

Dates for your diary	Wednesday 17/09/2025, 1400: London - Stop Trump Coalition march Saturday 18/10/2025: Tunbridge Wells – South East Regional gathering
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Dear writers

It was lovely to see group members and their families at the **Pumble** on 09/08/2025: good company, fine views and an excellent choice of pub. Also aching legs: always the sign of a good day's walking in the Downs, starting and ending at The Blue Bell in Cocking.



We were very sorry to hear of the recent death of **Colin Crouch**, who continued to be a dedicated supporter of Amnesty International long after his stalwart volunteering for a number of roles in the Group committee, including Chair and Publicity officer. The Group archive includes an article from November 1982 highlighting Colin's membership of Amnesty, whilst working as an English teacher at Midhurst Grammar School; and after his retirement, Colin was a regular speaker about Amnesty in local schools (often turning up, to the excitement of the kids, on his beloved motorbike). Colin, as Chair, was the driving force behind the installation of the Amnesty plaque in Bognor and the service at Chichester Cathedral to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which attracted the talents of Geraldine James, Patricia Routledge and Christopher Timothy. Pamela and Colin also regularly hosted garden parties at their lovely home in Aldwick.

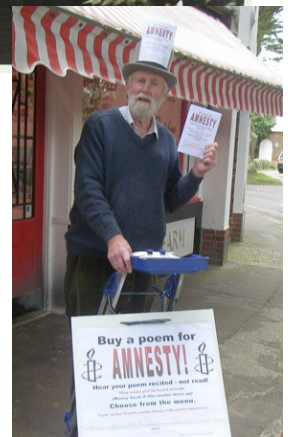


Photo: 4th July garden party; Colin (right) with speaker Lloyd Auchard and auction prize, a framed copy of Shepard Fairey's 'Hope' portrait of Barack Obama (2009).

Photo: Pinochet
Demonstration, 3 April 1999.
Colin (centre) as coffin bearer
to remember the 2095 deaths
and 1102 disappearances
during the Pinochet era.



Photo: Busking & Street Collection for Amnesty, 22 March 2014. Hear your poem recited – not read!



Local events

Saturday 18/10/2025, 1000 – 1630 Amnesty South East Regional Gathering, King Charles Church Hall, Tunbridge Wells. Co-ordinated by Arianna Pisetti, our Amnesty Activism representative for the south east (Surrey, Sussex and Kent) and local group members, including our Chair Kath Shakespeare.

Agenda

- 10:00 – 10:30 — Arrival & Networking coffee/tea
- 10:30 – 10:40 — Welcome speech from Amnesty International UK
- 10:40 – 11:40 — The rise of anti-rights and hate narrative and how to build community power to counteract a hostile environment (guest speaker)
- 11:50 – 13:00 — Session 1 – How to localise national human rights issues for our campaigning
- 13:00 – 14:00 — Lunch and networking
- 14:00 – 15:00 — Session 2 - Connecting and building relationships with local organisations
- 15:00 – 16:00 — Session 3 - Organising a public action/event (workshop)



- During the day we will have a couple of human rights actions you can get involved with.
- There is no car park at the venue but plenty of town car parks, near the venue and the railway station:
<https://tunbridgewells.gov.uk/parking/car-parks/find-a-car-park>
- The venue is 7 min walk from Royal Tunbridge Wells Train station and 8 min from Tunbridge Wells West station.
- Travel bursaries are available for Amnesty members – this should be arranged before the Gathering.
- Refreshments and a light lunch will be provided.
- If you are interested in attending, please contact Kath for the Eventbrite link: Shakespeare.kath@gmail.com

Other events

Wednesday 17/09/2025, 1400. The Stop Trump Coalition is organizing a march in London from 1400, which will be followed by a rally starting at 1700. A wide range of organisations and activists are taking part to urge President Trump to stop the rollback of rights. You can join the Amnesty bloc – Amnesty UK will provide materials ready to order in advance and available on the day for people organizing local protests and also available on the day for those joining the block.

- For more information: <https://amnesty.org.uk/resist-trump> , including posters you can display on the day at home

Friday 17/10/2025: International Eradication of Poverty Day. Amnesty will remind the Government that social security is a human right – and they need your help! Send Amnesty a photo of yourself with the phrase ‘Social Security is a Human Right’ written on a piece of paper, your hand, or anywhere you like. If you prefer to be anonymous, there is no need to show your face. Amnesty will use the photos on their social media and turn the messages into a giant banner to take to Parliament.

- Email your photo **by 30/09/2025** to: weekofaction@amnesty.org.uk
- Read the Social Insecurity report: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/social-insecurity-report>
- For more information, including photo usage and consent, visit: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/social-security>

A petition a week. This is a free initiative from Oliver Rothnie, from the Colwyn Bay Amnesty Group, in North Wales. You can sign up to receive a petition related to human rights in the United Kingdom and around the world, with a short background (likely no longer than 200 words) into your inbox every Tuesday.

- You can access the service via Substack blogging platform (at <https://apetitionaweek.substack.com>), or simply receive the petitions in your inbox as they would for any other mailing list. There is also an Instagram account at @apetitionaweek.
- The petitions will primarily be from Amnesty International and other human rights organisations, as well as the UK Parliament petitions service, which I think is a useful resource, and unfortunately is being used by the far-right for their own deeds.
- The aim is to share important petitions more widely among activists (i.e. Amnesty members) but also people who care about human rights but are not necessarily currently involved in groups. Therefore, the plan is for the initial people on the mailing list to be Amnesty members, but for the service to expand out to others in the community.
- **If you are interested, this is the sign-up link: <https://bit.ly/45JzbH5> : you only need to input your email address**

The **Gresham College lectures** can be attended in person but are also broadcast online at the same time (and recorded, so you can watch at a later date if you prefer). The Autumn programme highlights the following of interest to those of a HR bent, but do please explore what else is available!

- <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/guantanamo>
- <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/whats-on/trump-death>

Carry on writing!

Bob Dewick, Amnesty

Amnesty action: campaigns & letter-writing

Egypt update from Margaret, our Campaign Co-ordinator

Case of Alaa Abdel Fattah

In the past few days, we have heard from Amnesty's Egyptian Coordinator, Diana Hysenaj, that :

'It has been announced that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has ordered authorities to study the possible pardon of high-profile Egyptian-British activist and blogger Alaa Abdel Fattah, according to a statement by the Egyptian National Council for Human Rights. Sadly, it has also been reported that on September 1st, Alaa began his latest hunger strike in protest against his detention. I will keep you updated as developments unfold, and we remain hopeful in the meantime. At this stage, there are no further actions planned for this case while we wait. However, if anything changes, I will let you know.'



In an interview on 9 September 2025 on the BBC's *Today Programme*, Sanaa Souief, Alaa's sister, responded to the news that the Egyptian State was reviewing Alaa's appeal for a presidential pardon. Whilst there is no guarantee that it will be granted, it does offer a glimmer of hope for the future. Sanaa sounded very weary and expressed deep disappointment that the family now faces re-starting their campaign for Alaa's release with yet another new Foreign Secretary after the Cabinet re-shuffle this week.



Laila Souief

Sanaa also reported that, following the end to her hunger strike, her mother, Laila, was gradually regaining strength but is not likely to recover fully.

We will all hope for a positive outcome to the review of the presidential pardon for Alaa and improved health and strength for Laila.

Action: Saudi Arabia- women's rights activist Manahel al-Otaibi re-sentenced

On 21 August 2025, the appeals court of Saudi Arabia's Specialized Criminal Court (SCC) resented fitness influencer and women's rights activist **Manahel al-Otaibi** to five years imprisonment followed by a five-year travel ban. Manahel al-Otaibi has been imprisoned since 16 November 2022. On 9 January 2024, the SCC sentenced Manahel al-Otaibi to 11 years in prison for "terrorist offences" in a secret trial. She was initially charged with violating the Anti-Cyber Crime Law, then faced additional charges under the counter-terror law due to her tweets in support of women's rights as well as posting photos of herself at the mall without an abaya (a traditional loose-fitting long-sleeved robe) on Snapchat.



Saudi authorities have subjected her to torture and other ill-treatment, as well as enforced disappearance; she should be immediately and unconditionally released.

What you can do

- Take action online here: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions/womens-rights-activist-re-sentenced>

Want to do more? The Urgent Action Network

When you take action, you do it as part of a movement of tens of thousands of people across the world, working together to raise our voices, demand justice and make change happen. Please do take action, in solidarity with individuals at risk everywhere:

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions>