August 2025 Updates



Glasgow West Amnesty International

Contents

August 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting	2
Glasgow Pride Festival 2025	3
No Red Carpet for Rights Abusers	3
Salijon Abdurakhmonov, Uzbek Critic Jailed for a Decade After Disputed Conviction, Dies	5
Celebrating Fifty Years of Amnesty in Glasgow	5
Amnesty UK Local Updates Social Security in the UK Meet the Amnesty Feminist Network Surviving Evin Prison Exhibition with Anoosh Ashoori (Perth Amnesty Group) Amnesty Local Groups Link Amnesty in Scotland	5 6 7 8 9
Upcoming Dates / Events Scotland Demands Better - Amnesty Scotland Update for Activists	9 10
July 2025 Updates	11
2025 Meeting Dates	18

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

August 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting

Thursday 14th August, Woodlands International Methodist Church, 7:30pm - 9pm

The next Glasgow West Amnesty meeting takes place on <u>Thursday 14th August 2025 at 7.30pm – 9pm</u> in Woodlands International Church, Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LW.

We would love to see you there!

Our next meeting will include:

- Campaign planning
- Undertaking letter writing on recent Urgent Action alerts from AIUK;
- Updates and discussion on **events** relating to 2025 being the **50th anniversary** of Amnesty International in Glasgow; and
- Updates from our local group co-ordinators on their activities.

Glasgow Pride Festival 2025

Glasgow West Amnesty Group colleagues participated in the annual Pride march and rally, which took place on 19th July 2025. The annual spectacle celebrates LGBTQIA+ equality, inclusion and community through the Pride movement.

The loud and colourful march through the city culminated in a gathering in the iconic Barrow-lands in the East End of Glasgow, featuring speakers, stalls, live music and food trucks.



Photo: activists from Glasgow West AI Group at our stall during Glasgow's 2025 Pride event 19-07-2025

No Red Carpet for Rights Abusers

Colleagues from a range of local Amnesty Group across Scotland joined with thousands of others to voice their concerns about Donald Trump's visit to Scotland.

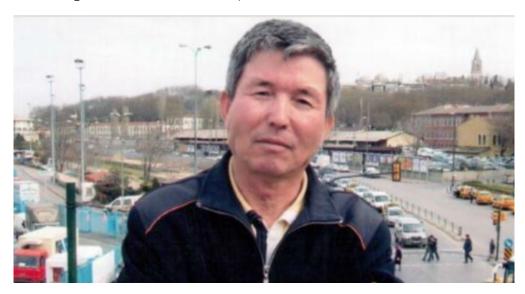
Protestors highlighted the wide range of human rights abuses that were taking place under Trump's presidency.

The protest was organised by the Stop Trump Coalition: https://stoptrump.org.uk/who-we-are/In addition to the gathering in Edinburgh, similar protests also took place in Ayrshire and Aberdeen.



Photo: Activists from Glasgow West joined other local AI Groups outside the US Consulate in Edinburgh, 26-07-2025

Salijon Abdurakhmonov, Uzbek Critic Jailed for a Decade After Disputed Conviction, Dies



Salijon Abdurakhmonov, an Uzbek journalist, human rights defender and former prisoner of conscience, has died aged 75. He was convicted after an unfair trial (drugs were alleged to have been planted in his car) and spent nearly 10 years in prison. He was released in 2017 and moved to Germany, where he died last month. He was sadly unable to clear his name.

The Times of Central Asia has Salijon's obituary.

Glasgow West AI Group campaigned on his behalf from 2013 to 2017.

Celebrating Fifty Years of Amnesty in Glasgow

Amnesty International has been active in Glasgow since 1975. To celebrate fifty years of campaigning, fund-raising and awareness-raising for Human Rights, the AI Groups in Glasgow are undertaking a series of events.

A centrepiece of this is the invitation from the Lord Provost of Glasgow City Council to host a Civic Reception in the City Chambers to mark this occasion. The event will take place in the early evening of **Tuesday 28th October 2025**.

