

Amnesty International Southend Group

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



NOVEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER



Write for Rights

Make a difference!

SATURDAY 15th DECEMBER 10:00am – 1:00pm

Balmoral Community Centre

Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

Send a message on behalf of somebody whose human rights are abused or denied.

If you can't come, we'd appreciate a contribution to postage costs. Donations to Amnesty Southend Group
c/o 36 Orchard Avenue, Hockley SS5 5BE

LETTER-WRITING ACTION

Please write to the Minister of Home Affairs in Bangladesh on behalf of [Shahidul Alam](#). A photographer and outspoken social activist he has been detained and charged solely for exercising his right to freedom of expression.

You can also write on behalf of [Seyi Akiwoso](#) (UK) who was bombarded with on-line abuse but got little or no help from Twitter

No regular Group meeting in December. Our next Group Meeting is at 7:30pm Thursday 10th January 2019, at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

SO BEST WISHES FOR CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR TO ALL
OUR SUPPORTERS *Mike*

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 8th November 2018

at The Balmoral Centre Westcliff

Present Martin, Doug, Andrew, Muriel & Mike

Apologies: Tricia, Steve

From the last meeting: Joyce's Amnestea starts at 3:00pm (not 4:00pm, sorry!). Several of us have had (standard) letters from our MPs about AI UK's Human Rights Day event at Speakers House and/or about the BRAVE Campaign. Most say they'll try to go to the Speakers House event – only Sir David Amess says he'll come to our WfR event.

Letters and Petitions We wrote letters (2) and sent e-mails(5) to the Minister of Home Affairs and other officials in Bangladesh on behalf of Shahidul Alam, a Prisoner of Conscience. Details of these actions can be found on the front page of the Newsletter and on the Group website.

Secretary The AI UK Local Groups mailing contains:

- News that Me Nam, a Vietnamese blogger, part of this year's WfR Campaign, has been released
- Some details of the 2019 AGM and National Conference is at Nottingham 13th-14th April
- A Twitter action on behalf of [Seyi Akiwowo](#) (UK) bombarded with on-line abuse
- Some more details of the WfR Campaign and the launch in Parliament

AI UK want us to write to the local press about the **20th anniversary of the Human Rights Act** using a template letter that Mike will ask Tricia to send.

Chelmsford Group is holding an **Amnestea and Human Rights talk** on 18th December, 2:30pm at the Friends Meeting House, 82 Rainsford Road, CM2 2QL.

Treasurer The bank account stands at £469.

Fundraising/Publicity – Write for Rights Saturday 15th December. We discussed arrangements for the event, particularly publicity:

Press & Websites	Tricia already has this in hand
Posters & Flyers	Mike has prepared and printed an A4 poster
AI UK Individual Members	Mike has asked AI UK to circulate local members
Women's Groups	Martin will write/send a poster
Political Parties (Constituency Offices)	Steve has got the addresses, Mike will write/send a poster
MPs	Have already been written to
Pressure Groups e.g. CAST	Mike
Trade Union Branches	Doug will e-mail local branches/send a poster
Libraries	Heidrun will try to get posters displayed
Schools & Colleges	Andrew will write/send a poster
Churches	Steve will try to get posters displayed in Churches near the Balmoral Centre
	Muriel & Mike will contact churches in the Southend & Leigh Methodist Circuit

AOB We agreed the sharing out of most of the Group's equipment and resources, so Mike & Muriel can free up their spare bedroom. Just a few boxes need a home now. We'll try to bring as much of the equipment and resources to the WfR event, otherwise we'll deliver them. Thanks for helping.

Next Meeting

No regular Group meeting in December – the WfR event takes its place – so our next meeting is on **Thursday 10th January 2019** at the Balmoral Centre at 7:30pm.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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