

Minutes of Amnesty International Reading Group Meeting, 8th June 2023

Acting Chair: Anne McFarlane

This meeting was held via Zoom.

1. Welcome and introductions

Nine people joined the meeting for some or all of it: Anne, Helen, Hilary, Iona, Michael, Ruth, Vicky with two new people, Erin & Festor

apologies - Sue & Liz

2. Group AGM

Elections were held for named positions within our group. The following were appointed.

- Chair - Anne McFarlane - nominated by Helen, seconded by Iona
- Secretary - Helen Ball - nominated by Anne, seconded by Ruth
- Treasurer - Ruth Hollies - nominated by Anne, seconded by Helen

3. Campaign Updates

☐ South East Asia

Michael brought an action regarding child peaceful protestors in Thailand.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/child-protesters-targeted-thailand>

☐ South Asia.

Hilary directed us to the mailing which contained updates from this region.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/reading/south-asia-may-23-newsletter>

☐ Our Prisoners of Conscience, Dr Mohammed Al-Roke and Ahmed Mansoor

Petitions for our prisoners will be taken to this Saturday's Waterfest in Reading.

☐ Turkey.

Iona had no actions today - however, some good news! Four Amnesty activists have had their sentences quashed. They are yet to be released but this is hopeful news.

4. Group Admin

Anne gave feedback from the recent local members meeting regarding how we run the group. The key points were

- Aim to keep the monthly speaker meetings to 1.5hours max, with focus on speaker & essential news only. Admin and general updates to be covered through mailings and WhatsApp.
- In addition, to have F2F meetings approximately every 2 months for planning and letter writing and

- socialising
- Need more focus on positives, showing that activism works!
- better follow up on new members
- At this meeting we also discussed joining some of Amnesty's wider priority campaigns to benefit from strategic input given to these, including materials. We could consider having one campaign for all events across the year - except Pride where we have much better involvement when we focus on LGBTQI+ issues.

5. Up coming Events

- 10th June - Waterfest. Ruth, Sue, Liz, Amanda and Mike all agreed to help with the stall. The campaign focus will be on our UAE PoCs.
- 28th – 30th July - WOMAD - Sue is working on a petition about Ukraine
- 2nd September - Reading Pride - Anne reminded everyone of this date for our diaries!

6. AI UK's AGM - 24th June

A discussion was held of the resolutions for the upcoming AIUK AGM (24th June). As a group, we have 10 votes in addition to our individual single votes. We discussed the 6 key resolutions and agreed the following

- Motion 1 - yes
- Motion 2 - abstain
- Motion 3 - yes
- Motion 4 - yes
- Motion 5 - yes
- Motion 6 - yes

Helen plans to attend so can give feedback about how the resolutions went next month.

7. AoB & monthly meeting schedule

Group Meetings: July – Dec23



Month	Group Meeting	Events
July	Sam Jonkers, Care4Calais	WOMAD
August	Pizza night – planning & letter writing	
September	<i>LGBTI / Transgender</i>	Pride
October	<i>USA</i>	International Festival
November	Racial justice	
December	Write4Rights	

Next meeting: Thursday 13th July 2023 – Speaker from Care 4 Calais, Sam Jonkers