



Dates for your diary	Monday 04/07/2022 Gathering for Alaa Abdel Fattah, London Monday 11/07/2022: Amnesty's Global Assembly consultation workshop PROVISIONAL DATE 03/09/2022: Pumble Saturday 05/11/2022: Amnesty National Conference (in person and online)
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Dear writers

### Local events

**KEEP THE DATE: Saturday 03/09/2022** is our provisional date for the Group Pumble (Pub/Ramble). Keep an eye on the newsletters for details of time and route/venue.

### Other events

#### APOLOGIES FOR THE SHORT NOTICE!

#### Monday 04/07/2022, 17:30 - 19:00 Gathering for Alaa. Foreign & Commonwealth Office, London

- The purpose of this gathering is to ask Liz Truss to use her meeting with Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry (who is visiting the UK) to work on the immediate release of Alaa Abdelfattah, a British/Egyptian citizen in prison in Egypt, solely for his political beliefs.
- This is **very short notice** as the Amnesty team have only just been able to ascertain the date of Foreign Minister Shoukry's visit; please contact Margaret Robertson [mn\\_robertson@hotmail.com](mailto:mn_robertson@hotmail.com) for details.
- Liz Truss's statement in the House of Commons that she would raise Alaa's case with Foreign Minister Shoukry means Amnesty believes this visit could be crucial to Alaa's situation.
- **URGENT EMAIL ACTION** If you do pick up this newsletter on Sunday 3 July or early on Monday 4 July, please take the priority email action to Liz Truss and to the Egyptian Foreign Minister (see the Campaigns section of this newsletter).

#### No place like home: the impact of homelessness on human rights in England: recording now live

- If you were unable to join the livestream hosted by Amnesty for the launch of the new report on homelessness in England, you can now watch the recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOSyqDsnrnc>
- For too long, homelessness in England has been explained as the failure of the individual to cope with the stresses and strains of life. Amnesty International's latest report highlights homelessness for what it is: a failure of the state to guarantee equality of opportunity, equal access to essential services to all and to ensure that no one is left behind.
- If you want to read the report:  
<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/amnesty-international-uks-2022-homelessness-report-obstacle-course>

**Report of Independent Inquiry into Racism at Amnesty UK.** Amnesty International UK has published the report of the independent inquiry into racism at Amnesty UK. Here is a [link](#) to the full report, which is available to all.

- You may know that Amnesty published the initial findings of the inquiry in April, which stated that Amnesty UK did exhibit institutional racism and had previously failed to properly embed equality, inclusion and anti-racism in its

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## Bognor Regis, Chichester & District Group



practices. The full report of the inquiry builds on those initial findings, and provides a series of recommendations about where changes must be made at Amnesty UK.

### New Chief Executive

- Amnesty announced on 21/06/2022 that Sacha Deshmukh has agreed to become [Amnesty's Chief Executive on a permanent basis](#). Sacha has been acting as Interim Chief Executive for us since May 2021.
- Prior to joining Amnesty UK, Sacha spent six years as Chair of the Board of War Child UK, and was previously the Deputy Chair of Citizens Advice England & Wales.
- He was for many years Chief Executive of the national not-for-profit Smart Energy GB, and before that chief executive of a large marketing and communications group. Follow the link above to find out more.

### Monday 11/07/2022: Amnesty's Global Assembly consultation workshop

- Ahead of Amnesty's Global Assembly (the highest decision-making body in the global Amnesty International movement), there will be an opportunity to hear about and share views on the motions that will be discussed as part of the Global Assembly proceedings. The motions, which were published on 25 May, are available to view at this [link](#).
- The first online consultation took place at the Amnesty AGM on 25/06/2022, but Amnesty is organising a second consultation workshop on 11 July for those not attending the AGM, or who wish to have more time to review the papers. Details to follow.

**Saturday 05/11/2022: Amnesty National Conference** Join for a day of speakers, workshops, and more, bringing all parts of the Amnesty movement in the UK together to build campaigns and plans for the years ahead. This event will be a 'hybrid' event so you can join virtually or attend in person at the Human Rights Action Centre in London.

- This is your opportunity to learn more about the role you can play as part of the movement, join interactive training sessions and workshops to develop your campaigning skills and connect with fellow AIUK supporters.
- Further information about the conference will be available soon.

Carry on writing!

*Bob Dewick, Amnesty*

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### Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

#### Update on Egypt from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

The desperate situation of **Alaa Abdel Fattah** has been the prime focus of campaigning throughout this month. Following the emotional appeal for support by his sister, Mona, and cousin, Omar, at the online meeting on 16 May 2022, Amnesty and others have been stepping up pressure on MPS and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office to obtain his release.



There has been some improvement in his detention conditions. His cousin reported that :  
"Alaa's mother received a letter from him saying his conditions in the new prison are a real improvement, he is with other people in his cell and he finally has access to books. *This is a major piece of progress and a sign that everything we are doing is working and we have to keep up the momentum. He is still on hunger strike, because he still hasn't had a consular visit - but because the conditions have improved he says he will from today switch to a "Gandhi-style" strike and consume 100 calories a day - by adding skimmed milk and honey to a cup of tea.*"

**However, he is now more than 90 days into his hunger strike so his situation is critical.**

Recent actions include :

- Postcard action to raise awareness of his plight with the Foreign Office (personalised messages to Alaa addressed C/O Liz Truss)
- Postcard actions messages sent directly to Alaa on 21 June Fathers' Day
- Demonstration at Foreign Office on 22 June 2022
- Individual letters to MPs and Foreign Secretary
- **Thanks to all those who have already taken action and forwarded copies of replies received.**

What you can do:

#### 1. URGENT EMAIL ACTION

- If you do pick up this newsletter on Sunday 3 July or early on Monday 4 July, please take this priority email action to Liz Truss and to the Egyptian Foreign Minister. This is likely to achieve an impact prior to Monday's meeting and may be an eleventh hour appeal, since his family have heard no word from him recently.
- If you prefer to write an individual response, **please do not mention Amnesty** in your email.

