

## May 2025 Updates



# Glasgow West Amnesty International

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**Join** Amnesty International, get involved with our local AI Group and play your part in helping to promote and defend vital human rights across the world.

We warmly invite newcomers and familiar faces alike to attend the next meeting of the Amnesty International Glasgow West Group. This email includes:

- Details of our forthcoming May 2025 meeting;;

- Links to current AIUK activities;
- The minutes from our local Group's April 2025 meeting; and
- A note of our local Group's monthly meeting dates for the year ahead.

## May 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting

*Thursday 8th May, Woodlands International Methodist Church, 7:30pm – 9pm*

The next Glasgow West Amnesty meeting takes place on **Thursday 8th May 2025 at 7.30pm – 9pm** in Woodlands International Church, Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LW.

***We would love to see you there!***

Our next meeting will include:

- Undertaking **letter writing** on recent [Urgent Action](#) alerts from AIUK;
- Further discussion on activities to celebrate 2025 being the 50th anniversary of Amnesty International in Glasgow; and
- Updates from our **local group co-ordinators** on their activities.

## Updates From Amnesty

### Local Groups Updates

April 2025 into May's Local Groups update can be [found here](#).

This month's Local Groups update discusses the latest *Office Led Campaigns*, has information on *Actions Across Amnesty*, updates on *Fundraising* (including a note about our group's recent fundraising comedy night at The Stand!) and *Community Organising*, info on new courses and training at AIUK, what local groups have been up to and upcoming dates of events and actions around the UK.

A selection of updates as well as upcoming dates are reproduced in their own section below for convenience, but the full set of updates from AIUK [can be read here](#).

## Hong Kong Programme – 1st Anniversary of Article 23



*Protest outside the Parliament on 19 Mar, with AIUK CE Sacha Deshmukh, Hong Kong exiled activist Chloe Cheung, MP Blair McDougall and other activists to call on the UK government to step up protection for activists at risk*

To mark the 1st anniversary of Hong Kong's Article 23 last week, Amnesty UK issued a joint NGO letter to Prime Minister Keir Starmer, co-signed by 7 UK-based exiled wanted Hong Kong activists and 20 organisations and diaspora community groups, with our joint calls on the UK government to step up protection for activists at risk.

In May, AIUK is supporting an Archiving exhibition, "Ways of Remembering" hosted by Hong Kong Action Archive. It takes place from 17 May to 26 May 2025 at Hoxton Arches, Arch 402 Clerkenwell St, London in London. This exhibition brings together artefacts, personal stories, and collective memories from Hong Kong's social movements over the past decades. It also showcases examples of activism-informed archival projects to inspire our audience to reflect on the underexplored power of remembering as a means of resistance. (More info can be found on this IG page: <https://www.instagram.com/hkaa.co/>)

AIUK is going to organise a side event - a panel discussion with archivists from various diaspora communities. It is intended to be held on 24 May (Sat), 6 - 8 pm. The topic will cover the sharing of experiences, challenges and solutions of developing infrastructures and strategies in archiving at-risk information or documenting human rights violations for different territories, as well as the significance of this work to human rights activism for diaspora communities and people in the territories. Through this panel sharing, we hope to offer a meaningful opportunity for the Hong Kong community and civil societies in the UK to engage in dialogue and foster cross-movement solidarity.

## Rainbow Network – Pride Pack & More



# PRIDE PACK 2025

We are delighted to let groups know that the [Pride Pack for 2025 is now available on the website](#).

The pack features actions and information to support your pride presences nationwide, including information on how to order resources for your march or stall. We do also have a limited number of t-shirts available - you can ask Supporter Communications to include a few in your resource order (with 2 designs and 8 sizes in each, providing individual codes isn't practical!)

You will have seen in the news that the UK supreme court made a ruling this month regarding protections under the Equalities Act based on sex, and to whom they apply. The ruling was disappointing, frustrating, and will cause a lot of uncertainty for a lot of people. Amnesty UK was an intervener in the case, and our initial response to the ruling can be found [here](#):

[UK: Supreme Court outcome 'disappointing' but court affirms right of trans people to protection from discrimination and harassment](#)

## Disabled People's Human Rights Network



Do you want to help the Disabled People's Human Rights Network lobby MPs?

Members of the committee are organising a mass lobby of MPs in parliament on 21st May from 1-4pm. The idea of a mass lobby is that we all go to Westminster and request meetings with our MPs to talk about our opposition to their cuts to social security for disabled people. If you are available to join but unsure of what to say, or if you'd like a buddy to join you, please come to the HRAC at 12.30pm on the day and you can travel over to Westminster with Holly, the community organiser supporting the Disabled People's Human Rights Network.

For information contact [Holly Harrison-Mullane](#).

