



Glasgow West Amnesty International

Meeting: 8th February 2017

Apologies: RH, AP, MDS, CC, CM

Attendees: FL, AL, DP, MD, JGi, JG, KA, MR, RB, MLB, KM, AS, CA

Treasurer's report

Thanks to JGi for this update

- Financial return form submitted to AIUK and acknowledged
- Money out: £63 to church, £100 to daytime group, £500 donation to AIUK, £72 annual subscription to AIUK
- £598.70 in bank (- £35 for heater)
- NB: the daytime group's treasurer is moving away

Secretary's report

Update from FL

I Welcome – Families Together Campaign

Refugee families, separated by war and persecution, are being kept apart by restrictive UK rules on family reunion. On Friday 16th March, MPs will debate an important bill to improve these rules and reunite refugee families. We need at least 100 MPs to turn up and vote on 16th March to change these unfair rules that keep refugees in the UK apart from those they love. To win this vote we need MPs' constituents (YOU) to tell them you support refugee family reunion.

Amnesty is asking us to contact our MPs and ask them to attend the debate on the 16th March. This is not far away so don't put off taking action.

We can do this by:

- 1) Meeting our MPs
- 2) Calling our MP's office
- 3) Writing to our MPs
- 4) Emailing our MPs

You can find the name of your MP at www.theyworkforyou.com

Several members of the group volunteered to meet with their MP to discuss this issue. If you have been in touch, please do let us know. Also bring any replies to the next meeting.

[More information on the bill here.](#)

Make a Will Month – March

Over 150 solicitors across the UK have pledged to give up their time for free to help you write or update your will. You can find your local solicitor here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/free-will-writing-service>

Freedom to Express Yourself Exhibition

Amnesty has a beautiful new travelling exhibition that celebrates our right to freedom of expression. There are 21 x A2 (420 x 594 mm) foamboards, including an Intro panel. To borrow this exhibition, we would need to contact Community Organising Team. This exhibition showcases artwork from Amnesty International's recent book [Freedom to Express Yourself: an inspiration notebook](#).

FL suggests the group thinks about whether we would like to use the exhibition this year, either in a standalone exhibition or to complement another event.

Marsh Award for Human Rights

Amnesty has partnered again with the Marsh Christian Trust to recognise the creativity of Amnesty activists. You can apply for £500 to fund a creative idea. All Amnesty Groups can enter and they're looking for ideas that positively impacts people's understanding of human rights. The deadline for applications is 1st March.

It is probably too late for us to apply this year. However, it is something to consider for next year especially if we would like to plan a more ambitious event.

Group Planning Pack

Pack was available for members to look at during the break. If people would like to see this pack, please let FL know and she will bring it to the next meeting.

The group decided to request a new individual at risk for us to campaign on.

Some members of the group signed up to receive specific mailings: LGBTI Network (RB), Women's Action Network (KW) and the Anti Death Penalty Project (JG). If you are interested in receiving mailings from any of Amnesty's thematic networks, let FL know.

We are the Lions Mr Manager

HOPE not Hate has emailed to let us know about a new Townsend production of We are the Lions Mr Manager.

Tuesday 27th March 2018, 7.00pm at UNITE the Union offices, John Smith House, 145-165 West Regent Street, Glasgow, G2 4RZ.

The play tells the story of the Grunwick Strike of 1976-78 and Shop Steward Jayaben Desai's inspirational fight for freedom, equality and human dignity. Forty years ago a group of workers in a backstreet Willesden factory stood up to their unfair bosses and kick-started one of the longest and most important industrial disputes in British history. Led by Asian women, the Grunwick strike challenged stereotypes, changed the face of white, male trade unions, and inspired others to speak out against injustice. On the 20th August 1976, one of the hottest days of the year, a group of South Asian workers walked out of a factory in protest at their working conditions and the way they were treated. Little did they know that this act would lead to a two-year strike. Led by Jayaben Desai, the striking workers demanded their right to be treated with dignity and to be represented by a union. 'We Are The Lions Mr Manager' tells that story.

