**Amnesty International Blackheath and Greenwich**

**Group Meeting Tuesday 10th June 2025, in the crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | **Introductions**, welcome to visitors / new members, apologies for absences, appointing note taker for June meeting (Anne F) | **Present:** Jennifer, Illona, Brigitte, Anne F  **Apologies for absence:** Graham, Angela, David We, David Wi, Amanda, Rachel |
| 2 | **Feedback on fundraising event (all involved)** | **Comments on the event**  The main issue is the significant financial loss (£450.57 plus £47 spent on snacks for the band by Illona and still to be claimed, so taking the total loss to £497.57).  Those present felt that both the venue and the band costs were high. No evidence that the advert in the South London Press attracted any visitors. Pixaudio staff were very welcoming, and the venue is easy to get to, but not yet well known enough. Communication with the band and the venue (limited to email) led to some frustration.  Anecdotally, there was a feeling that some people are put off by “jazz”. Maybe it could have been billed as “A night of wonderful music”.  Illona felt there needed to be changes to the way the raffle prizes were laid out. Anne F thought the raffle draw would be better before the end of the concert.  Special thanks to Graham and Angela for the fantastic amount of work they did in preparing for the event.  Anne F complimented Brigitte on her highly effective speech about the campaign.  Thank you emails to raffle prize donors to be sent (Anne F to contact Illona for details of this year’s donors, and David Wi re the wording from last year).  **Future events**  Discussed at some length; those present considered whether an event of this size was even possible again.  Jennifer suggested setting up a planning calendar in September so that everything wouldn’t be left to the last minute with only a few members taking on all the tasks.  Illona had been to Shrewsbury House on Shooters Hill - a possible venue?  Illona to contact Mycenae House re next year, and to source musicians (from Trinity music college or elsewhere) who might be willing to waive their fee.  Jennifer suggested an open mic night |
| 3 | **Tiananmen Square commemorations – feedback?** | Brigitte and Amanda attended and took the group banner. This provoked much interest from others present, who were mostly Chinese and masked. |
| 4 | **Country/regional campaigns** **–** updates from Country Contacts | **China** – No updates as Angela away  **Iran** – No updates as Graham away  **Mexico & C. America** – No updates  **Europe** - Brigitte summarised a long report she had received (see below) |
| 5 | **AIUK AGM motions plus Amnesty Futures** | Brigitte has registered for the AGM at Warwick University but has not yet received information re accommodation. She had not seen the motions (circulated by Anne F with the agenda for this meeting) but had received the summary of motions put forward by Graham Bisset and others from Amnesty Futures Initiative. She felt they were opaque and confirmed that she would be voting in the spirit of the group. |
| 6 | **AIUK (standing item) -** London Group meeting Saturday 18th October (Amanda) | Nothing to report as Amanda was not at the meeting. Date noted. |
| 7 | **Upcoming AIUK events** | Refugee week - Thursday 19 June 6-8pm event at North Kensington Library, 108 Ladbroke Grove, W11 1PZ. organised by the Amnesty Europe team.  Free tickets here:  <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-week-with-amnesty-international-tickets-1377221619939?aff=oddtdtcreator> |
| 8 | **Arrangements for future meetings, other speakers and guests** | Anne and/or Amanda to contact Richard Wild from Greenwich University |
| 9 | **AOB** | Saturday 21 June 5pm vigil outside the Greek Embassy, 1A Holland Park W11 3TP, commemorating the many people who died when the “Adriana” sank on 14 June 2023 with 750 refugees on board. |

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 24th June 2025:** Letter writing

**Location:** The Princess of Wales, 1a Montpelier Row, Blackheath, London SE3 0RL

**Time:** 7.00pm for 7:30pm

* **Saturday 18th October 2025:** Ulrike Schmidt from the Amnesty Europe team to join the meeting

**Location:** Crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, London SE13 5DL

**Time:** TBC

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chair | Brigitte |
| Vice-Chair | Illona |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | Anne F |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Country Contacts | China - Angela, Iran - Graham, Europe - Brigitte, Roger - Central America |
| Publicity & Social Media | TBC |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Newsletter writer / provider of meeting refreshments | **To be rotated** |

Amnesty Europe Newsletter April/May Report Brigitte

**Slovakia**

Romani Children Face Entrenched Discrimination As School Segregation PersistsSevere disparities in educational outcomes persist, including significantly higher-grade repetition, lower standardised test scores, and elevated dropout rates compared to non-segregated schools. So-called “Roma schools” are disproportionately under-resourced, lacking basic facilities such as gyms and playgrounds.

In April 2023, the European Commission decided to refer Slovakia to the Court of Justice of the European Union for ‘failing to effectively tackle the issue of ethnic segregation of Romani children in schools.’ It noted that segregation had in fact increased since 2016, and that Slovakia was the EU Member State with the highest share of Roma segregation in education.

**Poland –**

Hope that decision to retry activist prosecuted for aiding an abortion gives hope that charges against Justyna can be withdrawn

Refugee Rights

Poland Temporarily Suspends The Right To Asylum for migrants from Belarus

**Turkey**

Protests in the aftermath of the detention and imprisonment of Istanbul Mayor Ekrem Imamoglu

Officials have announced that almost 2,000 people have been taken into police custody and over 300 have been remanded in pre-trial detention,

In addition to the arrest of Ekrem Imamoglu the last few weeks have seen escalating attacks by Turkish authorities on the Istanbul Bar Association, its leadership, and members of the legal profession.

**Saturday Mothers**/People will mark 30 years of peaceful protest on 27 May this year. Although, as reported to you some weeks ago, the group was acquitted of the charges brought against it following the arrests in 2018 there are still restrictions on their ability to hold a weekly vigil in Istanbul.

**PKK**

UN experts welcome Kurdish Workers’ Party ceasefire with Türkiye and urge a just and sustainable peace

 Kurdish forces in Syria have indicated that the PKK ceasefire does not apply to them