

Solihull Amnesty Group

Minutes of Meeting on Monday 17 October 2016

PRESENT: Celia, Cathy, Pauline, Bernard, Janet, Heather, Amy, Pooja

APOLOGIES: David, Sean

Our speaker, Max McLoughlin, was unable to attend, but will come to November meeting.

RECENT EVENTS:

Amy and Celia held a successful stall at the enrichment event at Solihull FE College on 22nd September. The stall promoted AI's message 'Refugees are welcome'. Many students were happy to talk about this issue and we collected about 110 signatures on petitions to go to the prime minister asking for a humane response to the refugee crisis. 'Stand together against hate' stickers were given out.

FUTURE EVENTS

It was agreed that we will hire the entrance hall of the Manor House for 4 hours (probably 10.15 – 2.15) on Monday 12 December, cost £30. We will use this as a base where people can sign cards for individuals highlighted in 'Write for Rights' campaign. Details to be discussed at November meeting. We need to borrow an A frame signboard to put outside the Manor House.

SECRETARY'S ITEMS

- **December social:** Cathy has kindly offered to host our social get together on Monday 19 December. There will be no December meeting at Christ Church.
- **Christmas catalogue:** If our group order comes to more than £75 we receive a 20% discount. Orders should be brought to November meeting and Celia will submit them on line.
- **Alderbrook 6th form:** We have been asked to organise ten 2 hr sessions with one group during the Easter term. It was agreed that Amy will run the first 5 sessions and Celia and David will do the rest. Pooja also offered help.
- **Monthly Action – letter to MP's re refugees:** We agreed that the letter about the refugee crisis which AI suggested we send to our MP's was too wordy and confusing. We decided to compose a letter to the leader of SMBC expressing our concern over the refugee crisis, asking how the council is responding to the plight of Syrian refugees and also if there is any way in which we can assist with this problem. We composed the letter in the second part of the meeting. Copies will be sent to both MP's.

CAMPAIGN REPORTS:

No updates on Johan Teterissa or Sombath Somphone

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Monday 21 November

Teas: Amy

Minutes: David