**Horsham Amnesty Group**

**Minutes**

**February 3rd 2015**

**Present:** Jacinta White, Mary Gilmore, Hannah Gash, Audrey Garnett, Kevin O’Sullivan, Jackie Fry, John Fry, Hannah Lorne, William Lorne, Alison Marshall, Gaynor Cooper, Frank Smith, Pat Smith

**Apologies**: Chris Smith, Daphne Barraclough

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|  | **Led by** | **Action by** |
| **Welcome** and lighting of the Amnesty candle | **Jacinta** |  |
| **Updated Horsham Leaflets**  Jackie presented the new Horsham Amnesty leaflet she has had printed. We have 100 copies and can print more if needed. | **Jackie** |  |
| **Treasurer’s report** (copies available from John Fry)  Since the last accounts on 11/11/14 We have had income from:  Write for Rights, Street Collection, Ifield Quakers Donation.  We have spent on:  Room hire, Leaflets, Write for Rights postage, £700 to AIUK  We have £300 in our current account | **John** |  |
| **Post**  14/2 Assemble 12 noon in Parliament Square for a demonstration to free Shaker Aamer  18/3 7.30 – 9.30pm Shoreham Amnesty meeting: Iraq and Islamic State. Methodist Church, Brunswick Rd,, Shoreham on Sea. All invited.  Reminder that the deadline for booking the Amnesty National Conference is 2/3. (Conference is 18-19 April, Warwick University). Book online  Jacinta has briefing sheets for all the current AIUK campaigns. Let her know if you would like one or more of these. | **Jacinta** |  |
| **Briefing on Eskinder Nega**  Jacinta summarised the details of Eskinder Nega’s case and gave out briefing sheets to all present.  AI’s position is that he is in prison solely for peacefully acting as a journalist.  The strategy aim is his immediate and unconditional release.  We can be involved by:   * Providing a source of moral support for him and his family * Pressure on the Ethiopian Government and Prime Minister * Pressure on UK Foreign Secretary (William Hague) and UK Minister for Africa (Mark Simmonds)   The group then signed greeting cards for Eskinder and his wife.  Jackie expressed concern that there are elections in Ethiopia in May, and more journalists may be rounded up and imprisoned prior to this. | **Jacinta** |  |
| **Brainstorm of ideas to help Eskinder**  Many ideas were recorded. The ones we are considering undertaking now are:  World Press Freedom Day 3/5. Contact the County Times and arrange to run an event that involves them and could generate an article in the County Times about Eskinder. Alison to contact the County Times to open discussions  King and Chasemore Bake off day during April. William is to arrange this. King and Chasemore will lend us their front office for a day. We will offer free tea and coffee in disposable cups(William will try to get donations of tea and coffee from retailers, eg Waitrose, M&S), and sell cakes. Several people offered to make cakes, will also try to get celebrity donations of cakes. Hold discussions on Amnesty with people, put up posters. Run a raffle? Hannah G offered to look at donations for raffle. Suggestions that the Editor of the County Times and the MP could be invited. Could be used as a basis to get the article in the County Times for World Press Freedom Day  Visit to Ethiopian Embassy 13/7 ? Jacinta to check if that date would be alright. A petition could be collected at all events up to that date and handed in. This would coincide with the date of Eskinder’s arrest.  Amnestea at Ifield Quakers in June. Audrey will raise this for their business meeting in a few weeks, and come back with date. Would invite all Quakers in Crawley area and try to get an article in Crawley press.  Horsham Hustings for General Election. This will be on 22/4 at the Capitol. We need to submit questions for the event and attend. Questions to be discussed at meeting on April 7th. Frank and Pat will find out when the questions need to be in.  Other suggestions for later on included: more Amnesteas, a Folk night, a Comedy night, a ‘sing alonga Mamma Mia’ at the Capitol with celebrities invited. | **Jackie** | **Alison**  **William**  **Hannah G**  **Jacinta**  **Audrey**  **Frank and Pat**  **Mary, William, Jackie** |
| **March Meeting**  Will be an open meeting in the front hall of Quakers on ‘What is Amnesty and what does it do?’ led by Jackie  Jackie has done a small leaflet which she will e mail to everyone for them to print and display to invite people’  Hannah L will put one up in Sainsburys. Gaynor will put one up in Santa Fe and Esquires.  Audrey and Mary will sort out refreshments  Alison will get projector  There will be an action for Eskinder  All local Amnesty National members will be invited if possible | **Jackie** | **Jackie**  **Hannah L, Gaynor**  **Audrey, Mary**  **Alison** |
| **Facebook Page**  This is now up and running. Hannah and William L and Jackie will work on getting more people invited to it.  Jackie is going to Collyers Council in a couple of weeks as the new head is keen on Amnesty. She will raise facebook there | **Jackie** | **Jackie, Hannah L, William** |
| **AOB**  Frank will follow up the possibility of getting a weekly article on ‘Caring’ organisations in the County Times (eg Amnesty, Global Justice Now, Fairtrade Horsham…)  In the March meeting as it is an open meeting, could people provide short reports on progress. | **Frank** | **Frank** |
| **Date and time of next meeting:**  March 3rd, 8pm Friends Meeting House |  |  |