

Amnesty International Southend Group

amnestysouthend@googlemail.com
www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southend/



JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Next Group Meeting

Next monthly meeting Thursday 8th February 2018, 7:30pm at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Thanks to everybody who supported our Group Write for Rights event on 9th December.

There were 16 of us at The Balmoral Centre and we sent off 121 cards and letters along with a few e-mails and tweets and signed a couple of on-line petitions. Sir David Amess looked in and signed an on-line petition. Our particular thanks to all of you who made a donation towards the postage costs

Amnesty UK's National Conference and AGM 2018 is on the weekend of 7th-8th April at Swansea University.

Bookings close on 1st March

For more details and to book go to the [AI UK website](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)

Please write to:

(1) the Chinese authorities and/or Ambassador about Shafkat Abasi, a medical practitioner who "disappeared" in China in March last year and
(2) to your MP about the BRAVE Campaign (follow [this link](#) to find your MP and his/her address).

More details of all these actions are on the [Group Website](#).

Amnesty International Southend Group

Notes of meeting on 11th January 2018

Present Martin, Dave, Steve, Heidrun, Joy, Doug, Muriel and Mike

Apologies Tricia

Letters and Petitions We wrote letters and e-mails on behalf Shafkat Abasi, who “disappeared” in China in March last year and to our MPs about the BRAVE Campaign. We also sent a letter of support to Hakan Yaman. **SEE FRONT PAGE FOR DETAILS.**

Write for Rights 2017 We reviewed our card and letter writing morning which had 16 visitors including Sir David Amess MP – not as many as last year but still a good event. We considered other locations – somewhere more central, a church where we might get some “built-in” support, perhaps as part of or tagged on to the end of a Christmas Bazaar. One big advantage of the Balmoral Centre is the parking – and the price. Decided we would look at these matters a bit earlier in the year, in September at the latest.

Secretary No AIUK monthly mailing in January. If we’re going to get involved in the BRAVE Campaign we need to order leaflets, etc; Mike to order materials, we’d deal with a case each month and circulate schools. If you want to go to [the National Conference & AGM 2018](#) on 7th-8th April at Swansea University bookings close on 1st March.

Treasurer. Heidrun reported that our current bank balance is £367.58 which takes account of all our expenses for last year. We have had another £40 donations since then – the WfR events postage costs were covered by donations – thank you to everybody who helped us. The room at The Balmoral Centre is paid for up until May. We need to look at fund raising and consider reviving the annual Group membership subscription/donation.

Fundraising We’ll try to organise another Jamnesty!-style event later in the year – venues will need to be looked at, Heidrun’s enquiries of the Dixon Suite at the Palace weren’t fruitful – one of the lounges at The Cliffs Pavilion may be a possibility. Another Amnestea in summer, possibly at the Balmoral Centre. These and other suggestions for consideration at the next meeting.

Publicity Another Forum display (if they’ll have us!) but less cluttered tables and display boards. Heidrun to investigate availability – same week as last year. Also, replacement greeting card to be discussed at the next meeting.

AOB Ely Group’s has arranged a series of talks – 20th February Human Rights in Saudi Arabia, 20th March Human Rights in Israel & Palestine and 17th April Testimonies of a Massacre: Tula Toli (the Rohingya). All at the Babylon Gallery, Waterside, Ely CB7 4AU. Free – refreshments available. 7:00pm for 7:15pm start.

Next Meetings 8th February at the Balmoral Centre at 7:30pm. The meeting on 8th March will be our Group AGM.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
01702 204748