

September 2025 Updates



Glasgow West Amnesty
International

Contents

September 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting 2

Amnesty UK Local Updates 2

 Ban Israeli Settlement Goods Campaign - Update 3

 Protect The Protest - Urgent Action 5

 Country Coordinator Blog Report on Global Human Rights 6

 Individual Giving - Gaza Fundraising 6

 Local Groups Update in Full 7

 Amnesty in Scotland 7

Upcoming Dates / Events 7

 A Briefing on Everyday Rights 7

 A Guide to Direct Action 8

Celebrating Fifty Years of Amnesty in Glasgow 8

August 2025 Updates 9

2025 Meeting Dates 15

At a time when fundamental rights are under threat across the globe, [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 both newcomers and familiar faces alike to attend the next meeting of the Amnesty International Glasgow West Group.

This email includes:

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

September 2025 Glasgow West AI Group Meeting

Thursday 11th September, Woodlands International Methodist Church, 7:30pm – 9pm

The next Glasgow West Amnesty meeting takes place on **Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7.30pm – 9pm** in Woodlands International Church, Woodlands Road, Glasgow, G3 6LW.

For all lapsed members, new members and those who are just curious about Amnesty, we would love to see you there!

(If you've not been in a while, remember you are always welcome back, no apologies/excuses needed!)

Our next meeting will include:

- Undertaking **letter writing** on recent [Urgent Action](#) alerts from AIUK;
- Updates 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.

Amnesty UK Local Updates

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

Ban Israeli Settlement Goods Campaign - Update



I'm sure we're all watching in complete disbelief and horror as the genocide in Gaza escalates and reaches unimaginable levels of cruelty. There are no words to describe the scale of suffering and devastation, as Israel has repeatedly violated international law and weaponised humanitarian aid to enable its genocidal project.

Amnesty's message remains the same – the UK must sanction Israeli officials implicated in international crimes; end all arms exports and military assistance; and end all trade that contributes to the genocide, illegal occupation, and system of apartheid against Palestinians. Every second that our Government refuses to act is another second of abject failure by the international community to defend human rights and prevent further crimes against humanity and genocide - as Agnès Callamard recently commented, **“The time is now. Our humanity is at stake.”**

With Israel recently announcing worrying new plans for the expansion of illegal settlements in the West Bank, it is so crucial that the UK Government is held urgently accountable for its complicity in incentivising this through trade and business. With many local groups engaging with this campaign to demand a ban on the import of settlement goods to the UK, the Amnesty UK Government team have reported that MPs and the FCDO are hearing us and feeling the pressure.

Over 50 MPs have been lobbied by Amnesty groups and activists, and 71 MPs have now signed [EDM 1266](#) (an underestimate, as some pending signatures will be confirmed following the summer recess). This is due to the dedication of Amnesty activists who, amongst several other actions you're taking for Palestine, have run stalls to build local awareness around the campaign, held public meetings and protests, started petitions (with some collecting over 200 signatures!), and organised community 'Apartheid-Free Meals' in collaboration with local PSC and Friends of Palestine groups. Recently, a group of young activists in south London organised a beautiful event featuring a Palestinian potluck and open mic poetry, to build momentum for the campaign, and I was fortunate to attend with a few AIUK colleagues (see photo above). One MP has also privately stated that a settlement goods ban will be his post-recess priority, following consistent pressure from his Amnesty activist constituents who collected 50+ signatures at a community Pride event.

Thanks to everyone who has shared their MP's response with me – supportive or not! - as I'm tracking political support and feeding this information to my colleagues across the organisation. As you may know if you've contacted your representative, Liberal Democrat policy calls for a settlement goods ban, but Labour MPs have consistently given diversionary responses, citing Government sanctions on settler violence or the lack of preferential trade agreements. This fails to address what we're calling for. If you've received a reply along these lines, [here's a draft letter](#) that might help as a response.

A reminder that the idea of a community 'Apartheid-Free Meal' was a suggestion for building visibility and a campaign coalition, but might not feel like an appropriate tactic given the horrific levels of mass starvation and the denial of aid we're seeing in Palestine. It's up to your local group to plan and design an event or public moment that keeps up the pressure and build local awareness of the campaign, and this can take any form according to your local context and group's capacity.

I also wanted to acknowledge that, on a personal level, I know that right now nothing feels adequate as a form of protest or activism in the face of an escalating genocide, but as individuals we owe it to Palestinians to be courageous and refuse to lose hope, following their example.

If you have any questions or need support on anything at all – related to this campaign or otherwise - please don't hesitate to reach out to me: Amika.George@amnesty.org.uk

In solidarity,

Amika

Protect The Protest - Urgent Action



The arrest of peaceful protestors is a violation of the UK's international obligations to protect the rights of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. This can't go unchallenged.

