Amnesty International
Alliance for Justice

I. ORGANIZATION HISTORY AND MISSION

Amnesty International is the largest grassroots organization in the world. We work to protect all basic human rights for everyone, often through letter writing campaigns in support of other protectors of human rights and to persuade politicians to maintain human dignity in their policies and actions.

II. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED PROJECT

Alliance for Justice is a three-day, six-part event to raise awareness on campus about human rights issues. This year, we are focusing on immigrant rights through demonstrations and artistic expression. Given current events, including policy post-9/11, the DREAM Act, and Guantanamo Bay, immigrant rights are being violated in our country and abroad. By providing a series of free events focused on immigrant rights, we hope to appeal to a large variety of students and community members and to start conversations about why immigrants, and all people, deserve protection of their human rights. The structure for AFJ is as follows:

Wednesday (March 30th) will feature a public demonstration about immigrant detention in the US during the day and a screening of *Crossing Arizona* about immigrants with a discussion with guest lectures and student groups afterwards. Thursday (March 31st) will have another public demonstration on immigrant rights on the Diag during the day and a poetry slam/reading event in Palmer Commons at night. Friday (April 1st) will culminate with an all-day arts exhibit during the day in the Union and a candlelight vigil that night.

All of these arts and educational events aim at increasing awareness on campus and in the community about immigrant rights issues domestically and abroad. We hope that these different mediums can all address immigrant rights in concrete and/or abstract ways to spread support for human rights protection.

III. RELEVANCE TO MESA MISSION AND CRITERIA

By featuring unique types of events, Alliance for Justice will encourage a wide variety of students to learn about the issues surrounding immigrant rights in different ways. Through this education, Michigan's student body will hopefully become more knowledgeable about the problems immigrants face in the US and adopt more open-minded, culturally-accepting views towards others. As our focus is immigrant rights, our event promotes the inclusion and acceptance of all races and ethnicities, and encourages students to become leaders in social change.

We are requesting MESA's funding assistance only for the public demonstrations and candlelight vigil. This is because we think these events have the largest emphasis on our campus's attitude towards immigrants and cultural tolerance. One public demonstration will pertain to immigrant detention in the US, and will feature a large group of students (around 50) sitting or freezing in the Diag with paper masks on to symbolize the increasing number of unjust immigrant detentions in our country (there will be explanatory and supplemental information available at a table nearby). The other will be about the DREAM Act in collaboration with

MIRA, sharing stories of students who are technically illegal immigrants but could be next to you in class. Both of these issues have a lot to do with Michigan, as our university tries to be a safe haven for diversity. In addition, the candlelight vigil will celebrate the different cultures that have been brought to Michigan through immigration, and will recognize victims and survivors of cultural intolerance. These events will take place in very public places, which will allow students who would not normally attend a human rights event – or even think positively about immigrants – to reconsider these issues. The expected exchange of information among students from these events fits well with MESA's mission and vision.

IV. PROJECT GOALS

- Provide information about immigrant rights and how to protect them to students
- Have at least 200 students in attendance for all of AFJ
- Increase campus-wide acceptance and celebration of different cultures

V. PROJECT EVALUATION

We will evaluate our program through attendance measurement, feedback from attendees via conversations right after events, and a thorough self-critique after the entire event. We will also seek feedback from collaborating student groups, such as SERVE and Phi Sigma Pi.

VI. PUBLICITY STRATEGY

After Spring Break, we will use many flyers/posters throughout campus to encourage attendance. We will also use emails and try to secure a diag board and/or table tent spot. We have yet to create an email template for Alliance for Justice PR purposes, but will definitely leave room for the MESA/Trotter logo.

VII. TARGET AUDIENCE

Our target audience includes the entire student body and surrounding community, especially people who do not have much previous knowledge about/involvement in human rights issues. We hope our arts events will draw in people from a variety of backgrounds to encourage the most education and discussion about immigrant rights as possible.

VIII. ESTIMATED TIMELINE

Thus far, we have secured most of the rooms/space for all of the events. We have also started looking for contributing artists for the poetry slam and arts exhibit, as well as immigrants and human rights supporters to lead the discussion after the movie. In the next 3 weeks, we will accomplish the following: reserve space on the Diag/in Angell Hall for the demonstrations and candlelight vigil, start PR efforts, secure catering.

IX. PROPOSED BUDGET

Event	Funding Source	Amount Secured
Public Demonstrations	MESA?	
Movie Screening & Discussion	SERVE / Ginsberg	TBD – requested $100
Poetry Slam	Res Hall Multicultural Groups	$125 thus far, $200 expected (total cost: $200)
Arts Exhibit	Arts for Michigan Student Mini Grants	$200

Candlelight Vigil	MESA?	
Supporting Materials	Amnesty International	Posters, information, etc.
PR efforts, letter writing campaign materials and postage	MSA	$300

What we request from MESA is as follows:

Item	Cost	Quantity	Total
Demonstrations			
Printing (factual information & petitions)	$0.06	100	$6
Mask	$1	50	$50
Tables& Chairs from SORC	$5.50 / 4 ft / day $8.50 / 6 ft / day $2.50 / chair / day	1, 2 days 3, 1 day 4, 1 day	$46.50
Candlelight Vigil			
12 Taper Candles	$10	4	$40
40 pack Tealight Candles	$10	1	$10
Construction Paper Packs (decorate)	$6	2	$12
Lighters	$1	5	$5
Cups (to hold candles)	$5	1	$5
		Total:	**$124.50**

(Costs derived from Amazon.com, Target.com, university printing costs and SORC website. These are the lowest prices available)

To appeal to the largest number of students and community members possible, attendance at all of AFJ's events is free, so we are not collecting any revenue.