

Amnesty International Southend Group

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



JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Thank you to everybody who supported our Write for Rights event on 15th December, either by coming to write letters or donating to cover our postage costs.

We wrote 137 cards and letters - and sent several texts and e-mails as well - and wrote to or on behalf of every case in the WfR leaflet. Thanks to your generous donations we covered our stationery and postage

**WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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Our next Group Meeting is at 7:30pm on Thursday 14th February, at The Balmoral Centre, Salisbury Avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea SS0 7AU

AI UK
Annual Conference
& AGM
13th – 14th April
in Nottingham

E Anglia
Regional Conference
23rd March
Details later

LETTER-WRITING ACTION

Please write to President Sisi on behalf of Amal Fathy, a victim of sexual harassment in Egypt; letters to the UAE Minister of the Interior or UK Ambassador on behalf of Dr Nasser bin Gaith, who is on hunger strike; and to the Saudi Ambassador in the UK on behalf of women imprisoned for campaigning against the driving ban. Click [HERE](#) for details on the Group website.

Amnesty International Southend Group

Notes of meeting on 10TH January 2019

at The Balmoral Centre Westcliff

Present

Martin, Doug, Steve, Jose, Muriel & Mike

Apologies:

Tricia & Audrey.

Review of Write for Rights:

We wrote 137 cards and letters - and sent several texts and e-mails as well - and wrote to or on behalf of every case in the WfR leaflet. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we covered our stationery and postage expenses (by £1.44!). We felt that it was a successful event (though disappointing that Sir David Amess MP didn't turn up) and that there was a good atmosphere in the room. A member of the local Labour party offered to try to involve its members next year. We discussed whether the location of the Balmoral Centre put people off as it's difficult to find, but we couldn't think of anywhere as centrally located with car parking and at a reasonable cost. We decided to hold our 2019 WfR event on Saturday 7th December.

Letters and Petitions

We wrote letters (6) to President Sisi on behalf of Amal Fathy, a victim of sexual harassment in Egypt; letters (6) to the UAE Minister of the Interior or Ambassador on behalf of Dr Nasser bin Gaith, who is on hunger strike; and letters (6) to the Saudi Ambassador on behalf of women imprisoned for campaigning against the driving ban. Details of these actions can be found on the front page of the Newsletter and on the Group website.

Secretary

No AI UK Local Groups mailing in January.

- AI UK Annual Conference and AGM is 13th – 14th April in Nottingham. If you want to go you need to book before 8th March. More details and booking arrangements at <https://www.eventsforce.net/blueprint/frontend/reg/thome.csp?pageID=44242&eventID=110&traceRedir=2>
- The Kaiser Chiefs are appearing at the Cliffs Pavilion on Sunday 17th February; AI UK are producing wristbands with a way for people to text an action and donate via a QR code. We've been offered 2 guest tickets for volunteers to hand out the wrist bands. Doug and Martin offered to go. Mike will ask if more Group members could help, maybe have a table.
- Regional Meeting Saturday 23rd March - Damien Short, Director of the Human Rights Consortium at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, who will talk about his research on the human rights impacts of extreme energy processes (tar sands, fracking etc.) and environmental justice. More details later.
- We agreed to accept AI UK communications via the AI UK website as part of an attempt to reduce environmental impact

Fundraising/Publicity

We will look at fundraising at our February meeting.

AOB

Mike and Muriel are away for the April meeting

Next Meeting

Thursday 14th February 2019 at the Balmoral Centre at 7:30pm.

Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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