

## June 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 update includes:

- Details of our forthcoming June 2025 meeting;
- Links to current AIUK activities;
- The minutes from our local Group's May 2025 meeting; and

- A note of our local Group's monthly meeting dates for the year ahead.

## June 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting

*Thursday 12th June, Woodlands International Methodist Church, 7:30pm – 9pm*

The next Glasgow West Amnesty meeting takes place on **Thursday 12th June 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:

- Feedback and discussion on the gathering of Scottish Amnesty Local Groups taking place in Perth on Sat 7th June;
- Planning for our Group's input to [Glasgow's Pride march](#), which takes place on Saturday 19th July;
- Discussion of **further new events** that are now being added to celebrate 2025 being the **50th anniversary** of Amnesty International in Glasgow;
- Undertaking **letter writing** on recent [Urgent Action](#) alerts from AIUK; and
- Updates from our **local group co-ordinators** on their activities.

## Amnesty UK Local Updates

Below is a selection of some of the issues featured in the latest monthly update for Local Groups from Amnesty UK.

Full details of the latest AIUK monthly Local Groups Update can be seen [on the Local Groups page](#).

## Ban Israeli Settlement Goods Campaign



**On Nakba day, we launched the Ban Israeli Settlement Goods campaign!**

All the materials can be found on this webpage - [Settlement Goods campaign Pack](#).

Thanks to everyone who attended the briefing on Monday evening - it was fantastic to see so many of you and lots of positive engagement with the campaign (if you missed it, the slides can be found [here](#)). Since then, several groups have begun contacting their MPs and starting to organise 'apartheid-free meals' in their communities, in coalition with other activist groups. As a reminder, please feedback any response from MPs to [parliament@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:parliament@amnesty.org.uk).

Our next campaign check-in will be on **Tuesday 10th June, 6-7:30pm**, and will include tips and ideas for contacting MPs on this ask from organisers and activists, and an opportunity to ask questions and share experiences organising so far. You can access the [sign up link here](#).

For any support, questions, or to arrange a chat, please do reach out to me via email

please contact [Amika George](#)

[Click here to book your spot](#)

## Introducing: Summer Spotlight Campaign



Amnesty International UK's **Summer Spotlight on Journalists Under Threat**, focuses on a core and universal human right: freedom of expression.

Last year, 124 journalists were killed — the highest number ever recorded. Many of those deaths occurred during Israel's genocide in Gaza, where journalists have been targeted at an unprecedented scale. Around the world, journalists are being silenced through violence, imprisonment and censorship.

Amnesty International stands with journalists who investigate abuses, uncover facts and speak

truth to power – often at great personal risk. We investigate human rights violations, challenge repressive laws, and campaign against attacks on press freedom.

Because when the freedom to report is lost, so is accountability. Power operates in the dark. Injustice goes unchallenged.

### **Add Your Voice to Defend Press Freedom**

Now, more than ever, it's crucial to protect the right to report. Add your voice to stand with those risking everything to uncover the truth.

Together, we can ensure that press freedom is upheld and that journalists can work without fear of persecution or oppression. Your support helps shine a light on injustice, ensuring the truth is uncovered and that the powerful are held accountable.

Your support helps shine a light on injustice, ensuring the truth is uncovered and that the powerful are held accountable. To show your support for press freedom, add your voice to this [handraiser on press freedom](#).

Please contact [Philippa](#), if you and your Local Group would like to engage further with this campaign.

### **Individual Giving**

#### **Donate now to fight to restore the voices of journalists silenced by attacks on freedom of expression**

*Your gift could help fund the fight back against attacks on press freedom*

We are living through a period of escalating instability and crisis.

With the rise of authoritarian leadership and conflicts raging around the world, reporting the truth is more vital than ever. But more and more the truth is under threat.

Authoritarian regimes are tightening their grip on the free media. Physical attacks, imprisonment, surveillance and intimidation are routinely used against journalists to silence them and stop them reporting the truth.

2024 was the deadliest on record for journalists. In Russia, reporters are locked up for exposing war crimes. In Gaza, many have been directly targeted by Israeli forces. In Northern Ireland, journalists have been silenced through threats of violence and intimidation. But Amnesty International is fighting to protect the rights - and lives - of all journalists around the world, including in Sudan, Hong Kong, Russia, Afghanistan and Northern Ireland. We cannot allow journalists to be silenced. Power operates in the dark and when the freedom to report the truth is lost, impunity runs rampant.

But together, we can fight back and restore the voices of journalists silenced by attacks on freedom of expression. Your donation could help fund the fight back against attacks on press freedoms. Donations also help fund campaigns demanding the release of detained media workers, and they support investigations into human rights violations against journalists and research intended to ensure free expression is protected. And with your support, we can overturn repressive laws, and protect those risking their lives to bring the truth to the world. Help us stand up for truth, and for human rights everywhere.

**[Please give what you can today](#)**

[Donate here](#)

## Local Groups Fundraising – Perth Amnesty Group Solstice Sunrise Challenge



### Perth Amnesty Group's "See the Summer Solstice" Sunrise Fundraising Challenge

The challenge is to sacrifice a night's sleep to witness the sunrise at a landmark, hill or mountain top on **Saturday 21st June**, the summer solstice, which in Perthshire will be **3.40 am**.

