**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**Wed 15/11: Letterwriting evening, Barnham.**

**Sat 9/12: 10-12 noon Greetings Card Campaign publicity table, Cathedral Green, Chichester**

**Sun 10/12: 3.30 pm Rededicate the Bognor plaques for Prisoners of Conscience**

**Sat 24/3/18 (tbc) Chichester Street Collection**

BOGNOR CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT AMNESTY GROUP

LOCAL AMNESTY NEWSLETTER, NOVEMBER 2017.

Dear Writers,

The GREETINGS CARD CAMPAIGN (Write for Rights) is here – see overleaf. I am enclosing the leaflet for the Unwebbed and invite everybody to our three events. Please read the leaflet carefully – it’s very helpful this year – and note whether to send religious/Amnesty cards or mention Amnesty in each case.

**LOCAL AMNESTY EVENTS**

Margaret Robertson has kindly offered to host a LETTER-WRITING EVENING in Barnham on WEDNESDAY 15/11 – 30 Stempswood Way PO22 0LA. Please contact her to book a place on (01243) 552113 – first come, first served.

We have some new ideas for our GREETINGS CARDS CAMPAIGN PUBLICITY TABLE, which we have been allowed to base at the CATHEDRAL GREEN, CHICHESTER, from 10 am till noon on SATURDAY 9/12/17. Please ring me on (01243) 823016 to get more details and to offer your help, not necessarily for the whole two hours.

BOGNORIANS! Your chance to celebrate HUMAN RIGHTS DAY (10/12) by rededicating our two plaques with real and wooden candles. Bring your own candles and I will bring the matches! We will meet at the plaque just off the seafront at Manor Place/The Steyne at 3.30pm to plant candles, then repeat at our rose behind Weatherspoons. Ring me (01243) 823016 if wet.

There will be a talk on North Korean prisoners at New Park Road Centre, Chichester, on THURSDAY 30/11 at 6pm, as part of the “Talks At Six” programme. Free admission, collection afterwards. I shall be following up with a brief plug for Amnesty’s work, so contact me for details - (01243) 823016.

Does anyone want to be Amnesty’s South-East regional representative? Contact me.

There are still 41 prisoners in Guantanamo Bay. Only 8 were ever convicted in a court, and 4 had the convictions reversed. 90% of inmates were released without charge or trial.

**Carry on Writing!!!!!!!!**

**Bob Dewick**

**Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing**



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| **This month’s action** |
| **TURKEY: Good news – Idil is released! but the fight goes on**The Istanbul 10 had their first hearing on 25 October. After a day of hearing evidence – İdil Eser, the Director of Amnesty International Turkey and rest of the group were released conditionally while their trial continues. They had endured 120 days in prison, some of them in solitary confinement. This is good news, however, Taner Kılıç, Chair of Amnesty International Turkey, had his first hearing the next day on 26 October. To our dismay he was denied bail and remains in prison.We continue to call for all charges to be dropped for both Taner and the Istanbul 10.: please take action online, here:<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/turkey-drop-charges-against-amnesty-staff>  |
| **UK: Help us change the law for refugees** |
| *Background to this action*Restrictive rules mean that many refugees in the UK have no hope of being reunited with their family. Together we can change the rules which keep refugee families apart. **Private Member’s Bill** Angus MacNeil MP has introduced a private members bill, which will receive its second reading on **Friday 16th March 2018**. The bill has been co-sponsored by a cross-party group of MPs who feel the current refugee family reunion rules are too restrictive. Amnesty International UK is working with the British Red Cross, Oxfam, Refugee Council, Student Action for Refugees (STAR), the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and others to make these changes happen. Now we need your help to secure 100 MPs voting in favour of the bill, on **Friday 16th March**, to ensure it progresses to the next stage. Together let’s make sure they attend**What the Bill asks for** * To expand the definition of family member, as currently only spouses and children under the age of 18 are allowed to join their family in the UK;
* To give refugee children the right to be reunited with their parents as under current reunion rules children cannot sponsor their parents to come to the UK leaving them alone;
* To reintroduce legal aid for refugee family reunion applications

As part of the I Welcome campaign, Amnesty International is campaigning for the UK to better share responsibility for hosting and assisting refugees. If we can make these changes, it would help create a safe and legal route for refugees in the UK.  | *What you can do***Write or email your MP** Most MPs normally spend their Fridays in Constituencies, and this is an important part of the role they play. We are asking you to ask them to make an exception to this. Please write to your MP making the following points; * Separation of refugee families can have a devastating impact on their lives
* You would like to see the UK government change restrictive rules that keep refugee families apart
* You recognise that Friday is an important day for MPs to be in their constituency. However, as a constituent you would like them to make an exception and support the Refugee Family Reunion Bill in Westminster.
* Will they commit to attending the Second Reading of the Refugee Family Reunion Bill on Friday 16th March 2018 and vote in favour of the bill?

If you are not sure who your MP is, please check on <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>Writing is probably the best method, as it provides a written record that can be referred to later. You can: * Write a letter to your MP at: House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
* Email them using the contact details in the UK Parliament directory, above

Remember: always include your own address when you write to your MP so that they will know you live in their constituency. |
| **Write for Rights 2017** |
| Every year, we run Write for Rights, a campaign over November and December where we encourage you to write messages of support to people around the world who have suffered injustice, and show you how to support their campaigns for justice.We run this campaign every year because we know it works: please follow this link to find out more<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/writing-rights-works> ***Please take part in Write for Rights 2017****:* * If you want to write a card or letter, please go here to find details of the cases: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-rights-2017-getting-started>
* There are online actions you can do here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/write-for-rights-2017>
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| **See** [**www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor-chichesterand-district/about-0**](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/bognor-chichesterand-district/about-0) **for further information about the group** |