

President of the European Commission

Jean-Claude Juncker
Berlaymont Building
1049-Brussels

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS OFFICE

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Our ref: B1602

Dear President Juncker,

A FIVE POINT PLAN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Let me begin by expressing Amnesty International's best wishes for your new role. We look forward to collaborating with you and your College of Commissioners on human rights issues.

We read with interest your 'political guidelines' released this week from Strasbourg. We have outlined below, for your consideration, some of the top line human rights issues that we would like you to take forward as President. We would very much value the opportunity to also meet with you in advance of the autumn hearings to explain our concerns regarding human rights in Europe and beyond and to discuss how we might work together with the Commission to address them. For information, we will also be meeting with the Presidents of the political groups in the European Parliament in advance of the hearings of the Commissioner-designates in autumn.

One of our primary hopes for the future is that you will be an EU **champion for human rights** through leading by example and ensuring that all Commissioners use their political power and all available instruments to hold EU member states to account when failing to uphold EU legislation to the detriment of the enjoyment of human rights within the EU. Victims of human rights violations everywhere in the world also need you to speak out for their rights proactively when you engage with foreign leaders.

The EU's Strategic Framework and Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy is a key instrument. The momentum around its revision this year will be a decisive opportunity for the Commission to re-affirm its intention to **truly mainstream human rights** and to ensure that human rights protection and promotion is at the core of its external action including in trade, energy, migration, security and development policies. Stronger coordination between the relevant staff at the Commission and the External Action Service will be vital to achieving this objective.

As you may be aware, our central call on all new EU leaders, is to finally show strategic vision for human rights in the EU by designing **a strategy for human rights at home**. As Commission President you will play a pivotal role in bringing about such a strategy. The strategy should:

- Act on the need for better internal-external human rights policy coherence by putting the necessary institutional support in place
- Provide a proactive, protective response to human rights challenges
- Strengthen EU legislative and policy frameworks to remedy gaps in protection
- Provide for effective monitoring and enforcement of human rights obligations under EU law

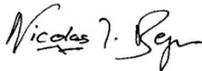
We welcome the reference in your political guidelines to the need to reform European migration policy. We believe that the best way forward for **the protection of migrants' rights** is to address the human rights aspects of EU migration policies rather than focussing on border control and security. The Commission must ensure that the priority of protecting the human rights of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers is reflected in the allocation of resources to member states and that migration-related

cooperation with third countries is first and foremost aimed at improving the human rights situation of migrants and refugees.

We also strongly agree with the assertion that you made in your 'political guidelines' that discrimination should have no place in Europe. To work towards making this assertion a reality, a number of EU policies and laws have to be put in place or enacted rigorously. We call on you to address the pervasive problem of violence against women (VAW) in the EU through the development of a comprehensive policy framework on the issue. As President, you must play a pivotal role in **reigniting the EU's fight against discrimination** and closing glaring legal gaps in protection from discrimination. Finally, there has to be a robust response to hate crimes against minorities such as Roma, migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) people.

As stated above, we would be very interested in meeting with you, if at all possible in advance of the main hearings on Commissioner-designates in autumn, to present our priorities for the new Commissioners and to discuss the strategic direction of the Commission on human rights with you more generally. I would be grateful to be put in touch with the relevant member of your team who could facilitate the setting up of such a meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Dr Nicolas J Beger
Director