



## Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter October 2012

### Forthcoming dates for the diary

27 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Croydon Amnesty classical fundraising concert.</b> Sutton Baroque, founded in 1974, will be playing a concert at 7.30pm at St Augustine's Church, St Augustine's Avenue, South Croydon, Surrey, CR2 6BA. The programme will include works by C. P. E. Bach, J. S. Bach, Vivaldi, Telemann, Loeillet and Mozart. Tickets are £10 and available from Beverley Foulkes-Jones, tel: 0208 680 5406.
31 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Demonstration against UK visit of the Indonesian president</b> in response to human rights abuses in the country, 1pm-2.30pm at Richmond Terrace, opposite Downing Street. Please contact Paul Hainsworth, Country Co-ordinator for Indonesia and Timor-Leste at AIUK, if you intend to go: pa.hainsworth@me.com.
6 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Screening of LGBT film 'Call Me Kuchu'</b> at Clapham Picturehouse, 6.30pm.
8 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Lambeth Amnesty Letter Writing</b> at The Sun in Clapham, 6.30pm-9pm.
8 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>'Middle East – Is Peace Possible?' debate and Uniting for Peace annual conference</b> at the House of Commons, 5.30pm-8.30pm.
23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Bromley/Orpington Amnesty <b>screening of 'The Corporation'</b> at Orpington Methodist Church, Sevenoaks Road, Orpington, 7:30pm. Entry is £2.
11 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Lambeth Amnesty carol singing</b> at Brixton underground station, with 'Write for Rights' event at the Dogstar pub, Coldharbour Lane
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2013 (provisional)	<b>International Women's Day comedy night</b> at The Bedford, Balham.

### Meeting Notes 16<sup>th</sup> October 2012 at Clapham Community Project

#### Present

Anita, Naomi, Rebecca, Gareth, Ros

#### Secretary's Report

Ros has contacted Anne-Marie about holding a carol singing at Brixton tube on December 11<sup>th</sup>, she is waiting to hear back from her. It was decided that if the group couldn't get permission to sing at Brixton it would find another location, possibly around Clapham. Ros also agreed to contact someone about getting singing sheets etc for the event. The Southwark and Wandsworth groups have also expressed an interest in joining the carol singing event.

The group discussed the possibility of holding a 'Write for Rights' event (maybe at the Dogstar in Brixton) after the carol

singing. Anita agreed to order the card packs.

Rebecca shared news that she'd done some street fundraising with the Westminster group – she personally raised £50 and overall the group raised £310 – good work!

The group discussed becoming involved with the International Women's Day comedy night due to be held at The Bedford in Balham. Rebecca expressed an interest in helping to plan it.

Ros mentioned the possibility of having a stall at the screening of 'Call Me Kuchu' at the Clapham Picturehouse to promote Lambeth Amnesty alongside the Wandsworth and Southwark groups.

The group discussed how to get more people involved with Lambeth Amnesty and decided to look into relocating to a more accessible venue. It was also decided that some group leaflets should be distributed around Clapham and the wider Lambeth area.

Lambeth Amnesty has a new website up at: <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/lambeth>.

## **Campaign Updates**

Anita started by discussing the Kenyan forced evictions group campaign update. In February 2012, residents of the Mukuru Kwa Njenga settlement began to have their homes flattened by bulldozers and their community terrorised by armed police and dogs. Amnesty International is demanding that the Kenyan government immediately introduce a legally binding moratorium on the evictions whilst it develops the detailed law needed to protect residents. The group discussed the possibility of holding a workshop on forced evictions and inviting a speaker in to discuss the issues. Ros suggested inviting someone from the Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund to do a talk on January 15<sup>th</sup> combined with the Southwark and Wandsworth groups and agreed to follow this up.

Anita went on to discuss the second group campaign update that involved writing to the Italian prime minister telling him to end discrimination against Roma in Italy. Having to live in squalid camps with little or no access to water and electricity is a reality for many Roma. Instead of supporting the men, women and children to live in more decent conditions, Italian authorities are forcibly evicting them. The group discussed holding a Housing Rights exhibition to promote Amnesty's actions on Roma rights in Europe and agreed to consider this for Autumn. Sign the Roma petition here: [http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/roma\\_in\\_italy](http://www.amnesty.org/en/appeals-for-action/roma_in_italy).

Ros handed out letters of appeal to send to the Japanese prime minister re: Hakamada Iwao who has been sentenced to death after an unfair trial. All present signed the letters and Ros agreed to post them.

The group agreed to individually email their local MPs re: the Justice and Security Bill. If passed in its current form, this legislation would extend powers to demand secret hearings to any situation in which the government claims national security is at risk. This is unnecessary as there are already mechanisms in place for handling sensitive materials in cases where we need to protect our country. Moreover, as 'national security' is not defined, this legislation would effectively allow the government to throw a cloak of secrecy over any case in which its human rights record came into question, denying justice to victims and their families

## **Group Roles**

Jalira/Ros agreed to chair the November meeting. Naomi has agreed to take on the newsletter, Caroline to check emails and collate info for meetings (initially until Dec 2012), and Rebecca to provide postal address for Amnesty mailings etc. Thanks noted for all those who offered to take on roles.

## **Staying in touch with Amnesty in London**

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

- ⑩ Lambeth Amnesty website: <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/lambeth>
- ⑩ London Amnesty website: <http://london.amnesty.org.uk>
- ⑩ London Amnesty Google group (you can sign into this to get regular updates of events and opportunities for volunteering): <http://groups.google.com/group/amnesty-london-region>
- ⑩ Amnesty UK website for events: [www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10011](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10011)

## **Next Meeting**

Meetings are held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month starting at 8pm (no meeting in August). The next meeting will therefore be on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2012. This will take place at the Clapham Community Project – see below for directions.

### **Meeting Venue**

How to get to the [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 Picturehouse 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.