

Amnesty International USA

2022 Board of Directors Candidate Biographies



Rasha Abdel Latif

My name is Rasha Abdel Latif, I am an Arab-American born and raised in Jordan then moved to the United States. I have nearly seventeen years of experience working with local and international organizations and activists to amplify citizen voices, to increase participation in decision making processes, to advocate for human rights, and to create innovative solutions to social problems. I led and coordinated many local and national human rights campaigns and initiatives on social accountability, governance, transparency, anti-corruption, defending civic space for women, persons with disabilities and marginalized communities.

I believe I possess the right combination of technical and executive attributes to serve on the Board of Directors. My extensive experience in supporting networks across the globe provides me the necessary skills to support

the work of Amnesty International. I am a creative problem solver with ideas and abilities needed to make successful decisions in such a leadership position.

I am a catalyst for change, very persistent to advance human rights conditions in the US and worldwide, through advocating for human rights issues and for safe environments for everyone.

I am excited to join the Board of Directors to be able to work with other Amnesty members to advance the work of the organization and serve its mission.

Your vote counts, thank you.

Rasha Abdel Latif



Christopher T. Foley

Philadelphia, PA

Senior Attorney, Indian Law Resource Center

cfoley@indianlaw.org

Biographical Statement: I am a citizen of Cherokee Nation and I work at the intersection of federal Indian law and international human rights. Originally from Oregon, I went to Swarthmore College and then graduated from Temple Law in 2012. After a year as a stay-at-home father, I joined the Indian Law Resource Center (ILRC) where I am now a senior attorney—I split my time between the ILRC's Montana office and Philadelphia. The

ILRC is a non-profit, founded and directed by Native Americans. We provide legal assistance to indigenous peoples throughout the Americas to combat racism, to protect their lands, to achieve genuine self-government, and to realize their other human rights. My work is centered around indigenous women's rights. I use advocacy at the UN and the OAS to place violence against indigenous women within a rights-based framework that allows us to connect indigenous women's individual rights to live lives free of all forms of violence and discrimination with indigenous peoples' collective rights to land and to self-determination and self-government.

Candidate Statement: After nearly 10 years at the ILRC, I have developed significant expertise in international human rights, indigenous rights, women's rights, and business and human rights, and I have a great deal of practical experience at the UN and OAS, all of which will inform my work for AIUSA. Further, I believe it is essential that our leading human rights organizations, like AIUSA, incorporate indigenous perspectives into their work, both to ensure that they broadly reflect the people they seek to serve, and to help inform their program work and choices. Indigenous rights are still poorly understood even within the human rights community, and I believe my experience would be valuable to AIUSA both as an institution working in this field, and as an institution that is seeking to instantiate equity in itself.



Emma M. Green (pronouns: she/her)

Arlington, VA

Research Specialist, Writer

green.emma.m@gmail.com

Amnesty International Experience: Deputy Secretary and Board of Directors Member (1 year term, 2021-2022), Student Activist Coordinator (2018-2020), IDEA Council Member (2018-2019), Global Strategy Plan Ambassador (2019), Treasurer at Ohio Northern University (ONU) Chapter (2017-2019)

Other Relevant Experience: Co-founder of ONU Jewish Union, Student Senator at ONU, Treasurer at Getty College of Arts and Sciences Student Advisory Board

Brief biographical statement: Emma Green is a queer woman and youth activist from Metro Detroit Michigan, now residing in the Washington Metropolitan Area. She joined the AIUSA Board in 2021, and has been an activist in the organization since 2017. She possesses a BA in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics with a minor in Public Policy from Ohio Northern University. She works as a Research Specialist at Gartner, informing legal leaders on best practices for legal operations and department management. She is also a freelance opinion writer, publishing articles on current events and the intersection between class and gender.

Candidate Statement: I joined Amnesty International on the rural campus of Ohio Northern University in 2017. Since then, I have been connected to one of the most powerful and valuable global human rights movements in the world. I served in several youth leadership positions in AIUSA prior to being elected to the Board for a 1 year team in 2021, and took the skills learned there with me into my current position as Board Deputy Secretary. My background in corporate legal research has helped me develop subject matter expertise in board governance best practices. As a youth activist, I strive to create mutually beneficial and effective organizing relationships between all generations of activists. Most importantly, I am committed to living out the values of Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility by amplifying the voices of marginalized and diverse activists and rights holders identities.



Rick Halperin

Member: AIUSA, 1971-present, Dallas group 205, 1985-present, Human Rights Educators Network, 1990 - present, Texas State Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator, 1995-present, Board of Directors, 1989-1995 and 2004-2010 (Board Chair 1992-1993 and 2005-2007).

Served on boards of the National and Texas Coalitions to Abolish the Death Penalty, the Center for Survivors of Torture, Murder Victim's Families for Human Rights, and many others. Travel extensively throughout the world meeting with human rights activists, government officials, and NGO representatives. Have participated in delegations monitoring conditions in El Salvador, Palestinian refugee camps in Gaza and US death row facilities.

Have taught, since 1990, human rights courses at SMU, one of only seven US universities offering an undergraduate degree in Human Rights. I have spent my life defending and advocating the idea that there is no such thing as a lesser person, that all persons, no matter who they are or what they may have done, are worthy of their inherent dignity and must not, for any reason, be tortured or put to death.

Have been actively involved, since 1972, in the effort to abolish the death penalty in the US. I am active with numerous human rights organizations working on behalf of marginalized, mistreated and abused persons. I lead annual trips to Holocaust sites across Europe as well as numerous locations of human rights abuses on five continents and to US death row facilities, internment sites, indigenous communities, and civil rights sites.

I seek to join the Board as a member of the Grassroots Activism slate with Robyn Linde, Allison Reilly, Deirdre Stieglitz, and Ernest Young III. We are experienced member activists who seek to reinvigorate grassroots leadership through intergenerational collaboration, diversity, and a balance between local and global activism. You can learn more about us here:

www.AIUSA-grassroots.org



Angie Hougas

Dewitt LLP

McFarland, WI

hougasa@execpc.com

AI Experience

Board

- Experienced Board Treasurer

- Membership Committee Chair
- Governance Committee member
- Delegate to international financial and policy meetings

Membership

- Keeping You Connected – Founder/Publisher, weekly newsletter sustaining our powerful grassroots
- Rhythm N' Rights (RNR) - Founder/Administrator (750K+ signatures, 4000+ new members, \$50,000+ raised) <https://www.facebook.com/Rhythm-N-Rights-119045458131082>
- Effectively converting strategy goals to on-the-ground activism
- Numerous State and National Steering Committees, Working Group assignments

Other Experience

- Alternatives to Incarceration: Restorative Justice – Mediator addressing full impact of crime on communities – work with youth, marginalized offenders
- Humane Society – volunteer
- Death Penalty – national and international organizing for wrongfully convicted
- WI Coalition Against the Death Penalty – former Treasurer

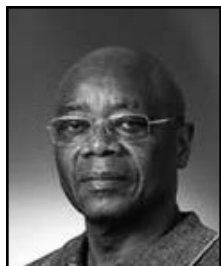
Biographical Statement: A lifelong WI resident, I know rural, midtown, and large/metropolis organizing. As a lifelong activist I am energized by memorable moments, one being the visit from my group's Burmese Prisoner of Conscience Salai Tun Than's daughter who travelled hundreds of miles to personally share her family's gratitude.

Candidate Statement: Amnesty needs to improve connections of youth to our varied bodies of work and greater membership. This is foundational to my longstanding RNR initiative. RNR's relationships with artists brings Amnesty's Vision and Mission to millions: all ages, ethnicities, walks of life. Crossing age and issue boundaries, it is unmatched in its outreach to youth and diverse communities. Its high-impact affirms and links global human rights with rights of Americans, spotlights individuals oppressed, assails systemic violations, and strengthens and motivates grassroots activists' members.

The Board sets the Vision. As a director my vision seeks to build a diverse, better-resourced, active grassroots membership, committed to both international solidarity and domestic human rights issues in line with Amnesty's Mission of ending grave human-rights abuses.

I have the knowledge, skills, and understanding to shepherd this organization to be what the people of the world need it to be.

I appreciate your vote. <http://www.amnesty-volunteer.org/usa/reform/Angie22.html>



Marcel Kitissou

Watervliet, NY
mkitissou@gmail.com

I am currently Contributing Faculty at the School of Public Policy and Administration at Walden University, Adjunct Professor in the Department of Africana Studies at the University at Albany-SUNY, and Regional Scholar Affiliate with the Institute for African Development at Cornell University. I am Editor-in-chief of the *International Journal of African Studies*, Editor of the *Journal of African Foreign Affairs*, and Coordinator of the International Consortium for Geopolitical Studies of the Sahel (<http://sahelconsortium.com>).

My affiliation with AIUSA was gradual and started over three decades ago: Academic Adviser for an AI student association, Country Specialist for various French-speaking countries in West Africa, member of the Nominating Committee, and member of AIUSA Board of Directors (2012-2015).

