freedom of peaceful assembly. Through the Seed Fund grants, child and youth activists at Amnesty Thailand have been empowered to develop and lead their own projects, including exhibitions, workshops, dialogues, stage plays, and calls for human rights.

CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 3.1.1

STRATEGY IN ACTION:
Partnerships with diverse youth movements at the International Secretariat

Amnesty’s International Secretariat has focused on developing relationships and partnerships with youth-led and youth-focused climate organisations and movements. In 2020 and 2021, Amnesty’s International Secretariat held youth takeovers on its global Instagram stories with members of Re-Earth Initiative, a global, inclusive and intersectional youth climate movement. The takeovers supported youth activists from Re-Earth Initiative to share key messages and content regarding their work, as well as calls to action around climate justice, amplifying their voices to Amnesty’s global audiences.



CONTRIBUTION TO GOAL 3.2.1



ACHIEVING THE GOALS

ACHIEVING THE GOALS

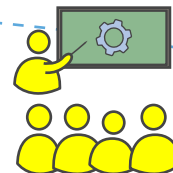
In order to realise the goals and objectives of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy (2022-2025)*, we must have the following in place:

1 Resources for staff and activity budgets



Decision-makers with responsibility for resource allocation will allocate adequate financial and staff resources in annual budgets at the global, regional and national levels to enable work with children and young people, and to achieve the goals laid out in this strategy. This includes but is not limited to: providing and promoting training and capacity building, removing barriers to the participation of children and young people, and encouraging their meaningful and active participation in Amnesty's strategies and work, including in times of crisis and fast-paced or changing situations.

2 Training and capacity building



Amnesty International will provide staff with ongoing capacity building and support to ensure they understand the importance of child and youth engagement across all areas of Amnesty International's work. Through this capacity building, Amnesty International will ensure all staff have the guidance and tools needed to meaningfully engage children and young people in their work, supporting the organisation in working towards promoting active child and youth participation and intergenerational dialogue.

3 Accessible approaches, resources and materials



Amnesty International will implement creative and diverse participatory methods and tools in all aspects of its work to ensure that the movement is reaching and engaging diverse groups of children and youth, and enabling their active participation on equal terms. This will include, but will not be limited to using flexible structures for mobilising and organising children and young people.

Amnesty International will promote the accessibility of materials in different languages and formats to enable wider children and youth participation.

4 Flexibility in response to crises



In crises and fast-paced or changing situations, Amnesty International will remain flexible and agile in its approaches and strategies for working with children and young people to enable the organisation to adapt its child and youth work to changing situations. This may include reallocation or earmarking of budget, adapting approaches, and providing the necessary training and capacity building to children and young people to support their continued active and meaningful participation in Amnesty International's work, while balancing their well-being.

5 Participatory Safeguarding Practices

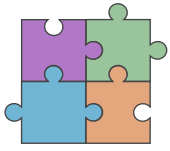


Amnesty's International Secretariat's *Safeguarding Policy for Children and Vulnerable Adults* will serve as an example of internal guidelines for work with children and young people through creating a safe environment. At all levels of Amnesty International's work, relevant safeguarding policies will be implemented to strengthen, not hinder, the participation of children and young people.



INTEGRATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND MONITORING

INTEGRATION, ACCOUNTABILITY AND MONITORING



INTEGRATION

Amnesty International recognises the need for integrating child and youth empowerment, engagement and participation in all aspects of its work. We understand the importance of making it possible for children and young people to connect with Amnesty International through a range of entry points—fundraising, activism, advocacy, human rights education, and beyond—and for them to extend and develop their engagement.



ACCOUNTABILITY

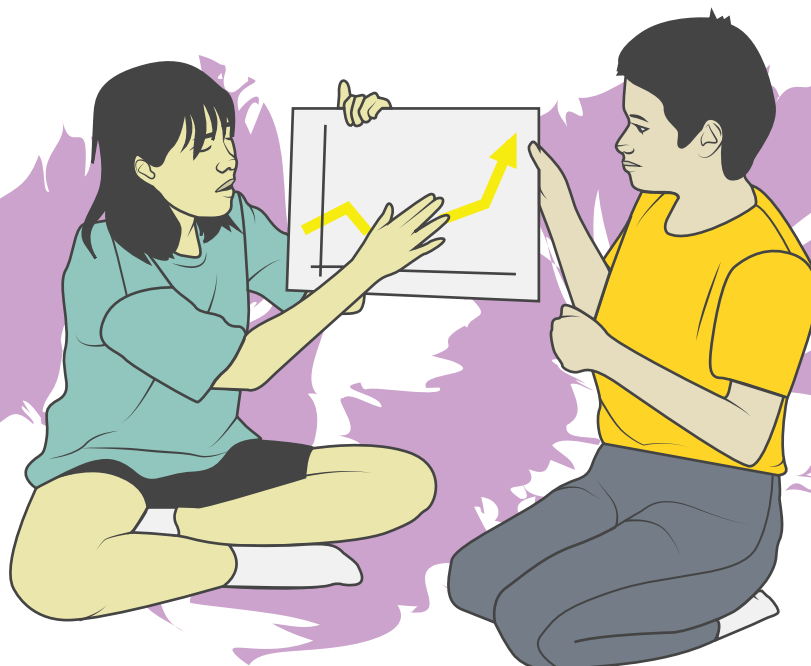
It is the responsibility of national entities and the International Secretariat to implement the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* at the national, regional and global levels by integrating the strategy into other plans and by devising specific projects, including during crises and fast-paced or changing situations.