Over 700 people have all been arrested under the Terrorism Act 2000 for peacefully protesting the banning of Palestine Action in the UK.

- It is a **violation** of the UK's international obligations
- It is disproportionate to the point of **absurdity**
- And it simply **can't go unchallenged**

On the 9th August 2025, 522 individuals were arrested in the UK for peacefully expressing opposition to the ban on Palestine Action. This follows over 200 people who were previously arrested for taking similar actions.

But **this hasn't happened in a vacuum**. It has been years of crackdown on our right to protest.

Amnesty International has **condemned the use of counter-terror powers to target peaceful protestors**.

The Chief Prosecutors of England & Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland **now have the power to decide whether to prosecute** the individuals who have been arrested.

We are urging them to **end all prosecutions against these peaceful protestors**.

Will you join us?

Make your voice count!

Country Coordinator Blog Report on Global Human Rights



Amnesty works on almost every country on the planet. Our volunteer country specialists help us keep on top of reports and research about human rights abuses, and this is their take on our work.

There are currently 20 Blogs available on the site with reports of human rights issues in many countries including Afghanistan, Peru, Algeria, Indian administered Kashmir, Central America and Sri Lanka. Please contact the Country Coordinators responsible for the Blogs for more details on campaigns in these areas.

[Access the Blog here](#)

Individual Giving - Gaza Fundraising

ISRAELI FORCES ARE KILLING PALESTINIAN FAMILIES

Genocide in Gaza is happening right now. Please help stop these devastating human rights atrocities.

Civilians, including children are being bombed, starved and dehumanised every day. And we have to stop it.

The Israeli authorities are chillingly bold in their genocidal intent with their finance minister, Bezalel Smotrich stating in May 2025: *“Gaza will be entirely destroyed”*. We cannot look away. [Your donation today](#) could help Amnesty International carry out expert human rights monitoring, documentation, analysis, and reporting until the Israeli government can no longer persist in its genocide, apartheid, and illegal occupation.

When our investigators spoke to people in Gaza this spring, they found hunger at catastrophic levels. People said they’re not eating for days on end, trying to survive on wild plants and animal fodder. A shocking 18,741 children have been hospitalised for acute malnutrition since the beginning of this year. Medics say children in hospitals are so severely malnourished and dehydrated, they can’t move or even cry.

A parent in Gaza City told our researchers: *“We don’t ask if food is fresh; that’s a luxury, we just want to fill stomachs. I don’t want my child to die hungry.”*

The cruel denial of life-saving essentials, like food, fuel, and shelter, is a major violation of international law.

But you are not powerless.

Please [give a donation](#) and help stop the genocide.

It’s vital we keep up the pressure in the UK. The UK government must show real backbone by halting all arms exports to Israel because right now it is failing to prevent and punish genocide, as is its legal obligation. By donating to Amnesty International UK today, you could help fund

the work of our campaigners who lobby the UK government to demand they take forceful and effective action against the Israeli government and stop selling arms to Israel.

When Amnesty International supporters put their values into action, human rights change happens. **Please give what you can today** to help us pressure parliamentarians, officials, and ministers to engage with our evidence and take effective action.

Please give a donation!

Local Groups Update in Full

Full details of the latest AIUK monthly Local Groups Update can be viewed [in our LGU archive](#).

Amnesty in Scotland

Article on prioritising a Human Rights Bill for Scotland / email John Swinney:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/first-minister-scotland-needs-human-rights-bill>

Click on the link below for AI Scotland's latest bulletin, containing news and updates on the latest activities.

<https://email.amnestyuk.org.uk/q/119A8vUCJSYI/wv>

Upcoming Dates / Events

A Briefing on Everyday Rights



Tuesday 9 September, 18:00 - 19:30

Join us to learn more about Amnesty's campaign on Social Security as part of our work on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights or Everyday Rights! Successive governments have failed to protect basic rights.

[Register here](#)

A Guide to Direct Action

Tuesday 25th November 2025, 18:00 - 19:30

During this session you will:

1. Gain an understanding of some of the direct action tactics which can be used
2. Understand when it is strategic to escalate to direct action
3. Gain knowledge of risk analysis, safeguarding and the practical things you need to consider before undertaking direct action

[Book Online](#)

For all updates on planned AIUK training and events for AI activists, click on this [link](#).

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.



