



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

*Amnesty International
Aotearoa New Zealand*





CONTENTS

WHO WE ARE	2
CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION	3
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT	4
2019 IN NUMBERS	5
BIG STORY: MESSAGES OF HOPE	6
CAMPAIGNS UPDATE	8
FUNDRAISING UPDATE	11
TREASURER'S REPORT	12
OUR FINANCES	13

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Image above: A young New Zealander at the
Global Climate Strike.

Front cover: In the aftermath of the Christchurch attacks, Amnesty International gathered and shared Messages of Hope. One of the most hopeful stories we found was John Sato, pictured, who took four buses to get to a solidarity event. For an inspiring video go to: www.amnesty.org.nz/johnsato

Back cover: Lighting a candle for hope, Christchurch, March 2019.

Feedback: We truly appreciate your thoughts and ideas. Please email info@amnesty.org.nz

ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Within everyone is the power of humanity. This power lifts us all. With it, we can change society for the better.

Together, we act in solidarity and compassion with people everywhere, connected in our shared humanity.

Amnesty International offers a global movement that mobilises the humanity in everyone so that we can all live with care and respect for each other.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

“As a Board we have sought to increase the openness and transparency of our decision-making, to provide more regular opportunities for members and supporters to follow what we are doing, and to be involved.”

ROSSLYN NOONAN

Advocating, campaigning and practicing human rights in our daily lives, in our families and in our communities has never been more important than it is today. We are living in a time when threats to fundamental human rights are intensifying.

He waka eke noa: we are all in this together.

Last year was challenging. As a nation we confronted the horror of 51 people massacred in Christchurch as they were at prayer in their mosques. At Amnesty International we welcomed a new, inspiring Secretary General, then witnessed ill health force his resignation, just as the global movement was grappling with difficult financial issues and while deep in discussion about our strategic priorities in a rapidly changing world.

Here at Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand (AIANZ) we saw changes in leadership, both on the Board and in the position of Executive Director. At our Annual Hui in May we sensed renewal as three new members joined the Board, while we farewelled Catherine Irons and Marianne Elliott, longstanding Board members who made substantial contributions during their terms. In August we took pride in the election of chairperson Peter Fa'afiu to the International Board, and in October were delighted to appoint Meg de Ronde as Executive Director.

Through 2019, AIANZ continued to strengthen human rights in New Zealand and beyond. As you read through this Annual Report, you'll see the breadth and diversity of what we've done together. Particular acknowledgement goes to the dedication of the many and varied volunteers and donors across New Zealand who are the very foundation of Amnesty International.

As a Board we have sought to increase the openness and transparency of our decision-making, to provide more regular opportunities for members and supporters to follow what we are doing, and to be involved. We know there is still more to do.

Despite the many challenges, we were able to end the year in a strong position largely because of the quality and dedication of the staff and the astute leadership of the senior management team. We acknowledge too that for much of the year they were short staffed, responding to unforeseen circumstances by taking on increased workloads.

Yet as I write it is all too clear that 2020 presents even greater challenges, with an unprecedented global pandemic forcing us to reexamine how we work and what our priorities should be this year as we confront the immediate crisis and then next year and beyond as we grapple with the impact on human rights – not only civil and political but equally economic, social and cultural – all made more complex by climate breakdown.

It has been my privilege to act as interim AIANZ Chair since Peter's election to the International Board and to be supported by truly committed and skilled Board members.

Ma tini ma mano ka rapa te whai.

By many, by thousands, the work will be accomplished.



Rosslyn Noonan

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rosslyn Noonan".

Chair
Amnesty International
Aotearoa New Zealand

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I'll always remember 2019 as the year that finished with Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand team members at Auckland Airport as Behrouz Boochani walked through the gates onto New Zealand soil.

The award-winning author and human rights defender was brought here by the Word Christchurch literary festival and Amnesty International was pleased to support his visa to be able to visit. After almost seven years imprisoned in Papua New Guinea by the Australian Government you were part of the movement that saw him walk free for the first time in so long. It was such a ray of hope in what had been at times a very tough year.

There were many other moments of joy as we stood with humanity last year. I was very proud to be part of the movement that worked to make them happen. But there were also challenges that saw Amnesty International play a watchdog role, raise our voices as advocates and fight for the rights of others. Here in our Annual Report, we'll share with you some of those moments of joy and challenges including our work for people seeking refuge, our role as observers at Ihumātao and the numbers of Individual at Risk cases we've had contact with through our office. You've been part of freeing people from prison, both here and overseas, changing laws and sharing over 10,000 messages of hope in the wake of Christchurch.

