

Salil Shetty, Secretary General

Salil Shetty joined Amnesty International as the organization's eighth Secretary General in July 2010.

A renowned expert on human rights and poverty, Salil Shetty leads the movement's worldwide work to end abuses of human rights. He is the organization's chief political adviser, strategist and spokesperson.

Salil Shetty first became involved in campaigning for human rights when growing up in Bangalore, India. With his mother active in women's groups and his father with the Dalit movement, his home became a hub for local and national activists. From his student days when a state of emergency was declared in 1976, Salil Shetty has been actively campaigning against the curtailment of human rights.

Prior to joining Amnesty International, Salil Shetty was Director of the United Nations Millennium Campaign from 2003 to 2010. During his time at the United Nations (UN), he played a pivotal role in building the global advocacy campaign for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals - eight goals to fight poverty, illiteracy and disease, agreed at the UN in September 2000, with specific targets to be achieved by 2015.

Under his stewardship, the Millennium Campaign succeeded in making donors and developing country governments more accountable for meeting their commitments to the Millennium Development Goals.

Salil Shetty was instrumental in the formation of the 'Global Call to Action Against Poverty' and in leading the 'Stand Up Against Poverty' initiative on 17 October 2009, which mobilized over 173 million people across the world.

Before the UN, Salil Shetty was Chief Executive of ActionAid, an international development NGO, from 1998 to 2003. As Chief Executive he led the transformation of ActionAid into a leading global campaigning and advocacy NGO. He rose to the position of Chief Executive after 10 years as director of ActionAid India in Bangalore and then three years as Director of ActionAid Kenya in Nairobi.

By the time he left, ActionAid had become the third largest international development NGO in the UK and among the foremost poverty-focused NGOs in the world.

An Indian national, Salil Shetty earned a distinction in a Masters of Science in Social Policy and Planning from the London School of Economics and has a Masters in Business Administration from the Indian Institute of Management in Ahmedabad.