We are currently putting together an invitation list and we are keen to hear from current and past Amnesty members and activists from any of the AI Groups in Glasgow who would like to attend the event. To register your interest or for further information, please email mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk.

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.

Social Security in the UK



HELP US TELL THE UK GOVERNMENT: POVERTY IS A POLITICAL CHOICE: SEND US YOUR PHOTO SO WE CAN SPELL IT OUT, LOUD & CLEAR

The UK government is consistently choosing to push more and more people into poverty, instead of providing adequate social security support, that hundreds of thousands of people need.

For International Eradication of Poverty Day on 17 October, we want to make sure that MPs get the message loud and clear.

Join us by emailing us a photograph of yourself with one of the below messages (or another of your choosing):

- Social Security is a Human Right
- Poverty is a Political Choice

You can write it on a piece of paper, or your hand... or your t-shirt! And if you'd prefer not to show your face in the picture, that's absolutely fine. We'll use your photos in our work around this time, including on a banner that we'll be taking to Parliament.

Visit HELP US TELL THE UK GOVERNMENT: SOCIAL SECURITY IS A HU-MAN RIGHT to find out all the information and submit your picture. We want as many photos as possible to make sure the government gets the message!

So take a photo with your message and email it to **weekofaction@amnesty.org.uk**, and we'll take your message to the UK government.

Meet the Amnesty Feminist Network



Meet the Amnesty Feminist Network

The Taliban regained power in Afghanistan in 2021. Over the last 4 years, they have introduced increasingly devastating restrictions on the rights of women and girls, virtually erasing them from public and social life. Women and girls have been banned from attending secondary school, from working and earning a living, and from leaving their home without a chaperone. Any protests against the oppressive regime have been met with immediate violence. Despite this, women in and outside of Afghanistan continue to speak out.

Amnesty Feminists are passionate about advocating for the reinstallation and progression of women's rights through our **Rise With Afghan Women** campaign. This month we have launched our 2025 campaign pack! Everything you need to act is available in here, including: MP letter templates, petition links, ideas for community events, further reading and so much more! **Access the pack here**

If you would like help us amplify the voices of Afghan women,* join us on the 20th August at 6pm* to hear all about the campaign and how you can get involved. In the session, we will cover:

- Who are the Amnesty Feminists? Our purpose and current campaigns
- What has happened to women's rights in Afghanistan? Understand the history of women's rights, impact of the Taliban's restrictions and the response from the international community
- What you can do? Learn about our current campaign actions which include: contacting your MP to support the International Court of Justice case against the Taliban and the recognition of Gender Apartheid; fundraising for Rukhshana Media, a women-run Afghan news platform; and raising awareness in your communities of the situation facing women and girls in Afghanistan and for Amnesty's petition to make Afghanistan a foreign policy priority.

Click here to register!

Surviving Evin Prison Exhibition with Anoosh Ashoori (Perth Amnesty Group)





Surviving Evin Prison Exhibition: Perth 27th June -Sunday 6th July

We were delighted that **Anoosh Ashoori** made the effort to come to Perth to speak at the launch of the exhibition which describes in detail his experience of being held prisoner, without justification, in Iran's notorious Evin prison.

He talked movingly about the awful conditions he and his fellow prisoners had to endure. His account of the many days of relentless cowardly and barbaric interrogation was particularly chilling but gave us a vivid insight to the depths of depravity the Iranian regime has sunk.

We heard about and were inspired and in awe of the actions he took during his incarceration to see him through his ordeal. What he has done to rebuild his life on release and highlight the plight of hostages held across the world has been truly remarkable.

We invited the local MP, local City Councilors, Community leaders and Trade Union Representatives to the launch. Leaflets advertising the exhibition were distributed at various venues throughout the city. We are grateful to the 'hands on' practical help from Amnesty Scotland staff and Amnesty's PR team for securing interviews for Anoosh with BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio Scotland and the National Press about his prison experience and his presence at the exhibition's launch. This media exposure, in particular, inspired a number of people to visit the exhibition as well as highlighting Amnesty's role in its support for Anoosh to a national audience.

