



## THE BRIGHTON AND HOVE AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL GROUP NEWSLETTER

### Forthcoming Brighton & Hove Amnesty Group Meetings/Events

Group meetings take place on the first Thursday of each month from 8-10pm at Community Base, Queens Road, Brighton

1st August  
Group Business Meeting

### Letter Writing Evenings

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members. These evenings are hosted at member's houses. All welcome, simply contact the host/hostess for details:

17th September  
Host Jill  
01273 621697

### Monthly Collection

17th August  
Contact Catherine : 07828 584430 to volunteer

### Annual Street Collection

14th September  
Brighton  
2pm to 5pm  
Contact Emma 01273 232397

### Monthly Stall

3rd August  
1pm to 3pm  
LGBT Rights  
Brighton PRIDE

Stalls are in Sydney Street outside the Amnesty bookshop  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

Amnesty Stall at Brunswick Festival  
17th August  
12-5pm  
Contact Emma 01273 232397 to volunteer

**Amnesty Stall at BHASVIC  
charity fair**  
19th September

### Write for Rights

Day of Action  
7th December  
Friends Meeting House

## Amnesty Clothes Swap and Sale 2013 Saturday, August 31 from 1-4 pm Brighton Unitarian Church - New Road Brighton



This exciting charity event allows you to recycle your gently used clothing and accessories, while stocking up on some awesome clothing for autumn! We will be serving a variety of delicious refreshments, and all profits go to Amnesty's great projects, with a focus on ending violence against women in Afghanistan. **PLUS:** If you bring three items to donate, you get a voucher for one free item! Come on down for a great afternoon of fashion and fun for a great cause!

Facebook Page and Contact Info: <https://www.facebook.com/#!/events/475480442545462/>

## Fashion and human rights

Brightonians love fashion – bowler hats, tie die sarongs, patent stilettos – you name it, some-one will be wearing it. But in amongst this mélange of hedonism do we ever stop to think where it all comes from?

You don't have to delve far beneath the sparkling façade of this global industry to discover a more complex reality than the

one displayed to us on our high-street shelves. Whether on the cotton farms of Uzbekistan where children are often forced out of school to work, or the Bangladeshi garment factories that so tragically hit our headlines last April, running through its seams are people whose livelihoods and lifestyles in countless different ways,

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## Fashion and human rights

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somehow depend on what we wear.

Clothes are to be loved, admired and treasured – there’s nothing better than finding ‘that’ top that makes you feel a million dollars - but our changing attitudes and expectations of what we can ‘get for our money’ may be compromising the human rights of others. Intertwined with the new ‘fast fashion’ era that seems to have become the norm in the 21st century (£2 tops worn once then chucked ...) are questions to be answered about who is paying the price for our bar

gains. Putting these questions in a framework of human rights brings to light many different issues - labour rights, gender equality and the right to a childhood to name but a few.

I feel a bit like I am preaching to the converted - Brighton is already renowned for its charity shops, vintage stores and eco ethos - but as Amnesty’s exciting clothes swap and sale approaches I thought it would be fitting to remember how important and far-reaching our decisions about where we spend our money are and how fashion can be inextricably linked to human rights.

So remember before you chuck that skirt you’re bored of in to the recycling bin, just how costly it was to produce (I’m not just talking about money), and whether someone else might give it another few years of love before its time is up.

Please dig deep in to those wardrobes and donate generously to our clothes swap this month – 31st August 1-4 at the Unitarian Church – or simply come along to find some real bargains that will support human rights rather than compromise them.

*Catherine*

## Hunger Strikers at Guantanamo Bay.

On Saturday 20th July we set up a stall to send postcards from the public to the Hunger strikers at Guantanamo Bay. Julian, Sue W and Laura all ably assisted despite the high temperature. There was a good response from passers-by with most of them in favour of supporting our cause. We hope the cards will bring the inmates a little hope in their desperate situation.

There are 20 detainees that we know of, including Shaker

Aamer, the last British resident still there. They are being forced in a particularly brutal way with a pipe over a metre long being put down their noses. During Ramadan they are being force fed twice during the night. Clive Stafford-Smith (their lawyer) and Frankie Boyle (the Comedian) have joined in the protest by going on Hunger Strike themselves.

We collected over one hundred cards to send to Camp Delta in Cuba. We had a card written in

Arabic to Ali al Shaaban from Syria and one in French to Hisham Sliiti from Tunisia. One of the cards said this: 'I hope that this card can go where I cannot, past the barbed wire and steel walls, and find you. My spirit goes to you. You are not forgotten by many here in Brighton who support your case.'

Jill and Celia

## Love is a Human Right

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) issues

All over the World people are mistreated for their sexual orientation and gender identity.

On 3rd August we are holding our stall outside the Amnesty bookshop from 1pm to 3pm on the day of Brighton Pride and we will be asking people to take action by Campaigning for Ahmet Yildiz from Turkey. He was shot dead in 2008 in what is widely regarded by LGBT rights activists as a gay "honour" killing. a current LGBTI human rights issue.

There is a great atmosphere on Pride day while the town is bustling with visitors who have come to join in the festivities. So a great opportunity for us to get loads of signatures and talk about human rights to a new and receptive audience. If you would like to volunteer contact Jill on 01273 621697 or Celia on 01273 593833



**Amnesty International Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

**8.00pm Welcome and apologies**

- Attendees: Emma, Jim, Michael, Jess, Maddie, Sue, Caroline, Cat, Angela, Madeline, Nisha, Peter, Gwyneth, Freya, Laura
- Apologies: Jill, Celia, Maud, Ester, Luke, Liz

**Workshop – Afghan women’s rights – Nora**

- Nora led a workshop on Afghan women’s rights. Areas covered included the history of the campaign and its current state within Amnesty International, what we as a group have achieved so far, problems we may have faced and what was successful. We also discussed what the group could do in the future in relation to the media, social media and our MP’s. There are many resources online that the group was directed to for further information including the parliamentary briefing and template letter to your MP, both of which can be found here; <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=12150>

**Minutes and matters arising**

- Minutes of last meeting approved

**Regular events and actions**

**Lanes collection – Catherine**

- Treasurers report: Current balance £118.01
- Rota was passed around for this month’s lanes collection which is to be held outside the back of the Friends Meeting House, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July 11-4pm.

