**MINUTES OF:** **Amnesty international Mid-Warwickshire** **DATE:** 6 February 2020

**PRESENT:** Jane Sault (chair), Denise Fowler, Jo Hobbs, Felicity Smith, Marta Pitarello, Sonia Chery, John Payton, Annie Curran, Simon Lieberman, Maeve Moynihan.

**APOLOGIES:** Roger Frost, Chrissie Priestley, Hilary Holland, Maureen Hirsch, Iris Assing.

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| **Agenda item** | **Discussion Points** | **Action / Assigned** |
| **1. Matters arising from previous minutes** | Ilene was not here for the meeting so nothing to report regarding the potential modern slavery issue identified in Warwick. Jane had checked out with the police if modern day slavery is an issue here but they were unable to say but pointed Jane to Government documents. |  |
| **2. Talk** | **Beth Ash from Peace House** which supports asylum seekers provided a really interesting talk and Q&A about the situation of asylum seekers. Well over 50% of asylum claims are denied at first hearing and at that point they lose any of the rights they had. The Coventry centre is the only night shelter for Asylum Seekers in the Midlands. The asylum seekers are very supportive of each other.  Many thanks to Beth for taking the time to talk to us. |  |
| **3. Campaigns** | Nothing to report on Senator Leila de Lima in the Philippines. The country coordinator has said there is no news but to carry on campaigning. | **Simon to ask** |
| **4. WM conference campaigns** | Chrissie was not able to attend tonight but will report back at the March meeting. |  |
| **5. Events**  **Past events**  **Future events** | **Letter Writing Evening.** 21 Nov, only 3 people turned up but 30 letters were written.  **Rebecca Van Nguyen from Amnesty** will talk to the group about Israel and the Occupied Territories at the 2 April meeting.  **Street collections** for 2020:  2 May Leamington – Sonia offered to organise  16 May Warwick – Denise offered to organise  23 May Kenilworth  A volunteer is still needed to coordinate Kenilworth.  **Peace Festival** 13 / 14 June – Jo offered to organise again  **Amnesty International UK AGM** is on 20/21 June. Annie has booked to attend.  **Talk by Richard Ratcliffe** about Iran and his wife Nazanin’s situation: Sat 22nd Feb at the Leamington Spa Baptist Church (Warwick Hall), Chandos Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 4RN, from 12:00 pm till 2:15pm.  **Letter Writing Evening.** Monday 24 February at Oken Team Rooms at 7.30 | **Sonia**  **Denise**  **Jo**  **Please make it if you can as numbers were low for the last one.** |
| **6.Treasurer’s report** | Iris was not at the meeting but we have a few hundred pounds in each account. As the concert was unable to take place we will probably not be able to make much of a donation to Amnesty International UK this year but we can look at other fundraising events. |  |
| **7. Any other business** | Next meeting is also the Group AGM. Contact Jane to confirm if you will continue as officer or are offering to stand. | **All** |
| **Next meeting** | **Thurs 5 March** 7.20pm for 7.30pm at Warwick Space | **Warwick Space, 71 Coten End, Warwick CV34 4NU** |

**Forthcoming dates**

**Monday 24 Feb at 7.30 pm** Letter writing evening at Oken Tea Rooms

**Thurs 5 March** **at 7.30 pm** Group meeting Meeting, including AGM

**Thurs 2 April** **at 7.30 pm** Rebecca Van Nguyenfrom Amnesty is attending to talk about the Israel-Palestinian situation. Please support and bring a friend.