

Amnesty International Southend Group

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www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/



OCTOBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



We're holding our annual card and letter-writing at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU on Saturday 9th December 10:00am – 1:00pm

Letter-writing guidance, pens, paper, envelopes provided – along with tea, coffee, soft drinks and cake. It only takes a few minutes to write a card, letter or e-mail but those minutes can make a big difference to somebody whose human rights are being abused. Come along for a few minutes, half an hour – or all morning!

Next Group Meeting

Thursday 9th November, 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Ask Turkey to release **Taner Kiliç** and **Idil Eser**, the Chair and Director of Amnesty Turkey. Details and suggested letter text on the [Group Website](#).

Write to the Cambodian authorities about **Tep Vanny**, a housing rights activist and human rights defender featured in the BRAVE campaign.

Details on the [Group Website](#).

PROTECT
THE
HUMAN
www.amnesty.org.uk

Southend Group meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30pm, at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Amnesty International Southend Group

Notes of meeting on 12th October 2017

Present

Martin, Dave, Andrew, Steve, Muriel and Mike

Apologies

Tricia and Audrey

Review of The Forum Display and “East” Meal

Generally felt that the display looked good and was worth the effort - even though there hasn't been a massive response! We had 8 expressions of interest, 39 letters written or signed and signatures added to three petitions. The meal had been enjoyable and again worth the effort (thanks Clare) though we had hoped for better attendance. It will, with donations, have raised between £76 and £86.

Regional Conference

Martin and Audrey had attended the East Anglia Regional Conference in Chelmsford on 23rd September. A well-attended and useful day – with good food!

Letters and Petitions

We wrote letters and e-mails on behalf of BRAVE human rights defender Tep Vanny, Cambodia and on behalf of Taner Kiliç and Idil Eser, the Chair and Director of Amnesty Turkey. **SEE FRONT PAGE FOR MORE DETAILS.**

Secretary

AI UK monthly mailing (i) more on the Human rights Defenders Campaign ([BRAVE](#)) and about Idil Eser the Amnesty Turkey Director; (see below and front page) **(ii)** more details of Write for Rights materials (which have been ordered); **(iii)** a request for fundraising to support the I Welcome campaign (decided not to get involved) and **(vi)** booking details for [the National Conference & AGM 2018](#) on 7th-8th April at Swansea University – 1st November booking opens, 7th January deadline for resolutions and 1st March bookings close.

E Anglia News (i) AI UK has asked that the region organise a “synchronised event” that might attract press publicity - suggestions were a flash mob, a hot air balloon or a concert **(ii)** AI UK press office also want informing of all group events so they can consider press releases – agreed it's too much work and Liesbeth's suggestion of Facebook Group preferable.

AI UK Chair Update – info about the latest International Council Meeting (soon to be a Global Assembly), changed voting rights at the Assembly and AI UK's current financial position (healthy at present but fundraising likely to suffer from changing fundraising regulations and data protection rules). If you want the details let me know.

Treasurer.

Heidrun's on holiday (again!).

AOB

(i) Decided to get a replacement greeting card for the WfR campaign, etc. Andrew will approach a local artist for a picture **(ii)** we will devote the January meeting to the BRAVE campaign

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Thursday 9th November, 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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