

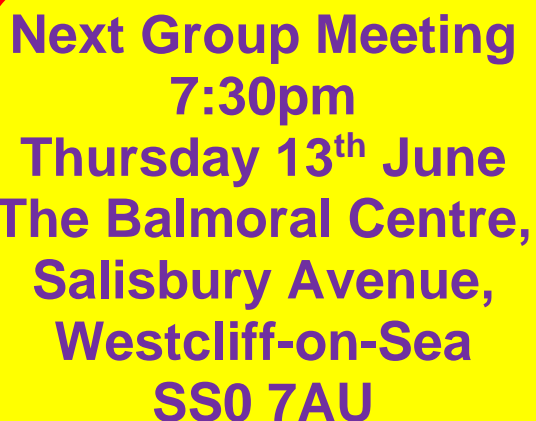
Amnesty International Southend Group

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



MAY 2019

NEWSLETTER



Next Group Meeting
7:30pm
Thursday 13th June
The Balmoral Centre,
Salisbury Avenue,
Westcliff-on-Sea
SS0 7AU



Amnesteas
Saturday 3rd August
2:30pm – 5:00pm
36 Orchard Avenue
Hockley SS5 5BE

Cake donations welcome!



Send an e-mail via the AI UK website on behalf of [Saudi Women](#) human rights defenders who successfully campaigned for the right to drive and have now been arrested.

LETTER-WRITING ACTION

Please write letters to the Prime Minister in Bahrain on behalf of **Hajer Mansoor Hassan**, who is in prison following an unfair trial and is being denied medical care and letters and/or e-mails to the Interior Minister in Palestine on behalf of **Suha Jbara**, an activist jailed in Palestine following a “forced” confession
Click [HERE](#) for details on the Group website.

Amnesty International Southend Group
Notes of meeting on 9th May 2019
at The Balmoral Centre Westcliff-on-Sea

Present Martin, Jose, Andrew, Muriel & Mike

Apologies: Tricia, Erika, Steve & Doug

Letters and Petitions We wrote letters (2) and e-mails (2) to the PM of Palestine (4) on behalf on behalf of **Suha Jbara**, a jailed activist; and letters (5) to the Interior Minister on behalf of **Hajer Mansoor Hassan**, denied medical care in Bahrain.

Details of these actions can be found on the front page of the Newsletter and on the Group website.

AGM Brief review of the **last year** – although we carried out regular letter, etc., writing, organised a number of publicity events and managed to raise funds to support our activities the Group is at present only just surviving. The numbers at meetings are small and we can't retain new supporters. Unless we can change things, the Group may well wither away. It was felt that this needed to be brought to our supporters' attention. As previously said, I want to stop being Secretary as I feel a fresh approach is needed. Martin offered to look at whether he could take on the Secretary's role, but we need to look at doing things differently and taking on more challenging activities. For the rest of this year we can probably struggle on as we are although if there's no improvement, we may need to reconsider our future after the Write for Rights event in December. Money is not an immediate problem and Muriel will organise an Amnesteas (instead of the proposed meal) but we are running on a nearly empty tank!

Secretary

- AI UK Local Groups monthly mailing contained material about LGBT rights in Chechnya, Refugee Week 17-23rd June, Pride Festivals in the UK and the campaign on behalf of [Saudi Women](#) human rights defenders who successfully campaigned for the right to drive and have now been arrested.
- Liesbeth ten Ham has come to the end of her tenure as Regional Rep – Mike will write and thank her for her support.
- Ipswich Group were holding a poetry evening on 11th May
- AI UK and The Guilty Feminist Podcast present **The Secret Policeman's Tour** at the Hackney Empire, on Wednesday, 5 June. [Book tickets here](#)

Treasurer Our account balance stands £151, having sent off the annual £72 group fee to AI UK.

Fundraising/Publicity Mu will organise a fundraising meal.

AOB Martin had been to the Regional Conference on Saturday 23rd March in Cambridge, which he thought was one of the best he'd been to. The theme was "**Our rights in Today's Climate**", looking at the threats to and the connection between environmental and human rights. Martin had found the conference challenging, passed on a daft Amnesty Policy on Climate Change and Environmental Degradation and suggested we watch David Attenborough's BBC 2 video [The Truth About Climate Change](#).

Next Meeting

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Mike Pregnall

Group Secretary
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