Truro and District Amnesty International Group

Minutes of meeting held on 14th Dec 2022, online

1. Present: Chris Ramsey, Margaret George, Wailim Wong, Georgie Wong, Hetty Tye, Isabel Adams, Shirley Sweeney, Lucy Zawadzki (part). Chris welcomed Isabel to the meeting.
2. Apologies: Karen Cooper, Jessica McGurty, Caroline Roberts.
3. Minutes of meeting held on 9th November, matters arising: Margaret had circulated information about the two stalls held on 26th Nov and 10th Dec (document attached at the end, with a correction to the original document. The cards cost us £311.85, not £331.85.). Despite very bad weather on 26th Nov, we sold 28 sets of cards altogether, and got £67.07 in donations. We have 21 packs of cards left (worth £103.95) which can be sold next year. 33 postcards were written in the Write for Rights Campaign. The bishop supported us on 10th and stood in our cage. We made a small profit of £32.07. Wailim agreed to ask in the library about having our cards on sale there next year, in their ‘cards for good causes’.
4. Correspondence and Monthly Updates for groups: Margaret had distributed the monthly groups action email.
5. Treasurer’s Report: Karen reported that we have £176.83. This will be increased by £343.92, from the stalls and card sales. We will owe the annual subscription early next year, and will also be getting our own local subscriptions paid in by supporters. It was agreed to look at sending money off the HQ in the New Year
6. Regional campaigns:

North Africa: Hetty would send an action to be circulated. (*In fact, Hetty subsequently found that she did not have any actions to send out at present.)*

Mexico and Central America: Georgie is waiting for the next newsletter.

IOPT and Lebanon: Chris had circulated the newsletter. He highlighted the ongoing apartheid regime in Israel and the Occupied Territories. There are actions to take on behalf of Ahmed Manasra, Jamila and Mohamed Abu Sabha, and Salah Hammouri. Georgie had a petition for Salah, sent out by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign, which she will send to Margaret for it to be circulated.

Former Soviet Union: Margaret had recently circulated an urgent action case.

Death Penalty: Wailim had circulated the newsletter. He spoke about the 2 public executions of protesters in Iran, after no fair judicial process, no doubt intended as a warning to other protesters. The protests continue, however. Margaret reported that in Oregon the State Governor has just signed to commute all the death sentences in the state to life imprisonment, on moral grounds. Hetty asked Wailim if it was possible to write to a prisoner on death row; Wailim agreed to find out about this.

1. Forward planning:
2. The **AGM** will be held in February. It was proposed to make this more of a social event, with a few light refreshments and time to chat after the actual AGM, which will probably be quite short.
3. Members were asked for suggestions for speakers/topics. Chris suggested getting a speaker from the group of former Israeli soldiers who are part of an organisation called ‘Breaking the Silence’.
4. Next meeting: **Wed, 11th January, 7.00pm** at the **Moresk Centre, St Clement Street/Kemp Close, Truro** **TR1 1EF** **and also via zoom**.

Xmas card sales and collections, Nov/Dec 2022

This year we ordered 70 packs of cards and had 9 packs left from last year. Each pack has a face value of £4.95, but we get them from Amnesty with a 10% discount.

Now the sales are complete we have 21 packs left unsold (which can be sold next year). So 58 packs have been sold, and of these 15 packs were sold at the stall on 26th Nov and 13 packs on 10th Dec. The other 30 packs have been sold to our supporters or by our supporters to friends/colleagues, etc.

We paid £311.85 to Amnesty for the 70 packs of cards bought this year.

We sold 58 packs at £4.95 each, which is an income of £287.10.

We also got donations on both stalls, which totalled £67.07.

The total income for card sales and donations was £354.17.

For the Write for Rights campaign, 33 postcards were written. I put all the cards to a particular person together in one envelope and posted them at a cost of £10.25. Taking this amount from the total income means that we made a small profit of £32.07, and we still have 21 packs of cards to sell next year, which are worth £103.95.

Some thoughts, in no particular order:

* 10th Dec was Human Rights Day and we had our cage up. The bishop came and stood in it for a while. The MP was invited but said she could not make it, but promised support for future events.
* There was no Mayor’s Charity event this year, so we had stalls on only 2 days, whereas in previous years it has been 3.
* 26th November was terrible weather – very windy and wet. We set up at 8.45 but packed up around mid-day. It was cold on 10th Dec, but that is not unusual.
* Many people paid £5 for the cards, rather than £4.95, and these extras 5p s are included in the ‘donations’ amount.
* We should look into selling our cards in the library, where ‘cards for good causes’ are sold. And also look out for other places where we might make sales, and promote the Write for Rights cases.
* We should encourage our supporters to take cards to sell to their contacts. This year, 20 packs of cards were sold in this way.
* As we have 21 packs left, we should probably order fewer cards next year so as to have a total of perhaps 70 maximum to sell.