We were also grateful to staff and volunteers at St John's Kirk, an historic building and visitor attraction in the centre of Perth, for making the space available for the exhibition, welcoming visitors, and providing catering at the launch.

Over 170 people were recorded as visiting the church and exhibition over its 9 day run.

(via Perth Amnesty Group)

Amnesty Local Groups Link

Full details of the latest AIUK monthly Local Groups Update can be viewed online:

Amnesty Local Groups: July 2025

Amnesty in Scotland

The link below has AI Scotland's latest Bulletin, containing news and updates on the latest activities.

AI Scotland Updates

Upcoming Dates / Events

Scotland Demands Better - Amnesty Scotland Update for Activists

The Amnesty Scotland team would like to invite you to another online update!

Join us for our latest webinar for activists in Scotland, where you'll hear from Lydia Murphy (The Poverty Alliance's Development Officer) on the organisation's Scotland Demands Better (SDB) campaign – which the Amnesty Scotland team is supporting as part of our work on everyday rights and poverty across Scotland. As well as the SDB interactive session, the Amnesty Scotland team will also give an update on its latest activities.

When: 27 August 2025 06:30pm - 07:30pm

Where: Online Webinar Click here to register!

A Guide to Working with Schools



Tuesday 26 August - 18:00 - 19:30 Plan how you could work in schools, including discussing some key human rights case studies, including refugee rights and LGBTQ+ rights, and understand key duties that you have as an educator around safeguarding and inclusive practice.

Register here

For all updates on planned AIUK training and events for AI activists, Click on this link.



July 2025 Updates

AI Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 10th July 2025

Link to July meeting email here

- 1. Welcome and apologies
 - (a) Attendance: Mhairi, Neil, Andrew, Claire, Ailig, Kirstie, Merle, Luca, Clara, Paolo, Susan
 - (b) Apologies: Mal, Carol
- 2. Agreement of previous meeting minutes link
- 3. Team Updates (list of roles here):
 - (a) **Treasurer** (Kirstie)
 - i. Donations: £5 donation at last meeting; £1 donation from Kirstie
 - ii. £75 paid for Pride Stall + £15 for registering for Pride march
 - iii. postage from letters: £32
 - iv. current balance: £443.93
 - v. Meeting donation: £1
 - vi. Seenaryo: £1
 - vii. Balance remaining £441
 - (b) Social Media & website (Mal/Cait)
 - i. Clara got logins? Facebook yes; Insta not yet
 - Ongoing: Update on Twitter/Bluesky discussion? https://www.helloquitx.com/ (not yet) [agreed not urgent until AIUK moves]
 - (c) Local Political Outreach
 - i. Paolo's HR Bill leaflet (see here) to put in public spaces, like libraries with brief info & link to the AIUK petition (https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/first-minister-scotland-needs-human-rights-bill) & QR code pointing to our website and a page to explain a bit better about the Human Rights Bill.
 - A. First page is the leaflet to print and put in noticeboards, second page what we could put in the website.
 - B. People to review leaflet draft by 27.06.25 and then ?Clara to make poster)
 - C. [Unactioned tasks from previous meeting]:
 - email party offices (Ailig to share); approach shadow MInisters of Equalities; Daisy to write template email \rightarrow Clara/Ailig to review & then all to send
 - awareness-raising campaign on Human Rights Bill SM post; prepare poster on the issue - AI Scotland could publish "manifesto" that we share with

