



# Glasgow West Amnesty International

## Meeting: 13th July 2017

Present: CC, RB, MR, FL, DC, JGer, MDS

Apologies: JG, AL, CA, RH

### 1. Treasurer's Report

Current balance: £589.79 + £200 deposit

The church hall has been paid till December.

### 2. Secretary's report

#### 2.1 Campaigns

The campaigns are the same as the June meeting. We will arrange the origami tulip action for Kamal and Nazanin to take place at the letter-writing evening. Here is the link if you want to complete at home:

[Campaign details.](#)

[How to make a tulip.](#)

#### 2.2 Publications

On Friday 23rd June, AIUK launched its Against Hate briefing and report.  
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/Against-Hate-Briefing-AIUK.pdf>

### 3. Events

#### 3.1 Past events

- The Great Get-Together: a good day, and we were the only stall. Thanks to AL for organising. We gathered some signatures and met some members that we haven't seen in a while.
- Pub quiz: £212 raised which is now in the bank. The venue was good. Thanks to CC for organising.
- Solidarity on World Refugee Day: a lovely day and nice event organised by the Scottish Refugee Council. Lots of children and young people attended - good atmosphere and publicity.
- Welcome to Refugeestan @ CCA: the last film in the GRAMNet series for this year. Gave a great insight into the UNHCR and its management of refugee camps. Left the viewer feeling somewhat disturbed. Good discussion afterwards.
- Asylum Monologues @ the glad cafe. An Ice and Fire performance of monologues created from the experiences of refugees/asylum seeker using a version specific to Scotland. Mix of experiences positive and negative and also the perspective of a failed asylum seeker. Looking to have this as one of our own events. Seems that it would be fairly easy to perform.
- Hillhead library - Imprisoned writers event. Poorly publicised and poorly attended but very good event by Amnesty Scotland. The Imprisoned Writers Series will take place at the Edinburgh International Book Festival at 5.30pm.

#### 3.2 Future events

- **Amicus event:**

Amicus provide legal aid for people on death row in USA. Based in London but director Margo is visiting Glasgow 27th July. Due to short notice we are not suggesting an event but will be happy to have a informal lunchtime meeting for anyone interested. If anyone is interested it will be before 2pm likely in Glasgow city centre. Event to be planned for next visit.

- *Letter-writing on 27th July hosted by AL*
- *5th - 6th August : I Welcome @ GOMA*

Thanks to FL for securing a weekend for us to host our I Welcome photo exhibition and hopefully performances of the asylum monologues. **5-6th August - will need 2-3 volunteers per day.** We will invite local organisations that support asylum seekers/refugees to have a stall. **10-5pm Sat 11-5pm Sunday** with

most help needed for setting up. GOMA will provide easels, tables and chairs. There will be actions for people to take part in. St Mary's Cathedral - JGer to say to them - group that takes refugees on outings in Glasgow on Sundays.

- ***12th-13th August: Edinburgh Festival trip***

Suggested trip to attend the Imprisoned Writers Series at book festival. Suggested date to fit in with our other events.

- ***19th-20th: August Pride:***

FL has secured a stall for us at Glasgow Pride. Paul from LGBTI network to arrange the stall and materials. Parade on 19th - all welcome to join and t-shirts, banners etc will be provided. March ends in Glasgow Green. Actions available will be on Chechnya and recruitment for LGBTI network. **Again, volunteers wanted!** FL has investigated Free Pride but they don't seem to have a plan yet.

- ***Asylum Monologues***

Was down for September but now to include in I Welcome exhibition. To postpone this event?

- ***Speakers***

We have ideas for speaks to pursue including Glasgow City Council equalities person and/or Freedom from Torture.

- ***7th October - Human rights defenders campaign skills share in Manchester***

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/human-rights-defenders-campaign-brave-skillshare-2017-tickets-35726123798> Cheap travel options include £5 for a Megabus!

- ***October: Document film festival***

<http://www.documentfilmfestival.org/>

## 5. Adopted prisoners

No updates for our adopted prisoners

## 6. Urgent actions

1. *UA: 168/17 Index: MDE 12/6681/2017 Egypt Date: 7 July 2017*

UIGHUR STUDENTS AT RISK OF FORCIBLE RETURN TO CHINA

2. *UA: 169/17 Index: AMR 41/6685/2017 Mexico Date: 10 July 2017*

ASSAILANTS BURN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER'S CAR

3. *UA: 166/17 Index: EUR 44/6676/2017 Turkey Date: 7 July 2017*

## DEFENDERS AND THEIR TRAINERS MUST BE RELEASED

Sample letter/email (ozelkalem@adalet.gov.tr) for this action:

Minister of Justice

Mr Bekir Bozdağ

Ministry of Justice

Adalet Bakanlığı

06659 Ankara

Turkey

Dear Minister,

I am writing to you about eight human rights defenders - Günal Kurşun, İdil Eser, İlknur Üstün, Nalan Erkem, Nejat Taştan, Özlem Dalkıran, Şeyhmuz Özbekli and Veli Acu - and two international trainers - Ali Gharavi and Peter Steudtner - who were detained by police on 5 July as they were participating in a workshop in Istanbul.

I am writing to urge you to release them immediately and unconditionally as they are prisoners of conscience.

Yours sincerely,

## 7. AOB

### 7.1 18th November - Amnesty scotland conference

Panels, speakers and workshops. @ Edinburgh venue TBC

### 7.2 Glasgow South group to start in September

Different day different time at Govanhill Baths. Details will be circulated. The hope is that members will be able to go to either.

### 7.3 Roma speaker at future meeting

CC to follow up for October/November meeting.

#### **7.4 Mattermost**

Not sure if this would be used - something else to check. Would be good to have a demo?

#### **8. Next Meeting**

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 10 August 2017, at 7:30 PM in Woodlands Methodist Church.