

## **Handout: Rights Protected by Non-Government Organisations**

### **Councils for Civil Liberties**

In every State and Territory there is a body, usually called a Council for Civil Liberties, which is involved in protecting human rights. These Councils often represent people, provide information, organise campaigns and provide media releases to promote their causes. The organisers of these Councils are usually lawyers.

### **Amnesty International**

Amnesty International is a private organisation that puts pressure on governments all over the world to stop human rights abuses.

Its role is to promote and protect the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It does this by being non-party political and by protesting to governments wherever serious human rights abuses exist. It will only support political prisoners who have not advocated violence. One of its main tactics is to encourage ordinary people to write letters to the government involved in abusing the human rights of a particular person.