



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SILENCE DAY INTRODUCTION



**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**

國際特赦組織香港分會





SILENCE DAY 2013/14

INTRODUCTION

ABOUT SILENCE DAY

What better way is there to make people understand the importance of freedom of expression than to take their right to express away?

WHAT

On Silence Day, students are expected to ask family and friends to sponsor them for remaining silent within a specific period of time, during lunch break, for instance.

WHEN

Anytime you like, basically, as long as it fits in well with your school's calendar. A suggested date might be International Human Rights Day on 10 December 2013.

WHY

Help raise awareness of freedom of expression on campus!

ABOUT THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH

As recognized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights Article 19, everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

In practice, however, it is not uncommon to see such fundamental human rights being infringed through various means including censorship, exclusion of media and imprisonment of political activists.

According to Freedom's House report *Freedom of the Press 2013*, the percentage of people worldwide who enjoy a free media environment fell to its lowest point in more than a decade, with less than 14% of the world's inhabitants living in countries with a free press.

In China, thousands of human rights defenders, including Liu Xiaobo, Tan Zuoren and Zhao Lianhai, are being detained solely due to their anti-government political stance. Even worse, in some cases, their family and relatives are arrested or subjected to other punishment without a fair trial.

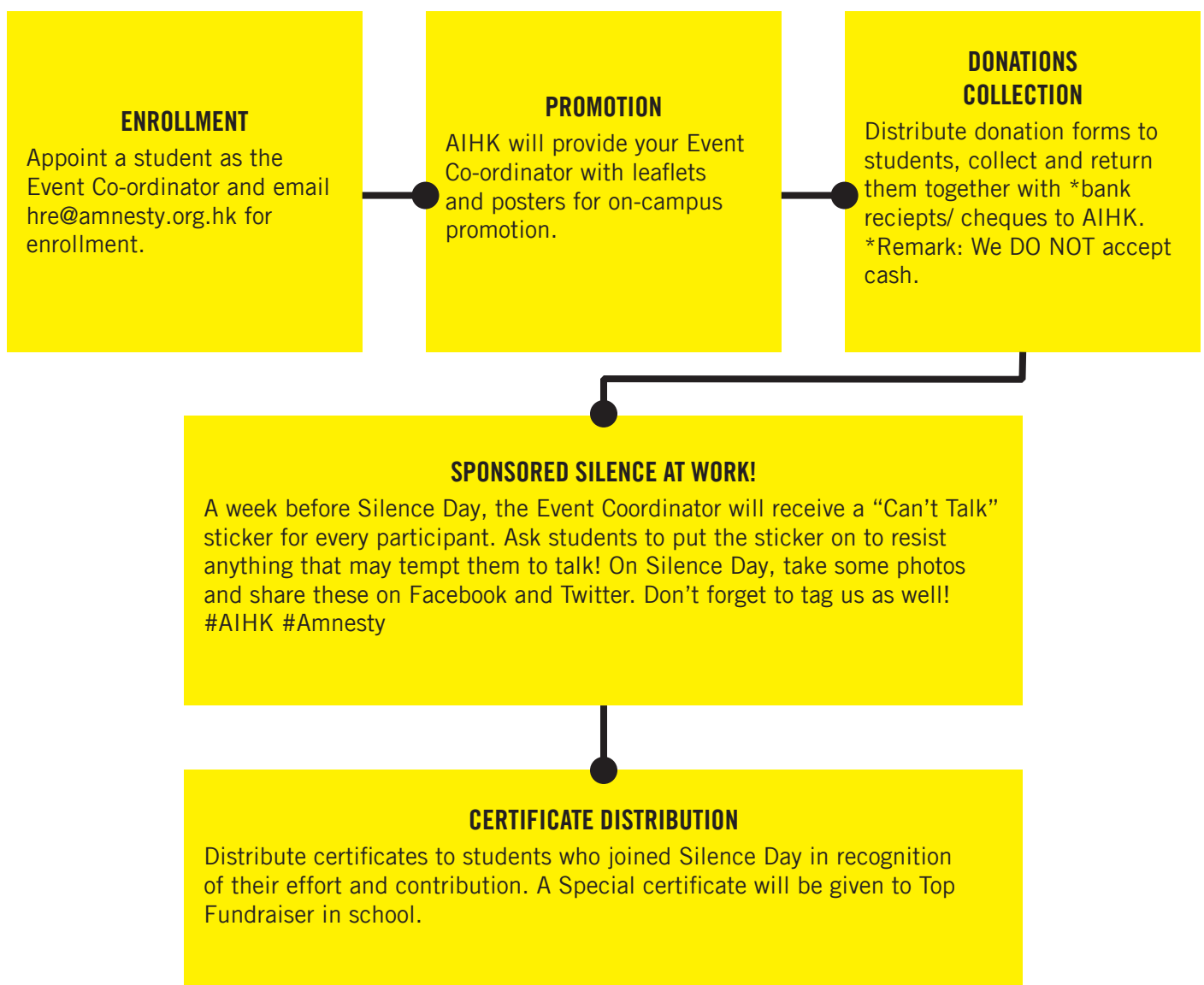
Even in a city as economically developed as Hong Kong, it is in fact not as open and liberal as is often claimed. There are growing worries over abuse of power by the Police, restricted rights to lawful assemblies, and a decline in colleges' academic autonomy etc.

