



## **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*

#### **6th August**

Guest Speaker from Campaign against the Arms Trade

#### **3rd September**

Group business meeting  
And trainer on the My Body My Rights Campaign

#### **Letter Writing Evenings**

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members. We are trying out a new venue for these meetings: Alcampo Lounge, London Road, Brighton.. All welcome.

Tuesday 18th August

#### **Monthly Collection**

15th August  
Contact Julian  
julianwatmore@gmail.com  
07469776295

#### **Monthly Stalls**

August  
Sydney Street  
Contact Jill 01273 621697

To see a copy of the video featuring the Brighton and Hove Group at our letter writing vigil in December please see

<https://vimeo.com/124404699>

#### **Street Collection**

Saturday 12th September

#### **Write for Rights**

Letter writing vigil  
5th December  
Friends Meeting House

## **Brighton and Hove Annual Street Collection Saturday 12th September 2015 2pm to 5pm Volunteers needed**



If you can volunteer for an hour on Saturday 12th September to take part in our biggest annual fundraising event then please contact Peter on 01273 607110 or email [brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com](mailto:brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com)

We have 30 one hour slots available for volunteers to collect in Brighton town centre

# Amnesty at Brighton Pride 2015



This year Brighton and Hove Amnesty were proud to be a part of Brighton Pride's 25th anniversary. We took part in the parade, where local members were joined by campaigners from London and we had a stall outside the bookshop where we were able to talk to people about the human rights side of the Pride.

Every one of us has right to be free from discrimination, to communicate freely, to gather and meet with others peacefully, to health and to our own private and family life – all of this regardless of our sexual identity or consenting sexual behaviour. We all have the right to be treated equally before the law. We also have the right to life, the right not to be tortured, and the right to be safe from harm. All of these rights are enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. In 2011, the United Nations Human Rights Council passed the first UN resolution to focus on LGBTI issues, and in doing so reaffirmed the duty of international human rights law to make sure that sexual and gender equality becomes a reality.

However, in practice, authorities in many countries that have signed international trea-

ties committing them to protect human rights continue to rule with legislation that singles out and discriminates against individuals for their sexual orientation.

Consensual same-sex relations are illegal in some 78 countries. And being gay or lesbian could see you sentenced to death in Iran, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Mauritania, Sudan, as well as some regional states in Nigeria and Somalia.

Many thanks to everyone who supported us on the day by volunteering on the stall, signing the letters and petitions and by walking in the parade.

Thanks to Andrew for the following write up about the stall:

Because of tradition & conservatism, in much of East & Central Europe, homophobia is rife.





In Russia the police often stand by while gays are beaten up. Complaints to the police are routinely dismissed. As well as in Russia itself, there is much homophobia in, in particular the ex-Soviet republics of Lithuania, Ukraine, Moldova & Georgia. In Serbia, Montenegro & Bosnia, countries which used to be part of Yugoslavia there is much homophobia. In all these countries, it is either impossible for Gay Pride marches to take place or if it is possible, severe restrictions & are placed upon them & usually they suffer varying degrees of harassment. In Russia, homophobia is institutionalised, there are anti-gay laws which make it illegal to explain the subject to children. In many countries, homosexuality is punishable by death. In Iran gay people are hanged in public, often they are under 18. In Saudi Arabia too, being gay is a capital offence.

On Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2015, Gay Pride day in Brighton, Jill & Andrew of Amnesty Brighton manned the Amnesty stall outside the Amnesty bookshop & garnered support for 2 gay people Ihar Tsikhanyuk & Noxolo Nogwaza on behalf of Amnesty. Ihar Tsikhanyuk is from Byelorussia, a country which is as repressive & dictatorial as it was when it was part of the U.S.S.R. He was severely beaten by the police for being gay. He had tried to register an LBGTI NGO, 'Human

Rights Lambada." The group has suffered threats & abuse. Complaints about their treatment have been ignored & they remain in danger.

Noxolo Nogwaza, a 24 year old South African lesbian was raped & murdered in April 2011 but no-one has been brought to justice for this crime.

The Laines & the rest of Brighton were filled with gay people from all the World. The town was filled with happy & raucous people. 145 of the petitions were signed on behalf of Ihar Tsikhanyuk & Noxolo Nogwaza & Amnesty Brighton.

Amnesty Brighton was received enthusiastically. We received such comments as "You guys really make a difference."



## Monthly Stall updates

Date Saturday 13th June  
Time 11 - 1pm  
Venue Outside Amnesty Bookshop, Sydney Street, Brighton  
Weather Nice and sunny !  
Volunteers Peter, Andrew, Celia and Jill  
Campaign STOP TORTURE CAMPAIGN

Justice for Alfreda  
Alfredo Disbarro, mother of two, was at an Internet cafe in the Philippines. Here police officers accused her of being a drug dealer and she was taken to the police headquarters where she was repeatedly punched and beaten.  
We asked the general public to support her by signing cards which we sent to the Inspector for Internal Affairs in the Philippines. We sent a total of 95 cards.

*Jill*

## JUSTICE FOR EDWARD SNOWDEN

Jill and Celia had a successful day on 18<sup>th</sup> July campaigning on behalf of Edward Snowden and over 60 letters were signed by members of the public who on the whole showed a lot of support. The Saturday before (11<sup>th</sup> July) there was a letter in the Guardian signed by Kate Allen, UK Director of Amnesty and Shami Chakrabarti, Director of Liberty, among others, outlining the recent revelations that Amnesty International has been spied on by GCHQ. Ever since Edward Snowden revealed the existence and scale of the US and UK mass surveillance programmes two years ago, campaign groups across the world have been worried we are being spied on. We now have the evidence along with many other campaign organisations.

*Celia*

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

**Chair** – Peter brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com Tel: 01273 607110

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

**Group Secretary**—Catherine brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com 07759 271399

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

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

## **Campaign Co-ordinators:**

**Prisoner of Conscience – The Mansoura women (Egypt)** Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

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

**Stop Torture**—Michael Fisher - [michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com](mailto:michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com)

**My Body My Rights**—Jess 07740 344832

**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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**Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre** - Tel: 0207 0331500