"I know that you're here with us too, continuing to stand with humanity and hold human rights at the core of what we do."

MEG DE RONDE

What has made me feel so hopeful too is resilience. Last year in New Zealand we faced the horrific Christchurch attack but I saw so many communities, supporters, staff and loved ones come together. We all had to show resilience in the face of this awful act. For Amnesty International it dramatically changed our work for the year. For many it shook their understanding of our society. I write this as our country – and indeed the world – is having to show resilience yet again, as a pandemic sweeps the globe and changes life as we know it. But I've been so proud of our team for responding decisively, calmly and with such pride in our work. And I know that you're here with us too, continuing to stand with humanity and hold human rights at the core of what we do.

Thank you for all you do to ensure we can light a candle in the darkness. I'm honoured to continue this journey to a better and just world with you.



Meg de Ronde

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meg de Ronde', written in a cursive style.

Executive Director
Amnesty International
Aotearoa New Zealand

2019 IN NUMBERS



80

volunteer-led events were held to protect and progress human rights



122

individuals at risk contacted us for help with their human rights



6.5%

income increase, excluding the significant bequest received in 2018

22,900

people were reached by volunteers at these events



173

news stories featuring Amnesty International and Behrouz Boochani, the event that saw the most coverage for Amnesty International for the year



10,600

offline actions were received to urgently change laws, free prisoners and advocate



17

meetings with officials, politicians and diplomats to advance our campaign goals and values

2,326

new supporters making regular donations

20,000

was our largest cash gift

31,304

online actions were received to urgently change laws, free prisoners and advocate

8

bequests received

BIG STORY: MESSAGES OF HOPE

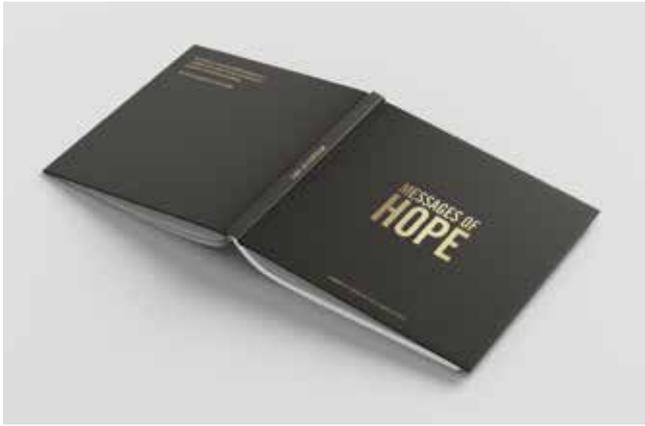
While many New Zealand human rights issues and campaigns came to the fore in 2019, the defining moment was the tragic attack on people praying in two mosques in Christchurch.

That day, Amnesty International created an online action where anyone from around the world could share a message of hope with our Muslim whānau. We were truly humbled by the outpouring of aroha and solidarity. Over 10,000 of you added your heartfelt thoughts.

Our immediate aim was to publically set a supportive and compassionate tone to counteract the overt extremism, as well as the deeper undercurrents of racism that led to the attack. The next day we published an ad in the weekend paper, saying loud and clear, “We are stronger when we are together. Kia Kaha Christchurch.” The day after that we placed an open letter in newspapers across the country from the heads of 15 NGOs showing solidarity with our Muslim whānau, refugees and migrants. Within three days, we placed a selection of the Messages of Hope across New Zealand’s billboards and online ad spaces. When some people were sympathising with the shooter, the vast majority of New Zealanders didn’t. We made it clear that they were not alone, that they were safe to feel and show their compassion, and that the best way forward was to stand with humanity.

The next step was to do justice to the scale and depth of these beautiful messages of hope by sharing them in a meaningful and lasting way with the Muslim community. So we’ve created a set of beautiful, hardcover books, with the intention of giving one to every mosque, Islamic foundation and group in the country. With COVID-19, our plans to distribute the books are temporarily on hold, but in time, the people most directly affected by the attacks will be able to thumb through the pages and see just how much love exists for them.





CAMPAIGNS UPDATE

Amnesty International at Ihumātao

Everyone has the right to peaceful assembly, to peaceful protests, and to freedom of expression.

In July, we sent independent human rights observers to the occupation at Ihumātao. It was the first time in recent years that Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand had done so. Our job was to clearly and openly communicate with all parties involved, let people know what their rights are, document any potential violations, corroborate testimonies, check reports and follow up any human rights breaches.



While we documented some friction between Police and people occupying the land, what we found generally was that our presence had a calming effect.

Executive Director Meg de Ronde said, “Independent observers are about protecting everyone’s rights; people must protest peacefully, and people’s right to protest should be protected by law enforcement.”

Human rights in a time of climate disruption

Climate change is like Article 0 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Without a stable climate, none of the other rights are possible.

Amnesty International’s Ambassador of Conscience Award is our highest recognition for human rights work. In 2019, the Award, previously given to the likes of Nelson Mandela, Ai Weiwei and Malala Yousafzai, was handed to the Fridays for Future youth climate groups around the globe. The movement, sparked by Greta Thunberg, has mobilised millions of young people to express their commitment to a brighter future.



Brianna Fruean from 350 Pacific Climate Warriors

In September, Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand officially gave the Ambassador of Conscience Award to 350 Pacific Climate Warriors, Te Ara Whatu and School Strike 4 Climate for their work on climate justice. In New Zealand School Strike 4 Climate drew nearly 170,000 people across the country. Their demands were simple; the Government must recognise climate change as a crisis and it must act on it by moving New Zealand beyond fossil fuels and into 100% renewable energy for all.

350 Pacific Climate Warriors’ Brianna Fruean recognised small island nations and villages that are often overlooked. “We accept this award on behalf of all the children who are feeling the effects of climate change, and who are not being given a voice.”

Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand Advocacy and Policy Manager Annaliese Johnston said the New Zealand groups have been pivotal to growing action on climate breakdown. “The impacts of climate change are already hindering the rights to health, food, water, housing, work and even life itself. As we have seen, today’s young people know this. They are showing world-class leadership in the community fight for a better future in our Pacific neighbourhood.”

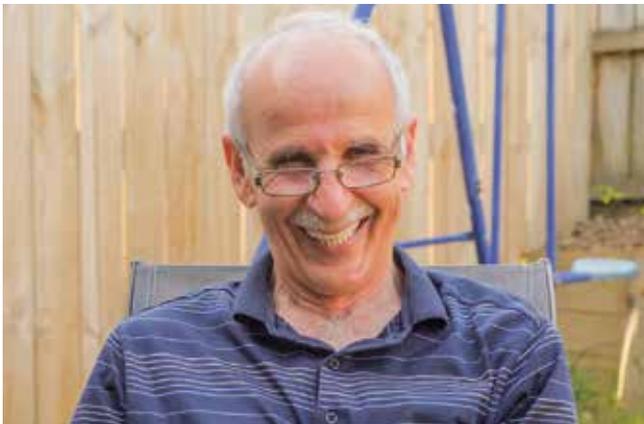
Community Sponsorship of Refugees

This programme is a win-win. The New Zealand Government launched the pilot in 2018, welcoming 24 people seeking refuge. Community groups take the lead in providing all that these new families need. While the families are building new lives for themselves, New Zealand communities are deepening their friendships, uniting in common cause, becoming more diverse and nurturing connection.

At the end of 2019, Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand was invited to the world's first Global Refugee Forum in Geneva to share part of the New Zealand experience of Community Sponsorship. This was at the invitation of the Global Refugee Sponsorship Initiative.

New Zealand's pilot programme has been separate from and in addition to the traditional refugee quota programme. But the Government hasn't yet decided to make it permanent. In 2019, we kept up the pressure to do just that.

We know the Government is generally supportive, but the programme's future hinges on the Budget. So we rallied Amnesty Advocates around the country to sign a new action to Minister Lees-Galloway and Minister Robertson urging them to put it in the 2020 Budget and make it permanent. We got creative, sending their offices cupcakes to thank them for their support. We made extra efforts with people in their electorates, so the Ministers would hear it directly from those they represent. We continued to push positive stories across media. And we shared inspiring content online, building mainstream awareness of Community Sponsorship.



