



# News from the Minehead Group



[www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead) [www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead](https://www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead)  
Instagram: @amnestyminehead

## Actions you can take this month:

- ✓ **Come along to our Write for Rights Coffee Morning** on **Friday 10 December**, International Human Rights Day. Enjoy tea/coffee/cake and a chat, and sign cards to people featured in this year's **Write for Rights** (W4R) campaign and also sign letters to the relevant authorities. Please join us in the Avenue Methodist Church any time between 1000 and 1200.
- ✓ **Write letters to the authorities and/or send solidarity messages** to some incredibly brave people who need our support. Whether or not you can join us on 10 December, you can take action by asking for a Write for Rights booklet (Susan has a few copies) or looking on the AIUK website for more information on what you can do to help with this year's W4R campaign.
- ✓ **Consider making a donation:** alarming reports are emerging from **Afghanistan** of the Taliban killing civilians and blockading food and essential supplies from reaching those who need it the most. Amnesty needs funds to make sure its emergency investigations can continue even when it's too dangerous for Amnesty researchers to be on the ground. Find details of how you can help on the home page of the AIUK website: [www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk)
- ✓ **Take a photo of yourself and post it on social media** for the worldwide action to raise awareness that human rights in **India** are in danger (see overleaf for more details).

## News from our group

On 6 November, two of our members joined an action in Minehead for the Global Day of Action during **COP26**. We had a stall on The Avenue and invited passers-by to sign a letter to our Prime Minister. Over 200 signatures were collected in two hours, so we were pleased with the result. Here is a photo of Jenny sporting her blow-up globe and of Susan wearing her Amnesty 'Our Planet, Our Rights' placards.



We launched our **2021 Write for Rights** campaign with a letter writing session on 9 November. Five of us wrote 13 letters and more have since been written at home. Once again, Judith and Philippa have set an example for us all by writing letters and sending solidarity messages to each of the ten cases! And thank you again to Peter for supplying the stamps. We hope that many more letters will be sent by the end of December, including our cards and letters for signing on 10 December.



We agreed at our November meeting to ask AIUK to email all the national AI members in **TA24** and **TA23**, telling them about our forthcoming events and inviting them to make contact with our group. Hopefully any AI members reading this will have received that email.

We were sorry to hear of the death of **Irene Murphy** on 23 October. Irene was a long-time supporter of our group and of Amnesty's work.

## Diary Dates

The Minehead Group aims to meet at least once a month. All Amnesty supporters are welcome to join us!

### Friday 10 December International Human Rights Day

1000-1200 Coffee morning and W4R card/letter signing in the Avenue Methodist Church, Minehead.

### Mon 10 Jan 2022

Zoom meeting: at 1900. Graham Minter from the Maidstone Group will be telling us about the Kent network, leading to a discussion of what we might do in Somerset. Joining details from Alison.

### Thursday 10 Feb

Group AGM at 1500, at the Quaker Meeting House, Bancks Street. Followed by a short planning meeting.

### Friday 11 March

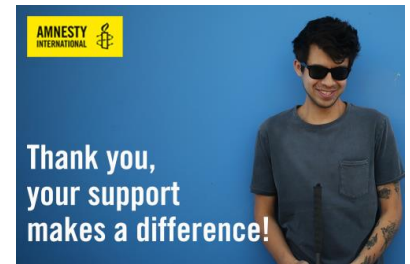
Stall for International Women's Day  
1000-1200 on the Avenue.

### Fri 25 March 2022

Quiz at the Minehead & District Social Club. Starts at 1930 prompt.

## Campaign News

You may remember in last year's W4R campaign, one of the cases was about student **Gustavo Gatica** from **Chile**. Gustavo, now 23-years old, was studying Psychology in the capital, Santiago, when protests broke out across Chile in 2019 over rising prices and inequality. Like millions of others, Gustavo took part in street demonstrations, but his life changed forever when he was shot in the face by police and tragically lost his sight. AI has continued campaigning for justice for Gustavo and the others hurt in the attacks. We recently heard that AI Chile successfully delivered over 206,000 signatures from more than 40 countries (including thousands from the UK) to the Chilean national prosecutor, Jorge Abbott, and the General Director of the Carabineros, Ricard Yáñez. The petition is demanding that both the direct perpetrator and the high command responsible for the attack are investigated. The national prosecutor has expressed his complete willingness to investigate Gustavo's case, including the entire line of command, to reach the whole truth about what happened. AI hopes that justice can be done as soon as possible.



*Cherry Bird reports:* In November I attended the annual **Country Coordinator (CC) conference** – a first step towards normality perhaps? Trains were packed and some of the tubes were on strike. So far, so normal! It was good to see other CCs again, though probably only about half the total came, presumably due to Covid concerns. There are a lot of new CC appointments, many of them young, bringing fresh enthusiasm and ideas, but still a good few of the old guard, who have so much valuable experience and good sense. An interesting starter session was a 'good news update' from each regional team, and despite the grim world news there were some successes to report and some good work with MPs, embassies and officials from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. I have to say it was hard to find good news to report from **South Asia**, but my two points were the development of the activist-led campaign of Kashmir and the lovely responses to solidarity letters that some groups have received from the BK16. Patricia found it even harder to say anything positive about **Ethiopia**!

### **INDIA: speaking up is not anti-national, silencing people is!**

Amnesty Germany is working with other India-focused organisations, including European and US Amnesty Sections, to organise a day of action on 10 December, International Human Rights Day. The aim is to raise awareness across the world that human rights are in danger in India and to send a clear message to the Indian government that people around the world are speaking out against human rights violations in India. Groups and individuals are asked to carry out



actions in front of landmarks in their towns and cities, holding up the action poster and posting photos on their social media platforms, to make a unifying set of images across the globe. The title reflects the fact that anyone criticising the Indian government or speaking out in support of human rights (including the BK16 detainees) is labelled 'anti-national' by the government and mainstream media.

Please contact Cherry ([cherry.bird@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:cherry.bird@amnesty.org.uk)) if you would like to take part and she will send you the poster as soon as it is available.

### **How to contact the Minehead Amnesty International Local Group:**

**Website:** [www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/minehead)  
**Email:** [amnestyminehead@gmail.com](mailto:amnestyminehead@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead](https://www.facebook.com/amnestyminehead)  
**Instagram:** [@amnestyminehead](https://www.instagram.com/amnestyminehead)

**Chair & group contact:** Alison Dietz: Tel. 01984 641603 or 07981 866905 Email: [aledietz7474@gmail.com](mailto:aledietz7474@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Cherry Bird Tel. 01984 641052 Email: [cherryebird@gmail.com](mailto:cherryebird@gmail.com)

**Meeting notes, newsletter, website & press:** Susan Mew 01643 821209 Email: [brightmanmew@btinternet.com](mailto:brightmanmew@btinternet.com)



**Season's Greetings to all our Amnesty International supporters.**  
**We wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!**

