

# HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE

6-8 OCTOBER 2011 • ROYAL ON THE PARK  
BRISBANE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

<http://hrc.amnesty.org.au>

# CHANGE THE WORLD

If you have an interest in human rights, social justice, politics, the rights of Indigenous Peoples – or would just like to find out more about what's happening in our world – we invite you to come along and take part.



## REGISTRATION BROCHURE



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

# HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE 2011

# CHANGE THE WORLD

## Celebrate 50 years of Amnesty International at our biggest ever Human Rights Conference in Brisbane this October.

Experience three days of lectures, debates and discussion with top international speakers and human rights defenders. Hear amazing personal stories, learn about new ways to defend human rights and discuss the emergent human rights issues across the globe.

We believe that human rights are everyone's business, and hope to provide a forum for the education, discussion and celebration of human rights.

We want to inform, empower and inspire. We want to celebrate our achievements of Amnesty International over the last 50 years while looking forward to the future with you.



## KEYNOTE & VIP SPEAKERS



### SALIL SHETTY: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY GENERAL

Salil Shetty joined Amnesty International as the organisation's eighth Secretary General in July 2010.

The Secretary General is the operational leader of the Amnesty International movement, acting as the movement's chief political adviser and strategist, its chief spokesperson and the chief executive officer of the International Secretariat. As such the Secretary General is responsible for developing and coordinating Amnesty International's strategies to promote and protect human rights, representing the movement to governments, inter-governmental and other organisations, the world's media and the general public. The Secretary General is appointed by and reports to the International Executive Committee.

Salil Shetty is a renowned expert on human rights and poverty. Previously, Salil Shetty was the Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign from 2003 to 2010. During his time at the United Nations, he played a pivotal role in building the global advocacy campaign for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals - eight goals to fight poverty, illiteracy and disease, agreed at the UN in September 2000, with specific targets to be achieved by 2015.

Through the Millennium Campaign, Salil Shetty was able to galvanise strong faith-based, civil society, media, private sector and local government support for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Under his stewardship, the Millennium Campaign succeeded in making governments of developing countries and donors more accountable for meeting their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals. Salil Shetty was instrumental in the formation of the 'Global Call to Action Against Poverty' and in leading the 'Stand Up Against Poverty' initiative on 17 October 2009, which mobilised over 173 million people across the world.

Prior to joining the U.N., Salil Shetty was the Chief Executive of ActionAid, an international development NGO. As Chief Executive, from 1998 to 2003, Salil Shetty led the transformation of ActionAid into a leading global campaigning and advocacy NGO. He rose to the position of Chief Executive after 10 years as director of ActionAid India in Bangalore and then 3 years as Director of ActionAid Kenya in Nairobi.

By the time he left, ActionAid had become the third largest international development NGO in the UK and among the foremost poverty-focused NGOs in the world.

Salil Shetty first became involved in campaigning for human rights when growing up in Bangalore, India. With his mother active with women's groups and his father with the Dalit movement, his home became a hub for local and national activists. From his student days when a state of emergency was declared in 1976, Salil Shetty has been actively campaigning against the curtailment of human rights.

An Indian national, Salil Shetty earned a distinction in a Masters of Science in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and has a Masters in Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad.



**JUSTINE NOLAN: SENIOR LECTURER AT UNSW AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS CENTRE**

Justine Nolan is the Deputy Director of the Australian Human Rights Centre and a Senior Lecturer in law at the University of NSW. Her research interests are in human rights and corporate accountability. She has worked closely with broad range of representatives from NGOs, government, companies and the United Nations in consulting on business and human rights issues. Prior to her appointment at UNSW in 2004 she was the Director of the Business and Human Rights Program at the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights (now Human Rights First) in the United States. Justine is a member of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Human Rights Grants Scheme Expert Panel, a member of NSW Legal Aid's Human Rights Panel and a member of the International Commission of Jurists Advisory Panel on its project relating to 'Access to Justice for Corporate Violations of Human Rights'. She is an editor of the Human Rights Defender.



