

GROUPS NEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK LOCAL, STUDENT AND YOUTH GROUPS



NOVEMBER 2013



NO PEACE WITHOUT WOMEN'S RIGHTS

There's been no peace for the UK's weary politicians this year. Wherever they went, it seems, they were pursued by inky-fingered Amnesty members urging them to support our campaign for women's rights in Afghanistan. Quite right too. The UK government has committed troops and funds to an effort to shape the future of Afghanistan, so it bears some responsibility

for the fate of Afghan women.

Thanks to Amnesty groups around the country, MPs and ministers are taking notice of Afghan women's rights, and the government has recognised the need to address violence against women as a strategic priority in its work on Afghanistan.

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I was recently asked to list my favourite Amnesty images to take with me to a desert island. Two have been on my mind this week.



Downing Street

My old pal and Amnesty stalwart Iqbal Singh sadly passed away a few days ago. At his funeral service I remembered Amnesty's Torture campaign. We collected thousands of blue and yellow postcard appeals against the UK's involvement in the torture trade. Should we send them to the Prime Minister via parcel post? Should we hand 16 cardboard boxes to the copper on duty outside Number 10? No. We wanted a photo opportunity for the media. We stuck the appeal cards onto a giant sheet of Sellotape creating a spectacular blue and yellow banner 4-feet high and over 60-feet long announcing our campaign. But how could we present it? You are forbidden to demonstrate in Downing Street or the east side of Whitehall. So we wrapped the huge banner round and round the very tall and elegant Iqbal with his long white beard and orange turban under his long gabardine mackintosh. Iqbal strode across Whitehall. A crowd of us followed. We unwrapped a smiling Iqbal, unfurled the banner, held it up for a moment for the photographers then mingled among throngs of tourists.

Amnesty has been remembering 11 September 1973 when Pinochet seized power in Chile. At a vigil outside the Chilean Embassy, relatives read the names of the 3,000 killed or 'disappeared'. A Chilean photo exhibition by photojournalist Julio Etchart opened in the Human Rights Action Centre to the sounds of Victor Jara – a musician and activist assassinated on 15 September 1973.

Seventeen years after the coup Pinochet was arrested in London. Chilean



Pinochet mask

demonstrators in the *Pickete de Londres* outside the House of Lords shouted 'Metropolitan Police, Viva! Viva!' and handed out *empanadas* and glasses of Chilean wine to astonished police officers.

Julio's exhibition included a large *papier maché* mask of the General, used during a Chilean solidarity rally in Trafalgar Square as the Lords discussed deporting him to Spain to face charges of torture and other human rights violations. I remembered a sudden burst of Chilean music at the rally. Two masked figures whirled round to Chilean *cueca*. One dancer wore a Maggie Thatcher mask with a blonde wig and rode a white hobby horse. Her partner in the Pinochet mask danced inside a cardboard aeroplane with 'A España por favor' on its wings. Instead Home Secretary Jack Straw mercifully flew the 'dying' dictator to Chile. Pinochet, miraculously cured mid-flight, danced down the gangway into the arms of his generals.

Dan Jones

2013 INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

The 2013 International Council Meeting (ICM), Amnesty's overall decision-making body, held every two years, took place in August in Berlin. Amnesty UK's delegation consisted of director Kate Allen, marketing director Kerry Moscogiuri and four board members, Sarah O'Grady, Hannah Perry, Cris Burson-Thomas and Tom Hedley.

In total 24 decisions were formally made at the ICM, including two that came directly from Amnesty UK resolutions: one (originally raised by the York group) involved sporting organisations and human rights, the other concerned trade union recognition for Amnesty employees.

The ICM also looked at concerns over the implementation of the current assessment system, which is the way sections fund the movement's international budget. It was decided that the system should be reviewed, with any proposed amendments considered at the 2015 ICM. Amnesty UK's delegation welcomed this approach. Delegates also staged a demonstration calling for an end to violence against women in Egypt.

Sarah O'Grady said: 'This was my first ICM and it was very impressive to see how the delegates work so constructively together to strive for consensus in order to develop well-thought-out and effective policy.'

