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Amnesty International Hillingdon Group Newsletter No 136. Nov'14 – Jan'15

Diary - *indicates local event

Sun 23 Nov 3.00 pm. Action by Christians Against torture. SURVIVING TORTURE. An ecumenical service of readings, reflection, prayer and music. Christ Church, Roxeth Hill, Harrow HA2 0JN

***Mon 24 Nov.** Group Meeting, Quaker Meeting Hall, Belmont Road, Uxbridge. Near Sainsbury's. Doors open 7:45 for 8pm start. We will be sending greetings cards to prisoners of conscience/victims of human rights abuses around the world. Everyone welcome, seasonal refreshments available.

***Wed 10 Dec** Human Rights Day. Places of worship around the borough will be lighting candles close to this date and remembering the plight of prisoners of conscience.

December – no meeting

2015 Meeting Dates (Mondays): 26 Jan, 23 Feb, 23 March, 27 April, 18 May (3rd Monday), 22 June. (July, August – no meetings). 28 Sep, 26 Oct, 23 Nov.

October Street Collection – Thank you to everyone who collected (8 people) and donated. A very pleasing £305 was collected.

Write for Rights campaign. This is the annual campaign where we send greetings cards to prisoners of conscience and other victims of human rights abuses around the world. We are also given guidance regarding writing to the relevant authorities. In the past this campaign was known as the Greetings Card Campaign (GCC). This campaign is, as usual, the focus of our November meeting. This meeting is for many people the favourite meeting of the year. Everyone is welcome. Contributions of the following will be welcome: lightweight greetings cards (festive/non-festive), envelopes, letter writing paper, money for stamps. Campaign info here: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/Write-for-Rights-2014>

Christmas shopping. Yes, it is that time of year... Raise funds for Amnesty, spread the word and get some delightful, original gifts for friends and family. The Amnesty catalogue has it all. Also online: <http://amnestyshop.org.uk/>

Amnesty Lottery: Half the price of a National Lottery ticket, and all the proceeds go to a good cause that YOU approve of: https://lottery.amnesty.org.uk/gurl-landing-page.asp?COMMS_TYPE=AIUK

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Festive AmnesTEA. AmnesTEA is a fundraising cake sale. It would be great to have a winter fundraising event (perhaps close to Human Rights Day, 10 Dec). Please consider whether this is something you could help organise, or if you know a suitable venue. Organisers do not have to be bakers.

Seasonal Cheer. We devote lots of effort to writing letters and other campaign activities. Sometimes we may ask ourselves if anyone actually notes. Can it really make a difference? The answer is YES. Meriam Ibrahim has been released from death row in Sudan. The new draconian anti-gay law in Uganda has been annulled. Read more: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/good-news>

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AIUK Headquarters New look website	17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EY (Human Rights Action Centre, aka HRAC) http://www.amnesty.org.uk

Items for the next newsletter to (Amnestyhillington@hotmail.co.uk) by early Feb.