Tickets are now on sale and priced £5.00. Admission is by ticket only. Tickets are only available from Greater Glasgow HOPE not Hate. To order tickets please email glasgowhnh@gmail.com or telephone 07761803373 stating name, telephone number and number of tickets required (maximum of 5 tickets per order). Please note tickets are limited and early booking is advised.

<http://www.townsendproductions.org.uk/shows/we-are-the-lions-mr-manager/>

Events group planning

Thanks to AL for this update.

At our meeting in January, we started outlining our plans for the year. See below:

Month	Potential events
January	Meeting – Refugees Survival Trust speaker Xmas Dinner
February	Meeting – Planning Glasgow Film Festival – Stall at ‘Another News Story’ at Glasgow Film Theatre (see below) Letter writing night (see below)
March	Meeting – Falls on International Women’s Day so plan to have a women’s rights theme. (Kate Neven, Amnesty Scotland?) + AGM motions Aye Write book festival – involvement TBC
April	Meeting – Ulrika Schmidt (see below) Amnesty AGM Football Welcomes (21 st – 22 nd) – TBC
May	Meeting May Day stall
June	Meeting – Martin Heaps (see below) West End Festival (1 st -24 th) Refugee Week (18-24 th) – this year is the 20 th anniversary of Refugee Week Jo Cox – Great Get Together (22-24 th)
July	Meeting Glasgow Pride (14 th &15 th)/ Free Pride
August	Meeting Edinburgh Festival – group outing
September	Meeting
October	Meeting Comedy Night (month and date TBC) Document Human Rights Film Festival – stall and/ or group outing
November	Meeting
December	Meeting – Write for Rights Write for Rights stall(s)

Other ideas for events/ meetings with flexible dates

- Meeting speakers: detention of asylum seekers, invite another of our Glasgow MPs

- Other non-meeting possibilities: Pub quiz, gig night, Refugee Monologues, AmnesTea, farmers market stall, sponsored ‘give up a right’, sponsored walk, I Welcome photo display, street action, book sale, film night, marking anniversary of suffragettes (first election in which women could vote in UK was 14 December 1918), ceilidh.

The events group is a sub-committee of the Glasgow West Amnesty group. We meet usually every month/ two months and plan events and campaigning events. We would love some new members so catch us at the next group meeting for more information or to volunteer.

Upcoming Events / Speakers

Amnesty Annual Conference and AGM

7-8th April, Swansea University

Our National Conference and AGM is an opportunity for members to come together to inspire and be inspired, to learn about our human rights work and campaigns, to share skills and experiences with other members and to hear and participate in talks and panel debates. It's a great way to meet others who share a commitment to human rights.

Great weekend, strongly encouraged to come along, group will fund people who need it (travel and accommodation). Ask treasurer or chair for details.

[Link to sign up.](#)

Glasgow Film Festival

A reminder that the Glasgow Film Festival is on from the 21st February – 4th March.

CC has organised for us to have a stall at ‘Another News Story’ at the Glasgow Film Theatre on 25th February at 8.30pm (8pm for setting up the stall). Contact CC or AL if you would like to help with the stall.

What happens when the news cameras turn off? Another News Story reveals the action behind the cameras of news teams tasked with reporting the refugee crisis and turning it into breaking news.

Director: Orban Wallace

At our stall, we will have cards for people to sign for Amnesty’s I Welcome campaign.

Cyclist dinner

CC has been in touch with Ziya Kocabiyik. Ziya is a member of the Chelmsford Amnesty Group who is planning on cycling from Land's End to John o' Groats to raise money for Amnesty International UK and awareness of the human rights situation in Turkey. He will be passing towns and cities with Amnesty groups in them - including ours - and is keen to meet supporters along the way. CC is suggesting we take Ziya for dinner when he passes through Glasgow in May. More details will follow.

