
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION

Article I The name of this organization shall be Middlebury College Amnesty International.

Article II Amnesty International is a worldwide human rights organization that works impartially for the release of prisoners of conscience – men and women detained anywhere for their beliefs, color, ethnic origin, sex, sexual orientation, religion or language, provided that they have neither used nor advocated violence. Amnesty International opposes torture, and the death penalty (including extra-judicial execution) in all cases without reservation and advocates fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners. Amnesty International is independent of all governments, political factions, ideologies, economic interests and religious creeds.

 Amnesty International will organize events and actions in order to promote awareness of human rights on campus. These events may or may not stem from cooperation with the national organization. Past events have included fundraising concerts, holiday card campaigns, human rights film festivals, and letter writing campaigns.

Article III Membership is open to all Middlebury College students. Anyone in the Middlebury community (students, faculty, staff, townspeople) who supports the work of Amnesty International is welcome to participate. Members of the campus group are encouraged, but not required, to become individual members of Amnesty International. Voting members are defined as students who have attended at least three meetings.

Article IV The board of officers will consist of two co-coordinators with equal responsibility and power, a treasurer, one or more letter-writing coordinators, and one or more communications coordinators. Officers must be Middlebury College students.

1. The co-coordinators will be held responsible for facilitating meetings, planning the group's events, coordinating the other officers, and generally overseeing all workings of the group.
2. The treasurer will be responsible for monitoring the group's budget, submitting requests to the finance committee, and writing the budget at the end of each year.
3. The letter-writing coordinator(s) will coordinate bi-weekly letter-writing campaigns in which tables are set up at dining halls with letters to be signed on a specified issue, which will have been publicized during the preceding week. Additionally, the letter-writing coordinator(s) must work with the co-coordinators and organizers of any specific events to provide letters for these events.
4. The communications coordinator(s) will be responsible for publicizing all events, working with other organizations (both on and off campus), and managing the website...

The leadership roles in the board of officers may change, depending on the needs of the organization in a given year.

Article V Spring elections will be held by March 15 for Finance Committee purposes. For other membership purposes, nominations and elections can be held for offices at the end of each semester for the following semester. A quorum of 50% of the active membership shall be required in order to hold elections. A simple majority is necessary for election. Terms shall last one semester, with no limit on the number of consecutive terms one may serve. Students may hold only one elected position at any given time. Vacancies will be filled by a special election.

Article VI Regular meetings will be held at least twice a month. Special meetings may be called by the coordinators as the need arises. Meeting will be both organizational and educational in nature, and will provide an opportunity to discuss human rights issues and write letters.

Article VII The coordinators shall have the power to appoint temporary committees as the need arises...

- Article VIII The membership shall have a member of the faculty/staff to advise the organization.
- Article IX The Middlebury College Amnesty International will maintain an affiliation with the Northeast Regional Office in Boston, the Urgent Action Office in Colorado, and the main body of Amnesty International in the USA. These organizations will provide information and support as needed.
- Article X Amnesty International operates in full accordance with Chapter Four, Section II, A of the Middlebury College Handbook concerning Student Organization Policies of Discrimination, Freedom of Association, Anti-Hazing, Freedom of Inquiry and Expression, Student Publication, Funding, Advertising, and Scheduling. Any and all changes made to the Student Organizations Policies section of the Middlebury College Handbook will immediately become policies adopted by Amnesty International.
- Article XI A. The constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
B The constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.
- Article XII A. Amendments to the constitution must be ratified by a two-thirds majority of the membership.
B. Amendments to the constitution must be approved by the Student Government Constitution Committee.

Approved as to form: March 1981
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