Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 14th April 2021

1. Present: Hetty Tye, Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Chris Ramsey, Wailim Wong and speakers Glyn, Ellie and Diana
2. Apologies: Georgie Wong.
3. Speakers: the first part of the meeting was a talk by Ellie and Glyn about the work of Falmouth and Penryn Welcome, a support group for a refugee family from Syria. The group had raised money to bring the family to the area and continue to offer support and practical help. Ellie spoke about her visit to the refugee camp in Calais. Diana is involved in setting up a similar group in Truro which is in the early stages of raising money and support. It was agreed to circulate the details of these groups to members, in case they want to follow up personally. The work of these 2 groups comes under the Home Office resettlement plan. At the same time, the speakers drew attention to the current government plan to severely restrict asylum seekers and to allow only those who arrive ‘legally’ to be considered for asylum. There is a public consultation at present, and members are urged to look at this and to take part in the consultation.

Links to the organisations and the consultation are at the end of the Minutes.

Following the talk and discussion, we held a short business meeting

1. Matters arising from last Minutes. Margaret had written to C Mackrory MP raising concerns about Princess Latifa. She had had no reply and so intended to write again if nothing is heard in a week. Karen had posted photos of Cornish beaches on twitter and would welcome more similar pictures. Chris had contacted the country coordinator to ask if the Princess Latifa case could be taken up more by AIUK. A case management meeting due to be held on 27th April would be deciding on cases. Chris reported on the retirement of Kate Allen from the leadership of AIUK. A successor is being sought.
2. Correspondence: the monthly action newsletter had been distributed. Chris pointed out that there is to be a festival of social justice being organised by the midlands region, celebrating AI’s 60th birthday. The Annual Report has been issued. Chris will try to pick out sections relevant to the areas we deal with so as to highlight them to our supporters.
3. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £740.
4. Campaigns 1. North Africa – Hetty reported the release of a Moroccan Professor, Maati Monjib. He intends to continue his hunger strike in protest at government charges of money laundering. The government continues to retain his passport. A tweet has been sent on behalf of Mohamed Lamine Haddi, who has been severely weakened by a hunger strike as a protest about prison conditions. 2. Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories – Chris reported on the continued restrictions on Mordechai Vanunu. He would sent the newsletter for distribution, containing a letter to be sent on his behalf. Leif Abu Zayad, who works for AI in Israel has again been refuse a travel permit in a court case where the details of his case were not released and his lawyer and an observer were not allowed to attend. 3. Former Soviet Union – Margaret had circulated an urgent action on behalf of Aleksei Navalny. She has asked advice about using the website address for sending letters to the Russian authorities, as the one given refuses to accept a name written in Roman script. 4. Death Penalty – Wailim reported that Richard Branson is amongst a group of prominent people calling for the abolition of the death penalty.
5. Future meetings: The next meeting will be on TUESDAY 11th May, when we are invited by the Launceston group to join them, for a talk on Modern Slavery. This will replace our normal group meeting which would be due on Wed 12th May. For June, we hope to have a speaker from Queerkernow. We hope to be able to resume meetings in person, possibly in September. We will investigate if these meetings could be hybrid, with an online link for those who can’t attend in person.
6. Next meeting: the next online meeting will be on TUESDAY 11th MAY, time to be confirmed.

**Links**

Falmouth and Penryn welcome Refugee Families

<https://falmouthandpenrynwelcome.org/>

Bude Refugee Support Group

<https://buderefugeesupportgroup.org.uk/>

Cornwall Refugee Resource Network

<http://www.crrn.org.uk/>

Open Hearts, Open Borders (collections for Mobile Refugee Support, Attica)

<https://ohob.org.uk/>

a) Falmouth and Penryn Welcomes Refugee Families

<https://www.facebook.com/Falmouth-and-Penryn-Welcome-Refugee-Families-1917040095032644>

falmouthpenrynwelcome@gmail.com

b) Truro Community Refugee Support

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/424115915326833/about>

The UK Government is currently holding a **public consultation** about  a 'New Plan for Immigration'. You may have heard about this in the news. Please have a look at it, and consider whether you might respond to the consultation. Amnesty's response is here:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/home-office-new-plan-same-old-policies>

and you can find the details of the government plan and take part in the consultation here:

[New Plan for Immigration - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-plan-for-immigration)