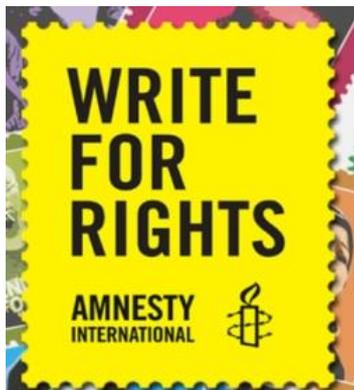


Watford Amnesty Group

November/December 2015 newsletter



Next public meeting: Write for Rights **Monday 30 November, 8pm**

Drop in and join us to send greetings cards to prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders and their families, showing them that they are not alone in their struggle.

“Every week I was waiting for those letters. I was reading them again and again, thinking of those people who took five minutes to write or to draw. Five minutes of their time gave me the energy to survive two years of unlawful imprisonment.”

Chekib El-Khiari, prisoner of conscience, Morocco

New venue: Reason Coffee Shop, Unit 3, Faircross House, 116 The Parade, Watford WD17 1BD.

Human trafficking and modern slavery: report from previous meeting

A big thank you to Geoff Corre, group member, former head of Child Protection at Hertfordshire County Council and independent safeguarding consultant, who spoke at our last meeting about a crucial human rights issue - human trafficking and modern slavery. Geoff gave us an overview of the situation including some local examples, explained recent changes in UK law to make prosecution easier, and talked about some of the ways we could be vigilant ourselves. You can find more information here: www.nwgnetwork.org

Tell us what you think...

At October's AGM, we reviewed our current activities and made some plans for the future. We also said a special thank you to Jarka, who is stepping down as treasurer after recently moving to south London.

Many group members support Amnesty locally without coming to meetings. This is absolutely fine – but we want to make sure that meetings are attractive for and available to as many people as possible. We need your ideas for making meetings better. **Please take three minutes to fill in this four-question survey:** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WLW2SKF> Your answers can be anonymous if you prefer. Thank you!

Tell other people: Facebook, twitter and posters

We now have some A4 colour posters from Amnesty for you to put up in places of worship, libraries, public noticeboards, or anywhere where you think people might be interested in hearing about the local group. If you have any ideas, please pick up a poster or two at a future meeting.

Our Facebook page has changed (see revised address below) – we are now a group which makes it easier to share ideas and info. Please join the group if you are on Facebook and tell your friends! We are also now on twitter (@WatfordAmnesty) – please follow us for latest news and updates.

Subscription reminder

It's the time of year to pay your group subscriptions. At just £6 for an individual, £8 for a family, it's a small amount to pay to keep the group running – to fund meetings, book stalls at events and pay for postage. Thank you! You can either send a cheque (with your name on the back) to Monique Jowers at 91 Kenilworth Drive, Croxley Green WD3 3NN or transfer the money online to sort code 60-00-08, account number 05231914 and let Monique know.

Upcoming events

You are welcome to just turn up to any of these events, but if you want to know more or to let us know you're coming, use the contacts below.



Sunday 29 November 2015 – Climate change march This is not an Amnesty event, but is supported by many other local campaign groups. People will be marching for action on climate change in towns and cities all over the world – including Watford. Find out more:

www.foe.co.uk/groups/watford/events/Watford-People-s-Climate-March

Monday 30 November 2015 - Write for Rights Amnesty public meeting in Watford
See details above.

Thursday 15 January 2016 – The film ‘Suffragette’ is showing in Rickmansworth. We are finding out if it's possible to have a stall about human rights before or after the showing, but even if not, we could go to see the film as a group.

8pm, Watersmeet, High Street, Rickmansworth WD3 1EH.

Saturday 31 January 2016 – South Midlands regional conference in Buckingham. A chance to meet and share ideas with other local Amnesty groups in our region, with speakers and workshops. The theme of the conference will be LGBTI rights. All welcome. If you want to come, let Sarah know and we can try to travel together.

Royal Latin School, Buckingham MK18 1AX, 10:30am-4:30pm.

February 2016 – meet local MPs about the Human Rights Act. The Human Rights Act is under threat and this is a major campaign focus for Amnesty this year. We are hoping to arrange a meeting with local MPs to explain Amnesty's case for defence of the Act.

Date TBC

9-11 April 2016 – Amnesty UK annual conference and AGM, Nottingham

Herts Welcomes Refugee Families

All four Amnesty groups in Herts – including our own – are now supporting this campaign. Herts County Council are now on board and St Albans District Council is looking for at least four other local councils to work with them to put in a bid to the Home Office. We can put pressure on our local and district councillors in the Watford and Three Rivers to agree to their local councils working with St Albans to put in a joint bid. For more details, including how you can help, visit

<http://hwsf.weebly.com>

Contact details

Visit our website: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/watford

Find us on Facebook and Twitter: www.facebook.com/groups/watfordamnestyinternational and @WatfordAmnesty

Would you like to join the group or pay subs (£6 per individual, £10 per family)?

Contact membership secretary Monique Jowers on 01923 774 621 or jowerscroxley@gmail.com

Do you have an enquiry about the group website, publicity ideas or an enthusiasm for social media? Contact Mark Nicholas on marknicholas999@hotmail.com

Do you have items for the newsletter, ideas for future meetings or activities, or other enquiries? Contact Sarah Hagger-Holt on sarah_eve@tiscali.co.uk or 07761 660 370