### Upcoming Dates

- **8 May 6:30pm - 8pm Manchester** - Amnesty UK has launched a new report - SOCIAL INSECURITY: THE DEVASTATING HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT OF SOCIAL SECURITY FAILURES IN THE UK. Join us online or in-person in Manchester. [Book your tickets here](#).
- **8 May 9:00am - 10:00am Royal Courts of Justice** - Action: Solidarity with the Bodo community in the Niger Delta.
- **13 May 6:00pm - 7:30pm** - Training: *"A Briefing on the UK Government's Prevent Duty"*. [Tickets here](#).
- **21 May 1:00pm - 4pm** - Disabled People's Human Rights Network lobby MPs - Action: *"Mass lobby of MPs in parliament"*. For information contact [Holly Harrison-Mullane](#).
- **27 May 6:00pm - 7:30pm** - Training: *"How to Community Fundraise"*. [Tickets here](#).
- **30 May 7:30pm - 10pm** - Youthsayers Gig for Amnesty International. Music event organised by Blackheath and Greenwich Group. 53 Norman Road, Unit 24 Greenwich Centre Business, Pa London SE10 9QF. [Tickets here](#).
- **31 May 10:00am - 4:00pm** - *East Midlands Regional Gathering: "Looking to the Future"*. All-Day in-person Event. [Tickets here](#).

- **5 June 7:00pm - 8:30pm** - Central England Network Online Event: *"Immigration Detention in the UK: what's going on?"* (PDF). [Register here](#).
- **21 June 10:00am - 4:00pm** - Training: *"Human Rights Education in Your Activism Day 1"*. [Tickets here](#).

See more on the [Amnesty Events](#) page.

## Take action to help individuals at risk and defend human rights

Help take action on the issues below and many others: [Actions from Amnesty UK](#).



## Amnesty in Scotland

Click on the [link](#) for information about AI issues in Scotland.

### Scottish Regional Gathering

*7th June 2025*

A time for Scottish Amnesty International activists to gather. More info from the Scottish office:

On the 7th of June, activists in the Scottish Region will be meeting in Perth for an event to rejuvenate campaigning and actions in the area.

Join us for an exciting opportunity to meet and collaborate with Scottish Groups and Activists.

It has taken far too long for us to come together for a day of discussion, action and inspiration.

This gathering will: bring together local Amnesty activists and communities facilitate collaborative campaigning on pressing human rights issues allow us to engage with local communities and create partnerships inspire and mobilise the nation to take public action on human rights campaigns The event will feature in-depth discussions led by experts on key issues for Palestine (IOPT) and we welcome our friends from the Perth Minority Association to talk about pressing issues in Kashmir.

Please see [link to the Eventbrite page](#) to book you place.

Looking forward to you joining us.

If you would like more information or if you would like to participate, please contact:  
[philippa.griesbach@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:philippa.griesbach@amnesty.org.uk)

To book: see [Eventbrite](#)

## Amnesty UK products



The [Amnesty Shop](#) has a range of Amnesty products, ethical goods and special offers available direct from Amnesty.





# April 2025 Minutes & Updates

## AI Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 10th April 2025 Minutes

Link to April meeting email [via Mailchimp](#).

### 1. Welcome and apologies

- (a) Attendees: Luca, Andrew, Mhairi, Clara, Cait, Claire, Merle, Carol, Kirstie, Neil
- (b) Apologies: Mal and Paolo

### 2. Agreement of previous meeting minutes – [Google Docs link](#)

### 3. Team Updates (list of roles [here](#)):

#### (a) Treasurer (Kirstie)

- i. postage from letters: £16.80
- ii. web hosting renewed: £14.68
- iii. Current balance: £871.75

#### (b) Social Media & website (Mal/Cait)

- i. Cait still needs access to SM accounts
- ii. Update on Twitter/Bluesky discussion? <https://www.helloquitx.com/> (not yet)

#### (c) Local Political Outreach

- i. **Paulo** email Neil Cowan w update - ask next tactics re. civil society pushing for it so SNP commit to it? & what other orgs we can link up with - open letter
- ii. **Ailig** to let us know next Kaukab surgery drop-in. Our msg to her is we can help her progress it, we care, How can we assist? - not at meeting
- iii. → UPDATE 10.04.25 (as Paolo can't come to the meeting): Neil Cowan replied saying AI Scotland is part of the Scottish Government's new Human Rights Incorporation Implementation and Oversight Board (chaired by Kaukab Stewart) which is intended to hold the SG accountable for the commitment to continuing to develop the proposals.

Linked up Paolo with Liz in AI Scotland office, who is to send through a 2-page background briefing for us to help us engage w Kaukab. - no email sent as of 10.04.25!