Some members of the Group will be taking on this challenge from an iron age fort on the top of **Moncrieffe Hill** near Perth which is a beautiful woodland managed by the Woodland Trust. Others intend to see the sunrise from **Caisteal Dubh-Castle Dow** (the Dark Castle), the hilltop site of an iron age fort near Grandtully in the heart of rural Perthshire.

**If you are an experienced hill walker, and have a good torch it would be great if you could join us.**

#### **Take part closer to home.**

However you can always take this on by seeing the summer solstice sunrise - from a landmark, hill or mountain top closer to home. What about the Pentlands, the Sidlaws, the Campsie, any Munro or the Ring of Brodgar!

So why don't you sacrifice a good night's sleep and give it a go- *just saying!!*

Brilliant if you can take part from wherever you decide to see the sunrise.

#### **Donations**

We have set up a page on the **Just Giving** website at which families, friends and colleagues you have asked to support this challenge can give their generous donations to **Amnesty's Charitable Trust**

The page title is: **Perth Amnesty Group's See the Summer Solstice Sunrise Challenge.**

[This link](#) will take them to the page.

For information on start times and locations please contact: [James Rutherford](#)

**Many thanks and good luck Perth Amnesty Group!**

[Fundraising page here](#)

## **Amnesty in Scotland**

Click on this [link](#) for information about AI Scotland's latest activities

## **Amnesty UK Shop**



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

## **Upcoming Dates / events**

For updates on planned AIUK training and events for AI activists, see [the Amnesty UK events listing page](#).



# May 2025 Updates

Amnesty Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 8th May 2025

## Minutes

Link to draft May meeting email [here](#)

### 1. Welcome and apologies

- (a) Attendance: Daisy, Neil, Kirstie, Ailig, Paolo, Clara, Merle & Claire
- (b) Apologies: Andrew, Mal

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

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

#### (a) Treasurer (Kirstie)

- i. postage from letters: £39.20
- ii. hall rent → Dec: £156 - going up in Sep by £2/month
- iii. current balance: £598

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

Cait access to SM accounts? - no update, not present

- Update on Twitter/Bluesky discussion? <https://www.helloquitx.com/> (not yet)

#### (c) Local Political Outreach

Paulo re. Kaukab Stewart and Human Rights Bill: Paolo sent email to minister's office; had a meeting with SG office staff member (no briefing notes yet); the Bill is being discussed in 3 committees (Neil from AI Scotland office is in 1 of them) - 1 is on impact of the bill to strengthen the idea of the bill - what could it mean in practical terms in Scotland

- i. Edinburgh Amnesty group also involved
- ii. Manifestos are coming out now for 2026 election campaign - expected to be in SNP manifesto; unsure of in others
  - we can all email party offices - Ailig to share
  - Daisy to write template email - share in Signal chat 16.05.25 - Clara/Ailig to review & then all to send

We can approach shadow Ministers of Equalities

→ will be proposed in parliament in 2026 so we can campaign again then

- iii. awareness-raising campaign on Human Rights Bill - SM post; prepare poster on the issue - ask
  - AI Scotland could publish "manifesto" that we share with party offices
  - Paolo offers to write this and share w AI Scotland office for them to check
  - Claire to add Paulo in the secs / chair WhatsApp chat



iv. **Regional/Country focus**

**South East Asia/ Myanmar** (Mal) - no updates

**Korea** (Clara) - no updates

**Theme focus - US Death penalty** - Mal to inform Death Penalty Network (California)

5. **Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update** (Cait - India BK16 – no update)

4. **Actions/updates from previous meeting Minutes:**

- CCA “Seenaryo” film screening during Refugee Festival in June - no update on whether we can have a stall, Mhairi is following up
  - Planning AI Scotland Gathering in Perth (7th June) - Paolo attended planning meeting
  - tickets are available! Please see [link to the Eventbrite page](#) to book your place.
  - AI Scotland session on their work; group session for groups to share their actions; guest speaker sessions on Palestine & Kashmir; photo session
  - next meeting 6pm 12.05.25 (meeting link from Paolo)
  - 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 - no update.
5. Email: we can also host **a speaker from Refugee Action** (they sent us an email) - arrange for June meeting (Refugee Week = 16-22.06.25) - agreed to leave it in June as we'll have the AGM resolutions to discuss
6. **Suggestion to move letter-writing to mid-meeting** to ensure it gets done and have more team-bonding time!
7. **Urgent Appeals** - Merle
- # of letters written during meeting: **13**
8. **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) *Andrew will contact Council to explore possibility of tree planting to mark 50 years of Amnesty in Glasgow.*
  - (b) *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.*
  - (c) *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 done for march*
    - i. *Claire to sign up to the stall (Done - NB stalls will be required to be set up before 10 am on the morning of Saturday the 19th of July).*



- (d) [Groups Planning Pack 2025](#) from central AIUK - some useful links, especially the [Calendars](#) with key events/trainings.

9. AOB

- **Registration for AIUK AGM** 5th/6th July is open - at Warwick Uni! Clara is able to go on behalf of our group - thanks Clara!
- **AIUK Local Group Updates:** [April link](#)
- **Next meeting - Thurs 12th June 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**

