

Name: Jameen Kaur

**Position:
Campaigns Officer/Shop Manager, Amnesty International Irish
Section, Galway**

MA Candidate, Irish Centre for Human Rights



Biography:

Jameen started working with Amnesty International in 2002. She manages Amnesty's campaigns, activism and trade for county Galway. Prior to joining Amnesty International she lived and worked in The Netherlands, Australia and New Zealand. She holds a BA in English and History and a postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. As well as her work with Amnesty Jameen is completing an LLM at the Irish Centre for Human Rights her current area of study is 'Bodily Integrity versus the Right to Life'

What aspects of Development Education (DE) are included in your work?

Jameen's work is entirely focused on Human Rights. She maintains that it is impossible to split issues of development and issues of rights into separate compartments. On this basis she maintains that the realisation of dignity, economic and social rights or even the right to life itself is not possible without focus on issues of development. In a few varied examples of where Amnesty's work overlaps with development she lists their support of fair trade, their highlighting of the degradation and regression in living standards caused by conflict in areas such as Sudan and Gaza and their highlighting of the socio economic factors that lead to incarceration and even the death penalty in the USA.

The Human Rights Based Approach Formula used by Amnesty is one which focuses on mainstreaming problem solving from a rights perspective and she feels that this is as much a tool for development as one for human rights.

Are you are involved in teaching courses with DE components?

Though Amnesty works mostly in the informal sector as befits a campaigning /pressure group it does have involvement in educational spheres; Amnesty Ireland is involved in some way at every level of the formal education sector in Ireland but not often in the specific provision of courses other than the previously mentioned Human Rights Based Approach (HRBA) for an overview of this approach follow these links

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/education/article.asp?id=11283&page=3377>

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/resources/article.asp?id=5060&page=3361>

Empirical and agenda driven research published by Amnesty International is used widely as reference material for the students of Human Rights and other related subjects in NUIG and most other Universities.

Do you have interests or involvement in particular countries or regions?

Amnesty Ireland is involved with a huge number of countries and regions in specific countries. Jameen's focus here in Galway is on the situation for Human Rights in Mexico and they have undertaken various campaigns to highlight issues there.

In recent times a focus of all groups in Ireland has been on the attempt to pressure the Irish Government to fulfil its obligations under the Geneva Conventions and ensure that it is not facilitating torture by allowing suspected renditions flights to Guantanamo Torture camp use Irish airports.

. Links or articles that might be of interest to other DERN members?

Amnesty's other education resources and methods are available to the public at the link below:

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/education/default.asp?page=2146&rec=20&pos=1>

One valuable resource for the achievement of amnesty's aims is their on line 'Action Centre'

<http://www.amnesty.ie/amnesty/live/irish/action/actioncenter.asp?page=5914&rec=20&pos=1>

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What other activities are you involved in that concern DE?

Fair Trade, public talks, highlighting the developmental effects of Human Rights abuses in situations such as Gaza, detailing the side effects of particular economic policies- for example how the North American Free Trade Agreement resulted in a huge surge of instances of violence against women in the border areas of Mexico. Amnesty also sends personnel to various areas to establish the situation of human rights.

Recent events /Publications:

Jameen wrote an article last year for the open democracy news and discussion website:

http://opendemocracy.net/article/5050/16_days/maternal_mortality

Amnesty has a news and events section on its website and DERN Circulates local Amnesty events.