

PRESENT - Luisa, Janet, Cathy, Celia, David

APOLOGIES - Meghan, Pooja, Zayn, Bernard, Pauline

2. Minutes and actions from January's Meeting

The point made by Pauline that we should be careful to check the length of films to be shown at meetings in the future has been noted.

3. Future Events

a) Street collection in Solihull, etc. would not be on the 7th April due to the absence of several key members of our group. The new date is 25th August (Bank Holiday Saturday)

b) Fun in the Park - Sunday 23rd September - We need to decide finally at a future meeting whether to have a stall. There was a lack of enthusiasm because it has been difficult to engage the public at previous events. We should only book a stall if we have a focus which we think will be an effective way of raising awareness about our work.

c) Amnestea – this is planned for Sunday 5th August at 26 St Bernards Road.

4. Group Finances - we thank Anna for her written statement of our current finances (income and expenditure). Our current bank balance is £1225.08. The accumulated funds over the last year derive largely from donations given to David at his talks during the year, Annual Street Collection in Solihull and Amnestea . Last year we sent £500 to AIUK . This year it is proposed at this meeting that we send £850, and maybe a further donation later in the year (to be decided at a future meeting).

5. Secretary's items

a) Discussion and formulation of the wording of an email letter to Julian Knight and Caroline Spelman re forthcoming debate in Commons on 16 March requesting them to be present to vote on a private members' bill (which requires at least 100 MPs to be present in the House) on the matter of changes to restrictive UK rules re. family reunion for refugees - to improve the systems to enable families who are currently in separate countries to be reunited in UK. (eg . for minors now in UK to be able to apply for other family members to come to UK)

6. Campaign reports

a) Johan Teterissa, Indonesia: Bernard has done a new letter writing rota. This was given out.

b) Laos A replacement 'Individual At Risk' is being sought for Sombath Somphone (Laos). Duncan Booth (AIUK Appeals Coordinator for S.E.Asia) has been in contact - however, the person suggested in Thailand - Jatupet Boompattararaska (known as 'Pai') is currently going through the slow and lengthy legal processes of the Thai Govt. and we are advised that any campaign on his behalf can only be in the form of 'solidarity greetings '. His family have informed AIUK that appeal letters to the Administration in Thailand would be counterproductive. We are awaiting developments and Duncan will be contacted again re progress or for us to be offered an alternative IAR .

7. Groups Planning Pack

Individuals at risk section we stated that we would like to campaign for a new individual from Laos, Cambodia or Thailand.

Thematic networks

LGBTI Network – contact Cathy

Women's Action Network – contact Cathy

Anti Death Penalty Project – contact Celia

Children's Human Rights Network – no contact

Celia to send completed paperwork to AI.

8. Any Other Business

- Luisa contacted Meghan to ask if she would be happy to speak to us at the March meeting about her experiences in Bosnia. She has kindly agreed to this;
- Celia will talk about Thailand at the April meeting.
- David described a future fund raising opportunity. The Canoldir Choir will perform a concert at Christ Church on 6 October. Local voluntary and community groups will be invited to share the staging costs and in return will keep the money made from ticket sales once costs have been met. Luisa offered to play at the concert and suggested that Solihull School students could also possibly contribute.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING MONDAY 19 MARCH

MINUTES: CELIA

TEAS: JANET