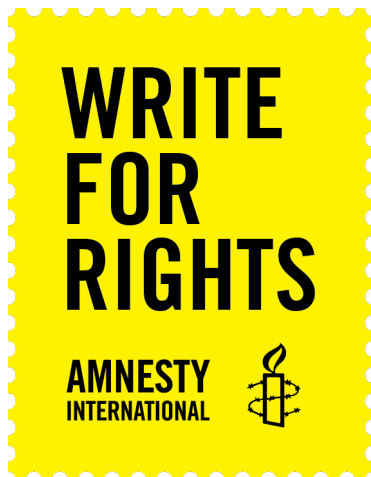


# WRITE FOR RIGHTS: PROTECTING THE DEFENCELESS

Ava Hayward

'Write for Rights' is a campaign first launched by Amnesty International to help protect people's rights all over the world. The campaign entails youth groups, internationally, to write letters or emails to



governments of individuals whose rights are being infringed demanding of them to free these individuals. This campaign requires people all over the world to join in with helping to defend those who are currently defenceless, this is why we, your, very own Amnesty International club is getting involved: to help protect these individuals' rights.

Amnesty International is a non-government organisation that was launched in 1961 by Peter Benenson and Peter Baker with the aim of protecting human rights and mobilising public opinion in this field. Amnesty International was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1977 for its 'defence of human dignity against torture,' and since then they have continued to inspire groups like ours at Grey Coat and create change for the good of the planet. Write for Rights is just one of the many campaigns that they organise to advocate for those whose human rights have been infringed.

The individual who we have decided to advocate for is 16-year-old Janna Jihad, she is living in an Israeli occupied Palestinian territory and has been recognised as one of the youngest journalists in the world. She gained this recognition after the death of her uncle at the hands of Israeli military when she was seven, after filming her uncle's murder she shared it with the world, and has continued since providing documentary on the oppressive treatment of Palestinian's at the hands of the Israeli government.

We decided to choose Janna Jihad as the individual that we wanted to represent because since she is 16, and being in Sixth Form we are if a similar age, we found that this was a universal point of connection with her.

Amnesty International believe that she should be treated as a human and should be given the same rights as any other child, rather than facing death threats because of her work in spreading this vital information. So, the Grey Coat Amnesty International Club aims to help Janna Jihad on her journey to keep speaking out about the oppression that she and so many others still face in areas of Israeli control.

We have been taking inspiration from instances that have been successful in the past to raise motivation, one particular example is a former political prisoner Birtukan Mideska.

Birtukan Mideska is a former federal judge who in 2005 became the first female leader of the pro-democracy party in Ethiopia, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, however she was jailed later that year after disputed elections. In 2007 she was freed from this first imprisonment, however, in 2010 she had to negotiate her pardon again, this time with the help of Amnesty International's Write for Rights campaign, after being wrongly imprisoned again. In 2018 she oversaw the country's first parliamentary election, and pledged to end authoritarian rule, and Amnesty's Write for Rights campaign has helped Birtukan Mideska achieve all this positive and crucial change for Ethiopia's political climate.

This is why we need everyone's help, an example letter will be sent around to the tutors, throughout the school, if you would like some assistance to get started. But, we will be very appreciative of any extra members who would like to join us during Tutor every Wednesday in the chapel, and any letters you would like us to send off alongside those we will be curating.

If you would like to get involved, whether that is on Wednesday mornings or just for this campaign, please email Malina, the director of our Amnesty International group at Grey Coat.

**The Croissant Crisis!** – hear more from Thea Payne on the increasing inflation levels on pg. 4

**'My Turn'** – this edition we have some beautiful poetry from Natalia Lech on pg. 3

And... **Auntie Grey** is still here answering your burning questions on pg. 6

EastEnders actress and BAFTA winner Rose Ayling-Ellis has made history for the deaf community, not only as she became the first deaf winner for one of the BBC's most-watched shows 'Strictly Come Dancing', but also as she was the first to sign a CBeebies' bedtime story during Deaf Awareness week. It is clear that she has been a founding figure in bringing more representation and awareness for the deaf community, but one question still stands – why only now?

It was only in May that Labour MP Rosie Cooper's Private Member's bill was passed to make BSL an official language in the UK. Whilst Scotland already passed a similar act in 2015, the English government were slower to implement the same improvements for deaf citizens' quality of life. However, this bill now allows individuals to exercise their right to have a BSL interpreter at the GP, public sectors and emergency services. In an interview with the BBC, Rose exposed the hardships of being restricted from things other people take for granted – having to bring a family member to the doctor to interpret when she simply wants 'privacy', or the worry of someday having to call 999 with no interpreter available. These relatively 'normal' acts that many don't appreciate are made immediately more challenging for those with a hearing impairment, and it has taken those like Rose's inspiring efforts to bring more awareness to both the public and government as we aspire to keep attaining inclusivity.

