

WORKING FOR INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

1. Dr Eduardo Cardet, Cuba

Dr. Cardet, a medical doctor, is a human rights defender and has been leader of the pro-democracy Christian Liberation Movement since 2014. He was released from prison in May 2019. He was serving a three-year sentence due to end in September 2019. He is now living with his family but the conditions imposed on his release limit his freedom of movement and severely restrict his opportunities for employment. Although Amnesty International no longer regards Dr. Cardet as a prisoner of conscience, we will continue to press for the conditions placed on his release to be removed.

2. Aster Fissehatsion and Dawit Isaak, Eritrea

The long-awaited peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia has brought economic prosperity but no improvement for human rights in Eritrea. Politician **Aster Fissehatsion** and journalist **Dawit Isaak** remain in detention for publishing criticism of the government in 2002. Both are regarded as Prisoners of Conscience by Amnesty International, and their whereabouts and current welfare have never been revealed. We continue to press for their release from the harsh prison conditions which they and thousands of others endure in Eritrea.

PROGRAMME

September 2019

M. 9th 7.30 pm Meeting: Erosion of freedoms in South Asia. *Peter Murray*

F. 21st: *International Peace Day*

October 2019

M. 21st 7.30 pm: Joint meeting with Romsey Group in Romsey URC Church Hall: President Trump's Effect on Human Rights. *Lise Rossi*. **NB Date change**

November 2019

Sa. 9th: Write for Rights event, Shirley Library

M. 11th 7.30pm Meeting: Environmental issues in Brazil. *David Lee*

Su. 24th: Write for Rights with the Quakers

Sa. 30th: Meet the Maker craft event, October Books

December 2019

Sa. 7th: Children's event, October Books

Date tbc: Christmas Pub Quiz, King Rufus, Eling

M. 9th 7.30 pm Meeting: Write for Rights action

Tu. 10th: *Human Rights Day*

Date tbc: 7.30 pm: Write for Rights event at Phoenix Film Society

Th. 12th 6.00 pm: Avenue Campus. Annual Human Rights Lecture. *Martyn Day* (Details tbc)

January 2020

M. 13th 7.30 pm Meeting: Topic tbc

February 2020

M. 10th 7.30 pm Meeting: Topic tbc

March 2020

Su. 8th: *International Women's Day*

M. 9th 7.30 pm Meeting: Action for Women. *Group members*

April 2020

M. 20th 7.30 pm: Joint meeting with Romsey Group in Romsey URC Church Hall. Human Rights in Russia.

Barrie Hey. **NB Date change**

Date tbc: Easter Pub Quiz, King Rufus, Eling

Dates tbc: Football Welcomes Refugees

May 2020

Su. 3rd: *Press Freedom Day*

Sa. 16th: Guided Walk around Eling & Pub Lunch

M. 11th 7.30 pm Meeting: Press Freedom

June 2020

M. 8th 7.30 pm Meeting: Topic tbc

15th-21st: *Refugee Week*

Details tbc: Event for Refugee Week

Details tbc: AIUK AGM & Conference

July 2020

Mon. 13th 7.30 pm Meeting: Group AGM & social

For up-to-date information on all group activities, please see our website.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Southampton Group

**Most meetings take place
on the second Monday of each month
(but see programme for exceptions)
at 7.30 pm
in St Andrew's United Reformed
Church, The Avenue, Southampton
SO17 1XQ**

*Annual Membership £12.00. Please come along or get
in touch!*

E-mail: amnestysouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

Website: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southampton-city

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RomseySouthamptonAmnesty

AMNESTY SOUTHAMPTON

A long-term slogan of Amnesty's is: "We are ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights". The theme of the 2019 Amnesty Conference was "The power of activism". There is no doubt both human rights and activism are facing unprecedented challenges right now. One is the rise of authoritarian leaders, who are intolerant of dissent, refusing to recognise that the rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are truly universal and apply equally regardless of ethnic group, gender, religion, or political affiliation. There is a global trend towards xenophobia. The gap between rich and poor is growing bigger, leading to increased numbers of refugees seeking a better life. This will only be exacerbated by climate change, which will hit the poorer countries hardest.

The new Secretary-General of the worldwide Amnesty movement has issued a challenge to members. We need to grow, become stronger, more active, experiment. The Southampton Amnesty Group has been part of the movement since 1964, but to meet the challenge it needs to recruit new members, particularly (but not exclusively) young people who feel strongly about global issues. So come along to a meeting, or email us to find out more, and help us keep the Amnesty candle burning brightly in Southampton. You will be very welcome!

'I WELCOME' CAMPAIGN

This campaign for refugee rights has several aims.

- 1) To get the UK Government to improve asylum rights and increase its share of responsibility for hosting refugees, particularly reuniting refugee families.
- 2) To welcome refugees, nationally and within communities, by giving them positive experiences.
- 3) To build stronger and more sustainable groups and organisations working together for refugees' rights.
- 4) To respond as needed to key issues such as Windrush.

- 5) To encourage international respect for refugees' rights.

DEATH PENALTY

Amnesty has campaigned for 40 years for an end to all executions around the world - no matter what the circumstances. The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights. In 1977 the death penalty was legal in most of the world, with the exception of 16 countries. By 2018 it was illegal in 106 countries. Good news is that global executions (excluding China) fell by 31% in 2018. However, in five countries the number of executions went up, and two countries resumed executions after an interval of years.

SAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

We will be campaigning to ensure that politicians do not take away the rights we enjoy under this Act, which many people around the world are still fighting for. It is not yet known what steps the government might take to repeal the Act and replace it with alternatives of their own choosing. Action is likely to include lobbying local and national politicians and using the media to dispel myths, highlight how the Act has been used to protect people's rights, and make sure that attempts to repeal the HRA are not submerged in the Brexit negotiations.

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

This campaign, begun in May 2017, aims to reinforce and implement protection mechanisms for Human Rights Defenders against any type of violence, threat, reprisal, discrimination or pressure. We will campaign to support the crucial work of Human Rights Defenders from across the world, such as Iranian Human Rights Lawyer Nasrin Sotoudeh, and to demand truth and justice for those who have been murdered, like Honduran Campaigner Berta Cáceres.

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

During the year we shall be undertaking Urgent Actions on behalf of individuals in China who have been detained or victimised for their work as Human Rights Defenders. We will be calling for freedom of speech and freedom to demonstrate peacefully against curtailment of rights by the Chinese state. Following pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong, Amnesty is calling for an investigation into the use of force by police which appears to have violated international human rights standards.

Amnesty is calling on China to end its campaign of mass internment and indoctrination against up to a million Uighur minority people in Xinjiang, who are forcibly detained in camps and subject to brainwashing, torture and punishment.

SOUTH ASIA

This region includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Action is likely to include work on the treatment of human rights defenders in Afghanistan; the lack of religious freedom and the impact of climate change in Pakistan; attacks on minorities and extra-judicial killings in Bangladesh; discrimination against Muslim residents in Assam in India; and work for human rights defenders and people who are affected by the coal mining activities in Adivasi (tribal people) areas of India.

WRITE FOR RIGHTS, November & December

This is a global action to send messages of goodwill and solidarity to victims of human rights abuse and their families. Anyone is welcome to join us at an event (see programme overleaf and Group website for details), or guidance for sending messages independently can be downloaded at www.amnesty.org.uk/write from 1st November.