

## Amnesty Minutes

Present: Celia, Amy, Cathy, Janet, Heather,

Apologies: Pauline and Bernard Mackey, David Hess

### 1. Recent Events

- Solihull College Workshop went well with several people interested in the 'My Body My Rights' campaign, would have worked better if more time was allocated and conversations could have developed about Amnesty's work. Some boys didn't engage with the campaign perhaps something more gender friendly in the future.
- Amnesty Regional Conference, very professional done day with talks on Asylum within the UK as well as talks about human rights in Russia and Kyrgyzstan from people who work there. Feedback shared about International Council Meeting there priorities are going to be: Refugees and people on the move, Human Rights Defenders, Human Rights in the UK, Crisis Response, Individuals at Risk, Human Rights Education. Aims to happen again next year and connect local groups so they can work together on campaigns in the future.

### 2. Future Events

- Christmas Social at Cathy's on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 7;30pm
- Human Rights Day 10<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Card signing for Prisoners of Conscience in Solihull from 10-2pm

### 3. Monthly Action

- Emailing about Japan death penalty, Matsumoto Kenji was coerced into confessing to guilt despite having learning disabilities. Trail started in 1991, was found guilty in 1993 but death penalty has yet to be given. Since 2013 the use of the death penalty has decreased by 23%.

### 4. Campaign Report

- Johan Teterissa update, new letter writing rota will be given next meeting.

### 5. Other business

- Group filled in a questionnaire about Amnesty Constitutional changes.
- Had a discussion about decriminalising prostitution, ICM has decided to create a policy on how Amnesty will go about campaigning so will wait and see. In general agreement decriminalising (not legalising) is a good idea so women can get better access to health care and legal support if being abused or harassed but not condoning sex work.
- Discussed facebook page being easier for people to access than a facebook group, short posts are key with images to grab attention.