Ghassan Basheer, Community Sponsorship group member

A Community Sponsor from the Hamilton group, Ghassan Basheer, said, "Freedom is a source of joy. This programme helps get people on their feet. It has a very noble purpose, it feels good, and it builds people from the inside. For the community, this was a common purpose, a really good one. It's very pleasing to be able to support people who are in need of settlement, of freedom, of just a normal life."

One of the newcomers in the programme said, "It was so important to have people around. You can't imagine how much of a difference it makes to know someone, and to know they will receive you."

Behrouz Boochani welcomed to New Zealand

In November, an award-winning author previously trapped within one of the Australian Government's refugee detention centres on Manus Island touched down in New Zealand. Behrouz Boochani came to appear at a special event for the WORD Christchurch festival. He was welcomed into the country after being granted a visitor visa sponsored by Amnesty International.



Behrouz Boochani and Meg de Ronde

The Kurdish journalist from Iran is known world over for his work reporting on human rights abuses from within the detention centres. Amnesty International has long documented the human rights violations and Australian's illegal policy of 'offshore processing'.

On landing at Auckland Airport, Boochani said after being trapped for over six years the whole experience was surreal.

"Hopefully this is hope for others. It's great to touchdown in New Zealand. In Port Moresby I wasn't thinking about freedom. But for the first time I am happy that I survived. This is the first time that I think about this."

People seeking refugee deserve a safe home. They deserve freedom and dignity. Amnesty International will continue to advocate on behalf of others who remain in precarious living situations.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

“Our incredible supporters, like you, inspire me with your generosity and commitment to defending human rights. Thank you so much for your unwavering support.”

ZEBEDEE STONE

Kia ora koutou! As a new member of the team a quick introduction is in order. My name is Zebedee Stone and I've been the Fundraising and Marketing Director since August of 2019. I was lucky to start my fundraising career with Amnesty International over a decade ago and it's great to be back. Our incredible supporters, like you, inspire me with your generosity and commitment to defending human rights. Thank you so much for your unwavering support.

Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand had steady progress across our fundraising efforts in 2019. Despite some variances we essentially met our overall target, largely through loyal support from existing Human Rights Defenders and the Freedom Foundation, which totalled over \$2.12 million. On supporter recruitment, both face-to-face fundraising and telefundraising were slightly below targets, but 2,326 new supporters joined us with regular donations. To make the most of these new relationships, in 2020 we are renewing our focus on engaging with and retaining supporters.

Major donor fundraising continues to be a growth area, with generous support from Freedom Foundation members in 2019 (up by 51% over 2018). Gifts from bequests returned to more typical levels after the large legacies donated in 2018, but we were notified of a number of generous bequests, which will make a big difference in years to come. We are extremely grateful for these lasting legacies. Trust funding also significantly increased in 2019 as we were successful in securing grants from Dove Trust and the J R McKenzie Trust.

Fundraising from our appeals was 12% lower than target, but on par with 2018. This was mainly due to reduced capacity in the team, so we are pleased to have filled the key role for this work early in 2020.

In 2019 we were honoured to announce the new Gary Ware Legacy Award, an annual contribution of up to \$4000 for inspiring youth initiatives. Our gratitude goes to Marlene Ware and family for this lasting commitment to positive change. Local Amnesty groups also held a variety of fantastic fundraisers – special mention goes to the Dunedin group for their street appeal raising \$4,065 and the Remuera group's amazing quiz night, which raised \$3,000.

I'd like to again thank each and every person who donated to help defend human rights in 2019. Already in 2020 COVID-19 is challenging humanity in unprecedented ways. Your help and ongoing support enable us to keep standing with humanity in New Zealand and around the globe. Ngā mihi nui (Thank you very much).



Zebedee Stone

Fundraising and Marketing Director
Amnesty International
Aotearoa New Zealand

J R McKenzie Trust Grant

In 2019 we were grateful to receive a generous grant from the J R McKenzie Trust. This will help us establish a domestic research programme in 2020 focused on the rights of detainees in New Zealand. The research will initially focus on the practice of holding children in police cells, which threatens their rights. The J R McKenzie Trust is a philanthropic family trust. Since 1940 it has been distributing grants to a range of organisations that share the vision of a socially just and inclusive Aotearoa. We are thankful for their support in 2019 and look forward to working with them on our domestic research programme in 2020.

TREASURER'S REPORT

"We saw an increase in our annual fundraising income of approximately 6.5% when the significant 2018 bequest is excluded. This is a great achievement in the current market."