- party offices Paolo to write this and share w AI Scotland office for them to check]
- D. Email from Neil Cowan, Scotland AIUK office: Paolo to get background briefing on the Bill from Stewart in AI Scotland Office Do keep us updated on some of the wider plans you mentioned too, particularly around public engagement. We would of course be keen to support wherever we can and we are really grateful that you're keen to help us push on it.
 - Andrew wrote a short briefing on this see:
 - Human Rights Right to Protest (8-6-22) HRA Right to Protest 8-6-22
 This document includes practical examples of how the UK Govt's existing
 Human Rights Act has been used to upload / enshrine rights, Paolo may find
 the examples in the AIUK link useful for illustrating the current debate, AI
 - Human Rights Bill Update 8-9-22.docx (This is just an abbreviated update
 with some additional information linked to the previous paper)
 - Paolo to get info from Stewart AI Scotland office
 - All to review Paolo's text and add tangible examples
 - Clara could make into pamphlet
 - Andrew to contact Rob about the possibility of giving Paolo the website password to directly upload blog posts (& for Social Media)
 - Timeline: August ready; attend hustings / host a hustings
 - [NB Neil Cowan of AI Scotland is now on paternity leave until New Year-Liz is cover Programme Director for 6 months]
- (d) Regional/Country focus [Korea (Clara)]
- (e) **Theme focus US Death Penalty -** Mhairi to contact network as Mal is busy. Merle provided email address to contact deathpenalty@amnesty.org.uk
- (f) **Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update** [previous Cait India BK16]

4. Daytime Group Collaborations/Updates:

- (a) Fundraiser/stall at "Fundraiser Extravaganza" 27 July, 2-5pm, Finn's Place, 167 Ledard Rd, Glasgow G42 9QU all welcome!
- (b) Possibility of joint event around Refugee Action speaker at Daytime groups venue September date a possibility Andrew to Liaise with Graham of Daytime Group.

5. Glasgow Uni Group Collaborations/Updates:

(a) Had a session with Amicus (a legal non-profit which advocates for those facing the death penalty) on human rights and the death penalty - do we want to invite them as a speaker? - medium interest! Wait till we have info from the Death Penalty network

6. Actions/updates from previous meeting Minutes:

(a) CCA "Seenaryo" film screening 17.06.25 - how was it? any photos for SM?

- i. Thanks to Clara for making Amnesty Glasgow Card.docx and Glasgow West leaflet.pdf! pls can people print & stick up around town
- ii. Went well; changed from CCA to Civic House because CCA hadn't signed PACBI.
 - A. ~35 people attended
 - B. Would be great to do another screening at university could do panel
 - ullet Andrew to give Mhairi contact details for Uni Group Chair
 - C. Linked up w Director in Beirut post-film
 - D. £2 donation in tin
- (b) AIUK AGM 5th/6th July
 - i. Thanks again to Clara, and Paolo, for making the G-form for us to vote on Signal as we got the motions through so late we couldn't do a meeting to discuss in the meeting, but could exchange views online Feedback: "I found both of these things very straightforward and quick to do. Thanks to Paolo and Clara for setting up the online forms."
 - ii. How was it Clara/Carol/Ailig? Any suggestions/inspirations/actions for the group from it?
 - A. Over 400 tickets "sold"
 - B. All resolutions passed
 - Emergency resolution on Amnesty Bookstores re. closing 4 of the 9 UK bookshops asked for better review & of brand awareness passed
 - Emergency resolution on Amnesty's portrayal of Israel/Iran conflict by Iran Country Coordinator - passed.
 - C. Community mapping: building local power Clara has asked for us to be sent workbook on it - great for partnership working → Do we want to focus on specific campaign for our group for the next 6 months? = agreed **Refugees** - Israel/Palestine - for the next 6 months, alongside our 50th Anniversary general activities
- 7. Legal Advice from AIUK on proscription of Palestine Action as a terrorist organisation by UK government 05.07.25 please read here: Gmail Palestine Action Proscription Email from Sacha (AIUK).PDF

Key Points:

- Emphasises the importance of the precision with which you will need to communicate so that nothing you say or do could be mis-interpreted or mischievously used to accuse you and your activism of supporting Palestine Action and, as a result, contravening anti-terrorism laws.
- As a very clear example; even though that prior to proscription, a statement (however expressed, in whatever channel) such as "We do not believe that the Government should proscribe Palestine Action as a terrorist group" was perfectly legal to say; from Saturday 5th July it apparently became an offence under the Terrorism Act even to say that statement.

