Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of on-line meeting held on 9th March 2022

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Karen Cooper, Hetty Tye, Wailim Wong, Georgie Wong, Paul Kelly, Shirley Sweeney. Plus Theresa (Penzance group) and Laura Trevelyan (Priority Campaigns Manager at AUIK. speaking on.
2. Apologies: None
3. Talk on Human Rights Issues in the UK by Laura Trevelyan. Laura focused on two main issues, the Policing Bill, which is now in its final stages, with worrying clauses on banning ‘noisy’ demonstrations and plans to curtail Gypsy and Travellers’ rights. Secondly, the proposed replacement of the Human Rights Act with a British Bill of Rights. This latter is the subject of a consultation which has just closed (and which we circulated in the group together with AI guidance on how to fill it out). It would basically mean that the UK government could vote to ignore rulings of the European Court of human Rights, and also that not all people had the same rights, whereas Human Rights should apply to everyone, regardless of who they are. There is also a proposal to limit any compensation awarded (which is not normally much anyway) to people whose behaviour is approved of. (Margaret pointed out that this already applies to the Criminal Injuries Compensation scheme, where compensation is withheld if (eg) the claimant has had a previous prison sentence, even though this is unrelated to the current claim.) The talk was followed by questions and discussion.
4. Minutes of meeting held on 9th February, matters arising: Margaret had investigated the Moresk Centre and booked a room + kitchen for the April meeting, at a cost of £14. Chris will liaise with the manager re arrangements for making it a ‘hybrid’ meeting. Chris would circulate the letter he had back from CC re JCB.
5. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: already circulated. The Spring copy of the Amnesty magazine had arrived; Margaret would pass it on to Georgie. It seems as if individual members no longer get this, as the one received was addressed to the group.
6. Treasurer’s report: Karen reported that we have £601.35. We have to pay HSBC every month for this account, plus 40p per cheque. Internet banking is not available to us on the account, and it seems impossible to find a bank which will not charge us.
7. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Egypt. Hetty reported that Azza has had her passport returned but still has no access to her frozen assets as there is an investigation into whether the money is hers.

Central America: Georgie had circulated the newsletter, which reported on 6 journalists having been murdered in 2 months. The women imprisoned for having miscarriages have been released. It was very recently the anniversary of the death of Bertha Caceres. Georgie had received a 7 page letter from Mexico which she will send on to Tilly, and also pass to Margaret to get a gist translation if possible.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris had done a briefing on the new IOPT campaign on apartheid; Margaret will check if she actually sent it out, and will do if not.

Former USSR: the invasion of Ukraine was discussed

Death Penalty: Wailim explained that he gets updates usually just after our meetings.

1. Forward planning:
2. **Regional Conference in Exeter, 12th March**. Chris, Wailim and Georgie hope to attend.
3. On **13th April**, Linda Ramsden, UK Director of Israeli Committee against House Demolitions, will speak on HR issues in Palestine.
4. **Mayor’s Charity event, 14th May**. Margaret has checked with the City Council as to whether we will have a stall. We expect to hear shortly.
5. **Street collection in Truro 28th May**: this is booked.
6. It was agreed that at the **May** meeting we could have some feedback from the Exeter Conference, and discuss our own plans and campaigns.
7. Next meeting: **Wed 13th April,** **7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Austell Street, Truro**, **and also via zoom**. Linda Ramsden ,UK Director of Israeli Committee against House Demolitions.