For a full set of decisions and a report on the meeting contact the supporter care team on 020 7033 1777 or go to <http://amnestyicm2013.wordpress.com>.



Berlin ICM action

If you're sending in photos...

See page 15

ZIMBABWE ELECTION

In the run-up to Zimbabwe's general election on 31 July, Amnesty groups took part in Amnesty's campaign to ensure the vote was free of violence. A key aspect of this was putting pressure on countries like Tanzania, South Africa and Malawi to exert their influence on the Zimbabwean government. Groups also took action to show their solidarity with human rights defenders in Zimbabwe.

On 29 June, the Colwyn Bay group organised a special event encouraging local people to 'cast their votes' for a violence-free election in Zimbabwe. Music was provided by the Zimbabwe Association Choir and refreshments by the Llandudno Fair Trade Coalition.

The Bath group set up a stall and polling booth next to Bath Abbey. Members

managed to get 71 cards signed and posted to the Tanzanian Embassy.

The Tanzanian Embassy also had a visit from members of the Gryphon School group, Dorset, in July. The group delivered over 11,500 signatures from Amnesty's online petition to the President of Tanzania.

The Amnesty group at Freman College, Hertfordshire, encouraged their classmates to take action for Zimbabwe.

The Chepstow and District group sent paper hearts to Joyce Banda, the President of Malawi, to symbolise 'the warm heart of Africa', the country's nickname. On 5 July, a Minehead group stall gathered 119 signed cards for the Tanzanian President, Jakaya Kikwete, and 28 for Jacob Zuma, the South African President.

At a meeting in February, the Manchester

group celebrated the 10th anniversary of Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA).

To mark International Women's Day, the Henley College youth group set up a stall and invited students and teachers to write a message of support on their colourful 'WOZA Wall'. Members of the Redhill Reigate group also showed their support for human rights defenders in Zimbabwe.



Colwyn Bay



Minehead



Freman College



Bath



Manchester



Henley College



Chepstow and District



Gryphon School



Redhill Reigate

Launceton

GUANTÁNAMO BAY

In April the Lewes Priory School group met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Minister Alistair Burt at the Houses of Parliament to discuss Shaker Aamer, the last UK resident held at Guantánamo Bay.

The students, who learned about Shaker at a school assembly by the Lewes group, were accompanied by their local MP, Norman Baker. At the meeting, which received widespread media coverage, they asked Mr Burt why Shaker, who was approved for transfer by the US authorities in 2009, was still detained, and questioned whether the UK government was doing enough to bring him home.

They said the UK should step up pressure on the US authorities for Shaker's release and the closure of the camp. They also presented a petition that had been signed by most of the school.

Mr Burt said that the Foreign Office

had raised Shaker's case in Washington on 15 April and put on record that the detainee should be returned to the UK immediately if there is no evidence against him. However, he added that the UK could not force the US to act and could only use 'moral persuasion' (You can see a film of the meeting at www.youtube.com – search for 'Lewes Amnesty').

Afterwards student Frances Bell-Davies said: 'There were some good things that came out of it. We now know that the UK want Shaker home and are campaigning for it. However, I did ask if they could do more, and they said no. I feel like they could do more for a British resident.' Norman Baker MP joined the Lewes group's demonstration, during which 200 letters to Barack Obama and David Cameron were signed and 300 leaflets handed out.

Local groups have also been campaigning

on Guantánamo. The Brighton and Hove group collected 210 signatures on a petition calling for Shaker's release, while the Wirksworth and District group staged a demonstration in May to show solidarity with detainees and demand the closure of the camp.

Members of the Harrogate and Knaresborough group also raised awareness about the situation at the prison camp, handing out leaflets with extracts from a recent Amnesty report on Guantánamo to passers-by in Harrogate.

The Belfast and Downpatrick groups took part in an action ahead of the G8 summit in Belfast in June. Sixteen activists wearing orange jumpsuits and holding placards reading 'Obama: Close Guantánamo' staged a demonstration in front of the Belfast Waterfront Hall on the eve of the US president's speech at the same location.



