

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.

Current Campaigns

ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

As the situation continues to deteriorate in the region we will increase our campaigning on the issue of Israel's apartheid against the Palestinians.

Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, successive governments have created and maintained a system of laws, policies, and practices designed to oppress and dominate Palestinians. This system plays out in different ways across the different areas where Israel exercises control over Palestinians' rights. However, the intent is always the same: to privilege Jewish Israelis at the expense of Palestinians.

Whether they live in Gaza, East Jerusalem, Hebron, or Israel itself, Palestinians are treated as an inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights. Israel's cruel policies like forced evictions, home demolitions, and separation of families across all territories under its control amount to apartheid. Recognising this racist system for what it is, is the first step to dismantling it.

For an explanation see this [You Tube](#) video.

KASHMIR

One area of focus of this campaign is the use of JCB bulldozers to demolish houses in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority region.

Aakar Patel, Amnesty International India Chair, said:

"These demolitions could amount to forced evictions which constitute a gross violation of human rights. No-one should be made homeless or vulnerable to other human rights violations because of evictions."

"The Indian authorities must immediately halt the demolition drive. They must offer adequate compensation to all those affected without discrimination, ensure that victims of forced evictions have access to effective remedy, and those responsible are held to account."



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Peter Frankental, Amnesty International UK's Economic Affairs Director, said:

"JCB should be horrified that their equipment is being used in some of these demolitions. They must take active steps to prevent this."

"If JCB fails to act over Kashmir it would be another example of the company falling short of its obligation to conduct proper human rights due diligence over how its machines are being used around the world."



Campaigning

ILLEGAL MIGRATION BILL

The Illegal Migration Bill currently progressing through Parliament is a heartless and cruel attack on people needing safety.

The Bill provides for automatic deportation of anyone entering the UK illegally, even if they are genuine refugees. The 1951 Refugee Convention to which the UK is a signatory provides for **automatic refugee sta-**

tus for anyone entering the UK, irrespective of how they get here, if they have a well-founded fear of persecution in their home country.

A **humane and civilised refugee system** would provide safe, legal routes for refugees to enter the country. Genuine refugees often don't have all the right paperwork when they throw themselves on the mercy of another country; they have often left their home country in rather chaotic circumstances. The



Government's own figures show that many of those entering the UK in small boats are subsequently adjudged to be **genuine refugees**.

In addition, Modern Slavery Act protections regarding trafficking etc will be denied to those entering the country illegally, just when people need them most.

Our goal is for **all refugees and migrants to be treated with dignity and respect**, and an immigration and asylum system that is fair and effective.

As many international and human rights bodies have commented, the UK can, and should, do better than this.

Together, we must raise our voices and make a stand for what is right.

AMNESTY CENTRAL ENGLAND NETWORK

The Amnesty Central England Conference in Birmingham on 11 February proposed the creation of a new, flexible, regional network of activists across Amnesty's West, East and South Midlands regions.

This aims to engage more people in our work to **defend and promote human rights**, to increase campaigning impact, and to support and work with other Amnesty activist channels, including the 35 existing Local Groups in the region. All of this con-

tributing to a more powerful Amnesty movement in the region.

A number of sub-teams to develop plans for key areas of action are currently being developed (Campaigns, MP advocacy, Communications, Events, Fundraising). If you would like to get involved, become a member of the network or be kept up to date please contact AIUK Activism Representatives Ian Myson

(ian.myson@amnesty.org.uk) or Maria Foster (maria.foster@amnesty.org.uk)

"INJUSTICE ANYWHERE IS A THREAT TO JUSTICE EVERYWHERE."

Martin Luther King, African-American civil rights activist