It is often said that the arch of history bends toward justice. My experience as a former refugee, and witnessing events in the world, teaches me that history does not take sides. It bends toward justice through human action, and commitment to justice and peace. As the Latin philosopher, Seneca, once said, "Fates guide the willing, and drag the unwilling." We are more effective when we organize to seek justice and peace and Amnesty International is one of the organizations that has demonstrated such commitment with tremendous efficiency. That is what explains my decades long affiliation, and that is why I am a candidate to serve on the Board again with hopes to contribute to the work and success of AIUSA.



Mark LeVine

At my first AI Meeting in 1988 then Secretary General Ian Martin handed out pocket-size copies of the UDHR and told us to always keep it with us. The centrality of that document to my has never waned. Reading it today confirms that we are facing the greatest threat to human rights – both to the legitimacy of the ideal of and the respect for inalienable, fundamental rights for all people *everywhere* – since World War II.

Internationally and in the United States, large segments of the population are today increasingly dismissive of and even hostile to human rights. Russia's open commission of crimes against humanity in Ukraine is occurring precisely because so many countries have for decades blatantly violated HR with impunity – the US and its allies as much as its adversaries and countries in between.

I believe Amnesty International plays a crucial role in counteracting this trend, by demonstrating how and why human rights are central to our collective survival at this literally historic tipping point. As a scholar of Africa and the Middle East with a long background in human rights and Indigenous struggles, as well as a Grammy and Guggenheim-winning professional musician, author, journalist and activist, I am uniquely positioned to contribute to Amnesty's effort to navigate this treacherous period, and to create a holistic, future-oriented human rights discourse.

My focus will be on four areas:

- *defend* human rights as the guiding principle of law, diplomacy and politics;
- *advocate* for those whose human rights are systematically violated, at home and abroad;
- *collaborate* with organizations, artists and movements across civil society and the public sphere to raise awareness about and support for human rights; and
- *globalize* the struggle from below, following the lead of Indigenous and grass roots communities and strengthening international human rights institutions.



Robyn Linde, PhD

Providence, Rhode Island
Professor of Political Science; Director of the International Nongovernmental and Nonprofit Studies Program, Rhode Island College
rlinde@ric.edu

Amnesty International Experience: I joined Amnesty in 2002 because I was alarmed by the treatment of prisoners held at Guantanamo. My entire professional trajectory was shaped by the human rights violations of that period. Since then, I have worked in two local groups before co-founding group 1016 in Providence. I am also the Legislative Coordinator for RI, where I routinely meet with members of Congress, including Senator Reed and Representative Cicilline, on key human rights issues.

Biographical Statement: I am a professor of political science with expertise in international human rights law and the role of human rights organizations as engines of social and political change. I have published widely on human rights and conducted research on Amnesty's structure, mechanics, and global impact. Moreover, as the director of an academic program and in my service on other boards, I have budgetary and managerial experience relevant to board work. I have lived in six countries and eight US states and currently reside in RI with my partner, Holly, our two daughters, and dog, Luka.

Candidate Statement: I seek to reinvigorate AIUSA's commitment to international human rights work. I care deeply about Amnesty's success, and believe that a turn away from international activism is misguided for an organization whose greatest strength comes from cross-national naming and shaming strategies. A narrowed focus on US issues at the expense of international ones not only weakens our global strategy, but fails to contextualize US human rights violations within larger systems of oppression and exploitation. Without an international context for the violations we see at home, AIUSA jeopardizes its hard-earned reputation for nonpartisan and objective leadership. I am running for the board as a member of the Grassroots Activism slate with Ernest Young III, Allison Reilly, Deirdre Stieglitz, and Rick Halperin. Learn more about us:

AIUSA-grassroots.org.



Phyllis Pautrat, MSW, LCSW

Mount Laurel, NJ

Profession: Psychotherapist/Capital Homicide Mitigation Specialist

(609) 980-6548

pautratmsw@gmail.com

ppautrat@aiusaboard.org

Refugees. Gun violence. Torture. Execution. Trauma. Each has touched me throughout my life. My dad was a refugee from Soviet controlled Ukraine. At age twelve, he escaped a firing squad and hid in a cellar for three months. A year after being denied asylum in USA he took a freighter to Cuba, became a Cuban citizen and at 14 emigrated to the US. His trauma symptoms were no surprise and it affected me all my life.

I joined Amnesty to honor my father, who taught me freedom brings the obligation to work against oppression. I have continued my work to honor the victims of human rights violations I saw on death rows and in refugee camps. And no child should be forced to flee their country, or stare down the barrel of a gun.

