



**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**

## **50 YEARS OF WORKING WITH CELEBRITIES: LITERATURE**

### **WE ARE ALL BORN FREE**

(2008)

Thirty internationally known illustrators came together to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) by illustrating a children's version of the articles in the declaration. Artists included John Burningham, Peter Sis, Axel Scheffler, Marcia Williams, Polly Dunbar, Chris Riddell and Debi Gliori, all of whom offered own personal interpretation of each of the articles.

Published by Frances Lincoln in association with Amnesty International, with forewords by David Tennant, who described the collection as a 'beautiful book' in which 'you'll find 30 rules for the world to live by' and John Boyne, for whom this book 'might be the most important one that you ever own.'

'We Are All Born Free' has already been translated into more than 30 languages and has sold over 200,000 copies.

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books\\_details.asp?BookID=95](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books_details.asp?BookID=95)

The illustrations were also used in a short animated film, narrated by Julian Rhind Tutt called 'Everybody'. See film section for more details.

### **FREEDOM**

(2008)

A collection of short stories, 'Freedom' is also inspired by the UDHR.

Thirty-six internationally known writers came together to write on the themes of the UDHR for the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Contributors included: Paolo Coelho, Ariel Dorfman, Joyce Carol Oates, David Mitchell, Kate Atkinson, Yann Martel and Henning Mankell.

*'This is truly a great book of Amnesty's. To harness the God-given creative talents of these wonderful writers and connect them with each Article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an inspiration. We are made for the sublime and for freedom: it is my hope that these stories will help us to achieve it. For these writers to contribute their remarkable gifts to the*

*cause of human rights is a sign that injustice will not have the last word.'* - Archbishop Desmond Tutu

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books\\_details.asp?BookID=103#more](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books_details.asp?BookID=103#more)

## FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CONSCIENCE THE POEM (1980s)

A poem written by Seamus Heaney and gifted to Amnesty International Ireland in the 1980s, the poem served as the inspiration for Amnesty International's most prestigious Ambassador of Conscience Award.

## FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CONSCIENCE THE BOOK (2008)

Beginning as a series of original short stories by 30 of Ireland's top writers, it was published weekly in the Irish Times in 2008. Contributors included Seamus Heaney, Frank McCourt, Irvine Welsh, Eoin Colfer, Colum McCann and Anne Enright who each took a different article of the UDHR and wrote a short piece exploring the issue. The collection was eventually published in book form, including original artwork from Robert Ballagh, Louis Le Brocqy and Vivienne Roche.

Full list of writers and artists: Robert Ballagh, Kevin Barry, Maeve Binchy, Mary Rose Binchy, Dermot Bolger, John Boyne, Alan Clarke, Eoin Colfer, John Connolly, Barrie Cooke, Roddy Doyle, Anne Enright, Zlata Filipović, Jim Fitzpatrick, Carlo Gébler, Hugo Hamilton, Seamus Heaney, Dermot Healy, Ann Marie Hourihane, Tom Humphries, Jennifer Johnston, Neil Jordan, Claire Kilroy, Louis Le Brocqy, Brian Maguire, Alice Maher, Lara Marlowe, Nick Miller, Lia Mills, Eugene McCabe, Colum McCann, Frank McCourt, Gary Mitchell, Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, Ross O'Carroll-Kelly, Joseph O'Connor, Mick O'Dea, Mark O'Halloran, Glenn Patterson, Vivienne Roche, Amelia Stein, Gerard Stemberidge, Colm Tóibín and Irvine Welsh.

## YEATS IS DEAD (2001)

**A BOOK PRODUCED FOR THE 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 'YEATS IN DEAD' WAS EDITED BY JOE O'CONNOR AND INCLUDING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM FRANK MCCOURT, MARIAN KEYES, CONOR MCPHERSON AND RODDY DOYLE. FIFTEEN IRISH AUTHORS EACH WROTE A DIFFERENT CHAPTER IN A MYSTERY NOVEL SET IN DUBLIN. IT WAS TRANSLATED INTO 14 LANGUAGES AND RAISED £500,000 FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL IRELAND, WHO IN TURN DONATED HALF OF THAT TO OTHER AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SECTIONS WORLDWIDE.**

## CLICK (2007)

Similar to Yeats is Dead, this book, aimed at young adults, consisted of 10 chapters from 10 different Irish authors. The book traced the life of the mysterious George "Gee" Keane, photographer, soldier, adventurer and enigma. Contributors include Eoin Colfer, Nick Hornby, Roddy Doyle and David Almond. It raised over €200,000.

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books\\_details.asp?BookID=100](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/books_details.asp?BookID=100)

[http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events\\_booking.asp?ID=583](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_booking.asp?ID=583)

### **ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN (2004)**

A collection of essays, poems and translations by Seamus Heaney, produced for Art For Amnesty.

### **LISTOWEL WRITER'S WEEK – LITERARY FESTIVAL**

'Listowel Writer's Week' is Ireland's main literary festival. Between 2006 and 2009 Amnesty International joined the festival, presenting a variety of poets, authors and singers.

These have included artist Robert Ballagh reading poetry by Aung San Suu Kyi, Frank McCourt reading from the work of Vaclav Havel, Judith Mok reading the work of her father Maurits Mok, JM Coetzee reading from 'Plato's Apology: The Death of Socrates', along with performances by Gerard Stembridge, Fergal Keane, Marie Carthy, Zlata Filipovic, Lia Mills, John Boyne, Carlo Gebler and Kevin Barry.