



# DERBY AMNESTY

Amnesty International (AI) Derby and District Group Newsletter

<http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/derby-and-district>

Aug / Sep 2019

Secretary: Steffi Hahn @ derbyamnesty@gmail.com  
Chair: James Lam 01332 606937 @ dr\_j\_lam@hotmail.com  
Editor: Alison Simcock 01332 349405 @ alison.simcock@outlook.com

## Flag Day

### Saturday 5th October

**Please give an hour of your time.**



**Please give an hour or so of your time to hold a tin in the town centre. We know that the more helpers we have, the more money we make.**

As usual the centre for distributing cans will be the Central URC church office in Becketwell Lane. This is down the side of the old Debenham's building, between Debenham's and what was Boots. Donations are also welcome.

**To offer help or a donation, please see the slip below, or phone or email Anne Feist on 01332 766536 or [anne.feist@outlook.com](mailto:anne.feist@outlook.com)**

## Diary Dates . . Diary Dates

*Meetings are second Tuesday in the month in the Friends Meeting House, St Helen's St., Derby*

<b>Sep 10th</b>	Group Meeting 7.30pm Friends Meeting House
<b>Oct 5th</b>	Flag Day Derby City Centre
<b>Oct 8th</b>	Group Meeting 7.30pm Friends Meeting House
<b>Nov 12th</b>	Group Meeting 7.30pm Friends Meeting House
<b>Dec 7th</b>	Greetings Cards Campaign. Venue TBA
<b>Jan 2020</b>	Group Meal at the Shalimar. Date to be arranged.

## Greetings Card Campaign Saturday December 7th

Together with Compassionate Derby  
St Peters Church, St Peters' Street



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**Reply Slip Amnesty International Flag Day, Saturday 5th Oct 2019 9 am – 4.00 pm.**

**Meet at Central URC church office, Becketwell Lane**

I am able to help with the Flag Day and can help between ..... and .....

I am unable to help at the Flag Day but enclose donation of ..... (Cheques to Amnesty International)

Name.....Address.....

Email ..... Phone .....

Please return to Anne Feist (or email or phone) by October 4th. 3 Willson Ave, Littleover DE23 2BD. [anne.feist@outlook.com](mailto:anne.feist@outlook.com)



## Troubling Issues

There has been a number of developments at Amnesty since the last newsletter.

### **Tragic Deaths**

As you may have read in the newspapers two members of staff at Amnesty International, Rosalind McGregor and Gaetan Mootoo have committed suicide. Amnesty has commissioned reports on circumstances of their deaths and whether the organisation could have done more to prevent their deaths. Both reports can be found on the AIUK website. Amnesty directors have said that they will implement their recommendations. They have promised to issue regular updates on progress.

### **Financial Difficulties**

We have also found out that the International Secretariat, where Amnesty carries out its research for the movement, are in financial difficulties. It was announced that it is possible that redundancies are required to cut costs. The main reason for the financial situation was that their income was less than forecast. As far as we are aware the financial situation at AIUK is ok but as one of the wealthier sections AIUK may be asked to contribute more to the International Secretariat.

### **Amnesty's Remit**

One of the concerns expressed by some members of the Derby Group is that the scope for Amnesty's work is now too wide. When Amnesty was founded it concentrated on campaigning to release Prisoners of Conscience and civil rights. Nowadays Amnesty campaigns on social and economic rights. The new General Secretary Kumi Naidoo, formerly of Greenpeace wants the movement to campaign on the climate emergency. At the recent AIUK AGM in Nottingham, there was a resolution calling on the Board to prioritise resources back to its original purpose, that is the release of Prisoners of Conscience. This resolution was heavily defeated by 70% to 30%.

## DERBY PEACE WEEK 2019

**21 Sept to Wed 2 Oct**

Amnesty is just one of 19 different organisations working together to promote peace. Armed conflict is a major reason for the loss of human rights for many disadvantaged people. Events include:

**Peace Concert** with Sat 21 Sept 7-9pm St Peters Centre Lester Simpson, Peace through Folk choir and Sue MacFarlane (Ticketed Concert)

**Workshop on disarming women** at the Mandela Centre (Sat 21 Sept 2-6pm). Pear Tree Road Derby

Mon 23 Sept 10am-1pm **ArtCore Celebration of Peace.** Experience creative canvas activities to share people's thoughts and expressions on what peace means to them. Delicious refreshments available to all the community to unite through connection, trust and togetherness. 3 Charnwood Street Derby DE1 2GT

Mon 23 Sept 6.30pm **QUAD film All Quiet on the Western Front** with introduction and Q&A by Dr Schneider



from the Remarque Peace Centre, Osnabruck

Tues 24 Sept  
QUAD 1-3pm  
**Workshop on Promoting**

**Peace** the Osnabruck experience with Dr Schneider and Spike the Poet from Veterans for Peace

Sat 28 Sept 7.15pm Concert with Peggy Seeger & Rob Johnson, Friends Meeting House, Derby (tickets from Derby Live)

Mon 30 Sept 6.30pm QUAD film Shadow World (film on the arms trade) with Q&A by Andrew Feinstein Exec Director Corruption Watch UK

**A Climate Emergency event** at Derby Multifaith Centre on Wed 2 Oct.

**There are many more events - see the Derby Peoples Diary web-site. Many events are free.**