



Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter

July 2012

Group roles			
Chair	Currently Vacant	Business and HR	Caroline Toogood
Secretary and Newsletter	Rachel Quine	China	Ros Davidson
Treasurer/FR/NARAN	Anne-Marie Hassenkamp	Death penalty	Frances Moreton
		Dignity campaign	Gareth Williams
London meeting rep	Debbie Nathan	Refugees	Currently vacant
Stalls	Ros Davidson	Terror, security and HR	Jo Stokes
Website	Vacant	Control Arms	Rebecca Aron

Forthcoming dates for diary

25 th July 2012	Costs and Priorities Programme Meeting with AI UK Senior Management Team, HRAC 7pm – 9pm.
1 st August 2012	Lambeth Amnesty Letter Writing Event at The Florence, Herne Hill 6pm – 9pm drop in
8 th August 2012	AI UK and the Balkans – talk by AI Country Coordinator, Joint event with Wandsworth and Southwark groups
5 th September 2012	Lambeth Amnesty Letter Writing Event in Oval 6pm – 9pm drop in.
18 th September 2012	Lambeth Amnesty Meeting, Clapham Community Project, 8pm
6 th October	Big Amnesty Skills Share event at HRAC
16 th October 2012	Lambeth Amnesty Meeting, Clapham Community Project, 8pm

Meeting Notes: 17th July 2012 at Clapham Community Project

Present: Ros , Anita, Gareth Naomi and Rachel

Apologies: Frances and Caroline

Secretary's Report

Rachel introduced the Monthly Action sent from AI UK, which centred on petition to Burmese officials about the number of prisoners of conscience in the country. Those present signed the petition and Naomi agreed to take the petition into her work to get more signatures and will send off to AI UK before the end of July.

Rachel updated the group on the Shell Annual Meeting, which took place in May. It was attended by Amnesty International representatives who asked questions to Shell's CEO on their operations in the Niger Delta. AI's view is that Shell continue to evade responsibility for the clean-up they are responsible for and AI will be handing their global petition to Shell soon. This currently has 300,000 signatures and AI are committed to continued campaigning on the issue.

Ros went over the minutes from the London Regional Meeting, held on 4th July. This included

feedback from the ATT campaign events (see below), information on a new LDN network trying to engage graduates/ young people with local groups and reminder about the annual Street Collection that is taking place on 13th October this year. Ros also advised that all the group websites (including Lambeth's website) had been shut down last week due to fears of a security breach. Ros has agreed to reboot the site and will advise when this is completed so someone eels can take over the maintenance of the new website.

Individuals at risk

Caroline has produced an IAR bulletin, with current Urgent Actions case, which will be sent out with the newsletter.

Events

The letter writing held on 5th July was quiet with only a few attendees. The group discuss the new venue format and agreed it was a good idea to hold letter writing events at different places across the Borough and then see which ones worked the best for future events. The next letter writing will be on Wednesday 1st August at The Florence bar in Herne Hill and people suggested sending out a map of the venue might make people more likely to attend. These events are intended to be a more informal way for the group and new members to meet together and take action by writing letters on relevant campaigns.

Rachel reminded the group about the presentation by the AI UK Country Coordinator for the Balkans on human rights issues there. This will be a joint event with the Southwark and Wandsworth groups and will be taking place on Wednesday 8th August at 7:30pm at The Exhibit bar in Balham (the usual Wandsworth AI group meeting venue).

Emails have also been sent to the Lambeth Amnesty account about the following events:

Wednesday 18th July – Tuesday 31st July 2012: Bhopal Art Installations: AIUK has been acquired an installation photo exhibition about the Bhopal disaster, which is in a 40ft container. The exhibition will be sited in AIUK's car park, alongside the London Offices in Shoreditch and AIUK are looking for volunteers to help show the exhibition to the general public. The art installation will be open to members of the public from 10.00am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday from 18 – 31 July and they need 3 volunteers for each 4 hour period that the exhibition is open – 10.00am to 2.00pm and 2.00pm to 6.00pm. If you are able to help please email Paul Eagle on paul.eagle@amnesty.org.uk telling him which 4 hour slot you are volunteering for, together with a mobile number

Wednesday 25th July 2012: AIUK's Cost and Priorities Programme Meeting 7pm – 9pm: Taking place at HRAC, Old Street, this is a chance to get a better picture of the deep (and interrelated) changes happening within AI UK right now -from the cost cutting at AIUK to the Regional Hub strategy internationally. It is also a chance to voice your comments, concerns and questions about them. Unfortunately, numbers are limited so it would be helpful if those who wish to attend could inform our Supporter Care Team by email sct@amnesty.org.uk or telephone 0207 033 1777.

Saturday 18th August 2012: Islington Summer Fayre. Held at Islington Green from 12-6, the Islington and Hackney group are looking for volunteers to help out at their summer fayre. There will stalls such as books, lucky dip, 'clobber the dictator', cakes and also actions for people to do. They are also looking for people to bake cakes and scones too so please contact kathryngrant100@gmail.com if you are interested. Free event

Saturday 15th September: Fundraising Advisory Group: This will be held at HRAC and run by the Community Fundraising team at AI UK. It will be an opportunity for groups to share good practice and get new ideas about fundraising. Those interested in attending should contact Rachel on the Lambeth AI email address.

Campaign updates

Ros advised the group that the 'bullet-proof' vests that had been created as part of the International Arms Trade Treaty campaign had been delivered to Downing Street on 5th July along with a letter to David Cameron. Photos of the event can be seen here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/amnestylondon/sets/72157630447325472> Photos from the action at Parliament Square on June 16th can also be viewed at:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/eorphotography/sets/72157630405804806/>

Ros advised that the talks about the ATT are continuing until 24th July and she urged people to check AI UK's website www.amnesty.org.uk/arms and Facebook page for up to date information on the talks and any associated actions. Gareth also brought in the letters he had received from MP Chukka Uma and 10 Downing Street in response to his letters about the campaign, and shared these with the group.

Group Roles

Rachel advised the group that Frances had formally resigned as Chair of the group due to work commitments. With Rachel also standing down as Secretary in September, this leaves the group in a vulnerable position. Those present discussed building the core membership of the group back up to 8-10 people again and raised concerns that if this doesn't happen, the Lambeth group may not survive. Rachel agreed to email the mailing list and highlight this issue and encourage people to attend the September meeting to discuss the way forward and how to 'grow' the group. Both Ros and Anita offered to chair one or two meetings a year and the group discussed having a 'rotating' chair as one solution. However everyone felt that the Secretary role was key in keeping the group working. Caroline has mentioned she may be interested in sharing the role with someone. Naomi enquired as to what the role involved and said she could help with the newsletter. Rachel will email Caroline and Naomi to discuss further and go through the Secretary's roles, if they agree to divide the role between them.

The group wanted to minute thanks to Frances for all her hard work as Chair, and previously as Secretary, for the group.

AOB

None.

Staying in touch with Amnesty in London

There are numerous ways to find out about what Amnesty is doing in London:

1. Lambeth Amnesty website: <http://lambeth.amnesty.org.uk/>
2. London Amnesty website: <http://london.amnesty.org.uk/>
3. London Amnesty google group: <http://groups.google.com/group/amnesty-london-region> You can sign into this to get regular updates of events and opportunities for volunteering.
4. Amnesty UK website for events at HRAC:
www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10011

NEXT MEETING:

Meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month starting at 8pm except in August. The next meeting will therefore be on Tuesday 18th September 2012. This will take place at the Clapham Community Project – see below for directions.

Meeting venue

How to get to Clapham Community Project - 2 minutes from Clapham Common

Go to Clapham Common Tube (Northern Line) or reach it by bus (several routes e.g. 88, 345, 35,37) or car (limited parking in the side streets in the area). When you exit from the tube with the Common behind you, Clapham High Street will be straight ahead (it's the A3). On the left (still on the junction and just as you get into the High Street) you will see a small Budgens grocery which is on the corner of Venn Street.

Go up Venn Street, past the Sequel restaurant and the entrance to Clapham Picture House on your left. After a few yards you come to the junction with Bromells Road. The Community Project is the brick building ahead of you on the corner of Bromells Road and Venn Street, and the entrance is in Bromells Road. We are meeting in the Red Office on the first floor.