- Even wearing a t-shirt which for example had a slogan supporting the proscribed organisation and wearing it in public would be an offence, and could result in anyone doing so being charged with a serious offence under the Terrorism Act.
- To arrange or participate in a meeting (which is any get-together in any form of more than three people) that aims to discuss whether the proscription was right or wrong would be a criminal offence.
- Please act as follows:
 - Do not proactively share information about the proscription of Palestine Action on any of your public Amnesty digital channels or in person events
 - Do not display logos, banners or any other promotional material related to Palestine Action at any of your Amnesty events
 - Do not discuss the proscription of Palestine Action at any of your Amnesty group/network or other meetings, including private meetings
 - Do not attend any meeting in your Amnesty capacity organised by others about or including Palestine Action
- This is AIUK's statement for use if you are asked about Amnesty's position on this issue. "In light of legal advice we have received regarding the effect of UK anti-terrorism laws, we are no longer in a position to comment on the proscription of Palestine Action. We are, however, able to continue commenting on the state of counter-terrorism law in the UK and its implications for human rights. It has been Amnesty International's long-held view that the UK has a deeply flawed and overly broad definition of terrorism and overly broad and excessive restrictions on freedom of expression in relation to proscribed groups. Terrorism legislation hands the authorities massive powers to arrest and detain people, suppress speech and reporting, conduct surveillance and take other measures, such as criminalising holding a private work meeting that could be characterised as 'supportive' of a proscribed group. These sorts of restrictions would never be permitted in other circumstances and create a chilling effect on people's freedom of expression and right to protest. Where necessary and proportionate, existing criminal laws accompanied by human rights protections, are more than adequate."
- 8. Due to advice received, we are unable to discuss this in our group meeting and can't make comments specifically about PA. Those wishing to know more can read AIUK's press release (from before the proscription), or can contact AIUK or their MP for further clarification. We can discuss the right to protest in general and if anyone would like to focus on group actions on this moving forward. AIUK has 'Protect the Protest' as one of its strategic priorities. It also published a major report a while ago, detailing numerous deficiencies in the design and implementation of the UK Govt's 'Prevent' anti-terrorism strategy. As indicated in the UK advice, it seems that these broader themes will be the approach that the national AI organisation and local groups will take forward in campaigning.
- 9. Urgent Appeals Merle ; 14 letters written during meeting: (to beat: 12!)
- 10. Email from AIUK re. Amnesty Global Assembly Consultation Meetings on 16 and 17 July

The Global Assembly is Amnesty International's highest decision-making body. Comprised of delegates from every national Section and entity in the worldwide

movement, it decides on major questions of global strategy, finance, governance and policy. This year, the Global Assembly will be asked to make some significant decisions on Amnesty's global governance. Ahead of the meeting, which takes place on 25-27 July, the Board and UK delegation are keen to share the motions that will be discussed and hear from AIUK's activists. \rightarrow two online consultation meetings have been arranged, taking place at 6.30pm on Wednesday 16 July and 6.30pm on Thursday 17 July. The meetings will last for approximately ninety minutes and we will describe how the Global Assembly fits into Amnesty's governance, outline some of the key debates and, most importantly, listen to the perspectives of interested members. The motions will be dispatched to all those who register for these consultation discussions as soon as possible. To sign up for the meetings, please visit the following link, which you will be able to choose which meeting you wish to attend: Eventbrite Link. These meetings are intended for Amnesty International UK activists but membership of the UK Section is not required. Please feel free to share this information within any Amnesty networks or groups that you belong to.

11. Potential Speakers:

- (a) Clara: potential speaker journalist from Somalia Clara to check his availability and if needs transport/accommodation costs
- (b) **Refugee Action** Andrew link up w Daytime group maybe September
- (c) Paulo potential speaker (and try to invite all other AI Scotland groups to join online): law professor re. UK supreme court ruling that affects trans rights.
- (d) Motaz (Country Coordinator for Yemen) happy to be a speaker
 - i. Clara to ask Motaz
- (e) [Amicus: after find out about Death Penalty network]

12. 2025 Glasgow West AI group's 50th anniversary! - see Ideas doc here, inc.