MONITORING

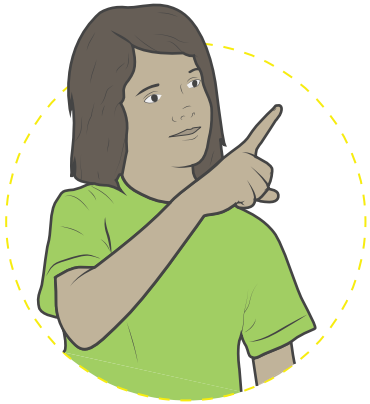
This strategy calls for the collection and analysis of gender and age-disaggregated data on children and young people to enhance the relevance and specificity of Amnesty International's children and youth research, policy analysis and programming, and to strengthen the understanding of challenges faced by heterogeneous child and youth populations.

Monitoring of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy's* progress is the responsibility of national entities and the International Secretariat. Recognising that the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* is designed and delivered for, by and with children and young people, the monitoring processes will include the views and perspectives of the children and young people that entities work with as they track the strategy's progress.



INDICATORS

The monitoring and impact assessment of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will be tracked through these indicators at the national, regional and global levels:



1. Disaggregated data detailing the percentage of children and young people who are part of Amnesty International as:

- a. Supporters (aged under 18, and aged 18–24)¹⁷
- b. Members (aged under 18, and aged 18–24)
- c. Board members (aged under 18, aged 18–24, and 25–30)
- d. Staff (aged under 18, aged 18–24, and 25–30)

2. The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International supporters and members from diverse backgrounds, and the efforts in place at the entity to increase diversity among the children and young people they engage.

3. The number of (national) children and/or youth strategies and other strategies which integrate a child and/or youth component at the entity

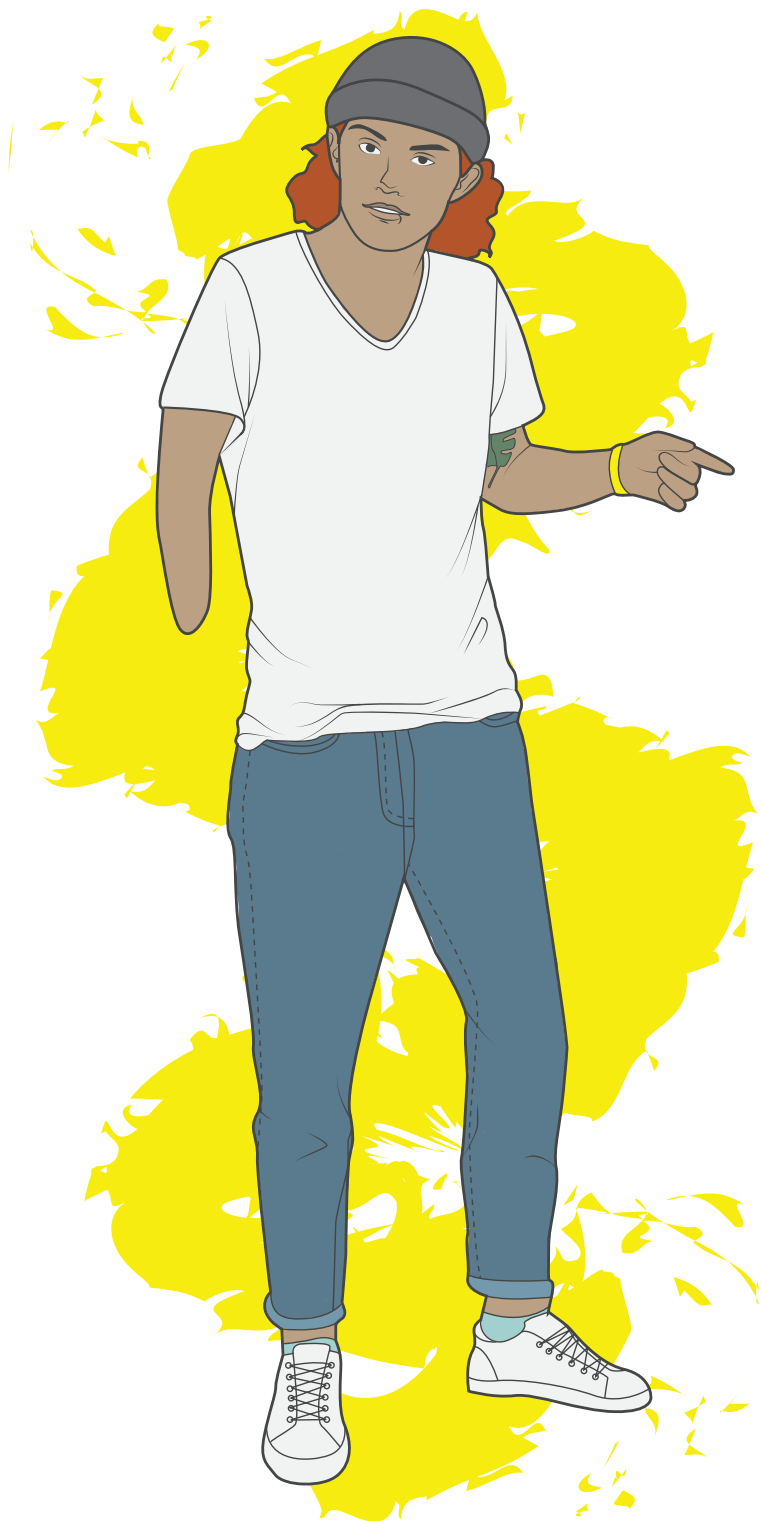
4. The amount of financial resources dedicated to children and youth work directly at the entity, for example, through child-specific and/or youth-specific budget lines

5. The number of full-time equivalent staff (FTE) with a youth brief who lead youth-focused work, and the number of full-time equivalent staff with a children's brief who lead child-focused work

6. The number of projects with a focus on children and/or young people



17 A child and youth representation of 1/3 of the total supporter base is recommended.



7. The number of externally facing human rights actions (such as campaigns, advocacy initiatives, HRE initiatives) that were youth-led, and the number of young people who took on leadership roles in these actions

8. The number of children and young people who are Amnesty International supporters, activists and members participating in capacity building workshops, meetings and forums

9. The processes in place to actively support and promote the well-being of children and young people who are supporters, members and activists

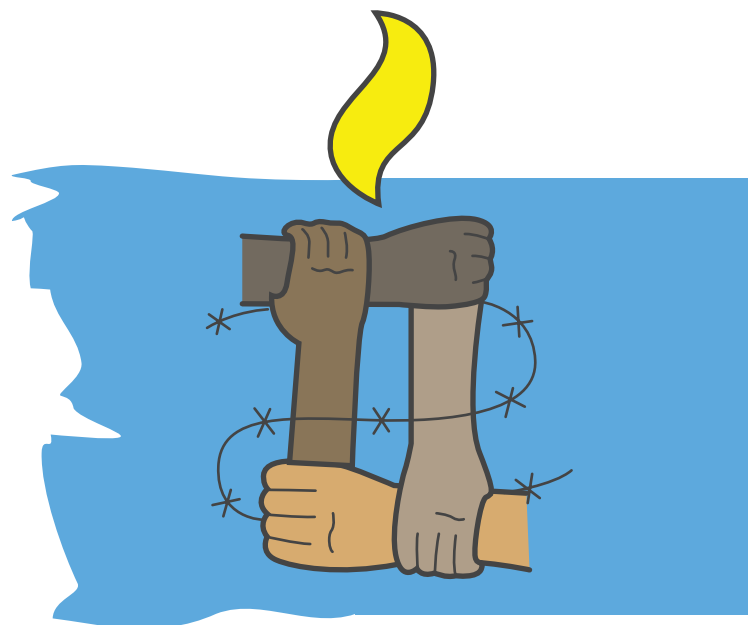
10. Supporter journeys which are specific to children and young people and their retention within Amnesty International

11. Supporter journeys specific to the retention of young people who are leaving school or university, and of young people when they turn 25 years old

12. The number of youth-led and youth-focused organisations that were partnered with, and satisfaction levels and outcomes of those partnerships

13. The Most Significant Change seen in terms of impact of child and youth participation within the entity during the period being monitored

14. A rating for key areas of Amnesty International's work on the Ladder of Participation (illustrated on page 28 as part of the Guiding Principles), tracking the level of active participation across the entity's work



The monitoring and impact assessment of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy* will be reviewed on an annual basis to determine whether additional qualitative questions are required to capture further information regarding Amnesty International’s work with children and young people in the year being monitored. This may include, but is not limited to, impact or information related to Amnesty International’s work with children and young people during crises and fast-paced or changing situations.

MONITORING PROCESS

Amnesty International will review the progress of the strategy on an annual basis and at the end of the strategy period. The global monitoring process is coordinated by the International Secretariat with input and support from Amnesty International’s Global Youth Collective and is conducted by the relevant Amnesty International entities at the national, regional and global levels.



ANNUAL MONITORING

Each year, the International Secretariat will coordinate the annual monitoring of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy*, which will culminate in the publication of the annual *State of Amnesty Youth* report. As part of this process, national entities and global and regional entities at the International Secretariat will provide reporting on the progress of key indicators over the past year. This will be in line with the annual monitoring of the *Global Strategic Framework*.



FINAL STRATEGY EVALUATION

At the end of the implementation period of the *Global Children and Youth Strategy*, the International Secretariat will coordinate a final evaluation of the strategy with input from the Global Youth Collective and national and regional entities, analysing its progress and impact between 2022-2025.

Reports capturing findings of the annual monitoring and final strategy evaluation will be shared widely across the movement on an annual basis to enable organisational learning and informed decision-making at all levels.