August 2025 Updates

Amnesty Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 14th August 2025

Agenda

Link to August meeting email [here](#)

1. Welcome and apologies

(a) Attendance: Ailig, Andrew, Claire, Kirstie, Merle, Caitlin, Luca, Paolo, Ken, Ebba, Rob

(b) Apologies: Mhairi

- *So great to see some ex-members back again! If you've also not been in a while, remember you are always welcome back, no apologies/excuses needed!*

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

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

(a) Treasurer (Kirstie)

- Pride: Cash donations on stall £62.45 and card donations £13.78 (after card charge of 22p)
- Donation - £10 cheque made out to Amnesty International sent by Susan from her recent AmnesTea event. Susan has now moved back to Orkney.
- Current balance: £427.81

(b) Social Media & website (Cait/Clara)

- No updates - urgently needing SM support!
- Ongoing: Update on Twitter/Bluesky discussion? <https://www.helloquitx.com/> (not yet) [agreed not urgent until AIUK moves]

(c) Local Political Outreach

- 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. People to review leaflet draft → make poster. First page is the leaflet to print and put in noticeboards, second page what we could put in the website.

Unactioned tasks from previous meeting:

- approach shadow Ministers of Equalities (Kaukab is difficult to reach)
- Daisy** to write template email asking them to commit to Scottish HR Bill → **Clara/Ailig** to review & then all to send to party offices (agreed probably past manifesto deadline)
- 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]

- Clara offered to make info into pamphlet
- Paolo can make website webpage to upload blog posts (& for SM)
- Paolo still no update from AI Scotland office - agree to move forward without them
- All to review Paolo's text and add tangible examples
- Timeline: Feb hustings ; attend hustings / host a hustings
- Paolo to move forward via Signal to confirm info for website

B. **Theme focus - US Death Penalty** - Cait to contact network

C. ***Not currently active: Regional/Country focus [Korea (Clara)] ; Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update [no current IAR for our group]***

4. **Daytime Group Collaborations/Updates:** How was the 27.07.25 Amnestea Fundraiser? Thanks to Susan - cheque for £10 received

5. **Glasgow Uni Group Collaborations/Updates** (on holiday) [Ailig] no updates

6. **Actions/updates from previous meeting:**

- (a) Pride! Great march; thin on the ground for the stall - need to have time overlaps next year; people commented that they remembered our presence from the previous year - good for us to have a continuous presence; people asked what Amnesty does, what our group does (have brief written info on this for next year?)
- (b) Uni of Strathclyde Staff Assoc that works on LGBT+ issues Trans Awareness Week 13-19 Nov asked if we'd like to be involved - do we want to be involved?
- (c) → Paolo to get more info
- (d) Anti-Trump Rally in Edinburgh! A great day AI Scotland Groups featured in photo and article in AIUK Local Updates
- (e) Did anyone attend:
 - i. Global Assembly Consultation meetings 16/17.07.25 - no-one from Group was able to attend
 - ii. How to do a Public Stunt training - no-one from Group was able to attend

7. **Update re. new Scotland Regional Rep role:** [Initial Meeting 09.08.25; 10am-12pm](#)

As a group, we need to discuss and agree on the Key Tasks:

- (a) **Key Tasks** (NB main purpose: infusing enthusiasm/ideas to groups)
- (b) Organisation of annual f2f Scotland Gathering
- (c) Organisation of quarterly online meetings for all local group & individual members (could have 1 key topic/meeting)
- (d) Integration of local groups & coordinating with school / uni groups inc. coordinating a team of representatives from each local group to meet regularly

- (e) Integration with AI UK and AI Scotland:

NEXT STEPS

- i. Groups discuss: any questions / further discussion points / other ideas / more people who are interested in the role / choose a named “Rep Liaison”
- ii. Once all groups in agreement, vote → nominated person does application form.
 - A. All agreed Key Tasks are good
 - B. Rep Liaison: Claire - Claire to feedback to central group

8. Urgent Appeals - Merle

- (a) Number of letters written during meeting: 15 (to beat: 12!)
- [Canada: People Seeking Asylum & Safety At Risk](#)
 - [Uganda: Quash Human Rights Lawyer's Conviction](#)
 - [Ban Settlement Goods: Letters to MPs](#)
 - [Import of goods from Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory - Early Day Motions](#)
- (b) Even if your MP has signed it, still email them!

9. 2025 Glasgow West AI group's 50th anniversary! - see Ideas doc [here](#), inc.

