

Solihull Group - Amnesty International - Minutes of Meeting - November 21st.

Present Celia, David, Cathy, Janet, Amy, Heather, Sean, Chris, Lucy, Sheniz, Zayn, Trisha

Apologies - Bernard and Pauline

Minutes and Action from October We said that all the items here would be raised in the next agenda items.

Future Events - Human Rights Day 12th December - 10.15am - 2.15pm Manor House, Solihull - Rota (Celia) - needs circulating asap . Decision on whom we would select for the stall as 'Write for Rights cases ' - we decided on 2 cases to whom we could send Solidarity Cards - Nanazine Zaghari-Radcliffe (Iran) and Bayram Mammadov and Giyas Ibrahimov (Azerbaijan)

Publicity Letter to the press re Write for Rights stall (Celia)

Get Together - Monday 19th December at Cathy's house - 2, Creynolds close, Cheswick Green. B90 4EN

Next Meeting - Monday 16th Jan. 2017 David to get in contact again with Martin Deddicoat ' South Africa today ' - human rights, political situation, etc

Secretary's items - Write for Rights matters
Celia will circulate details of on-line course 'Human Rights: The Rights of Refugees'.

Campaigns - David - currently drawing up new rota for letter writing re Sombath Somphone - There will be a further 3 new names and addresses of Lao Govt. and other officials to whom to write, on the new rota. Also David has sent 2 letters on behalf of our group using the texts provided by Amnesty in response to some important urgent cases which have been notified to us by AIUK. We also have a list of many successes to letter writing and other campaigns (unfortunately none of our group's campaigns) - Releases from imprisonment / official decisions by national judiciaries or Governments in favour of detainees - from all over the world.

Follow up to correspondences by our group to SMBC and our MPs re refugee crisis - a positive reply by SMBC re support for Syrian refugee settlement. Also from Caroline Spelman MP and an acknowledgement from Julian Knight MP.

Talk by Max McLoughlin (SMBC councillor for Shirley and Green Party member) - using projection to illustrate and clarify information, Max explained and discussed the national and local responses to the refugee crisis. Nationally, UK is taking far fewer asylum seekers and/or refugees than many other countries but we fund support for them in countries abroad more generously than most other countries. While we have a housing shortage in Solihull we still have plenty of empty properties but the owners are reluctant to release this

stock to help with the refugee crisis. Celia asked about Solihull joining Birmingham as a City of Sanctuary . Max felt that we have an improving picture in Solihull re support for AS and refugees. He offered to email the screens he was showing to members
(max@solihullgreenparty.org.uk)