

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



Manchester Group Review 2023-4

Amnesty International campaigns to promote an increased awareness of human rights, and undertakes action to stop grave abuses of human rights wherever they occur.

March 2023 meeting Joint with Freedom from Torture




FREEDOM FROM TORTURE

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

A KNOCK ON THE DOOR

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE IN RUSSIA



"A knock on the front door still fills me with dread... We had this strict rule in our family while we were in Russia: never open the door if you do not expect a guest."

SERGEI NIKITIN, former head of Amnesty International in Russia, recounts his experience being labelled 'a terrorist's aide', escaping Putin's regime and asks: **Are there human rights in Russia?**

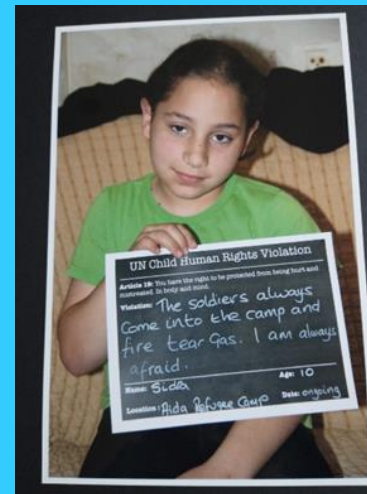
MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

Mon 13 March
6 - 7.30pm

Free event - no need to book
Further info - frandevine@yahoo.co.uk

Israel's apartheid against Palestinians

- June – actions marking 75th anniversary of the Nakba
- Many talks to groups in North West (Mike Reed)
 - British Muslim Heritage Centre
 - Chorlton Central Church
- Exhibition about the children of Palestine



Weekly silent vigil for Palestine and Israel

- First vigil 20th October 2023. We have now held 20
- Current plan to continue until 22nd March, then review



- January '24 meeting - talk by Pete Weatherby KC
- Transcript of talk available alison.wearden@gmail.com

Sportswashing

- Feb 23 Banner at Old Trafford
- Letter in the Guardian
- Joint statement with Newcastle United Fans – also published in Guardian
- BBC podcast
- Mentioned in Al Jazeera article



Human rights in the UAE

Letters to Manchester City Council

Wrote to M/c MPs re APPG Jan 24

Ahmed Mansoor in Write for Rights 2023



Banner at City vs Liverpool 25th November

Scrolls stunt – Manchester City store
Support for SANID* – videos/petition

*Stand up for UAE detainees



COP28, climate rights and human rights in UAE

Stalls – art-blocking (XR blocks), petition, cards

Didsbury festival,
June 23

Granby market
Liverpool, Sep, Oct 23



Other climate rights stalls

Children's event,
People's History Museum, February 24



MMU sustainability festival, June 23

Press freedom and Julian Assange

Summer events



La fiesta de las artes



Fly a kite for human rights

Art workshop
Feb 24

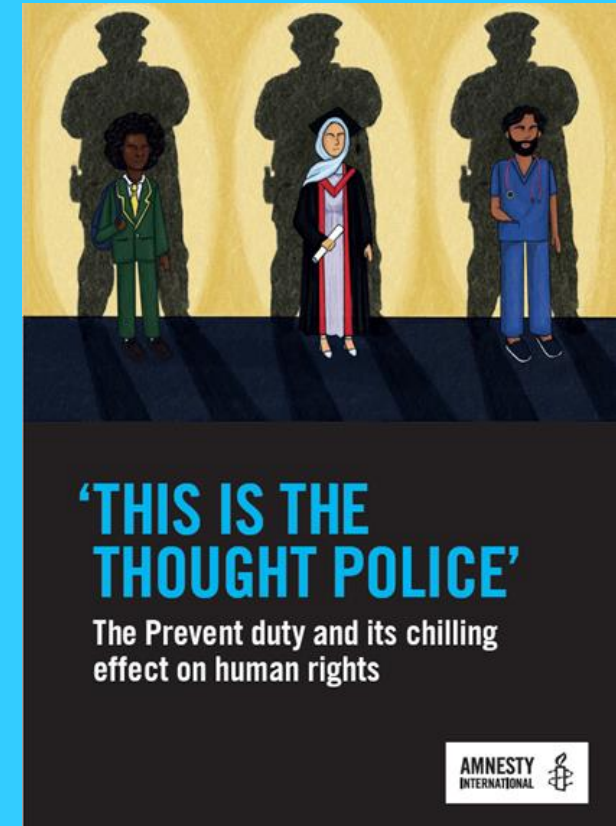


Day X, Feb 20/21 2024



Anti-racism subgroup

- June - Manchester resolution on Joint Enterprise received resounding support at AIUK AGM
- Continued support for Manchester 10 – via Kids of Colour
- Actions on Criminal Appeals Amendment Bill and Kim Johnson’s private members bill on “significant contribution”
- January group meeting – talk from JENGBA
- Subgroup continues to work through Layla F Saad’s book
- Involved in preparation for Manchester launch of AIUK’s Prevent report



Refugee rights

Displayed hearts, pennants, our banner, provided information about the Illegal Immigration Bill at 7 gardens over weekend



Chorlton Open Gardens
Refugee week June 2023

Together with Refugees “Fair Begins Here” campaign launch Feb 24



Dear refugees of Greater Manchester

This Valentine's Day we are writing to share love and solidarity with you, to make it clear to you and to political leaders that we welcome you into our community.

