

Speakers

Larry Cox was appointed executive director of Amnesty International, USA (AIUSA) in January 2006. A veteran human rights advocate, he came to AIUSA after serving 11 years as senior program officer for the Ford Foundation's Human Rights unit, where he focused on the promotion of international justice and the advancement of domestic human rights. In assuming leadership of AIUSA, Cox's career has come full circle. In 1976 he joined the organization as its first press officer. During the next nine years he quickly ascended through the ranks, establishing the AIUSA Program to Abolish the Death Penalty and then taking on the role as its first communications director and deputy executive director. He then spent five years as deputy secretary general at Amnesty International's world headquarters in London. In 1990, Cox became the executive director of the Rainforest Foundation, an international organization that works with indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon to protect their rights. During his time at the Rainforest Foundation, Cox dedicated much of his time to the issue of demarcation of indigenous territories in Brazil. Cox holds a B.A. in history from Mount Union College, has completed graduate work at the University of Geneva and is currently pursuing an M.A. in religion and human rights at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

Mona Cadena is the Deputy Director of the Western Regional office for Amnesty International, USA. She has comprehensive experience working on a range of human rights concerns, including the death penalty, custodial sexual misconduct, small arms and light weapons (including electroshock and stun weapons), torture and terror, and women's human rights. Mona serves as one of the primary media spokespeople for the Western Regional office in addition to her extensive work with state level elected officials, city counsels, commissions, and police departments across the country to pass and implement policy initiatives that promote and uphold human rights throughout state institutions. Mona has a Bachelors degree in political science and a certificate in policy development from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She has done significant post-graduate work in International Relations with a special focus in Human Trafficking, Migration and Child Soldiers from Trinity College.

Anna Ochoa O'Leary teaches at the Mexican American Studies and Research Center (MASRC), and is affiliated with the Binational Migration Institute, an association of scholars dedicated to the study of how immigration enforcement affects Latino populations regardless of legal status. In 2006 she received a Fulbright Scholarship for research of migrant women's encounters with immigration enforcement agents. She is a steering committee member of Derechos Humanos, a community-based organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of immigrants and migrants.

Raj Purohit is the Interim Director and Senior Fellow at Citizens for Global Solutions. He also teaches classes in human rights advocacy and human rights and the war on terror at American University/Washington College of Law. He holds a law degree from Sussex University and an LLM from American University/Washington College of Law.

Kevin Spidel is Amnesty international USA's Program Manager for the Denounce Torture initiative. He is the co-founder and National Deputy Director for Progressive Democrats of America and has worked on dozens of federal elections ranging from the National Field Director for Kucinich for President in 2004 to Campaign Manager for Christine Cegelis in 2006. His campaign experience led him to serve as a political consultant for several years and he has advised many national organizations and political candidates. He also served as a Field Organizer for the American Civil Liberties Union and for AIUSA.

Sorina Codrea, Sean Goodwin, Motema Letlatsa are UWC students from Romania, the U.K. and Lesotho and have each been active with human rights work and Amnesty International. Their workshop focuses on human trafficking.

Tim Crofton UWC Theatre Arts Instructor, lends his talents to lighten many community efforts. Using guided imagery and writing-in-role techniques, his Dramatic Inspiration group activity will culminate in the writing of an impassioned letter (to your newspaper-editor-of-choice) about one of the issues highlighted during the conference. Less about discussion, more about action, you'll leave feeling you've affected some positive change in the world.

UWC Theatre Class presents a short dramatization of some of the human rights issues we face today and exhort us to action through opportunities to engage in visualization and letter writing.

Amnesty Group 463 has recently been recognized as the largest Amnesty Chapter in New Mexico. Under the leadership of Carrol Pearson, the group conducts regular educational and fundraising events, and participates in mobilizations. Their poster exhibit, displayed in the Auditorium, is a wonderful example of their thoughtful action and generous vision.

United World College-USA makes education a force to unite people, nations, and cultures for peace and a sustainable future. One of twelve UWCs worldwide, we are a two-year residential international school offering the International Baccalaureate program. Our Global Issues and Constructive Engagement of Conflict programs engage students and community members in relevant issues and opportunities for action and reflection.