(a) Meal:

- i. Unfortunately the church hall is not available on Saturdays. We could have the hall on Thursday 11th September (our regular meeting night) 7pm-10pm at £14 per hour.(it's in use till 7pm) I'll ask about number of tables and chairs and get more info on the kitchen. Probably worth considering another venue for a Saturday before we decide.
- ii. Saturday PM would be preferable to welcome older people; Clara made flyer discuss in Aug meeting
 - A. Kirstie to confirm date for Write for Rights
- (b) Andrew contacted Council to explore possibility of **tree planting** to mark 50 years of Amnesty in Glasgow.- Yes! Details tbc, but likely to take place Oct / Nov in an area around Kelvingrove. discuss in Aug meeting
- (c) The Lord Provost's Office has also suggested a Civic Reception for Amnesty Glasgow. Again, details re timing, etc tbc, but likely to be in the Autumn.

- i. To take place in Glasgow City Chambers, George Square, (likely within the Satinwood Suite)
- ii. 6-7.30pm drinks reception & canapes
 - A. Options: 15 / 22 / 28th October agreed Tuesday 28th October at 6pm
 7.30pm (Andrew has subsequently confirmed this date with Lord Provost's office)
 - B. Speakers: Lord Provost (or a Deputy); Amnesty spokesperson about our group last 50 years
 - C. Musician? Ideas / suggestions needed for this.
 - D. Human Rights speaker maybe not external, do internal Amnesty speakers?
 - E. Invitees: Initial suggestion given that we could have c.30 attendees, but we can confirm nearer the time. It is no problem to add more. We could use Eventbrite to monitor acceptances. We could email the AI office with email to go to all AI members in the Glasgow area (tbc?)
 - F. Merle and Christine to review list of former activists within Glasgow Group members so that we can invite those who have made a contribution to the work over the years.
 - G. Suggestions of who to invite to the Civic reception also to be sought from Daytime and University Groups
- (d) Andrew contacted 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.
 - i. Lecturer has agreed to review our physical archive material to assess the suitability for students Agreed
 - ii. Andrew has also contacted uni group & Daytime group to see if would like to be involved/if they have an archive also Glw Univ Chair indicated they have little by way of any physical archive material. However, Rob (who organises our website, Mailchimp monthly emails, etc) does have some material from his time in the Glw Univ Group going back to 2006 mostly digital, but possibly some physical stuff that could be of interest. Daytime Group has indicated they have nothing of any great historical value in terms of physical archive.
 - iii. Andrew messaged Mal to see if there's any more documents, etc in his possessionno response yet
- (e) **Pride March** (19.07.25) registered for Parade and Stall. NB stalls will be required to be set up before 10am on the morning of Saturday the 19th of July. Volunteers now for stall / parade
 - i. Start: Kelvingrove Park in the West of the Glasgow and travel to Barrowlands Park, where walking groups will go into the park and floats will continue up Gallowgate, before everyone moves to the festival at the Barrowlands!

- ii. Arrive at the Royal Terrace Entrance to Kelvingrove Park for 10:15am, but Community Line Up doesn't start till 11am What Three Words ///stacks.tens.anyone https://w3w.co/stacks.tens.anyone
- iii. (Claire has done, but anyone else can do if they wish also!)
 - A. The Marshal training video can be found here https://youtu.be/__d4cHVep2o
 - B. The training assessment can be found here https://forms.gle/78WUfxhJAjMArk9W7
- iv. To set up stall: Kirstie & Clara 9.30-10.30
- v. Stay on Stall: Mhairi 10.30-12; Ailig 12-1.30
- vi. March: Clara, Claire 1.30 onwards
 - A. Petition -
- 13. Susan v generously doing an Amnestea Sunday July 13th 4-7.30pm at her house. If you'd like to come along, please contact mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk
- 14. Future Idea: Israeli Apartheid free meal / invite MPs?
- 15. Groups Planning Pack 2025 from central AIUK some useful links, especially the Calendars with key events/trainings.
- 16. **AOB**
 - AIUK online events see links in AIUK Local Group Updates mailing here:
 - How to do a Public Stunt
 - How to Work with Schools

AIUK Local Group Updates - June link

Next meeting - Thurs 14th August 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

- 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

BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN CURSE THE DARKNESS

