

Glasgow West Amnesty International Group: September minutes

Apologies: CC, FL, MR, RB, JG, AP, Jo

Attendees: AL, MDS, RH, AS, Kirsten, VP

Treasurer's report: Jim absent

Tep Vanny

a. Good News!

On 20 August Cambodian land rights activists received a royal pardon and is free from prison! She was jailed just for protesting the destruction of her home to make way for a luxury development. Thank you so much to all who took action and campaigned for her release. (Tep is one of the 5 individual cases being highlighted as part of project Brave and we have taken action on her behalf previously)

Events

1. **Events**

a. **Take One Film Festival (Non-Amnesty: 12- 23 September)**

- Brochure here:

[https://www.takeoneaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/TOAFF\\_18\\_Brochure\\_web.pdf](https://www.takeoneaction.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/TOAFF_18_Brochure_web.pdf)

b. **Letter Writing Evening (Amnesty:, 25 Sept @ Freya's)**

- Freya has offered to host a letter writing evening. Address which she is happy to be shared is Flat 2/1, 18 Battlefield Gardens, Glasgow, G42 9JP. Nearest train station is Mount Florida or there are lots of buses which pass by.

c. **Venezuela Conference (Non-Amnesty: 29 Sept)**

- Details provided by Glasgow Daytime group who do lots of work on Venezuela. Flyer attached. It is being organised by the Scottish Venezuela Solidarity Campaign 10:30-15:00 at the UNISON office, 84 Bell St, Glasgow.

d. **Amnesty benefit gig (Amnesty: TBC, Sept – Oct)**

- Claire's friend is in bands and going to do a gig with proceeds to Amnesty. We will share details when we have them.

e. **Amnesty Scotland Conference (Amnesty: 13 Oct, Dundee)**

- Registration now open. Sign up fast!

f. **STUC Anti-Racism/Fascism March (Amnesty?: 24 Nov)**

- Are the group in favour of us having a presence on this march?

Initial response was positive for having a presence - more details to follow

**g. Write for Rights (Amnesty: TBC, December)**

- Any thoughts or even better contacts for organising a Write for Rights stall this year? December meeting will also be a Write for Rights event.

**h. Comedy Night (Amnesty: Jan/ Feb)**

Actions:

**a. Ali Arras**

- Our Moroccan long term PoC. Jo is hoping to make it along with an action for us to do (writing postcards). She is likely to be quite late so might need to flip this to the end if she isn't there.

**b. Monthly Action: Cost of child citizenship**

**o Home Office: Stop blocking children's rights**

15-year-old Daniel didn't even know he wasn't British until he was denied the chance to join his friends on a school trip.

Daniel has a right to apply for citizenship - but only if he pays the Home Office £1,012. If he can't, he may not be able to study, work or even get hospital treatment. And he isn't alone.

There are thousands of children in the UK being priced out of their rights. Please call on the Home Office to stop blocking children's rights by taking the online action.

[https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-office-stop-profiteering-childrens-rights?utm\\_campaign=MCFR571\\_LG\\_Local%20groups%20monthly%20mailing%20Sept&utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Groups&utm\\_content=2277](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/home-office-stop-profiteering-childrens-rights?utm_campaign=MCFR571_LG_Local%20groups%20monthly%20mailing%20Sept&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Groups&utm_content=2277)

**C #FamiliesTogether**

**I Welcome Refugees - Families Together photo Album**

UK rules are keeping refugee families apart – the Home Secretary has the power to change this. We want to show him that Britain is a country which values family by creating the Great British Family Album. Family photos can capture a moment of love and togetherness which lasts a lifetime. A childhood holiday, time spent together across generations or with lost loved

ones. These are the kind of moments refugees living in the UK, who are separated from those closest, miss every day. Take part in the #FamiliesTogether campaign by sharing a family photo which is important to you. This can be recent or from your past, emotional or light-hearted: any memory or moment that matters to you. All we need is your photo, along with a brief explanation of why it is important to you by October 1st. Upload your family photos from 3 Sept.

Upload at:

[https://www.amnesty.org.uk/uk-biggest-family-photo-album?utm\\_campaign=MCFR571\\_LG\\_Local%20groups%20monthly%20mailing%20Sept&utm\\_source=Email&utm\\_medium=Groups&utm\\_content=2277](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/uk-biggest-family-photo-album?utm_campaign=MCFR571_LG_Local%20groups%20monthly%20mailing%20Sept&utm_source=Email&utm_medium=Groups&utm_content=2277)

#### **a. Urgent Actions**

With thanks to Merle.

##### **i. Guatemala - Legislators could pass a discriminatory law**

Guatemala's Congress is at the verge of passing a law to ban aborsame-sex marriage and inclusive sex education. The bill 5272 "to protect family and life" directly threatens the rights of girls, women, and LGBTI people, their lives and their families.

(<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/urgent-action-legislators-could-pass-discriminatory-law-guatemala>)

##### **ii. Iranian Kurds forced to make TV confession**

Iranian Kurds Houshmand Alipour and Mohammad Ostadghader were arrested by security forces on 3 August and held incommunicado for weeks. They were shown on state television on 7 August making a forced "confession" incriminating themselves. They have had little access to their families and no access to lawyers of their choosing.

(<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/urgent-action-iranian-kurds-forced-make-tv-confession>).

##### **iii. Mauritania - Anti-slavery activists arbitrarily detained**

Two members of the anti-slavery organization Initiative for the Resurgence the Abolitionist Movement (IRA) were arbitrarily arrested on 7 August in Nouakchott, west Mauritania. Biram Dah Abeid, IRA president and candidate to the September parliamentary elections, and Abdellahi el Housein Mesoud have been charged and denied access to legal representation.

(<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/urgent-action-anti-slavery-activists-arbitrarily-detained-mauritania>).

**iv. Chinese rights defender faces 15 years in jail**

Zhen Jianghua reportedly stood trial over the charge of “inciting subversion of state power” on 10 August. With no access to family and lawyers of his choice, the human rights defender is at risk of torture and unfair trial.

(<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/urgent-action-update-chinese-rights-defender-faces-15-years-jail>)

Next Meeting 11th October. 7:30PM. Woodlands Methodist Church,  
Woodlands Drive. All Welcome!