Amnesty International Experience:

- Group Member, 1985 - present
- National Board of Directors, 1995-2001, 2004-2010, 2019-present
- Vice-Chair, National Board of Directors, 2005-2007
- Pennsylvania Death Penalty Abolition Coordinator, 1991-2004
- National Death Penalty Steering Committee, 1995-2002
- Consultant to staff, addressing secondary trauma, 2018-2019
- Promoted restoration of work on individual prisoner cases.
- Immigration, torture, abolishing the death penalty; national priorities I worked to establish and fund.
- These accomplishments support our vision of individuals working for individuals, via members and staff, which makes Amnesty the world's most successful human rights organization.

Other Relevant Experience

- Journey of Hope, From Violence to Healing
- National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty

Candidate Statement: I ask your support to utilize my past board experience to lead us to confront the oppression we now face here and abroad. Paraphrasing poet Warsan Shire: "No one would leave home in a boat, through a desert, hide in a cellar while their country is being bombed, unless home is the mouth of a shark".



Kendrick Perkins

Cambridge, MA

Learning Experience Designer at Salesforce

kperkins@aiusaboard.org

Candidate Statement: My name is Kendrick Perkins, and I am running for the Board of Directors for Amnesty International USA. I have been involved with AIUSA over 10 years with experience in leadership positions at the student, state, regional, and national level including, but not limited to, the Nominating Committee, AGM Program Committee, and the National Youth Action Committee.

I'm running because I believe in our mission of fighting injustice and promoting human rights, I believe in the power and resiliency of our membership, but most of all I believe in our collective capacity for change. As the current interim Vice Chair of the board, I plan to continue to move forward in three priority areas: governance, organizational health, and membership engagement.

As the current chair of the Governance Committee, I plan to collaboratively continue to propel forward the work of revisiting and refining the Code of Conduct to ensure there is a timely and equitable process for addressing membership issues. In conjunction, I plan to revisit the existing petition candidate process to ensure a transparent and fair process for Board of Director petition candidates.

In terms organizational health, I plan to continue the work of the Cultural Assessment Committee, collaboratively working with our external partner to gauge and assess the organization in regards to IDEA principles to ensure our organizational policies and practices uplift and empower membership, especially our BIPOC members.

Lastly, I plan to continue to advocate for thoughtful membership engagement aligned with our Shared Leadership principals to ensure all stakeholders including youth, longterm members, and young professionals have the opportunity for their voices to be heard and considered.

Given my experience, commitment to equity, faith in this organization and its membership, I know that together we can move towards a better more equitable AIUSA. Thank you for your consideration.

**Allison Reilly (she/her/hers)**

St. Louis, MO

Internal Communications Manager, Planned Parenthood of the St. Louis Region and Southwest Missouri
allisonmidorireilly@gmail.com

Amnesty International Experience: Saint Louis University Student Group Member, 2006-2010; Saint Louis University Student Group Co-Coordinator, 2008-2010; Group #105 St. Louis Member, 2010 to present; Group #105 St. Louis Coordinator, 2016-2018; Missouri Area Coordinator, 2018 to present

Other Relevant Experience: 12+ years in marketing and communications, 6+ years in local grassroots organizing

Brief biographical statement: Allison Reilly is a health equity and organizational culture champion leading the development of strategies, systems, and standards for internal communication through a variety of channels. At Planned Parenthood, she's at the forefront of fighting for reproductive rights in Missouri. She is also part of Privacy Watch STL, a local coalition dedicated to increasing oversight of surveillance technology and its use. Previously, Reilly served as Executive Director of the Peace Economy Project.

Candidate Statement: I seek to join the Board as a member of the Grassroots Activism slate with Ernest Young III, Deirdre Stieglitz, Robyn Linde, and Rick Halperin. We are accomplished member activists who seek to reinvigorate grassroots leadership through intergenerational collaboration, diversity, and a balance between local and global activism. Learn more at www.AIUSA-grassroots.org.

My membership experience is crucial for the Board as this organization looks for new ways to recruit and retain more activists. As a millennial who successfully transitioned from student group to local group to member leader, I bring an important lens to creating opportunities for Amnesty involvement from youth to retirement. Combined with my communications expertise, I am poised to help break down the silos within Amnesty and foster the connections and relationships necessary to build trust and conduct successful human rights activism.

**Deirdre Stieglitz**

Nutley, NJ

Administrative Coordinator, NYU Langone Health
deirdreforaiusaboard@gmail.com

Amnesty International Experience: As a high school student in the 1980s I co-founded a student Amnesty chapter when I learned that ordinary people have meaningful impact if we work together. I've lobbied congress, protested at embassies and consulates, marched, chanted, sung, and tabled at concerts, vigils, and demonstrations for individuals at risk, political prisoners, women's rights, campaigned against gun violence, for ending war, oppression, and injustices around the world. I wept tears of pain when Georgia executed Troy Davis- his was the first death penalty case I worked on. I cried tears of joy when Teodora was freed in El

Salvador after her murder conviction for her miscarriage.