**JULIAN BURNSIDE AO QC: HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER, AUTHOR AND PAST PRESIDENT OF LIBERTY VICTORIA**

Julian Burnside is a barrister based in Melbourne. He specialises in commercial litigation. He joined the Bar in 1976 and took silk in 1989.

He acted for the Ok Tedi natives against BHP, for Alan Bond in fraud trials, for Rose Porteous in numerous actions against Gina Rinehart, and for the Maritime Union of Australia in the 1998 waterfront dispute against Patrick Stevedores. He was Senior Counsel assisting the Australian Broadcasting Authority in the "Cash for Comment" inquiry and was senior counsel for Liberty Victoria in the Tampa litigation.

He is a former President of Liberty Victoria, and has acted pro bono in many human rights cases, in particular concerning the treatment of refugees.

He is passionately involved in the arts. He collects contemporary paintings and sculptures and regularly commissions music. He is Chair of Fortyfive Downstairs, a not for profit arts and performance venue in Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

He is the author of a book of essays on language and etymology, Wordwatching (Scribe, 2004) and Watching Brief, (Scribe, 2007) a collection of his essays and speeches about the justice system and human rights. He compiled a book of letters written by asylum seekers held in Australia's detention camps. The book, From Nothing to Zero was published in 2003 by Lonely Planet. He also wrote Matilda and the Dragon a children's book published by Allen & Unwin in 1991.

In 2004 he was elected as a Living National Treasure. In 2009 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

He is married to artist Kate Durham.



**PROFESSOR GEORGE WILLIAMS: ANTHONY MASON PROFESSOR AND FOUNDATION DIRECTOR OF THE GILBERT + TOBIN CENTRE OF PUBLIC LAW AT UNSW**

George Williams AO is one of Australia's leading constitutional lawyers and public commentators. He is the Anthony Mason Professor, a Scientia Professor and the Foundation Director of the Gilbert + Tobin Centre of Public Law at the Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales. As an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow, he is currently engaged in a five year international project on anti-terror laws and democracy. George has written and edited 26 books, including A Charter of Rights for Australia, Australian Constitutional Law and Theory and The Oxford Companion to the High Court of Australia. His latest book is People Power: The History and Future of the Referendum in Australia. As a barrister, George has appeared in the High Court of Australia in a number of cases such as on freedom of speech and freedom from racial discrimination. In 2005 he chaired the Victorian Human Rights Consultation Committee that led to the enactment of the Victorian Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. George is a well-known media commentator and currently writes a fortnightly column for the Sydney Morning Herald.



**GRAEME INNES AM: DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER AND RACE DISCRIMINATION COMMISSIONER AT THE AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Graeme Innes has been Australia's Disability Discrimination Commissioner since December 2005. During that time he has also served as Australia's Human Rights Commissioner for three and a half years and as Race Discrimination Commissioner for two years.

In his roles at the Commission he led or contributed to initiatives including:

- the Same Sex: Same Entitlements inquiry
- drafting of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and its ratification by Australia;
- three inspections of Australia's Immigration Detention facilities
- development of a National Disability Strategy
- the Disability (Access to Premises – buildings) Standards 2010
- the establishment of the Lifetime Housing Foundation
- cinema captioning and audio descriptions.

Graeme is a Lawyer, Mediator and Company Director. He has been a Human Rights Practitioner for almost 30 years.

Graeme has been a Member of the:

- NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal;
- NSW Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal; and
- Social Security Appeals Tribunal.

Graeme was Chair of the Disability Advisory Council of Australia, and the first Chair of Vision Australia, Australia's national blindness agency.

In 1995 Graeme was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). He was a finalist for Australian of the Year in 2003.