Email [fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk](mailto:fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk)

Liz Truss MP  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office,  
King Charles Street  
London  
SW1A 2AH

Dear Foreign Secretary

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### Alaa Abdelfattah

I was pleased to hear that you had announced in the House of Commons on 21 June that you would work hard to secure the release of Alaa Abdelfattah and that you intend discussing Alaa's case when you meet with Foreign Minister Shoukry next week. As Alaa is an Egyptian and a British citizen, I recognise this is a shared responsibility between countries. Foreign Minister Shoukry's visit to the UK provides the opportunity to discuss Alaa's case in detail with a view to securing his release as soon as possible. This is an ideal moment to call upon Egypt's Foreign Secretary to recognise the close relationship between the UK and Egypt and to acknowledge their shared interests in advance of cooperation at the coming COP27 summit in Egypt.

As you know Alaa has been on hunger strike for over 90 days now so his situation is of the utmost urgency. I call upon you to do all in your power to bring about the release of this UK/Egyptian citizen as you have done so successfully in previous recent cases of political prisoners in Iran.

The release of Alaa Abdelfattah can only enhance the international reputation of the UK and Egypt.

Yours sincerely

Email to: [egtamboff@gmail.com](mailto:egtamboff@gmail.com)

Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry,  
Egyptian Embassy  
26 South Street  
London  
W1K 1DW

Dear Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry,

### Alaa Abdelfattah

I welcome your visit to the UK and the opportunity for meeting with Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss. You may be aware that she recently announced in the House of Commons on 21 June that she hopes to use this opportunity to raise with you the case of Alaa Abdelfattah, a UK/Egyptian national currently imprisoned in Egypt.

Since Alaa is an Egyptian and a British citizen, I recognise that the negotiation of his release is a shared responsibility. I urge you to do all in your power to discuss with Liz Truss how his release might be agreed as soon as possible. You may be aware that he is already more than 90 days into a hunger strike in protest against the treatment he has received in prison. It is critical that his case is resolved as a matter of the utmost urgency.

This is an ideal moment to recognise the close relationship between the UK and Egypt and to acknowledge their shared interests in advance of cooperation at the coming COP27 summit in Egypt. The agreed release of Alaa Abdelfattah can only enhance the international reputation of the UK and Egypt as defenders of human rights.

Yours sincerely

## 2. Email action to MPs

**If you have not yet taken action or pick up this newsletter after 04/07/2022, please use the template message below to write to your MP urging the Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss, to put pressure on the Egyptian Foreign Secretary as a matter of the utmost urgency.**

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Please include details of your address when writing to your M.P

- Andrew Griffith (Arundel and South Downs) [andrewgriffith.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:andrewgriffith.mp@parliament.uk)
- Gillian Keegan (Chichester) [gillian.keegan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:gillian.keegan.mp@parliament.uk)
- Nick Gibb (Bognor Regis & Littlehampton) [gibbn@parliament.uk](mailto:gibbn@parliament.uk)

Dear

As a member of your constituency, I am writing to voice my concern about **Alaa Abdelfattah**, a British/Egyptian citizen imprisoned in Egypt. His mother was born in London and he has had British citizenship since December 2021 yet he is being denied the consular visits to which he is entitled.

As you may know, Alaa became prominent as a human rights defender and spokesperson during the revolution in 2011. Since then he has spent most of his time in prison purely for his political views. During this time his father died and his son, Khaled, was born.

Until very recently Alaa was not allowed access to books or exercise and was sleeping on a bare floor. In December 2021 he was sentenced to five years in prison for sharing a Facebook page concerning human rights abuses in prison. He has now been transferred to another prison with slightly better facilities but has been on hunger strike for over 90 days in protest against his treatment. He is now in a critical condition so his case is of the utmost urgency.

I was very encouraged when, on 21 June, the Foreign Secretary Liz Truss stated in the House of Commons that British authorities are “working very hard to secure his release.” She also said she would raise his case during the upcoming visit of Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry.

I would be grateful if you could ask the Foreign Secretary what she is doing to secure the release of Alaa Abdelfattah, and why it is that even consular access to him in prison has not yet been granted. I look forward to hearing from you,

Yours sincerely

## Save our Human Rights Act

In May we saw the UK Government announce a series of regressive measures in the Queen’s Speech. Amnesty [immediately raised several serious concerns](#) about the plans announced. These include a long-threatened move to repeal the Human Rights Act and replace it with a “Bill of Rights”, an intention to move forward with legislation around the legacy of the Northern Ireland conflict, and a renewed attempt to push through highly authoritarian anti-protest measures in a new Public Order Bill.

- Take action online to [Save Our Human Rights Act](#)

## Want to do more?

The [Summer 2022 Real Lives supplement](#) is now available if you would like to complete some extra actions for individuals at risk.

- NB: Since this has been printed, we have had good news regarding [Luke Symons](#) and [Ibrahim Ezz el-Din](#), and the actions are no longer up-to-date.

Take the **Urgent Actions** highlighted on the Amnesty website: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions>

- These actions are a mixture of online and letters to be printed and posted, as you prefer.

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