Ulrika Schmidt

Ulrika Schmidt is the Amnesty Co-ordinator for Europe. She works on the human rights issues faced by Roma communities. The group voted on the best date for her to come and speak at a meeting. The choices were 12/4/2018, 31/5/18 or 30/08/17. Group voted for the 12/04.

It was suggested that Friends of Romana Lav – an organisation for the Roma community in Glasgow – could be invited to speak at the same meeting. FL will pass on both messages to CC.

AOB

CA informed the group that the owner of the V and V café (vegan café at 481 Great Western Road) has invited us to have a letter writing session there. Perhaps a Saturday morning? CA will speak to owner and circulate a date.

Urgent actions

Thanks to MR for supplying the urgent actions.

URGENT ACTION – FEARS FOR ACTIVIST HELD INCOMMUNICADO

1st update on UA: 235/17 Index: ASA 17/7824/2018 **China** Date: 2 February 2018

First detained on 2 September 2017, human rights defender Zhen Jianghua has not yet been allowed access to his lawyer. Held under “residential surveillance in a designated location” on suspicion of “inciting subversion of state power” since 29 September, his current location is unknown, adding to grave concerns that he is at risk of torture or other ill-treatment.

URGENT ACTION – TWO MEN SENTENCED TO DEATH IN BELARUS

UA: 17/18 Index: EUR 49/7797/2018 **Belarus** Date: 2 February 2018

Two men were sentenced to death in Belarus on 20 January after their sentences of life imprisonment were quashed on appeal. They are the first two people to be sentenced to death in 2018, bringing the total number of people on death row in Belarus, according to the Belarusian authorities, to seven.

URGENT ACTION – DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER, EXECUTION SCHEDULED

UA: 29/18 Index: AMR 51/7848/2018 **USA** Date: 7 February 2018

Doyle Hamm, due to be executed in Alabama on 22 February after 30 years on death row, has received a stay of execution, but the state has appealed. He has been diagnosed with lymphatic cancer. The state of his veins may render his lethal injection unconstitutional.

URGENT ACTION – KURDISH MAN SENTENCED TO DEATH AFTER UNFAIR TRIAL

1st update on UA: 171/17 Index: MDE 13/7827/2018 **Iran** Date: 05 February 2018

Iranian Kurdish prisoner Ramin Hossein Panahi has been on hunger strike since 27 January in protest of being sentenced to death after a grossly unfair trial that followed four months of enforced disappearance. He has been transferred to solitary confinement in reprisal. His conviction and sentence violate international law and must be quashed.

URGENT ACTION – THREE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS ON HUNGER STRIKE

6th Update on UA: 174/13 Index: MDE 13/7840/2018 **Iran** Date: 08 February 2018

Iranian women human rights defenders and prisoners of conscience Golrokh Ebrahimi Iraee and Atena Daemi started a hunger strike on 3 February in protest at their transfer to a prison where women convicted of violent offences

are held in inhumane conditions. Earlier, on 27 January, human rights defender Arash Sadeghi started a hunger strike to demand that they are returned to their previous place of detention. He is critically ill.

URGENT ACTION – ARBITRARY ARRESTS FOLLOWING STATE OF EMERGENCY

UA: 24/18 Index: ASA 29/7838/2018 **Maldives** Date: 7 February 2018

Five people have been arrested since the Government of Maldives declared a State of Emergency on 5 February 2018, following a recent Supreme Court decision to release and re-try imprisoned opposition leaders. This appears to be an act of repression by the government to silence political opposition.

Next meeting

Thursday 8th March 2018 – International Women’s Day

We will be discussing the AGM resolutions. If possible have a look through the resolutions **before** the meeting.

[The resolutions are available here.](#)

If you are a member of Amnesty, you should also have received a copy through the post.

Also do bring along any actions on the theme of women’s rights.