We, representing various parts of Greater Manchester society including faiths, arts and culture, women's rights, LGBTQ+ communities and education, have come together to sign this joint message. It serves as a testament to our unity in support of refugees and our call for a fair new plan.

We firmly believe that given the opportunity, communities like ours go out of their way to welcome and support refugees - opening our homes, volunteering our time, speaking up and donating. And, given the chance, refugees do so much to enrich our society as they strive to build new lives.

There is amazing work happening across Greater Manchester to uphold the rights and fulfil the needs of people seeking asylum and refugees. We champion the actions of the countless voluntary, community and faith organisations and the local authorities in Greater Manchester which work towards creating a place of sanctuary, here, for everyone.

We're grateful for your wonderful contributions to our communities, culture and economy.

We want you to know that there is overwhelming support across Greater Manchester for a fair new plan for refugees, one that's rooted in fairness, justice and compassion - a positive and viable alternative to the current refugee system. Now is the time for a fairer and more compassionate approach towards refugees in the UK.

With love from

- Aderonke Apata, Lawyer, Founder and CEO of African Rainbow Family
- Bishop John Arnold, Bishop of Salford
- Katy Ashton, Director, People's History Museum
- Jill Brennan, Co-Chair GM Faith and Belief Panel
- Hazel Errey, Chair, Manchester Amnesty International group
- Mark Fletcher, CEO, Manchester Pride
- Professor Jane Ginsborg PhD, Associate Director of Research, Royal Northern College of Music
- Professor Caroline Glendinning, Chair, The East Manchester Community Association/Rainbow Haven
- Neil MacInnes OBE, Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture, and Youth Services, Manchester City Council
- Helen Pankhurst CBE, writer and women's rights campaigner
- Revd. Ian Rutherford, City Centre Minister, Methodist Central Hall Manchester
- Lemn Sissay OBE FRSL, author, broadcaster & former Chancellor of Manchester University
- Rabbi Warren Elf, Co-Chair GM Faith and Belief Panel



Human Rights in the UK

- July – some of us took part in Human Rights in the UK quiz
- Signed Liberty's pledge in support of ECHR
- Letter in Manchester Evening News at Christmas
- Signed Housing Justice Network open letter



Individuals at risk & Write for Rights

- Letter writing drop-ins 4th Saturday
- Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
Manchester Central Library Café
- Write for Rights 2023
 - Manchester Cathedral
 - People's History Museum (2 days)
 - December bi-monthly meeting
 - December group meeting
(118 solidarity cards, 27 appeals – +36%)
 - Whalley Range Peace & Justice
(627 solidarity cards, 587 appeals)



Sparkle & Manchester Pride 2023



- Stall at Sparkle event in July (campaign for trans rights)



- Good turn out for 2023 Manchester Pride in August

Craftivism – threaded through lots that we do

Artwork for Julian Assange

Craft stalls with art blocking

Orange hearts and pennants for refugees

Scrolls for UAE/City action

Banner for Pride March



Acoustic Amnesty's 10th birthday!

- Gigs in July, September, December, February
- 10 years of Acoustic Amnesty: 67 acts; 22 charities; £8,000+



The first gig in 2013



Thanks to Steve Lindsay

Trailblazers events



Amnesty stall at 3 events:
September – Trailblazers exhibition
March – Ellen Wilkinson 100 years
Pre Women’s March celebration

Weekly Action / Newsletter (WAN) Quarterly bulletin

This year we have done 62 actions

21 relating to the UK, 7 Israel/Palestine, 4 UAE, 3 USA

24 about individuals, the rest about general issues

30 Amnesty, 4 PSC/MAP, 4 FFT, 4 Liberty

Bulletin - From the archives – thanks to Anne Walker

Thanks for all your contributions. If you have any feedback on WAN or bulletin, email me alison.wearden@gmail.com

Social media

- Thanks to Steve Lindsay for tweeting for us
- Our externally facing facebook page was shut down and we have been unable to get it back up again
- Our facebook group page is OK although we've had some strange adverts on it recently – these have been removed
- Our Instagram page was shut down when Sara took over from Ola. Thanks to Sara for her many efforts to reinstate it – unfortunately still ongoing
- Our web page works OK for the WAN, bulletin, vigil notices and occasional other posts.

Sorry if I have omitted anyone or anything!