

# Amnesty International Southend Group

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[www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/)



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

### Next Group Meeting

No monthly meeting in December

**Please come to the Write for Rights event instead**

Next monthly meeting Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**Annual card and letter-writing event  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10:00am – 1:00pm  
at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury  
Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU**

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 that 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!

Please write to (1) the Turkish Ambassador about **Taner Kiliç** and **Idil Eser** and other Amnesty members being prosecuted in Turkey. (2) the Jamaican authorities about Shackelia Jackson, a human rights defender featured in the Write for Rights campaign. (3) Write to your MP about Refugee rights and invite them to the launch of the Write for Rights Campaign in Parliament on 6<sup>th</sup> December. More details of all these actions are on the [Group Website](http://www.amnesty.org.uk).

# Amnesty International Southend Group

## Notes of meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### Present

Martin, Dave, Andrew, Heidrun, Doug, Muriel and Mike

### Apologies

Steve, Tricia and Audrey

### Letters and Petitions

We wrote letters and e-mails on behalf of human rights defender Shackelia Jackson from Jamaica and on behalf of Taner Kiliç and Idil Eser, the Chair and Director of Amnesty Turkey. We also wrote to our MPs about rights for refugees. **SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS.**

### Secretary

**AI UK monthly mailing (i)** news about Idil Eser and the Amnesty Turkey prosecutions with calls for continued letters and emails (see below and front page) **(ii)** more details of Write for Rights including the launch of this year's campaign at the Houses of Parliament on 6<sup>th</sup> December; **(iii)** details of an action to persuade MPs to relax some of the restrictive rules on refugees; and **(vi)** booking details for [the National Conference & AGM 2018](#) on 7th-8th April at Swansea University – 1<sup>st</sup> November booking opens, 7<sup>th</sup> January deadline for resolutions and 1<sup>st</sup> March bookings close.

### Treasurer.

Heidrun reported that our current bank balance is £589.32, following the fundraising meal at "East" and a donation. Projecting this year's costs forward and assuming no further fundraising we'll run out of funds around June. So, we'll need to look at fund raising early next year and consider reviving the annual Group membership subscription.

### Write for Rights

The materials for 9<sup>th</sup> December have been ordered (and now received). A poster and handouts will be circulated with the Newsletter. No progress with a painting for a replacement card – we would try to make our own; send your local photos ASAP to Mike who will try to set it up in time with a printer. Mu will provide tea, coffee, milk, etc. Andrew will get a cake, Mike will bring laptops for e-mails. Mike will arrange more publicity with Tricia, including inviting MPS, local politicians, local churches.

### Fundraising

We'll look at holding another Jamnesty! (different format) towards the middle of 2018. Heidrun will look at the Dixon Suite at the Palace as a possible venue.

**AOB** Decided to take no interest in the issues raised in an e-mail from Stephen Broadhurst

### Next Meetings

**(i)** Write for Rights, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 10:0am – 1:00pm at the Balmoral Centre  
Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2018, 7:30pm at the Balmoral Centre. **(ii)** Andrew had looked at the AI Protection Guidelines – they may raise a few issues for us, which he'll set out in an e-mail

*Mike Pregnall*

Group Secretary  
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