- (a) The Lord Provost's Office has suggested a **Civic Reception** for Amnesty Glasgow. **Tuesday 28th October 6-7.30pm** drinks reception & canapes - confirmed
- (b) Speakers: Lord Provost (*or one of their Deputies*); Amnesty spokesperson about Amnesty in Glasgow over last 50 years.
- (c) Discussed whether to have an external org speaker or only internal AI speakers
- i. Agreed only internal AI speakers
 - ii. Andrew to see if someone from Amnesty London office/board can come?
- (d) Need to make a speech of what Amnesty has done over the last 50 yrs
- i. Take along key archive items for a small display
 - ii. ?? Christine to do a speech!
- (e) Musician to provide background entertainment? People to ask through their networks
- (f) Invitees: we've said we'll get 30 - set up eventbrite - Email AI office with email to go to all AI members
- (g) Merle to review list of old members with Christine ; Andrew has asked Daytime group for suggestions - Thanks to Merle & Christine!
- (h) Andrew has asked Rob for mailing list
- (i) Claire to set Eventbrite link & share in Signal chat - no cap; Claire to monitor weekly; “close the sales” 2 days before
- (j) **Meal:**

- i. Agreed best Saturday PM (*Sat 13th December likely closest to co-incide with Write for Rights?*)
 - ii. Could do meal and W4R combined - Human Rights Day this year = Wednesday 10.12.25 - do meal around then so people do letter writing and meal at same time - Sat/Sun in early Dec
 - iii. ?? Invite MPs / Councillors / MSPs
 - iv. ?? Apartheid free meal
 - v. 'Pay What You Can' tickets to cover costs
 - vi. Paolo to ask his catering friends for their input re format, etc
 - vii. Paolo spoke to someone from Maryhill Integ Centre
 - Council can suggest a community hall to do it
- (k) **Tree planting:** Nov in Kelvingrove. Andrew in contact with Council re logistics, but still waiting on further info
- (l) 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.
- i. → looks like not a fit with current research - lecturer suggested we contact the Herald/Glasgow Times and gave us contacts
 - ii. Andrew has also contacted uni group & Daytime group to see if would like to be involved/if they have an archive also
 - iii. Andrew messaged Mal to see if there's any more. Mal has since liaised with Kirstie on documents / leaflets, etc that he had
10. **Ban Israeli Settlement Goods Campaign Pack** - [here](#), general info [here](#), launch presentation [here](#)
- (a) calling on the UK Government to end its trade and business complicity in illegal Israeli settlements, and to hold Israel accountable for its flagrant violations of international law in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
- Does anyone want to take a lead on this? Getting us:
- engaged with MPs
 - form coalitions with local Palestine Solidarity Campaign branch
 - Organise community Apartheid-Free Meal
 - Resources:
 - [2 template letters to MPs](#)
 - [the template Press Release for an Apartheid-Free Meal](#)
 - local procurement ask to councillors [here are the materials](#)
 - Amika.George@amnesty.org.uk - forward any replies from MPs to Amika
11. **Potential Speakers:**

- (a) **Refugee Action** - Andrew link up w Daytime group - maybe September
 - (b) Clara: potential speaker - journalist from Somalia - Clara to check his availability and if needs transport/accommodation costs
 - (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) AIUK Equality Network speaker - Ailig to look into - how to have conversations w family and friends
 - (e) [Amicus, link through Uni group: after find out about Death Penalty network]
12. [Groups Planning Pack 2025](#) from central AIUK - some useful links, especially the [Calendars](#) with key events/trainings.

13. Local Group Updates

- (a) **Petition:** [Last year was the deadliest year for journalists. Add your voice to defend press freedom.](#)
- (b) Training: Tuesday 26 August - 18:00 - 19:30 - **A Guide to Working with Schools**
 - i. 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.
- (c) **AIUK Local Group Updates – July** [link](#)

14. AOB

- Interesting press article: [Starmer v Starmer: why is the former human rights lawyer so cautious about defending human rights? | Keir Starmer | The Guardian](#)
- Event at the Stand in aid of Medical Aid for Palestinians, 15.10.25: [The UK, Gaza and the Media: In conversation with Peter Osborne - The Stand Comedy Club](#)
- This is a template to email your MP to support 40 young people in Gaza who currently have a place at UK universities: <https://newscord.org/action/gaza-students> - Currently, the UK govt won't let them come as they need biometric ID for their visa. As they can't do that in Gaza, the letter is asking for them to be allowed to come to the UK and provide the biometric requirements here.
- Saturday 16.08.25 Demo for Gaza - Glasgow Green 12.30pm - organisation Glasgow Stop the War Coalition
- Stop Trump Protest - 17.09.25, London - arranged by AIUK (Further info in Local Updates link)
- Merle suggestion: We should refer to our organisation in full - Amnesty International, rather than the abbreviation AI. This is due to the increasingly common usage of the AI shorthand to refer to Artificial Intelligence. Agreed
- Thanks to Claire, Kirsty & Andrew for sorting through a huge influx of resources from Mal's flat! We made this list of our current total leaflet / poster, banner, etc resources: [Glasgow West Inventory](#) - which will hopefully help us have more exciting stalls in future!

15. Next meeting - Thurs 11th September 2025, including GUEST SPEAKER!
Motez Amer, AIUK Country Coordinator for Yemen & Saudi Arabia



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
- Thursday 11th December 2025

BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN CURSE THE DARKNESS

