Agenda for Horsham Amnesty meeting7 July 2015

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

Matters Arising

Post: monthly action – Gaza crisis

Treasurer’s report

Feedback: Writeathon, AmnesTea, Refugee Tales

Eskinder: Arrangements for Embassy visit

Support for a Crawley Amnesty Group

Ethiopian evening planning

AOB

**Horsham Amnesty Group Minutes**

**June 2nd 2015**

**Welcome** and lighting of the Amnesty candle

**Items Arising from the Minutes**

1 **World Press Day:** Thanks to all who took part in World Press Day event with the County Times. The radio report on the event was good and accurate. Audrey intends taking the article to The Crawley Observer and seeing if she can get them to do something similar

The article has been sent to the AI groups coordinator

2 **Human Rights Action:** We have been warned not to relax over the Human Rights Act legislation. We will be collecting cards at the Writeathon on Saturday.

It was suggested that we should arrange a face to face meeting with our new MP to discuss this.

3 Nigeria is going to ban FGM

4 Tunisia is having a truth and reconciliation event, which is acknowledging a lot of the things which have happened in the past.

5 There are to be talks between the people of Misrata and those of Tawargha whose homes were destroyed after the conflict. Jackie got a letter from HDC which was sent to the Local Council of Misrata, so this is of interest to us.

**Incoming Post**

We have received a letter from Christina Maude about our meeting with Francis Maude on Eskinder. The letter is very positive and a copy is going to be sent to Eskinder to encourage him. The letter is sent out as a file with the minutes.

Alison is going to write a letter to the Ethiopian Embassy enclosing the letter

**Treasurer’s Report**

Since the last meeting we have paid our £72 affiliation fee to AIUK, and received £15 from the collection box at the last meeting.

The Volunteer Bureau want each organisation to pay £15 per year membership, which will entitle us to keep borrowing their projector. It was agreed that this was good value, and if asked for the money we will pay it.

**Refugee Week June 15-21**

Jackie read out Ali’s story, of a young man making his way across from Somalia to Italy.

It was agreed that we will take no group action for Refugee week as we are already doing quite a lot. There is the walk for the Gatwick detainees, which Alison and Jackie are joining on June 21st at East Grinstead. If anyone else wants to go please contact them.

We will also put something on the Horsham Amnesty website and facebook

**Writeathon June 6th**

This will take place in the Friends meeting house, at the same time as the Ecover refill event.

The actions will be writing to the Ethiopian President on behalf of Eskinder, plus the Human Rights Act campaign.

We will ask people to have their picture taken with a board, saying ‘Save the Human Rights Act’, preferably in the garden.

William will try and get some local businesses to support action for Eskinder, and will campaign on Saturday outside TK Max.

Please will everyone encourage friends to come, and bring friends along with them for coffee and cake and to sign the actions

**Amnestea**, June 20th Ifield Meeting House, Langley Lane Ifield 2-4pm

Audrey has circulated the event to Crawley churches, and AIUK will send out an email to all members in the Crawley area. She is also going to the Crawley Observer to put in an advert

Cakes were offered by:Hannah and William L. Mary, Gaynor

Plants and books will be for sale.

All other offers of cakes to Audrey. Please come at 1.30 for set up.

Please all come and bring friends

**Visit to Ethiopian Embassy, July 13th**

Final arrangements will be made at the July meeting.

**My Body My Rights**

There was discussion of this campaign to encourage the Irish Government to legalise abortion. It was decided that we shall take no action on this as a group, though individuals can always take action.

**Ethiopian Evening in October**

We want to make this as interesting as possible. Suggestions include food, music, games, a quiz on Ethiopia..

Please all research Ethiopia, and come with as many unusual facts as possible on Ethiopia to the July meeting, and suggestions for the evening.

We will discuss it in detail at that meeting

**AOB**

Audrey told us that the tree we planted in memory of Frank is looking lovely and flowered this April.

Gaynor apologised that she will have to cancel her planned Amnestea in July, it is not a good time for it.

William raised idea of getting businesses to sign bits of paper which can be made up into the Ethiopian flag and taken to our Embassy visit.

**Date and time of next meeting:** July 7th, 8pm Friends Meeting House.