



International Portfolio

Context and challenges

The state of human rights today reveals a world in retreat, made all the more glaring in early 2025 with the re-election of Donald Trump in the US.

Across the world, authoritarian governments are eroding fundamental freedoms and violating international human rights law. Global frameworks designed to protect human rights, including mechanisms under the United Nations, are under severe strain. Governments' selective application of human rights principles further undermines their legitimacy, weakening the global human rights framework and emboldening repressive regimes.

These double standards perpetuate cycles of injustice, with devastating consequences. Israel's genocide of Palestinians has come to symbolise the international community's failure to uphold its moral and legal obligations.

The urgency

Authoritarian regimes exploit weaknesses in the international system, further entrenching cycles of repression and injustice.

The Asia-Pacific region exemplifies this troubling trend, presenting a stark contrast between rapid economic growth and pervasive human rights violations. The Chinese government's repression of Hong Kongers, Uyghurs and Tibetans, the military's brutality in Myanmar, and the Taliban's attack on the rights of girls and women in Afghanistan illustrate the deep-rooted challenges that demand urgent attention. Globally, conflicts in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Ukraine and Sudan further underscore the need for robust accountability mechanisms to address these violations and uphold the principles of justice and human dignity.

Adding to this complexity is the climate crisis, which has become one of the most pressing human rights challenges of our time. For Pacific Island nations, rising sea levels and extreme weather events pose existential threats, amplifying vulnerabilities and displacing communities. These multifaceted challenges demand a strategic and sustained response, one that aligns with AIA's commitment to justice and Australia's capacity for leadership in the region and at the UN.



Campaign objectives

AIA's international work will address urgent global challenges by strengthening human rights norms, enhancing accountability mechanisms, and confronting inconsistencies in their application.

Focused on the Asia-Pacific region, AIA seeks to amplify advocacy efforts and position Australia as a regional and global leader in defending human rights.

Building on its proud legacy, AIA is committed to leveraging Australia's unique influence to tackle escalating global threats. Over the next five years, the campaign will prioritise fostering meaningful change with both local and global impact by championing universal principles, reinforcing multilateral frameworks, and driving impactful advocacy across the region all while remaining agile to emerging crises worldwide.

Strategic Focus Areas:

1. Asia Pacific

Collaboration across the Asia-Pacific region with a key focus on China, Myanmar and Afghanistan will be key in AIA's vision for the next five years, amplifying the voices of people and communities with lived experiences. By partnering with grassroots defenders and addressing systemic issues, AIA aims to drive sustainable change where it is most needed, thereby harnessing Australia's responsibility and influence in the region.

2. Middle East

We remain committed to securing a brighter future for Palestinians, built on rights, equality, and justice. This involves ongoing work to dismantle Israel's system of apartheid and bringing an end to its unlawful occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territory once and for all. Australia has a crucial role to play in holding Israel accountable, ending its impunity, and restoring faith in the rule of law.

3. UN Advocacy

A critical aspect of this vision is challenging the double standards that undermine global responses to human rights crises. Too often, governments prioritise short-term political or economic gains over human rights commitments, perpetuating injustice. AIA is committed to exposing these inconsistencies and advocating for principled, equitable action that restores confidence in international systems. Reinforcing the integrity of international frameworks, such as the UN Charter and Geneva Conventions, will remain a cornerstone of AIA's strategy. These mechanisms remain essential for holding oppressive regimes accountable, and AIA will work tirelessly to strengthen them, ensuring they deliver justice both regionally and globally.



Cross cutting areas of focus

Climate justice

The Pacific Islands face existential threats from rising sea levels and extreme weather events, exacerbated by global inaction. As a regional power and significant greenhouse gas emitter, Australia has both the opportunity and obligation to lead in supporting the most impacted communities. With Australia working with the Pacific Islands countries to bid to host COP31 in 2026, there will be increased opportunity to work on climate justice.

Freedom of Expression and civic space

Lastly, in line with Amnesty International's Global Strategic Framework (2022–2030), we have a responsibility to advance its key priorities. Foremost among them is protecting freedom of expression — both online and offline. This involves protecting the right to peaceful protest and addressing emerging threats posed by artificial intelligence, data protection, surveillance, and censorship.

To achieve these goals, AIA will engage in targeted initiatives. Policy advocacy will encourage Australian leaders to champion human rights reforms and take strong stances in global forums. Public mobilisation campaigns will connect Australians with the realities faced by vulnerable communities, fostering solidarity and action.

This plan not only aligns with Australia's foreign policy objectives but also reaffirms AIA's commitment to justice, equality, and dignity for all.

Why Amnesty?

Amnesty International is the world's largest and most respected human rights organisation.

Amnesty International is the world's largest and most respected human rights organisation. Information obtained by our fearless researchers allows us to campaign against abuses of human rights around the world. And whilst as the Australian section we have a focus on defined domestic areas of work we are part of a broader global movement of 10,000,000 supporters and it is our obligation to work alongside the other sections and entities to ensure impact for international campaigns and cases Amnesty is unique in having a history of being an organization that has both a global and local lens, and it is critical we continue to honor that legacy.

It is however incumbent on us to prioritise and act on the international areas that we are likely to have the greatest impact based on our geographical location and political influence.

AIA is the largest section or entity in the Asia Pacific region and as such we have an obligation to bring attention to the most pressing issues in our region and to support and amplify the work of the movement in the Asia Pacific. It would also be naive of us to think that what goes on in our region does not or will not have an impact on Australian policy or way of life. As such we need to continue to pressure our government to play a leadership role where relevant on global and regional issues.



What We've Learned

We have been spreading ourselves too thin in trying to do too much and we need to prioritise and streamline our international work to be more effective and impactful. We need to identify the key areas where we can have the greatest influence and stagger our work, so we are not trying to do everything all at once.

We need to ensure where possible we are working with the larger international movement and region in line with the global strategic framework to ensure that we maximize resources and efforts on our shared global goals. We should also look for opportunities for our international and domestic work to align in amplifying larger themes like the right to protest and climate justice.

Crisis moments like Gaza and the Ukraine are rallying moments where our supporter base is keen to take meaningful action, so we need to ensure that we are maintaining capacity to be reactive and responsive to world events as they unfold.