



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK NOVEMBER 2023

NEWS from WARRINGTON GROUP

ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

HOPE FOR HUMANITY

GROUP MEETING

Thurs. 15th Nov. 7pm to 9pm
Nora Street Community House

WARRINGTON GROUP NEWS

FINANCES

£300 has been sent to AIUK leaving £208.74 in the account

TESCO COLLECTION

We are very fortunate to have been allocated an instore collection on Sat. 18th November. However, to make the most of this fundraising opportunity we need some offers of help with the collection. This is an indoor collection – no drafty doors etc.

IF YOU CAN OFFER TO DO AN HOUR (OR MORE!) WILL YOU LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE INCLUDING THE TIME YOU WOULD LIKE.

WARRINGTON GROUP FACEBOOK PAGE

We have a newly opened Facebook page thanks to Eleanor our newest member to join the executive. We now need as many people as possible to like our page!

If you have:

your own Facebook page:

access the new page from the old page.

Otherwise:

use this link to the new page:

Amnesty International Warrington Group:
www.facebook.com/people/Amnesty-International-Warrington-Group/100094117556196/

PS. I hope this doesn't sound too complicated

CULCHETH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL



We will again be having a decorated Christmas tree featuring the Write for Rights campaign. Photos of this year's cases will be displayed on baubles. We will be highlighting the case of Rita Karasartova from Kyrgyzstan for

people to sign solidarity cards while visiting the church. The festival begins on 10th Dec and continues until early January. Venue: Newchurch Parish Church, Culcheth WA3 5ET

RITA KARASARTOVA



Rita is a human rights defender and an expert in civic governance. For over a decade she dedicated her life to providing independent legal advice,

helping people whose rights had been violated by a corrupt and unreliable legal system. Rita is under house arrest for speaking against a border agreement giving control of a freshwater reservoir to Uzbekistan.

WRITE for RIGHTS 2023

Gill has arranged with Stockton Heath Methodist Church to have a table for Write for Rights in the church hall after the morning service on Sundays: 3rd and 10th December. She will choose 6 cases (3 each week) and provide large cards for people to add their signatures to.

Day of solidarity with the Palestinians

Held on 29th Nov. each year. To be discussed at the November meeting.

CONTACT: Evelyn Kinsella, 39 Beechways, Appleton, WA4 5ER. Tel: 01925 268871 mobile: 07890 565 846
email: benkin64@talktalk.net

Website: www.amnesty.org.uk/warrington



@AmnestyWarrngtn



www.facebook.com/AmnestyWarringtonGroup

DEATH PENALTY - CHRISTA PIKE,

The only woman on Tennessee's death row.



On August 30 her attorney reopened her appeals based on a recent decision from the Tennessee Supreme Court. In 2022, the Court ruled that mandatory life

sentences in homicide cases are unconstitutional when imposed on juveniles.

Ms. Pike was 18 when she participated in the murder of Colleen Slemmer in 1995. Her attorney argued that if the courts agree that a 17-year-old is not eligible for mandatory life in prison we should not death-sentence an 18-year-old. Dr Brand, trauma psychologist, stated that Ms. Pike had experienced one of the most tragic and profound chronic abuse histories that she had encountered in her work.

Executing Ms. Pike for a crime she committed as a teenager would "contradict Tennessee's deeply held beliefs in the value of human life and redemption, as well as the scientific consensus that youthful brains are not fully formed, especially for young people who experience severe abuse, neglect, and trauma."

Co-defendant, Tadarly Shipp, received life in prison with the possibility of parole because he was 17 at the time of the crime and will be eligible for parole in 2026. Sentenced in 1996, she is the last person in Tennessee sentenced to death for a crime committed at age 18, and would be the first person executed in Tennessee for a crime committed at 18 since capital punishment was reinstated in 1976.

All eight men sentenced to death for a crime committed at age 18 in Tennessee later had their sentences vacated. If her appeals fail, Ms. Pike would be the first woman executed in Tennessee in over two centuries.

Ms. Pike has filed a separate lawsuit against the Tennessee Department of Corrections based on her isolation as the only woman on the state's death row, arguing that she has been kept in functional solitary confinement for over 25 years.

Men on Tennessee's death row can socialize and work together. Because she is the only woman, Ms. Pike has had "no social engagement with other incarcerated individuals or prison staff, no educational or religious programming, and nearly no physical contact with another human being."

Previous woman sentenced to death in Tennessee, was permitted to live among the prison's general population before she was released in 2010. Tennessee's policy of segregating death row prisoners does not make sense as applied to women, and has exacerbated Ms. Pike's existing mental health conditions. Ms. Pike "filed this lawsuit to be able to share a meal, participate in group therapy, work at a job, or have some minimal interaction with others."

Some of the Executions in 2022/23

Michael Zack was executed in **Florida** in Oct. 2023 for a murder committed in 1996.

Michael Tisius was executed in **Missouri** on 6 June 2023 after clemency was denied.

On 12 March, **Saudi Arabian** authorities executed **Hussein Abo al-Kheir**.

Donald Dillbeck was executed in **Florida** on 23 Feb. 2023.

Kevin Johnson was executed in **Missouri** on the evening of 29 Nov. 2022.

Benjamin Cole, a man with paranoid schizophrenia and brain damage, was executed on 20 Oct. 2022 in **Oklahoma**.

James Coddington, aged 50, was executed in **Oklahoma** on 25 Aug. 2022 for the murder of a 73-year-old friend.

Protest Outside the International Court of Justice in The Hague



Photos of detained or disappeared Syrians set up by their relatives, at a protest on 10th Oct.

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." - Martin Luther King, Jr.