

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Brussels, 12 January 2016



#### **Iverna McGowan appointed Head of Amnesty International's European Institutions Office and Advocacy Director**

On 1 January 2016, Iverna McGowan was appointed as Head of Amnesty International (AI) European Institutions Office and Director of Advocacy, covering work towards the European Institutions including the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE).

Ms McGowan, an Irish national, has worked at the organisation's European Institutions Office since 2012. Her first role at the organisation involved leading on policy and strategy coordination, and on the organisation's work towards the rotating presidencies of the EU. She was then appointed as the office's Director of Programmes in 2014 and has held the position of Acting Director of the office over the past year while the organisation completed a restructure of its Europe and Central Asia Programme.

Seven years ago, Iverna left a managerial position in the private sector to pursue a career in human rights. Since then she has gained experience at the United Nations and at the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She has also worked as a consultant on international women's human rights law and on research ethics. She holds an LL.M in European and international human rights law from the University of Maastricht, and a B.A. in European Studies from Trinity College, Dublin.

Iverna will be leading on AI's regional and global advocacy strategies towards the European Institutions. Priorities for the organisation's EU and CoE work for 2016 include:

- Pushing for an adequate human rights based response to the refugee crisis (regionally and globally)
- Combating discrimination, including hate crimes, in the region
- Ensure counterterrorism measures both within the EU and in its foreign policy have human rights safeguards
- Push the EU in its foreign policy to protect and promote human rights in particular through working to stop torture and offer more and better support to human rights defenders

- Demand that the EU holds European corporations operating abroad to account

For a full overview of the office priorities please refer to [www.amnesty.eu](http://www.amnesty.eu)

For meeting requests with Ms McGowan on these or related topic please contact:

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You can also follow her and the office on Twitter [@iverna1](https://twitter.com/iverna1) [@amnestyeu](https://twitter.com/amnestyeu)