British Sign Language, like every language, has its own syntax, idioms and grammatical structure. An estimated 150,000 people use BSL, yet a 2019 study reveals that less than 10% of people in the UK know more than two words. In order to make mainstream activities more accessible, BSL needs to be more widely recognised and used as an official language. Since Strictly aired, we are seeing a 3000% increase in people signing up to online courses for BSL, which helps to showcase the beauty of the language that is 'rich in identity and history, essential and fun to use'.

So why don't we start learning BSL? Something as simple as learning your name and simple phrases is a great foundation for reducing social isolation and helping to achieve unity. .

## MARIE CURIE: WHAT SHOULD WE AIM FOR

*Emma Allard*



Everyone knows the Nobel Prize award, 603 have been given out to this date and to be given even just one is considered the peak of someone's life. However, one isn't always enough for some people. To this day, only four people have received more than one: the most notable being Marie Curie. Her first prize, in Physics, was in 1907 on the effects of radiation, the same phenomena that resulted in claiming her life 27 years later. But that was not enough for her as she strived hard and discovered two of the elements on our periodic table today. Her discovery of Radium and Polonium resulted in her winning the Chemistry Nobel Prize 4 years later in 1911. Unfortunately, the rates of women in science are still at a low with only 25 out of the 607 Nobel Prize winners have been female. But there is hope, since Marie Curie's time the percentage of women in STEM has increased from 8% to 27%. This is still a drastically low number however, with more and more opportunities for women, we may see a time in the future where the percentage resembles something closer to 50.

Another sign of progress is that the Nobel Prize winners for Chemistry in 2020 were women! Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier are amazing women and have led to the creation of highly precise "genetic scissors". Not only have they created new methods for gene manipulation for medicine and agriculture, but they have also discovered brand new molecules and an ancient immune system! It seems now that any great scientist can now become the next Nobel prize winner, maybe the next will come from The Grey Coat Hospital!

## CURRENT AFFAIRS *Ella Dalglish*

### WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF NORTHERN IRELAND?

*Ella Dalglish*



On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May Northern Ireland had an assembly election where Sinn Féin became the first nationalist party to win a majority.

A nationalist party is one that believes that each nation should govern itself without other countries intervening. In Sinn Féin's case, it wants Northern Ireland to unite with the Republic of Ireland.

Ireland has been split into two separate states since 1921, which was supposed to be a temporary solution to the threat of civil war breaking out between people who wanted to remain under British rule, and those that didn't. Eventually Northern Ireland decided to join the United Kingdom which also includes Wales, Scotland and England, and the separation has remained.

Between 1968 and 1998, Northern Ireland experienced a violent conflict called 'the Troubles' between mainly Protestant unionists, and Roman Catholic nationalists.

Catholicism is a form of Christianity and in were in the minority in the country. Protestantism is another form of Christianity with different interpretations of the Holy Bible.

In the 1960s, Catholics launched a campaign for civil rights after experiencing discrimination from the authorities. The mainly Protestant police responded with violent suppression. The division spiralled into the formation of paramilitary groups such as the Irish Republican party and acts of terrorism. This long-term conflict was defined by terrorist attacks such as bombing city centres and over 3,500 were killed. Peace was finally made on the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 1998 in the Good Friday agreement where power sharing between pro-British and pro-Irish parties was agreed on.

However there has been some recent controversy surrounding Sinn Féin, because it has been believed that historically he has had links to the IRA.

While the Troubles may be over, Northern Ireland is still highly divided between Catholics and Protestants with many living in segregated communities sometimes even

physically with barriers called 'peace walls'. Therefore, this election result has generated some anxiety as religion remains a sensitive issue with many being traumatised from the atrocities committed in the conflict.

While Sinn Féin has won more votes, the Democratic Unionist Party will be allowed to nominate a deputy to help run the country. The DUP has refused to do this because it wants to change the Northern Ireland Protocol before a new government is formed. The protocol is a trade agreement made after Brexit, so that Northern Ireland, even though it's part of the UK which left the EU, it still gets the trade benefits. The DUP is worried that it has created a trade border between the UK and Northern Ireland creating economic problems and threatening its relationship with the union. There is ambiguity to what will happen since the first minister and the deputy first minister cannot hold office without the other.

Once that is resolved there's a wider question of a united Ireland as the majority party is committed to holding a referendum on this topic which has plagued the country for decades.

#### 'My Turn' *Natalia Lech*

And there you go,  
You've done it,  
You've stolen my pawn.  
The first piece of confidence I brought into this game -  
But you,  
You've made a mistake,  
You've left her out in the open  
For me to steal,  
Without a trace  
the monarchy's down - who will lead now?

In defeat a head of yours is placed upon the black and white,  
You think you've lost,  
But no  
You haven't lost.  
You let me win that one- there's a difference.  
In a true defeat  
you would have met my end with  
no more verdicts,  
You left her out in the open  
For me to steal,  
You got careless  
And naive  
And cocky  
And..  
'Checkmate, got ur king'  
Okay- now you've lost.

## CROISSANT CRISIS! WHAT'S GOING ON? – Thea Payne

You may have been hearing about inflation and the cost of living crisis in the news but you're not too sure what it actually means in your life. Well, inflation is a general increase in prices in the economy which you may have noticed when purchasing everyday products. For example, this year the cost of a chocolate croissant in Pret rose from £1.85 to £2.40!



Inflation is also a sign of growth in the economy so stable inflation is a good thing, however what we are seeing now is inflation at 7%, the highest it has been for 30 years. This is partly due to COVID but also the long-term impacts of government policies trying to stimulate growth in the economy. This is way above the target of 2% so that's why people are concerned.

It also has a much more serious meaning for lower income families as people's real incomes are falling meaning the amount they earn no longer is enough to buy the same amount that they were able to before. So, not only are they having to pay more for things every day, the costs of utility bills (for example the amount you have to pay to heat up your home) have now dramatically increased. This is what's known as the Cost of Living Crisis as people are having to choose between paying their bills or buying food or petrol.

This is not an adequate way to live and the government have recognised this and have put strategies in place to help such as £200 loans to people struggling, despite the average cost of an energy bill for one flat reaching up to £720 a year and a 400% increase for some.

However, some experts are claiming that the extremely high inflation rates will start to come down by 2024 meaning hopefully this won't be having such a long-term impact and people can get back to normal soon and start being able to buy their chocolate croissants!

## WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE FRENCH ELECTION? Ella Dalglish

Emmanuel Macron has been re-elected as the president of France after securing a impressive majority of 58.5% in the second round of voting.

There was speculation leading up to the election on the 24<sup>th</sup> April as to whether his right-wing nationalist rival Marine Le Pen would win and she made a 8% gain from 2017.

He also won by a smaller majority that in 2017 where he secured 66.1% of the vote.

Political experts have signposted increased division in France where more people are choosing to vote for more radical candidates.

Macron is more centrist meaning that he tries to have policies that compromise between right wing and left-wing ideas. He believes himself to be a problem solver and people have recognised him as a figure of stability in France

Le Pen is a right wing, another political ideology which advocates for the government not getting so involved in society. This means that they would be against government schemes such as grants for people who are



unemployed being too large, as they believe that it is better for people to become self-sufficient.

Some people voted for her because of her pledge of support for workers, her tough stance on crime and to avoid Macrons plans to raise the retirement age from 62 to 65.

However, she has come under criticism for her father being Jean-Marie Le Pen, a former leader of her party, the French National Front (FN) who is a convicted racist.

She did denounce some of his comments and effectively removed him from the party.

Unfortunately for her, this wasn't enough to get a majority vote this time, but her ability to get a good proportion of support indicates that her party could win relatively soon.

The prospect of this seems to create both elation and anxiety among the French people.

## BEER GATE Ella Dalgleish

Labour leader Keir Starmer is under investigation by the Durham police for having a beer and a takeaway in a party office in Durham in April 2021.

At the time, gathering indoors with people from outside your bubble was against the law, except for work purposes. While Conservative suggest otherwise, Labour had previously maintained that the event was purely a work one. The scandal in question was being used as a minor attack line in parliament but escalated when the police decided to reopen the case after saying before that they believed no offense had been committed.

Some people have pointed out that the event was in Keir Starmer's work diary, therefore, it should be classed as a work meeting. It is also similar to the infamous cheese and wine meeting held in Downing Street which the Metropolitan police decided not to investigate. However, a newspaper, *The Sun* revealed that takeaway bill came to £200 while 30 people were present, so these revelations have cast doubt over the legality of the event.

Starmer says he will resign as the party leader if he is fined.

This comes in the midst of fresh fines issued for PM Boris Johnson and Chancellor Rishi Sunak for a birthday gathering in June 2020 to the sum of £50. This means that the total number of fines issued over the Downing Street lockdown violations have reached over 100 and Johnson is the first UK Prime Minister to be punished for breaking law.

The scale of the scandals emerging from the government has been a great source of anger for those who made sacrifices and lost loved ones during the pandemic. Many have argued that it has severely damaged the public's trust in the politicians which represent them.



## THE BOOK CORNER

'The Jungle Book' – Rudyard Kipling - a review by Ava Hayward

The Jungle Book, written by Rudyard Kipling includes the Mowgli stories that were integrated into popular 20<sup>th</sup> century culture through the Disney adaptation of 1967. However, Disney's 'The Jungle Book' is an adaptation meaning that even for Mowgli's stories the retelling isn't perfect let alone the fact that Disney only chose three of the seven short tales to retell. Therefore, I would recommend this novel to anyone who would like to revisit their childhoods through Kipling's writing, in order to gain a retrospective insight into the racist connotations of Kipling's devout colonialism that were not only conservative but greatly distasteful even by a 1894 audience.

'A Room of One's Own' - Virginia Woolf - a review by Alice Woodhouse



This book, or really extended essay, has completely changed my understanding of fiction but, more importantly, female authors. Woolf argues that for a woman to be a successful author she needs to have a room of her own- in which to write -and a yearly allowance so that she actually has time to write. This argument was, of course, interesting however what struck me most was the discussion around female writers historically. There is an incredibly salient part of the book where Woolf explores how poems written by women are almost part of the structure of the rooms in which they wrote- their words are so powerful and so trapped that they can only escape

into what builds up their cage. Another moment that particularly stuck with me was the idea of their being a kind of starting sentence for every novel: according to Woolf men have had one since the beginning of fiction but that women only gained one when Jane Austen wrote one. This sentence would form the basis of all books for women until the modern book where the sentence was "broken" leaving space for female authors to explore new depths. This can be seen even today, with the works of modern authors such as Sally Rooney. Overall, this is a book that has forever altered how I read books written by women especially classics which I now realise are the foundation of current novels.

26.05.22

# DEAR AUNTIE GREY...

-Confidential, trustworthy advice from your favourite agony aunt-  
All names have been changed for this publication

Dear Auntie Grey,  
What can I do if I'm worried about my weight?  
Geraldine.

Dear Geraldine,

I think everyone reading this will have been able to relate to how you are feeling.

It is very difficult to not feel insecure when it can seem like there is only one type of body is celebrated in the media. These standards are very unrealistic, and most people are not biologically built to look that way.

If you are worried about your health, and you find it difficult to do the things that you want to do, then you should speak to an adult you trust.

However, sometimes if you fixate on aspects of your body that you don't like, they can get blown out of proportion and you can forget the things you do like.

All bodies are beautiful and serve such an important purpose, so be kind to yours.

Best wishes,

Your Auntie Grey

Dear Auntie Grey,  
I feel I don't have a friend group especially in my form. I always feel awkward during form time especially and that nobody likes me. I feel like I've done something bad. It's been a lonely year. How do I change this?  
Larry

Dear Larry,

Loneliness can be difficult especially if you feel like people may not like you.

My biggest tip would be to remember to be friendly to everyone, even if it's just saying hi to someone that is in your form in the corridors.

Having confidence is key here and you must remember that everyone has good qualities that are worthy of friendship.

It is unlikely that anyone is going to react badly to you talking to them, since most people also want more friends too.

The school is quite big, and you could even give yourself more options by joining a youth group outside of school if you want.

Kind Regards,

Your Auntie Grey

Dear Auntie Grey,  
What is the best way to maintain a healthy relationship (both platonic and romantic)  
Kristy

Dear Kirsty,

I think the most important thing to maintain a relationship is communication. This is because people are so different, so someone's needs and expectations for a relationship are likely to be different from yours.

For example, some people like to talk all the time, and some people still feel perfectly connected to someone only talking a few times a week.

This communication is also valuable when it comes to conflict, so that you two can work out any issues before they escalate. I find that the more you leave a problem, the worse it can get.

All relationships involve some commitment, so taking time to talk to them is so important even if it's just a little check in.

Your relationships should work for you so pay attention to how you feel about them as well.

Best wishes,

Your Auntie Grey

Dear Auntie Grey,  
I have a partner, but my exams are coming up and I don't know how to balance out my life.  
Any Tips?  
Bert

Dear Bert,

Firstly, I wish you all the best with your exams.

When you get busier, you have to make choices about what is most important to you and what makes you happiest.

Exams season can be very difficult to get through, but you have to do your best to give yourself the most options for your future.

I'm assuming that your partner might be in your year group but even if they are not, they should understand the pressure you are under.

If you want to do well, and feel the least stressed, you might want to reduce the amount of time you spend together.

This might be hard, but exams are only a couple of weeks so its short-term pain for long term gain.

You could also try planning a nice day out together after to give you some extra motivation.

A good partner should be able to empathise with you and help you through challenging periods in your life.

Good luck!

Your Auntie Grey

26.05.22

**IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR AUNTIE GREY A CONFIDENTIAL FORM WILL  
BE SENT OUT BEFORE THE NEXT ISSUE**