SILENCE IS YOUR LOUDEST CRY

The best way to kick-off education about freedom of opinion in school is to lead the students in understanding the importance and value of expressing themselves freely, and Silence Day makes this work in a fun way. By taking part in the Silence Day, students will learn to empathize with people whose voices are being silenced simply because what they say is unacceptable to their governments.

On our Silence Day, being silent does not mean ignoring others' sufferings apathetically. On the contrary, as a participant, to remain in silence is to show our firm stance to uphold freedom of expression. This is basically a silent protest. As a result, by joining this sponsored silence, you can make your voice heard without making a sound.

PATHWAYS TO SPONSORED SILENCE



HOW MUCH

To enroll, each student should raise a minimum of HK\$300.

DONATIONS

All donations will go directly to Amnesty International Hong Kong Section Human Rights Education Charitable Trust. In order to maintain our independence, we do not seek nor accept financial support from governments, political parties or corporations, making our fundraising work by no means an easy task. Our human rights work depends solely on the donations from donors, members and the general public. Therefore your support is vital to empower our work in promoting education and to improve the situation of human rights abuses.

Each and every effort counts, so do not hesitate to join Silence Day!

ABOUT AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Amnesty International is a worldwide movement to liberate people from injustice. Our vision is for every person to enjoy all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. Amnesty International is independent of any government, political ideology, economic interest or religion.

The Amnesty International Hong Kong Section was founded in 1982. Our work includes:

Human Rights Education – We promote human rights values through school talks, forums, seminars, public exhibitions, and the translation and production of human rights publications;

Lobbying Governments – We put pressure on all governments to adhere to the international human rights treaties that they have signed; and

Campaigning – We campaign against human rights abuses all over the world, with activities that include mobilizing our supporters and the general public to sign petitions, attend candlelight vigils and participate in other initiatives.

The main issues we work for in Hong Kong include:

- Abolition of Death Penalty
- Freedom of Expression
- End Forced Eviction
- China's Human Rights
- Gender Equality and LGBT Rights

SUPPORT FROM AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HONG KONG

/ Thematic talks on human rights related issues
/ Publications i.e. Annual Report, Human Rights Magazines
/ Donation boxes
/ Others (Please let us know if we can assist you in any way)

CONTACT

Amnesty International Hong Kong
Tel: 2300-1250
Email: hre@amnesty.org.hk
Address: 3D, Best-O-Best Commercial Centre,
32-36 Ferry Street, Jordan, HK
Follow us on Facebook: AmnestyHK