

## Solihull Amnesty Group

### Minutes of Meeting Held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Present: Ruth, David, Pauline, Celia, Cathy, Bernard, Janet

Apologies: Heather, Amy

#### Matters Arising from Previous Minutes:

It was suggested that the You Tube video 'Seeds of Hatred' on the Rohingya people might be shown at a future meeting.

#### Future Events:

#### **Amnestea Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2.30 – 5pm**

Celia has received about 24 acceptances. It is possible that others will attend as a result of the article in the Solihull Observer re this event or the Facebook listing.

Arrangements were finalised as to the various responsibilities for this. Helpers are asked to be at Celia's House by 1.30pm.

#### **Stall at Fun in the Park 20 September Tudor Grange**

For this event it was decided to amend a French Amnesy leaflet, provided by Pauline, drawing attention to France's response to the Syrian refugee crisis. This gave facts about the numbers fleeing Syria and the few accepted by France, and asking people to write down what they would take with them in that situation. These responses to be pinned to a board at our stall..

Please send suggested amendments and content to Pauline by the end of August.

#### **Regional Conference B & MI 17<sup>th</sup> October** Details at next Meeting.

#### Secretary's Items

**Monthly Action** This is an Urgent Action on behalf of an Iranian film producer sentenced to 8 years in prison.

**Solihull College Welcome** We agree to have a table at this event, to which we are invited, on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Blossomfield campus from 10.a.m to 2.p.m Celia will obtain literature for this occasion.

**Communication from MEP** MEP Sian Simon has written offering to talk about the EU parliament. We agree to accept this invitation. Celia will ask if she could speak specifically on MEPs' work in relation to human rights.

### Prostitution as a Human Right

Considerable concern was raised about the adoption of this policy by International Section and the fact that we have not been consulted on the matter. We agree to take this further when we receive more information. Meanwhile members will write in a personal capacity to express their disquiet..

### Campaign Reports

**Johan Teterrisa** Celia and Janet had met Paul Hainsworth in Birmingham recently. Johan's main need in prison is for fresh water. Janet will enquire about our sending money to provide this.

More widely Paul referred to concerns re increased use of the death penalty in Indonesia, and the difficulty of getting access to Papua. Also he outlined staff reductions and the proposed movement of SE Asia section to Bangkok. He will provide details of events in September re the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the uprisings in E. Timor.

**Sombath Somphone** David gave details of an oral statement by Amnesty to the Human Rights Commission on a review claimed to have been made of Sombath's case. The Amnesty statement disputes the Lao claim that a review took place.

### LGBT Discussion

Cathy introduced a discussion on the situation and rights of LGBT people in various countries. While in Ireland, Britain and others there have been advances, in many others including Russia and much of Africa, things are getting worse.