**MARY KOSTAKIDIS: JOURNALIST AND MEMBER OF THE RECENT NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CONSULTATION COMMITTEE**

Mary Kostakidis is a journalist and for 20 years presented SBS World News. She was a member of the National Human Rights Consultation Committee that recommended a Human Rights Act for Australia. A former Chair of the Sydney Peace Foundation and member of the Advertising Standards Board, she currently serves on the National Library Council and Sydney Theatre Board.



**SARAH MADDISON: AUTHOR AND AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL FUTURE FELLOW IN THE FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

Sarah Maddison is an author and Australian Research Council Future Fellow in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales. She has published widely in the areas of feminist activism, Indigenous political culture, social movements, non-government organisations and democracy. Her books include Activist Wisdom (UNSW Press 2006), Silencing Dissent (Edited with Clive Hamilton, Allen & Unwin 2007), Black Politics (Allen & Unwin 2009), Unsettling the Settler State (Federation Press, edited with Morgan Brigg, 2011) and Beyond White Guilt (Allen & Unwin 2011).

Sarah's current research interest is focused on the role of conflict in creating social change. This interest is reflected in many of her publications and most recently in her focus on dialogue as a means of creating change in divided societies. Her Future Fellowship project will explore models of dialogue as they have been used in post-conflict and reconciliation processes in South Africa, Ireland, Guatemala and Australia.



**RITA MAHATO: WOMENS RIGHTS ACTIVIST**

Rita is a eldest daughter of Ram Kelen (father) and Shree Dewaki Devi (mother) from Nehan Municipality -3, Siraha district. In her parental home, she has 7 family members comprising of her father, mother, two brothers and three sisters. She is from a poor class family and the only source of income in her family is wage labor. Rita has completed her Grade-8 study from the school of Materewa in Nahan Municipality. Before this, she had studied till grade-5 in Shree La. La. Ku. Secondary school.

After completing class 8, she had to drop her study as family members forced her to stop study. When she asked the reason for it, her family members replied that women need not to study more. Also they showed the poor economic condition of the family. Though she was willing to study more, because of stereotypical patriarchal value of the society she could not continue her study. Her right to education was violated and she could not raise any voice against it. Then she started working at home for the whole day.

Later, her parents decided to marry her with a man, which they had already selected. So, at the age of 16, Rita got married with Mr. Bramhadev Mahato, a resident of her neighbouring village Govindapur-5, Siraha. Despite the poor economic condition of her family, her parents managed to give the dowry of 1 tola (around 12 grams) gold, one bicycle, one wristwatch and one radio including other small goods, to her husband.

Rita had a great interest to work in the field of women empowerment since she started feeling herself mature. So, after marriage, she started participating actively in the campaign against patriarchal values and social injustice (particularly for the rights of women) led by WOREC Nepal.

According to Rita, in Madheshi Community women are suppressed in many ways. They are restricted even to see the faces of men. Women after getting married for first few years, new daughter in-laws, have to cover their faces with the piece of their sari. Despite these patriarchal values and practices, Rita dared to break those barriers and came out from the private sphere of her family. She actively involved in the campaign of violence against women. Because of being involved in the campaign by her will, Rita had to suffer a lot from physical and mental torture from her family (including her husband).

After a year of her marriage, she became pregnant. During her whole pregnancy period her husband abused her verbally and physically, blaming that the baby inside her womb is not his own. Even after the birth of a baby (son), her parents did not stop abusing her physically. She was beaten seriously for many times. She was denied to have nutritious food during her pre and postnatal period. "This is just because I started to raise the voice against the violence on women in society. They tried to control on me and my body using the tool of character assassination", Rita said with full of tears.

Later after some years she give birth a daughter as she did not have control over her own body and sexuality. Till that period, the level of violence on her from her family was not stopped rather increased. She had to work for whole day without food even after the physical assault. But still she has not lost her courage and continued contributing in the field of women rights. She has become a women rights activist in her community and society as she is a member of women human right defenders.

