

Sacha Deshmukh to Depart Amnesty International UK in 2025

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Sacha Deshmukh, Chief Executive of Amnesty International UK, will step down at the end of 2025, concluding a five-year tenure leading the UK arm of the global human rights organisation.

Deshmukh said he first joined Amnesty as a teenager and, after nearly 20 years in executive roles and five highly rewarding years leading Amnesty International UK, he feels stepping

down at the end of 2025 is the right moment for a new challenge and to pass the baton. I love this organisation and will remain a passionate supporter.”

While his leadership amplified marginalised voices and strengthened campaigns, critics say that Amnesty’s engagement with domestic UK politics intensified during his tenure, causing controversy among some stakeholders, particularly in its engagement with domestic issues under the current Labour government. Nevertheless, his strategic vision has been credited with strengthening the organisation’s campaigns and influence.

Helen Horton, chair of Amnesty International UK’s board, expressed gratitude for his dedication and leadership, stating that his commitment to human rights and empowering others has been both inspiring and instrumental. It has been a great pleasure and an honour to have worked with Sacha, and I wish him well for the future.”

Deshmukh has led organisations across human rights, international development, public policy and business; he has also served as chair of War Child UK, deputy chair of Citizens Advice England & Wales, and as a non—executive director at the Fundraising Regulator. His departure marks the end of a significant chapter for Amnesty UK, with a recruitment process for his successor set to begin shortly.

Deshmukh stated that Amnesty’s mission is more urgent than ever and affirmed that over the coming months, he will remain committed to ensuring a smooth and successful leadership transition. The new chief executive will take over an organisation benefiting from a strengthened foundation, but must also navigate Amnesty UK’s heightened role in a polarised political environment.