Kaukab replied saying Paolo needs to take the email that he sent to her constituency office and, instead, send it to her Ministerial office! - Paolo will do so this week

#### (d) Regional/Country focus

- i. **South East Asia/ Myanmar** (Mal) - no updates
- ii. **Korea** (Clara) - Cait emailed charity re. disability rights campaign, charity said they couldn't get involved



- (e) **Theme focus - US Death penalty** - Mal to inform Death Penalty Network (California) - no updates
  - (f) **Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update** (Cait - India BK16) - no updates
4. **Actions/updates from previous meeting Minutes:**
- (a) Fundraising: Paolo is running the Paris Marathon for Amnesty - pls share: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/paolo-grifa-humanrights>
    - £500 raised!
    - **Claire** to ask Cait/Mal to share on SM - see if we can tag national office
    - **Andrew** to see if Scotland AI can share on national SM (*They already had promoted it*)
    - Andrew to link up Paolo with student amnesty group - done
  - (b) Eritrea human rights talk at Daytime Group - Luca, Carol and Andrew attended, interesting talk
  - (c) Who went to Edinburgh Campaign Effectiveness training (29.03.25)? Claire, Paolo, Clara, Motaz
  - (d) CCA Seenaryo film screening during Refugee Festival in June - Mhairi to check w CCA/Seenaryo if we can also have a stall at the screening
5. **Suggestion to move letter-writing to mid-meeting** to ensure it gets done and have more team-bonding time!
- Urgent Appeals** - Merle
- 14 letters sent :) - group agreed motivating to write the total number of letters sent each meeting in the minutes.
6. **2025 is Glasgow West AI group's 50th anniversary!** - see **Ideas doc** [here](#), inc. suggestion from Paolo re. community meal. Suggested that we ought to think about getting a keynote speaker along to the community meal event.
- (a) All encouraged to suggest ideas / lead on events - large or small - to mark 50 years of AI in Glasgow.
  - (b) Andrew will contact Council to explore possibility of tree planting to mark 50 years of Amnesty in Glasgow.
  - (c) Andrew to contact Strathclyde University Journalism and Human Rights course leaders to see if they have students interested in developing some stories around the Group's archive materials. The purpose would be to publicise the work of Amnesty in Glasgow and, hopefully, encourage others to volunteer.
  - (d) Pride March (19.07.25) early registration. Price before 20.04 = £15 for march (couldn't see info on stalls yet) - agreed to register, Claire will do
7. **Groups Planning Pack 2025** from central AIUK - some useful links, especially the **Calendars** with key events/trainings.

8. Planning AI Scotland Gathering in Perth (7th June) - next planning meeting is Wednesday 23.04.25 6-7pm - if you can go, please do! (Teams meeting link from Andrew - please email him).

9. AOB

- **Registration for AIUK AGM** is open! Clara is able to go on behalf of our group - thanks Clara!
- **Local Updates from Scotland office** - see meeting agenda email re. updates on Human Rights Bill and lobbying Scottish Enterprise
- Clara: **journalist from Somalia** - gave a talk at SW Conference on human rights in Somalia. We can invite him. Clara to check his availability and if needs transport/accommodation costs
- **AIUK Local Group Updates – March link [here](#)**. Some of the items included in the Update are:-
  - “*How Social Security in the UK erodes human rights and dignity.*” - online meeting - Thursday 8 May 2025, 6.30pm. Register your spot here: [Registration](#).
  - *Sign and share* our new action to the Prime Minister, calling for him to stop the cuts to social security in this country and build a fair, compassionate system that protects everyone: [Read more here](#).
  - *Individuals at Risk: Ahmed al-Doush* - On 31 August 2024, British citizen Ahmed al-Doush was arrested while trying to return home to the UK from a family visit. He was targeted by Saudi authorities over a social media post and an alleged link to a government critic. Since then, he has been held in solitary confinement, denied legal representation for months, and remains arbitrarily detained. [Ask the UK government to ensure his release; Ask the Saudi authorities for his release](#)
  - *22 April 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Workshop: "How to build community partnerships (including mapping)"*: [Tickets here](#).
  - *Refugee Week* will be celebrated from **June 16–22, 2025** with the theme “**Community as a Superpower**”, focusing on the power of community, collaboration, and shared humanity.
  - *Country co-ordinator vacancies* - The update lists a range of country co-ordinator volunteer positions that are open for application.
  - *AIUK is also recruiting for a number of regional co-ordinator vacancies, including a post for Scotland. Nomination deadline is April.*
  - *New online courses* - Gender Justice and Human Rights (online); Activism Skills Training: Digital Campaign Strategy (23rd Sept).
  - 5th/6th July - **AIUK AGM** - new location Warwick Uni
  - **AIUK Priority Campaigns [here](#)**; Amnesty [training courses: Activist Education](#); & Updates from various local AI Groups across the UK

10. **Next meeting** - Thurs 8th May 2025



## 2025 Meeting Dates

New Members very welcome!

The Group meets every second Thursday of each month at **7.30pm - 9pm.**

The meetings take place at **Woodlands Methodist Church**, 229 Woodlands Road, G3 6LW

For further information contact [mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk](mailto:mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk)

- ~~Thursday 9th January 2025~~
- ~~Thursday 13th February 2025~~
- ~~Thursday 13th March 2025~~
- ~~Thursday 10th April 2025~~
- Thursday 8th May 2025
- Thursday 12th June 2025
- Thursday 10th July 2025
- Thursday 14th August 2025
- Thursday 11th September 2025
- Thursday 9th October 2025
- Thursday 13th November 2025
- Thursday 11th December 2025

**BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN CURSE THE DARKNESS**