These and all the individual at risk cases I've worked on keep me connected and moving forward with human rights activism.

Other Relevant Experience: I worked in non-profit hospitals for over 20 years. I have a Master in Healthcare Administration from NYU, where I learned management of non-profit organizations, including governance, fundraising, duty of care required of boards of directors.

Brief biographical statement: In 2006 I traveled with a medical mission to Eritrea and saw firsthand the destruction that the country's 30-year war for independence from Ethiopia had wrought. Soon afterwards, our local Amnesty chapter adopted an Eritrean journalist case and I was inspired to join a coalition of activists working for justice in Eritrea. I've been on a non-stop journey of human rights advocacy ever since. I dedicate my time outside of working and raising my children to improving human rights globally.

Candidate Statement: Please vote for me and our Grassroots Activism slate: Ernest Young III, Allison Reilly, Robyn Linde, and Rick Halperin. We are experienced member activists who seek to reinvigorate leadership through intergenerational collaboration, diversity, and a balance between local and global activism. Learn more about us here: www.AIUSA-grassroots.org



Beth Ann S. Toupin, M.S. Ed.

River Forest, IL
Teacher/Trainer; Advocate
aiusa.bahrain@gmail.com

Amnesty International Experience:

- Board member; Program Committee Chair
- Chair, AIUSA Delegation to 3 International Council Meetings
- Chair, National Resolutions and Board Nominations Committees
- Strategic Planning and Governance Committees
- Chair, Middle East Coordination Group; Bahrain, Iraq Country Specialist
- Chair, local group 162; member, UIC group
- Trainer; Co-founder, Membership Empowerment Training Project

Other Relevant Experience:

- Founder/ED, Iraqi Mutual Aid Society (IMAS), facilitating adjustment of resettled Iraqi refugees
- Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children in the foster care system
- St. Luke Parish Advisory Council and Strategic Planning Committee

Biographical Statement: At my first meeting, a man spoke of his labor organizing, arrest and torture in Guatemala. In spite of all he had suffered, he still had hope for humanity.

Through Amnesty, I have developed skills in fundraising, public speaking, strategic planning, and more. Also the value of resilience and hope.

At IMAS, I worked in coalition across cultural divides, and learned about solidarity, working with instead of for. I also learned about program development, and being on the management side of the board table.

Candidate Statement: I was drawn to AI by the idea that average people could make a difference in the lives of average people far away. International solidarity and empowered activism are key values I hold dear. But we are evolving. Amnesty is complex. We struggle with proper roles of management and board, and of a membership with many entry points, perspectives and passions – old hands and those bringing new energy and ideas. We work within and have obligations to a larger international movement, but must address domestic issues.

Our new ED seeks the “both/and” balance instead of “either/or”. I can help him. I know Amnesty, policy, and how it works on the ground. I am committed to consultation, and consider the role of a board member to be one of service to the movement.



Ernest Young III

Chicago, Illinois
CEO / President
legislativecoord.ill@gmail.com

Amnesty International Experience:

- Member since 2016
- Current Legislative Coordinator – State of Illinois 5 years
- Member of the Regional Conference Working Group
- Member of the Legislative Coordinator Steering Committee
- Advocacy & Lobby training for Illinois
- Organize meeting with elected officials of State and Federal Government
- Coordinate activities with other Human Rights, Gun Violence Advocates

Other Relevant Experience:

- Served on the NAACP south side branch.
Executive Committee also Membership Committee Chair.
- Served 2 years on the National Concierge Association National Board of Directors.
- Served 2 years on the Chicago Chapter, National Concierge Board of Directors.
- Board Chairman – The See Through Project Inc.
- Board Member and Business Manager of The Youth Communication Chicago organization.
- CEO / President – AOT Transportation & Logistics Co. Inc.
- Treasurer of the Fundraising Sub – Committee.
The United Supreme Council of North America, Europe, Asia.

Brief Biographical Statement: I am an ordained Minister. I work with many community organizations. I have over 20 years in business. I am involved in mentoring youth and counseling.

Candidate Statement: I seek to join the Board of Directors with the members of the Grassroots activism slate which includes Allison Reilly, Robyn Linde, and Rick Halprin. We are member activists who seek to reinvigorate Grassroots leadership through a balance between local and global activism with investment in local and student groups in communities mostly impacted by Human Rights violations.

