

## Minutes of [Amnesty International Reading Group](#) Meeting

Thursday 11th January 2024

Chair: Anne McFarlane

This meeting was held at the Reading Biscuit Factory.

### 1. Welcome and introductions

11 people joined the meeting for some or all of it: Helen, Liz, Anne, Ruth, Micheal, Sue, Kate, Pandora, Magda, Caga, Chinny

- Apologies - Hilary, Blanca, Iona, Vicky



## 2. This month's meeting was focused on planning for 2024

We reviewed the 3 pillars of Amnesty's work

1. Changing attitudes to Human Rights
2. build a powerful movement
3. win human rights victories

and the 6 areas of focus which run until 2030

1. racial justice
2. economic, social and cultural rights
3. individuals at risk
4. legal framework
5. human rights crises - armed conflict
6. freedom of express and the right to protest

We reminded ourselves about our own areas of focus

- anti-death penalty
- Cuba
- Türkiye
- South Asia - India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Afghanistan and The Maldives
- South-East Asia - Myanmar, Laos, Thailand
- our Prisoners of conscience, Dr Mohammed al-Roken and Ahmed Mansoor from the UAE.

We also reviewed the focus of the Central England Network

- refugees
- oppressed minorities - Palestine, Ughyrs, Kashmir
- anti-racism

We considered group meetings, other events we typically engage with and others we'd like to create or be a part of.

### Decisions so far

- See plan for 2024 - very much a working document :-)
- We will have an annual theme this year, a Hong Kong action, as we have such strong links with local HK community who are keen to support us with this. We will liaise with HK country coordinator to decide upon the action. This should make it easier to organise stalls across the year.
- We agreed possible meetings for the rest of this year - see who's sorting what below - keep under review
- We agreed in principle which events we will do, which need further research to confirm and other possible ideas - all dependent on capacity of the group. See plan for thinking so far and below for who's getting on with what.
- We agreed we would need sub-groups to organise the larger events -

## To do

### **Helen**

- contact Rachel regarding possible Chantry House concert for December
- research street collections
- contact new HK country coordinator for meeting in April - with view to creating a theme for this year's campaigning
- contact LGBT network for meeting in July
- to research hustings - possibly with the Quakers (Magda contact) - consult on which constituency to focus on

### **Ruth**

- contact the UAE coordinator for meeting on May 9th

### **Sue**

- consult about WOMAD - is a stall viable this year?

## **To check / decide**

- Who usually sorts Waterfest?
- other events to consider
  - Hustings
  - Wokingham Fair - May
  - East Reading Festival - June
  - sponsored walk
  - Western Sahara photo exhibition
- sub-groups needed for
  - Quiz - hold at Reading Biscuit Factory which will reduce need to organise food and drink
  - Chantry House, if going ahead
  - 50th birthday party - possible link with Roseate in Reading

### **3. Campaign Updates - see [monthly newsletter](#) and weekly update**

## Group Meetings: Nov23 – Apr24



Month	Group Meeting	Events
November	Ilyas Nagdee - Racial justice	AIUK National Conference
December	Write4Rights	
January	<i>tbc</i>	
February	Grainne Teggart – Northern Ireland	
March	Lise Rossi - USA	
April	<i>Letter writing and planning – in person meeting</i>	

**Next meeting: Thursday 8th February**

**The Troubles Bill**

**at 8.00pm on Zoom**