**5. Monthly Action and mailing from head office – Liz**

- Group members signed a letter calling for the release of Cambodians Born Samnang and Sok Sam Oeun. They were sentenced to 20 years in prison for the murder of Chea Vichea, the president of Cambodia's Free Trade Union after being convicted following an unfair trial and seriously flawed criminal investigation.
- Postcards were signed to the police commissioner in Zimbabwe calling for peaceful elections this year.

**6. Monthly stall – Guantanamo Stall July**

- 20<sup>th</sup> July outside Books for Amnesty, Sydney Street 11-1. Orange boiler suits will be provided.

**Pride – August**

- 1-3pm Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August outside Books for Amnesty, Sydney Street. We will also be flyering the crowd watching the parade in the morning.

**7. Monthly letter writing evenings**

- An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members.
- This month: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7-9pm at Emma’s house, 13 Argyle Rd, Brighton.

**Campaign updates**

**8. Education Work**

- Freya has done 5 talks in 2 secondary schools so far, talking to years 7/8. These have been very positive with pupils having lots to say and engaging well.
- Peter is also setting up an Amnesty group at his school, Sussex Downs College, where 8 other colleagues have so far expressed an interest.

**9. Media Update**

- Jim has been very busy this month increasing the web profile of our group, focussing on social media as opposed to press coverage. The group agreed this could be a separate role. We now have a Flickr group which can be found here: <http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/>
- Jim will begin to put together a concise list of places where we can advertise for events etc on the web.

**Forthcoming events**

**10. Fundraising event (Clothes Swap) – Freya**

31<sup>st</sup> August between 1-4pm. Clothes sale, with coupons in return for items donated. Cakes/accessories/raffle included. Put the date in your diaries but more details to follow.

**11. Annual Street Collection (14th September - Brighton)**

- Brighton Annual Street Collection 14<sup>th</sup> September 2-5pm.
- \*\*\*Hove collection date and location still not confirmed\*\*\*

**12. Stall at Brunswick festival**

- We will be having a stall at the Brunswick festival on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2013.

**13. Brighton and Hove’s 50th anniversary (group formed October 1964)**

- Next year will be the Brighton and Hove group’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- \*\*\*Group members were asked to begin thinking about what we could do to celebrate this. \*\*\*

**14. Stall at Bhasvic charities fair – 19th September**

**15. Any other business**

Caroline: Re. demo against Israel’s hosting of the under 21 UAFA cup. Palistinian solidarity Group demonstrating against this in London. More details with Caroline.

- South West France activist street theatre ‘alternative holiday’. 12/13<sup>th</sup> August. Anyone interested or who wants more information on can also talk to Caroline. Easiest to email group email address and you will be put in touch. [brightonandhoveai@googlegmail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlegmail.com).

**16. Meeting Closed**

## **HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS UNDER THREAT OF DEATH IN COLOMBIA**



**Diego Martinez and Jelson Paba and their families** have received an email threatening to kill them and their families while they are participating in an event in the municipality La Macarena in central Colombia.

Diego is the executive secretary of the Permanent Committee for the Defence of Human Rights (CPDH), and Jelson is a lawyer in the organisation. They have been participating in the International Youth for Peace Event where they received the

death threat. During the event which takes place in a highly militarized area, their organisation and other NCOs proposed a campaign against strengthening the military justice system which has played a crucial role in guaranteeing impunity to many members of the security forces implicated in human rights violations. CPDH has also been representing those detained in several cases of mass arrests, as well as initiating disciplinary proceedings against a senior police officer.

PLEASE SIGN AND SEND THE ATTACHED LETTER.  
THANK YOU. Celia

### **BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS**

**Chair** – Emma [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com) Tel: 01273 232397

**New Member Secretary:** Sue Tel: 07790 755921

**Mail Secretary:** Liz Tel: 07598 467568

**Email Secretary:** Emma Tel: 01273 232397 **Group Email:** [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

**Minutes Secretary:** Catherine 07828 584430

**Treasurer:** Catherine 07759271399

**Newsletter editor:** - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

**Lanes collection organiser:** - Catherine 07759271399

**Web Site co-ordinator:** Michael Fisher - [michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator**—Jill Francis—01273 621697

**Social Media officer**— Jim Garside —[j.d.garside@gmail.com](mailto:j.d.garside@gmail.com)

### **Campaign Co-ordinators:**

**Afghanistan—Women’s Rights**—Gwyneth [gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com](mailto:gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com)

**Prisoner of Conscience – The Displaced People of Tawargha** Jill Francis—[jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jrfrancis@hotmail.co.uk)

**Prisoner of Conscience—MOHAMED SAYED IBRAHIM ABDEL LATIF**—Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

**End Forced Evictions: Poverty and Human Rights**—Freya - [freya\\_lyte@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freya_lyte@hotmail.co.uk)

**Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** - Caroline—[Carolineoreilly1972@gmail.com](mailto:Carolineoreilly1972@gmail.com)

**Security and Human Rights**—Michael—[michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**Amnesty Websites:** international - [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org) AI UK -

[www.amnesty.org.uk](http://www.amnesty.org.uk) local group - [www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton)

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