**MINUTES OF:** **Amnesty international Mid-Warwickshire** **DATE:** 7 Nov 2019

**PRESENT:** Jane Sault (chair), Hilary Holland, Roger Frost, Chris Begg, Denise Fowler, Jo Hobbs, Ilene Ramsay, Jill Smith, Maureen Hirsch

**APOLOGIES:** Fiona**,** Iris Assing, Chrissie Priestley, Felicity Smith, Maureen Hirsch, Marta Pitarello, Sonia Chery, Gill Frigerio

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion Points** | **Action / Assigned** |
| **2. Matters arising from previous minutes** | The Oriflamme concert at St Mary’s Church on Jan 18th has been cancelled. | Simon to put notice in Courier |
| **3. Past events**  **4. Future events** | Chrissie gave talk to school audience on Nov 8th – hopefully she’ll feed back at the next meeting.  **Letter Writing Evening.** 21 Nov , only 3 people turned up but 30 letters were written.  **Writes for Rights in Leamington on Nov 30th**. Info sent with Agenda:  77 signatures on the petition to President Duterte, Philippines asking him to help for communities hit by climate change.79 signatures on the petition to the Greek government asking for the charges against Sarah and Sean, who helped boat refugees, to be dropped.  34 petition cards signed for Yiliyasisiyang (Uighur Muslim) & sent to the Chinese Ambassador in London. 48 petition cards signed for Migrant Women subjected to abuse & sent to the Home Office. 24 greetings cards to be sent to the victims, (or in Yiliya’s case, his wife)  £53.27 in the donations tub.  **Beth Ash from Shelter Coventry** which supports asylum seekers and immigrants will talk to the group about detention etc. on Thursday 6 Feb.  **Rebecca Van Nguyen from Amnesty** will talk to the group about Israel and the Occupied Territories at the 2 April meeting.  Iris has received the dates for us to hold **street collections** for 2020:  2 May Leamington, 16 May Warwick, 23 May Kenilworth  Volunteers are needed to coordinate them. |  |
| **5. Any other business** | Roger has sold all the Xmas cards on the stall hosted by Kenilworth Barclays. |  |
| **Next meeting** | **Thurs 6th February** 7.20pm for 7.30pm at Warwick Space  **N.B. There will be no meeting on Thursday 2nd January** | **Warwick Space, 71 Coten End, Warwick CV34 4NU** |
| **6. Talk by Denise on Modern Day Slavery** | Denise had done extensive research to obtain some startling statistics:  In 2015 there were 37 million Modern Day Slaves. It was agreed by many countries to end it. However, there are now at least 45 million and it has gone up by 22% in the UK.  47 countries have still not recognised human trafficking as a crime. Forced marriage is still not recognised in 100 countries. Wales and Scotland have anti-slavery tsars.  The group was concerned about workers in local car washes, nail bars and the new Thai Massage shop. | **Jane** to contact Warks Police about their policies in dealing with this**.**  **Ilene** wants to investigate the massage parlour as part of her journalism studies. |
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**Forthcoming dates**

**Thurs 6th Feb** Outside speaker, Beth Ash from homeless shelter in Coventry. Please come to support! Bring a friend.

**Thurs 5th March** Meeting. Would anyone like to volunteer to speak to the rest of the group?

**Thurs 2nd April** Speaker from Amnesty to talk about the Israel -Palestinian situation. Please support and bring a friend.