

Solihull Amnesty Group

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 20th February 2017

Present: Cathy, Celia, David, Pauline, Bernard, Janet, Zayn, Lucy

Apologies: Heather, Pooja, Trisha, Sheniz

- **Minutes of January Meeting:** £30 has now been paid to The Manor House for use of their entrance hall for our Write for Rights stall on 12. 12.16. David has contacted new regional rep, Rose Bennet, requesting local training for school speakers.

- **Future Events:**

Street Collection 18th March: We will concentrate collectors on most lucrative spots ie Knowle & Dorridge (David to organise rota) and Dovehouse & Prospect Lane (Celia to organise rota). Bernard gave out tins. He and Pauline will count with Anna on Sunday 25th March.

- 8-9th April National Conference and AGM: East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham (amnesty.org.uk/agm)

- **Sixth form groups:**

Alderbrook: Amy has completed 5 sessions with a group of 6 students. She focussed on refugees and asylum seekers. 2 further sessions will be led by David and 3 by Celia. Pooja is organising a blog to record the activities of all the sessions. See

http://amnestyenrichment.alderbrook.blogspot.co.uk/2017_02_01_archive.html?m=1

Tudor Grange: Zayn has started an AI group which meets at lunch time. He was congratulated on attracting a large number of participants (32 at second meeting). It was suggested that he should register the group with AI head office, who can provide useful resources.

- **Secretary's items:**

Monthly Action:

- i) We signed a joint letter to the Home Office and Department for Education calling on them to allow children recognised as refugees in the UK the right to be reunited with their families.
- ii) We signed a petition to the Home Office and Department for Education relating to the above.
- iii) We signed a petition to the President of the European Commission calling for the transfer of refugees who are at risk of freezing to death on Greek islands to a safe place on the mainland.

Contact list: It was agreed that Celia will draw up a new contact list for people who regularly attend meetings. She will ask everyone not present whether they are happy for their details to be included.

- **Finance Statement:** This was circulated to everyone. We currently have £959.62 in the bank. It was agreed that we would ask Anna to send £600 to head office. We thanked Anna for her work preparing the statement.

- **Campaign Reports:**

Johan Teterissa: (Indonesia) Bernard circulated a new letter writing rota.

Sombath Somphone: (Laos) David has received information from Duncan Booth about the release of two journalists in Laos on whose behalf we wrote letters in the past. They served long sentences.

- Group Planning Pack

We completed the menu of options without altering the group's present commitments.

- Strategy for contacting and working with other groups campaigning for Johan Teterissa. We drafted a letter to campaign coordinator Chris Peel asking him to clarify the position regarding permission to use generic email addresses for other groups working on the same case. This would not appear to infringe data protection regulations. Concern was expressed by some members that Chris could be offended by a letter making a suggestion which he has already rejected.

- **AOB**

Topics for future meetings: Offers were made to gather information on key topics and present it to the group:

Cathy – Sudan

Pauline – Palestine

David – the arms trade

Pauline suggested listening to a recent radio programme on arms expenditure at our March meeting.

No April meeting because Easter

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 20TH MARCH