Including her family, the society also blames her as a woman with loose character because she has challenged the patriarchal values and practices of the society and advocated for women rights and to reduce VAW in her community. Also, she has been uniting women and making them aware about their rights. Due to her, she has been encountering many threats such as kidnapping or even killing. Despite the risk on her life, she has not left her stand. She has continued struggling against the violence she faced and violence against women as a whole.

Now there are 4 members in her family: herself, her husband and 2 children. She has become a role model as a struggling and courageous women rights activist in her community. Realizing her contribution and dedication against violence on women, many local organizations have appreciated her contribution and honored her.



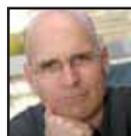
**DR JAMES ARVANITAKIS: LECTURER IN THE HUMANITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN SYDNEY AND IS A MEMBER OF THE UNIVERSITY'S CENTRE FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH**

Dr James Arvanitakis is a lecturer in the Humanities at the University of Western Sydney and is a member of the University's Centre for Cultural Research. His research areas include hope, trust, political theatre, comic books and citizenship. James has worked as a human rights activist throughout the Pacific, Indonesia and Europe. He is currently working with the Whitlam Institute looking at issues confronting Australia's democracy.

James' latest book, *Contemporary Society: A sociological analysis of everyday life*, was launched with Oxford University Press in February 2009 which gave rise to 'socio-logic' – a weekly radio show on FBI Radio (94.5fm). A regular media commentator he also a regular column in *The Punch*.

James was a former banker and advocate for free trade, but having witnessed child and indentured labour, has worked to develop sustainable, socially just and equitable economic policies with organisations such as the Centre for Policy Development, where he is a research fellow.

James has worked extensively with a number of non-government organizations, including Oxfam International Youth Partnerships and Youth Engagement Program as well as Aid/Watch. He is also on the board of Vibewire and works extensively with a number of other justice-based organisations.



**CLIVE HAMILTON AM: A LEADING AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC INTELLECTUAL AND AUTHOR**

Clive Hamilton, AM, is a leading Australian public intellectual and author. He is the Charles Sturt Professor of Public Ethics at the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics in Canberra. For 14 years until early 2008 he was the Executive Director of The Australia Institute, Australia's foremost progressive think tank, which he founded.

He has held a number of visiting academic positions, including at the University of Cambridge and Yale University and has recently returned from a visiting position in the Department of Philosophy at the University of Oxford.

He is the author of a number of best-selling books, including *Growth Fetish*, *Silencing Dissent* (with Sarah Maddison), *The Freedom Paradox* and, most recently, *Requiem for a Species: Why we resist the truth about climate change*.



**ANDREW ERUETI: ADVISER ON INDIGENOUS RIGHTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

Andrew Erueti is the Adviser on Indigenous Rights to the International Secretariat of Amnesty International. Prior to joining Amnesty International in 2009, he was Senior Lecturer in law at Victoria University, New Zealand, teaching and researching on Maori customary law, human rights and indigenous peoples. He has also acted for Maori tribes in claims before the Maori land court, and Waitangi tribunal. Currently, he is a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Law, University of Toronto, writing on Indigenous Identities in the International Indigenous movement.

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## DESTINATION & VENUE

### BRISBANE

Brisbane is Australia's new world city; a modern, dynamic destination that meets all the criteria for creating a successful event. Positive and forward-thinking, Brisbane has established an influential foothold in the international community and contributes to leading the world in a range of sectors.

### ROYAL ON THE PARK

Situated only minutes from Brisbane's CBD, the Royal on the Park Hotel is an internationally renowned Conference venue. It is close to parks, public transport, restaurants and other Brisbane attractions.

## REGISTRATION

### ONLINE REGISTRATION

It is recommended that you register online for the Human Rights Conference. Online registration is available on the Human Rights Conference website <http://hrc.amnesty.org.au>. If you register online you will be given an access key allowing you to edit your own registration, social functions, and accommodation details at any time before Thursday 29 September 2011. When you register online your invoice will be emailed to you with your confirmation letter.

