

BANBURY AREA GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



🐦 @BanburyAmnesty

www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/banbury

NEWSLETTER 2
SPRING 2021



We are ordinary people, who live in and around Banbury, who stand up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness and truth are denied.

We meet, currently online, on the third Monday of each month except August. You are very welcome to join us. Sign up for email updates via the website.

As a global movement of over ten million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

Current Campaigns

Pastoralist communities, Angola

PLEASE HELP 65,000 STARVING PEOPLE IN ANGOLA



Banbury Amnesty is campaigning to help 65,000 starving pastoral farmers illegally forced off their grazing land as drought grips southern Angola.

Amnesty is arranging for a local Angolan activist to visit the UK, when the pandemic allows, to lobby the Government and Charities for urgent support.

**Please help us to fund the visit.
Our Just Giving website is at**

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/banbury-amnesty-4

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY

Yiliyasijiang Reheman, China

We have written to the three MPs, Victoria Prentis, Jeremy Wright and Chris Heaton-Harris, that represent members of Banbury Area Amnesty. They passed on our enquiry and concern regarding the whereabouts of Yiliyasijiang Reheman to the Minister of Asia, Nigel Adams MP. We have entered into correspondence with him to see if he can bring this matter up with the Chinese Ambassador.

Group members have been involved with a campaign development session on the issue of China's treatment of the Uighurs. The multi group session was led by Amnesty's new Country Coordinator, Nabila Khan, with the aim of generating a number of campaigning strategies which are now being assessed by head office.

Nabila has also given two very well attended online talks about the current situation of the Uighurs in the Xinjiang and China's Belt and Road Initiative which is a driving force behind much of the appalling treatment of the Uighurs, among others. She also gave some very interesting and useful historical context of the region and its inhabitants.

If you want to join the growing campaign to stand up for the Uighurs, please contact us via the website or twitter



Campaigning

GIVE URGENT PROTECTION TO FRONTLINE HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

In communities around the world, people defending human rights are being threatened, attacked, imprisoned or killed. Banbury Area Group members have been campaigning to persuade the UK Government to help protect frontline defenders.

In 2019, it was reported that over 300 Human Rights Defenders were killed.

Without these courageous people risking their lives to defend human rights, too many violations would go unrecorded and unchallenged, potentially leaving whole communities defenceless. After contacting the Banbury MP, Victoria Pren-

tis, we had a swift reply assuring us that the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office puts human rights and their defenders at the heart of its work. Amnesty, along with other partners, have published a suggested strategy that the UK could adapt and adopt. Those interviewed by Amnesty to inform the strategy, described how more outspoken and strategic interventions from the UK would make a positive impact to their lives:

"If the UK [prioritises HRDs]...they will help us to survive, because I'm sure the world needs us to stay here to make change."

Women Human Rights Defender & journalist, Egypt

Forthcoming events

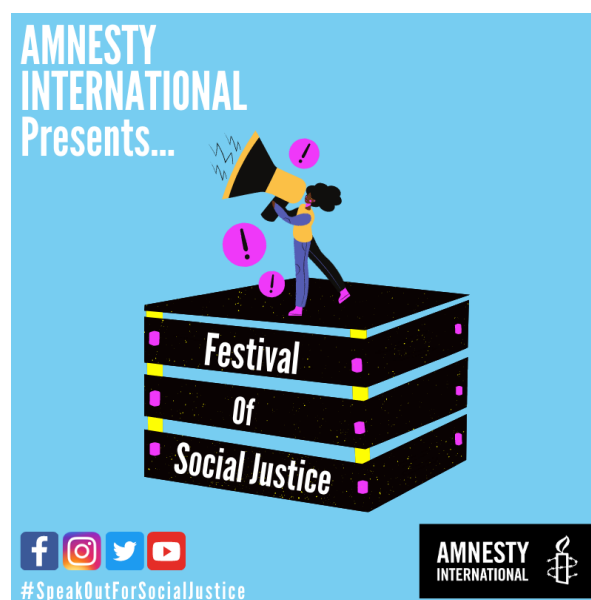
FESTIVAL OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AIMS TO GROW ACTIVISM IN THE REGION

The AIUK Central England Festival of Social Justice brings together the 40 Local Groups in Amnesty's West, East and South Midlands regions (Banbury is in the South Midlands) in a rich and varied programme of events and activities from 16 April to 31 May.

The Festival features talks, music, debates and celebrations which will be streamed into people's homes. The Festival also involves other Amnesty activist channels and many other community organisations – all participating to spread the word about social justice and human rights and to engage as many people as possible in campaigning actions.

Festival organiser Ian Myson said: *"Promoting social justice is about promoting equality, freedom, diversity and human rights for everyone no matter who and where they are. We hope this Festival will encourage more people to become involved in campaigning for social justice and human rights."*

Banbury Group are contributing an online talk to the Festival, on international human rights law (non-technical!) for activists, on Tue 27 April at 7.30pm. Contact Ian Myson (ian_myson@hotmail.com) if you would like to attend this. All Festival events are free to attend. The Festival website goes live at the end of March with information about how to register for the various Festival events.



"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist