Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 13th Jan 2021

1. Present: Hetty Tye, Margaret George, Wailim Wong, Karen Cooper, Carole Liesse, Shirley Sweeney, Sally-Ann Parker, Chris Ramsey, and members from the Launceston and Penzance groups. We were joined by 2 speakers, Bilal Hussain (AIUK Communities Organiser) and Cherry Bird (SW Regional Rep).
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong, Melissa Ward.
3. The first part of the meeting was a discussion led by Bilal and Cherry. Groups are encouraged to widen their contacts by joining local campaigns on human rights matters and contacting young people via schools. We already do work in schools/colleges where possible, though it depends on having a member of staff who can initiate things. We hope to have a speaker from ‘Penryn and Falmouth welcome refugee families’ (see below re future meetings). Bilal gave the welcome news that in future groups will be able to contact new members who sign up nationally; they will be automatically asked to give permission to be contacted. It was generally agreed that even when physical meetings are possible again it would be good to have online events too, as they offer the possibility of getting people together from a wider area and having speakers who are not local.
4. Matters arising from previous minutes: Margaret had sent a letter to several news outlets about the Care homes scandal and the AI report (As if expendable) but had had no response.
5. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £900 in the bank. We have not been asked by HQ for the affiliation fee or for the annual group financial return which usually comes with the Groups Planning Pack. Chris agreed to find out what is happening about the Pack this year.
6. Campaigns 1. North Africa – Hetty had circulated two letters to be sent. 2. Chris said he would forward the IOPT newsletter to go out. 3.Georgie had sent out the Central America newsletter which included a call for support for a photo action to be done by individuals on behalf of Bernardo Caal.
7. Photo action: members held up posters with birthday greetings for Raif Badawi (Saudi Arabi).
8. Future meetings: Karen had contacted ‘Penryn and Falmouth welcome refugee families’ via twitter. Sally-Ann knows the organisers and undertook to contact them to see if we can get a speaker organised for March. We also intend to do some training for our members on using social media.
9. Next meeting: the next online meeting will be on Wed 10th Feb at 6.30.