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## Amnesty International Hillingdon Group Newsletter No 142. Feb - Mar 16

Diary - \*indicates local event

**\*Mon 22 Feb** Group Meeting/AGM. Completion of Groups Planning Pack and Monthly Action for Human Rights. Confirmation of plans for stalls/events. Quaker Meeting Hall, Belmont Road, Uxbridge. Doors open 7:45 for 8pm start. Near Sainsbury's. Everyone welcome.

**\*7-20 March.** Make a Will fortnight. See below

**\*Mon 21 Mar** 7:45 for 8pm Group Meeting. **Note:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday due to Easter Bank Holiday.

**9-10 April 2016** National Conference and AGM, Nottingham. Please consider whether you would like to represent the group. Limited places still available.

**\*Mon 25 April** 7:45 for 8pm Group Meeting

**\*Sun 15 May 2pm.** Group Sponsored Walk. Route TBC (suggestions welcome) – gentle and accessible to most.

**\*Mon 23 May** Group Meeting

**\*Sat 4 June** Eastcote House Gardens stall. Details TBC – books & toys / fundraising game

**20-26 June 2016** Refugee Week. The theme this year is "Welcome".

**\*Mon 27 June.** Group Meeting

**\*Sat 9 July** Hayes Carnival. Please collect books and toys to sell.

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**AIUK Conference and AGM:** Online voting on the resolutions starts 24 Feb; if you are an individual member you should have received details in the post. Many resolutions relate to the overhaul/update of the constitution, which we have already discussed in their draft format. At the March meeting (21 March) we will devote a section of the meeting to these resolutions, so that the group representative attending the AGM can take group members' views into account when voting at the AGM. If we do not have a group representative attending, I am hoping the group may be able to vote online, but this is not clear at this stage.

**Stop Torture:** We are calling on the government to establish an independent judged enquiry into the UK's role in the CIA's torture and rendition programme. Read more/take action: [www.amnesty.org.uk/torture](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/torture)

**Events/fundraising:** Ideas needed for fundraising and campaign events. Suitable venues also needed – so please get in touch if you have ideas or can help in any other way. Donations of good quality bric-a-brac and small prizes for games needed.

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**Make a Will fortnight 7-20 March.** For many of us, making a will (or updating it) is one of those jobs that is all too easy to postpone. Legacies are a vital source of funds for the movement, so if considering making or updating a will, please consider whether you can leave some money for Amnesty. There is a network of solicitors giving their time during the fortnight. More details here <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/make-will-fortnight-2016>  
MGT Solicitors in Hayes 020 8754 5577 are the most local.

**Yemen appeal** (from [amnesty.org.uk](http://amnesty.org.uk)): Help us respond to a crisis. Bombs have been raining down on the people of Yemen for almost a year now. But few people know the devastation and suffering that has been caused. With your help, we can expose human rights violations like this so no one can say, 'I didn't know' or 'It did not happen'.

Donate and help us gather evidence of serious human rights crimes.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/giving/yemen-appeal-2>

**2015 Write for Rights – Good News:** Egyptian student Israa Al-Taweel has been freed. This shows the difference that lots of people taking the modest step of sending a greetings card or writing a letter can make. Updates on three other cases are in the latest Amnesty Magazine.

**Raise funds by recycling inkjet cartridges:** [www.therecyclingfactory.com/amnesty](http://www.therecyclingfactory.com/amnesty)

**Take Action:** Students in Tunisia have been arrested for “sodomy”.

<https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/tunisia-free-six-students-charged-sodomy-no-crime-gay?from=issue>

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AIUK Headquarters	17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EY (Human Rights Action Centre, aka HRAC) <a href="http://www.amnesty.org.uk">http://www.amnesty.org.uk</a>

Items for the next newsletter to Janet ([Amnestyhillington@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Amnestyhillington@hotmail.co.uk)) by early April.