NB: For delegates unable to register online, please complete the attached manual registration form. All manual registrations will be charged a \$22 processing fee in addition to the registration fees.

### REGISTRATION FEES

| Registration Rates                      | Members | General | Students* |
|---|---------|---------|-----------|
| Earlybird (on or before 30 August 2011) | \$550   | \$650   | \$400     |
| Standard Registration (from 31 August)  | \$650   | \$750   | \$400     |
| Day Registration                        | \$250   | \$250   | \$250     |

\*To qualify for student registration you must be currently enrolled as a full time tertiary student. A photocopy of your student ID must be provided to the Conference Office.

### REGISTRATION INCLUSIONS

*Earlybird, Standard and \*Student Registration inclusions*

- Entry to all Conference Sessions (Thursday, Friday and Saturday)
- Morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea daily
- One ticket to the Welcome Reception (Thursday, 6 October 2011)
- One ticket to the Conference Dinner (Friday, 7 October 2011)
- Conference Materials

### DAY REGISTRATION INCLUSIONS

- Entry to all Conference sessions held on registered day
- Arrival tea and coffee, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea on registered day
- Conference Materials

## ACCOMMODATION & TRAVEL

Special accommodation rates have been negotiated for this Conference at the following properties. Bookings are subject to availability and are only available by booking through the Conference Office. All rates quoted are room only rates and include GST.

### ROYAL ON THE PARK

Boasting 153 guest rooms you are sure to be staying in style. These elegantly appointed rooms are complemented with the finest personal luxuries to make your experience one of Brisbane's best. Positioned on every floor of the hotel, each Deluxe Room, with spacious surroundings and views of either the picturesque Botanic Gardens or Brisbane city, offers all features you need to make your stay a comfortable one.

Deluxe King/Twin Room . . . . . \$191 per room per night

### OAKS FELIX

Oaks Felix offers 40-storey hotel Brisbane city accommodation in the middle of Brisbane's CBD. With a distinctive curved façade and spectacular floor to ceiling windows, each room showcases the best views in town, taking in the Brisbane city, the Story Bridge, Botanic Gardens, and Kangaroo Point.

1 Bedroom Apartment . . . . . \$185 per room per night  
2 Bedroom Apartment . . . . . \$275 per room per night

### OAKS 212 MARGARET

Adjacent to the Botanical Gardens, overlooking the Brisbane River, and yet only minutes from the CBD, Oaks 212 Margaret offers a range of luxurious 1 and 2 bedroom self-contained apartments all with air conditioning and state of the art room facilities.

1 Bedroom Apartment . . . . . \$195 per room per night  
2 Bedroom Apartment . . . . . \$285 per room per night

### OTHER ACCOMMODATION:

For other accommodation options, please contact +61 7 3334 4400 or email [humanrights@eventcorp.com.au](mailto:humanrights@eventcorp.com.au).

### BOOKING YOUR STAY

Please note the following:

- All room rates are based on a per room per night basis and include Australian GST.
- Accommodation will not be held unless you have registered for the Conference.
- Rooms will only be confirmed where credit card details are supplied to guarantee the room. These details will be passed onto the hotel for their use only and will not be processed until check-in. If a credit card is not provided, your room may not be available at check-in.
- Cancellations must be made in writing to the Conference Office before Monday 5 September 2011.

A cancellation fee equivalent to the full stay of each room cancelled is applicable for cancellations giving less than 30 days notice or for any 'no shows' on the day of check in.

### AIR TRAVEL

Eventscentral can book any published airfare. Our in-house licensed travel agent can provide you with the best available airfares on the day.

For further information or to book your travel requirements please contact +61 7 3334 4400 or email [humanrights@eventcorp.com.au](mailto:humanrights@eventcorp.com.au).

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