

# BANBURY AREA GROUP AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



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We are ordinary people, who live in and around Banbury, who stand up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness and truth are denied.

We meet on the third Monday of each month except August. You are very welcome to join us. Sign up for email updates via the website.

As a global movement of over ten million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation.

## Amnesty Central England Conference

Aston University, Birmingham. Saturday 11 February.

### UNIVERSAL RIGHTS; LOCAL ACTION

Universal rights are under attack abroad and at home. Even the very concept of universal human rights is under threat. China, for example, proclaims “human rights with Chinese characteristics”, while the UK Government continues to make plans for a “British Bill of Rights”.

As local activists, this is an opportunity to get together to consider how we can increase our impact on international, national and local human rights issues, as well as how we should collaborate regionally to be more powerful.

The conference will provide inspiration as well as opportunities for learning and to share experiences and successes.

Amnesty supporters from across Amnesty’s West, East and South Midlands regions are warmly invited to book early as numbers are limited to 100. The conference centre is approximately 15 minutes walk from the main Birmingham train stations. Please note that participants at the conference should be aged 18+.

We hope to see you at what should be an inspiring, enjoyable and action-oriented day of speakers, workshops, discussions, and opportunities to share thoughts and experiences with other local activists.

Further details and booking can be found [here](#).

### Human Rights and Wrongs

A joint letter from Chipping Norton Group and ourselves was published in the Banbury Guardian recently. The letter highlighted the shameful human rights record of World Cup hosts Qatar and stated that we have not forgotten the migrant workers plight nor those in

neighbouring Saudi Arabia as well as those fighting for their rights in Iran. The letter ended by stating that the act of shining a light on the darkest human rights abuses will continue after the tournament has ended.



## Campaigning

### CHINA

Although there is still no news of the Uighur Yiliyasijiang Reheman who disappeared in 2017, he is thought to have been sent to one of the internment camps in Xinjiang province.

The group had a very useful and informative update on the current situation in China by Amnesty's Country Coordinator Nabila Hanson.

### KASHMIR

Priorities for this activist led campaign into the human rights in Indian administered Kashmir are to be announced soon. The focus will be on freedom of expression and the right to protest, neither of which currently exist in any meaningful way. Many journalists and Human Rights Defenders remain in prison and media publications are constrained in what they feel able to say. Amnesty has recently published a research report on the human rights situation in Indian-controlled Kashmir which can be viewed [here](#).

### ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

The objective of this campaign in the UK is to get the Government to admit that Israel is committing apartheid. We then want the UK to use its leverage as a strategic ally of Israel to pressure the Israeli authorities to dismantle its apartheid system.

We also want the UK to implement sanctions, ban the import of illegal Israeli settlement goods, suspend arms sales to Israel and support international justice and accountability initiatives, such as the ICC investigation and the UN Commission of Inquiry to hold the Israeli authorities to account.



## GET INVOLVED

Our plans for 2023 are taking shape but we are likely to include: talks on the current human rights situation in Afghanistan and Israel and the Occupied Palestinian territories; a film showing; a social event in the summer; a presence at Banbury Canal Festival; and our usual Write for Rights session in the run up to Christmas - as well as continuing to make representations to our MP who now has more influence as Attorney General

You are very welcome to turn up to any meeting or event and have a chat about what we do and how you could help. You don't need any experience or knowledge, we can introduce you to letter writing and explain the campaigns.

You don't even need to be a member of Amnesty International. You can email us at [ian\\_myson@hotmail.com](mailto:ian_myson@hotmail.com) for more information and follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

For current members, a gentle reminder for voluntary subs as a contribution to group expenses (Hall hire, costs of stalls at events, postage costs etc.).

Please contact the Treasurer [edward.condry@gmail.com](mailto:edward.condry@gmail.com) for payment details.

**"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."**

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist