

## Thursday 11th October 2018 - Minutes

Apologies: CC, RH, JG

Attendees: MR, JF, FL, CC, CR, MDS, AL

### Treasurer's report (JG)

In bank £418.59 (-£200 deposit to the Stand). Remaining expenses – Pride stall contribution and the use of the hall for the remainder of the year.

We discussed organising a pub quiz for the end of January as an extra fundraiser to help pay for Write for Rights postage. More info at the November meeting.

### Secretary's report (FL)

*AGM 2019 vacancies*

Amnesty are looking for people to stand for Amnesty roles starting at the Annual General Meeting 2019. There are two roles up for election:

- AGM Chair (1 vacancy)
- Standing Orders Committee (1 vacancy)

Deadline for nominations is 17th February 2019. For any queries, please email Returning Officer - [returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk)

*Amnesty Shop discount*

20% discount at Amnesty shop – code AGP20. <https://amnestystore.org.uk/>

### Events

*Scotland Activists' Conference – 13th October (MDS)*

Apex City Quay Hotel, 1 West Victoria Dock Road, Dundee, DD1 3JP from 10am. Tickets now sold out. Attendees will feedback at November's meeting.

*Comedy night at the Stand – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019*

### Possible events

*MP group visit – possibly November meeting (FL)*

As part of our BRAVE Campaign we are calling for the increased recognition and protection of Human Rights Defenders. This is following a continued increase in attacks, intimidation and killings of those on the frontline defending Human Rights, with 2017 being the deadliest year yet with over 300 Human Rights Defenders killed according to the organisation Frontline

Defenders. We are asked to take action by lobbying MPs to call for the UK government to increase support to human rights defenders.

As a group we discussed inviting a local MP to the next meeting to discuss this campaign among other things. An invite to a chosen MP was sent.

#### *Human Rights Act 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary – possible stall 10<sup>th</sup> November (events group)*

November 9 is the 20th anniversary of the Human Rights Act in the UK. The Human Rights Act can and does protect people at their most vulnerable. It protects people from domestic abuse. It safeguards families, it makes it safer to be homosexual. It guarantees that innocent means innocent, ... So, in November and or over the next year, Amnesty is encouraging local groups to celebrate this anniversary with our communities and have produced special materials to help us do so.

We discussed having a stall on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November to engage the public about the Human Rights Act. Members of the events group will explore possible locations, such as a local library and feedback to the group in November's meeting and on social media.

#### *Sleep in the Park (8<sup>th</sup> December) (RH)*

RH wondered if anyone from the Amnesty group are interested in participating in Social Bite's Sleep in the Park fundraiser this year? £100 minimum sponsorship required to participate. The Glasgow event is at Kelvingrove bandstand. More info here: <https://www.sleepinthepark.co.uk/>

Some members of the group expressed an interest.

#### *Ceilidh (events group)*

The events group are currently working on plans for a ceilidh fundraiser for the first part of next year. It's currently in the very early stages and we will keep the wider group informed. In the meantime, if anyone knows of any suitable venues for hire or great ceilidh bands do let us know.

#### *St Andrew's Day anti-racism march - Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November (MDS)*

The group agreed to have a presence at this march with banners/ placards, etc. More details at November meeting.

#### *Brazil elections (RH)*

RH wondered if Amnesty is doing any campaigning around the Brazilian elections. The group felt that they probably weren't given Amnesty's impartiality in this area. However, here is Amnesty's Brazil section of the 2017/18 Amnesty International report: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/americas/brazil/report-brazil/>

#### *North Africa update (JF)*

JF gave a brief update on the group's prisoner of conscience Ali Aarass. More information on Ali here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/morocco-justice-ali-tortured-security-forces> It has been suggested that we number the letters we send Ali so Amnesty and Ali's family can monitor how many of our solidarity messages are getting through. JF also reminded us how much Ali appreciates visual actions – photos, pictures, paintings, etc.

JF also shared some actions with us.

## **Urgent actions**

*Saudi Action (CC)*

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/get-involved/take-action/saudi-arabia-jamal-khashoggi/>

Thank you to MR for the other urgent actions this month:

[Urgent Action update: Amal Fathy sentenced for her peaceful activism in Egypt](#)

On 29 September 2018 an Egyptian court sentenced Amal Fathy to two years in prison and a fine of 10,000 EGP (560 USD). The punishment was for "spreading false news with intent to harm the Egyptian state", possessing "indecent material", and for making "public insults"- all of this for posting a Facebook video in which she decries sexual harassment and criticizes the Egyptian authorities for failing to protect women. Appeals before 14 November 2018

[Urgent Action: Wave of detentions of students and activists in Nicaragua](#)

Detention of student leaders and other social activists have increased in Nicaragua as the government persists in its strategy of persecution and criminalization as a punishment against those taking part in nationwide protests. Appeals before 29 October 2018

## **AOB**

*Death penalty news (AL and MDS)*

Members of the group shared the following good news about the death penalty –

- The Malaysian government announced on the 10<sup>th</sup> October that it would be abolishing the death penalty for all crimes. This is a major step forward but we need to push to ensure that this commitment becomes a reality. More info: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2018/10/malaysia-death-penalty-abolition/>
- Washington State becomes the 20<sup>th</sup> US state to abolish the death penalty. More info here: <https://www.amnestyusa.org/press-releases/washington-becomes-the-20th-state-to-abolish-the-death-penalty/>