GEOFF WALKER

I write this report in late March in the first week of lockdown as New Zealand responds to COVID-19. It seems a strange time to be looking back at 2019 and looking forward to the remainder of 2020.

The Chair of our Board, Rosslyn, has written about how 2019 was an extremely busy year for Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand. Financially it was a case of keep calm, carry on and focus on growth where we could. We saw an increase in our annual fundraising income of approximately 6.5% when the significant 2018 bequest is excluded. This is a great achievement in the current market. We received two grants in 2019, the first from the JR McKenzie Trust for a domestic research project, the second from the International Secretariat to support fundraising through our phone programme.

Expenditure for the year remained in check and we ended the year with nearly \$500k in the bank account. Amnesty International is a global movement and we're pleased to report that over the last five years, we've contributed \$1.27 million to the International Secretariat. Whilst the annual contribution dropped this year to \$45k, contributions are based on a predetermined formula set by the International Secretariat. Although this is useful for our section, it does mean less funds for the international movement. This situation is by no means unique. It is the prime reason for the International Secretariat's financial issues in 2019.

In terms of our 2019 themes, here is how we performed:

- Diversify income streams, continue to develop other channels – Good progress has been made here. This will be particularly important in 2020.
- Become more data driven, so that we can better understand what great fundraising looks like for us – We have had great success here and we are now getting useful insights from our data.

- We remained on track to achieve our loan write-off target.
- Define how big the hill is – We need to work out how big we want to grow and what regular fundraising base we need to do this. Work has only just started, but the Board and management have had some good discussions.

Given the timing of this report and the significant uncertainty caused by COVID-19, it is difficult to write the financial themes for 2020. However, this is our direction of travel:

- Strive to achieve our loan write-off target despite the changing dynamics resulting from COVID-19.
- Continue to focus our fundraising spend on the areas where it can best be applied.
- Think slow, but make fast and concise financial decisions.

We are in challenging and uncertain times. The Board and I take comfort that we go into this period with reasonable cash reserves, good management and a strong and loyal supporter base. We have weathered significant storms before, and we will get through this.



Geoff Walker

Treasurer
Amnesty International
Aotearoa New Zealand

OUR FINANCES

Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand Statement of Financial Performance for Year Ended 31 December 2019

	<i>Budget</i> 2020	<i>Actual</i> 2019	<i>Actual</i> 2018
Income			
Fundraising, Donations & Grants	3,123,328	2,930,837	3,103,545
Other Income incl Interest Received	37,450	32,027	27,346
Total Income	3,160,778	2,962,864	3,130,891
Expenditure			
Operations	622,572	591,469	567,515
Human Rights Campaigning in New Zealand	615,350	486,389	498,253
International Campaigning	82,293	45,040	117,240
Building Our Supporter Base	1,777,674	1,827,241	1,715,797
Loan Interest	0	0	0
Depreciation & (Gain)/Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	60,000	35,733	55,362
Total Expenditure	3,157,889	2,985,872	2,954,167
Surplus for the Year for Statutory Accounts	2,889	(23,008)	176,724
<i>Including salaries & wages of:</i>	<i>1,480,410</i>	<i>1,281,645</i>	<i>1,249,939</i>

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 December 2019

Non Current Assets			
Property plant & equipment / computer software	128,416	143,416	146,332
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank & In Hand	495,077	463,839	513,164
Prepayments & Accrued Income	40,502	53,852	33,714
GST	37,699	37,699	30,963
Total Current Assets	573,278	555,390	577,841
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	50,262	50,263	41,802
Accruals & Holiday Pay	71,014	71,014	74,646
International Secretariat & AI Switzerland Current Account	(8,014)	(8,014)	(826)
Total Current Liabilities	113,262	113,263	115,622
Net Current Assets	460,016	442,127	462,219
Non Current Liabilities			
International Secretariat Loan - Non Current	990,345	990,345	990,345
AI Switzerland Loan - Non Current	300,000	300,000	300,000
Net Assets	(701,913)	(704,802)	(681,794)
Represented By:-			
Current Year Surplus/(Deficit)	2,889	(23,008)	176,724
Accumulated Funds Brought Forward	(704,802)	(681,794)	(858,518)
Total Accumulated Funds	(701,913)	(704,802)	(681,794)



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