**Horsham Amnesty Group**

**Minutes**

**May 5th 2015**

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| **Welcome** and lighting of the Amnesty candle |  |  |
| Action requesting China not to return North Korean Refugees to North Korea |  |  |
| **World Press Day**  It was agreed that the photo shoot at the County Times this evening had gone very well. There were about 25 people there, including 6-7 journalists. The County Times have said that they will give us a 2 page spread this week |  |  |
| **’A Better World’ slot in the County Times**  This will be going ahead. Jackie will be our rep. |  |  |
| **Post**  Jacinta asked people to take any of the stickers she has received promoting the Human Rights Act.  The rota for writing to Eskinder was confirmed.  Jacinta has received a list of AIUK achievements in 2014 if anyone wants to look at it. She also offered some cloth AIUK bags to anyone who can use them |  |  |
| **Treasurer’s report**  No change since the last meeting |  |  |
| **Writeathon June 6th**  This will take place in the Friends meeting house, at the same time as the Ecover refill event.  2 teams will cover the desk:  9.45-11.00 Audrey, Kevin, William and Hannah L  11.00-12.15 Hannah G and Gaynor  The actions will be writing to the Ethiopian President on behalf on Eskinder, plus some of the current actions for people promoted by AIUK, Alison and Jacinta will sort out which  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, 2-4pm**  **Address: Langley Lane Ifield**  Audrey will arrange circulation of the event ot Crawley churches  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 |  |  |
| **Gatwick detainees walk**  An 80 mile walk for the Gatwick Detainees ends on Sunday 21st  Please join the end of this walk if you can, so that a lot of people are in the group ending in Crawley.  You can join them at East Grinstead at 1.30pm (Alison will be joining then) or at Worth. |  |  |
| **Visit to Ethiopian Embassy, July 13th**  Alison checked who would be able to come to this, to ensure we have enough people to make it viable  Jacinta, Gaynor, Hannah G, Sheelagh and Daphne will be going. Also possibly Mary and Jackie  It was suggested we get a letter from the Foreign Office and our MP to and in. We will also take the the newspaper article from this week’s County Times.  We will leave between mid day and early afternoon, travelling together |  |  |
| **Election**  Responses to the emails were as follows:  Jim Rae – no reply  Labour, Lib Dem, Something New, whole hearted agreement  Conservatives and UKIP, support a British bill of rights  These responses were sent to head office  After the election, there will be a signing of the Human Rights Cards to be signed and collected at the next meeting. Anyone who could get someone else to sign them, took cards, which must brought back to the next meeting or sent to AIUK.  People signing cards must be Horsham residents (ie have our MP). |  |  |
| **AIUK Conference**  Jacinta gave a report back on the Conference, which she and Kevin attended.  They abstained (ie did not use the group vote) for 2 motions:  The abortion research motion, which was comfortably carried  Proposal on anti Semitism – because they both voted different ways. This was defeated by a narrow margin.  This showed how useful it is to have 2 reps there, as one can assume to whole group will agree with you.  Next time it is important we have the extra meeting we normally have to consider the motions and make group decisions |  |  |
| **FGM**  Hannah gave a very interesting and informative talk on FGM. The group were surprised how widespread it is, and how culturally acceptable it is in some countries.  There is more information on the Amnesty website with suggestions for action. |  |  |
| **AOB**  Alison went to the Brighton beach action. For better search and rescue for migrants from Africa. There were about 50 people there.  The torturers of a Mexican who was tortured by the police to obtain a confession have been charged, but the man still hasn’t been released. |  |  |
| **Date and time of next meeting:**  June 2nd, 8pm Friends Meeting House. |  |  |