Brighton and Hove



Harrogate and Knaresborough



Wirksworth and District



Lewes

© Katie Vandyck



Belfast and Downpatrick

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

As part of the women's rights in Afghanistan campaign, Amnesty groups have been busy lobbying politicians and collecting signatures and purple fingerprints – which symbolise how voting is recorded in Afghanistan – on petitions.

In July three youth activists, Dhibla Mahamud, Vie Compton and Vanessa Szymansk, met with Foreign and Commonwealth Office Senior Minister Baroness Warsi to discuss women's rights in Afghanistan and the essential role of women in the peace-building process. The activists, who were accompanied by Amnesty UK Director Kate Allen, also handed over a petition with over 19,000 signatures.

After the meeting Baroness Warsi said: 'I am proud that the young people of Britain

are standing side-by-side with young Afghans to demand an equal role for women in Afghan society. Organisations such as Amnesty are doing outstanding work to ensure that the voices of Afghan women will never again be pushed into the background.'

The **Chipping Norton** group wrote to their local MP, David Cameron, calling on him to support the campaign. The Prime Minister wrote back, affirming that the protection of women's rights must be 'an important part of the transition process' in Afghanistan.

After meeting with members of the **Brighton and Hove** group, Green MP Caroline Lucas agreed to take the 'purple finger pledge' to show her support. The group also set up a stall dedicated to the campaign. Around 200 people signed a

petition and put their purple fingerprints on a long scarf.

Lynne Featherstone MP, a Minister in the Department for International Development, replied to a letter from the **Blackburn and Darwen** group. 'We will work with our Afghan and international partners to ensure that our combined development efforts help deliver a secure future for girls and women,' she wrote.

On 23 March the **Cartmel and Grange** group met with local MP and Liberal Democrat National President Tim Farron, who signed a pledge card to demonstrate his support for the campaign. He also asked his aide to look into raising an Early Day Motion on the issue in the House of Commons.



Brighton and Hove



Lytham St Annes and Blackpool



Croydon



Kent University



Exeter University



Devizes



Cartmel and Grange



Wolverhampton



House of Lords

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN

The Lytham St Annes and Blackpool group got local MPs Gordon Marsden, Mark Menzies and Paul Maynard to sign pledge cards. Members also got signatures and purple fingerprints from 70 Blackpool residents and 80 holidaymakers. The Wolverhampton group's local MP Paul Uppal signed the pledge and Richard Ottaway MP wrote to the Croydon group expressing his support for the campaign.

The Devizes group spoke to Clare Perry MP about the issue, and the Dumbarton group had a positive meeting with local MP Gemma Doyle. Foreign Secretary William Hague wrote to the Dundee group via local MP Sir Menzies Campbell MP to express his support. The Portsmouth group met with MP Penny Mordaunt, and the Woking

group wrote to MP Jonathan Lord, who was supportive.

On 6 April, at an Ely City group letter-writing event at Ely Cathedral Centre, over 120 people added their names to a petition. Members of the Diss group attended the Diss Carnival in June and the Burston Strike School Rally in September. They designed an Afghan-style rug and asked people, including local MP Richard Howitt and prospective MEP Alex Mayer, to add their purple fingerprints to it. On 13 April, the Edinburgh St Marks group asked people on Princes Street to sign its petition.

The Gloucester and Cheltenham group had a stall at this year's Greenbelt Festival, with the focus on women's rights in Afghanistan. Around 200 petition signatures and purple

fingerprints were collected. On 4 May, a Liverpool group stall collected almost 300 signatures on a petition. Two members of the group also met local MP Louise Ellman to discuss the campaign. She agreed to raise it with Baroness Warsi.

The Henley College group urged students, teachers and members of the public in Henley to sign a petition and add their fingerprints to a banner with the message 'Protect Afghan Women'.

Members of the Manchester group collected 286 signatures on a petition at the Disbury Festival. Defence Secretary Philip Hammond MP discussed the campaign at a meeting with members of the Runnymede group. Wearside group members met with their MP, Bridget Phillipson, who



Ely



Liverpool



Runnymede



Diss



Henley College



Wearside



Edinburgh St Marks



Woking



Moray

wrote an article about the campaign in her constituency newsletter.

Members of the **Moray** group showed their support for women in Afghanistan, and their local MP, Angus Robertson, agreed to write a letter to the Secretary of State for International Development on the issue. In his column in the *Leamington Observer*, Chris White MP wrote about meeting the **Mid-Warwickshire** group and discussing Afghan women's rights at the Leamington Peace Festival in June. Jeremy Wright MP also expressed his support for the campaign in a letter to the group.

The **Wolverhampton** group hired a local cinema on 8 March to host a showing of *Afghan Star*, a film about Afghanistan's equivalent to *Pop Idol*. More than 70 people

attended. The group also met their MP, Paul Uppal, who was supportive. The **Reading** group gathered over 1,000 signatures on its petition at the WOMAD festival. A huge banner was displayed and £284 was raised in donations. Members of the **Romsey** group also took part in the purple fingerprint campaign. **Telford** group members were joined by David Wright MP as they collected over 240 signatures of a petition in the town centre. The **Clyst Vale School** group held a day of events dedicated to women's rights in Afghanistan.



Stafford



St Andrews International School, Malawi



Reading



Clyst Vale School



Romsey



Ursuline Academy, Ilford



Harrogate and Knaresborough



Telford



South West Regional Conference

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

ATT CAMPAIGN CONTINUES

On 2 April, 156 countries voted to adopt the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) at the UN General Assembly. This historic achievement was the result of 20 years of hard work, millions of actions by Amnesty groups and supporters, thousands of hours spent lobbying governments, and six years of UN deliberations.

The treaty bans states from transferring conventional weapons to countries when they know those weapons would be used to commit or facilitate genocide, crimes against humanity or war crimes.

Several local groups marked the successful ATT vote. Alex Jagger of the **Sheffield** group presented Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg with a T-shirt to thank him for his support for the treaty, while the **Manchester** group produced a celebratory banner.

The vote does not signify the end of Amnesty's campaigning on the treaty, which will only come into force when it has been ratified by 50 states. As of 25 September, 108 countries – including the UK and the USA – had signed the ATT and seven had ratified it.

Amnesty continues to urge other countries to sign and ratify the treaty, particularly China and Russia.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On 8 March, International Women's Day (IWD), the **Mid Down** group organised a photo shoot and purple fingerprint action with Margaret Ritchie MP and Michael Coogan, chair of Down District Council. The **Mid Gloucester** group celebrated the day with an event featuring speakers such as Glenys Kinnock. Members also gathered signatures on a petition about women's

rights in Afghanistan at a Gloucestershire Quakers' event.

Around 80 people attended a **Scarborough** group IWD event featuring music, poetry and North African food. The event, sponsored by Hull University, also had a book sale and guest speakers, including Ruki Fernando, a Sri Lankan human rights defender.

The **Minehead** group marked the day with a stall, and members collected 105 signatures for their petition. A letter on women's rights in Afghanistan signed by 100 people was also sent to local MP Ian Liddell-Grainger. Meg Munn MP made a speech at the **Wirksworth** group's annual IWD event.

The **Bath** group teamed up with local business Spaice to celebrate with an evening of eating, dancing and live music from Senegalese singer Amadou Diagne and others



at the Roman Baths. Councillor Andrew Furse, the Mayor of Bath, attended the event's drinks reception.

THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

On 17 April, the **Edinburgh St Mark's** group held a vigil on Princes Street to raise awareness about Palestinian prisoners. Passers-by were also asked to sign a petition and letters of support for four Palestinian and Israeli prisoners, Natan Blanc, Tareq Qa'dan, Jafar Izz al-Din and Ahmad Qatamesh. Also in April the **Belfast** group held a talk on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories by activist Anne Deighan, who had recently returned from the area.

INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

The **Isle of Wight** group sent a large map

of the island covered with signatures to the Burmese authorities in support of prisoner of conscience Dr Tun Aung. Members of the **Romsey** group have been writing letters in support of their individual case, Azza Suleiman.

YOUNG QUAKERS TAKE ACTION FOR RAIF

In August in Saffron Walden 71 young Quakers teamed up to take action on Amnesty cases. The 11-14-year-olds formed a 'human chain letter' calling on King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia to release imprisoned blogger Raif Badawi and took part in appeal actions for Liu Xiaobo, Nasrin Sotoudeh and Vietnamese blogger Dieu Cay. There were also solidarity actions on behalf of Women of Zimbabwe Arise and the Committee of Relatives of the Disappeared in Honduras.

MUSIC AND POETRY EVENTS

Around 160 people attended an Ely group fundraising event in June featuring live jazz music from the likes of James Pearson, resident pianist and artistic director at Ronnie Scott's in London. The event, which was staged in the gardens of Ely's Old Fire Engine House restaurant, raised £1,150. Over £324 was raised by the **Manchester** group through a night of performances by singers, musicians and poets at the 2022NQ venue. In March the **Reading** group held a barn dance with music from local band Scamping Rogues. The night raised more than £400. Members of the **West Fife** group attended this year's T in the Park, Scotland's largest music festival. They gathered over 1,150 signatures on a petition calling for the release of jailed Pussy Riot members. The petition has been sent to the Russian ambassador in London. On 7 July, the



Scarborough



Ely



Reading



Edinburgh St Mark's



Manchester



West Fife



Isle of Wight



Romsey



Stratford on Avon

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Stratford on Avon group held a successful open-air event as part of the Stratford-upon-Avon Poetry Festival yesterday. Poems by prisoners of conscience and their families from around the world were read out in Arabic, Spanish and English.

REFUGEE EVENTS

During Refugee Week the Shoreham and Worthing group held a public meeting entitled ‘Welcoming Refugees?’ with guest speakers Father Paul Fleetwood from Worth Abbey, who discussed the Gatwick Visitors Group, and Paolo Boldrini of the Brighton-based Migrant English Project, which provides free English lessons for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. A Mid-Warwickshire group event with Souren Mousavi, an Iranian artist who fled to the UK 12 years ago to escape persecution, was the subject of a feature in the *Leamington Courier*

newspaper in May. The article also profiled the work of the group and Amnesty more generally. On 17 June the Hackney and Islington and Waltham Forest groups teamed up for a Refugee Week celebration at the Human Rights Action Centre. The Brightening Britain event featured speeches from Micheline Safi Ngongo from Light Project International and Jeremy Corbyn MP, as well as live music, dance, poetry and refreshments.

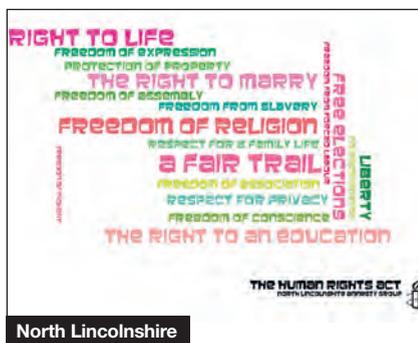
LECTURES AND AWARDS

The Southampton group and the University of Southampton hosted their third annual Human Rights Lecture on 18 April. Camila Batmanghelidjh of Kids Company spoke eloquently to an enthusiastic audience about her work and the shameful neglect of vulnerable children. The event raised over £500. The Cartmel and Grange group

gave £100 from its Youth Awards Fund to Grange Primary School to spend on books about Nepal and human rights. The fund was set up in memory of Leslie Moorhouse, a founder member of the group.

ROMA RIGHTS

The Waltham Forest, and Hackney and Islington groups organised a public event at the Human Rights Action Centre in London to promote a petition to the President of the European Commission on Roma rights. The event featured live music, films, and guest speakers. On 20 April, the York group joined other human rights and social justice organisations to host a stall at the York Human Rights Project open day. The public were invited to sign a petition calling on the President of the European Commission to ensure that the human rights of Roma people are protected. The



group showcased a human rights-themed children's game, 'Snakes no Ladders', which was featured in the *York Press* newspaper.

PRIDE, FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

On 5 July, Belfast group members met with Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, who delivered this year's Annual Amnesty Pride Lecture in Belfast. Manchester group members dressed in neon to take part in the Manchester Pride parade on 24 August. In May, the North Lincolnshire group set up a stall in support of the Human Rights Act. A daughter of one of the group's members produced postcards for people to send to their MPs. The Hull group took part in the city's Freedom Festival in September, which included a torchlight procession in tribute to Hull-born anti-slavery campaigner William Wilberforce.

NORTH KOREA

More than 100 people signed a Salisbury group petition calling on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un to close the country's network of brutal prison camps. People were also asked to write their initials on coloured scraps of cloth, which were then snagged on barbed wire stretched across the North Korean flag as a sign of their support for the campaign. The word 'Help' was painted in Korean on the fabric of the flag.

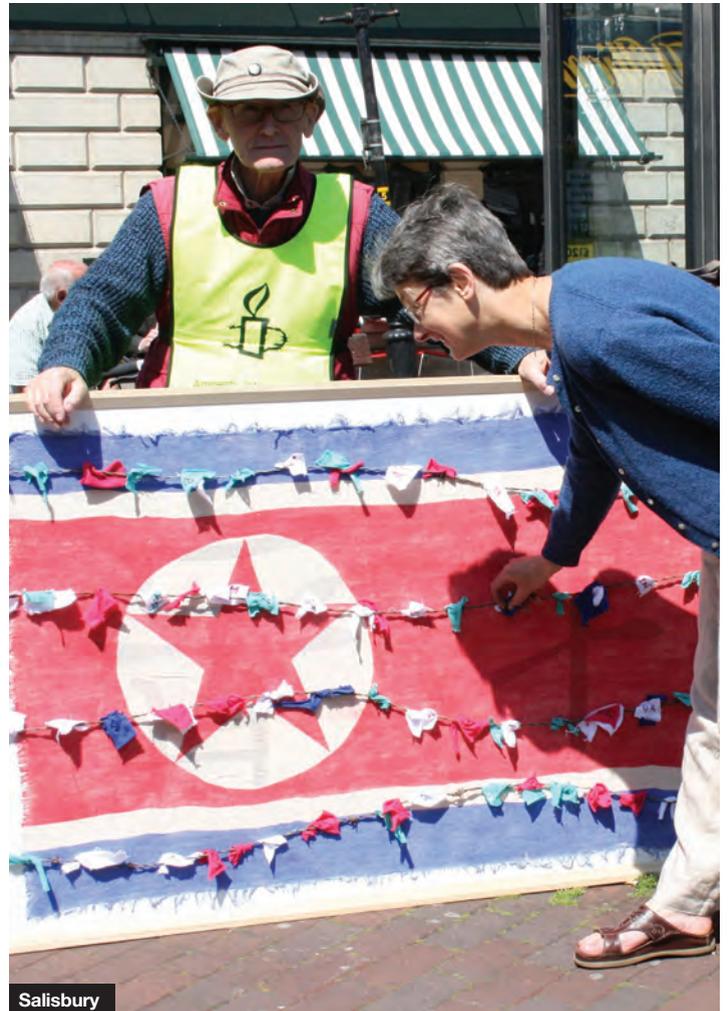
FARNHAM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

On the evening of 13 July, members, friends and supporters from far and wide gathered to celebrate the Farnham group's 50th anniversary at the Museum of Farnham's Garden Gallery. Filmmaker and photographer Mark Edwards spoke

movingly about his parents, Jean and Derek, who helped to found the group. The event, which was covered in the *Farnham Herald* newspaper, also featured live music, a slide show, and a display of artwork from St Peter's School in Merrow.

PRESS COVERAGE

In September the Blackpool and Fylde group was profiled in the 'Community Group of the Week' section of the *Blackpool Gazette* newspaper. The article looked at some of the group's recent work in support of women's rights in Afghanistan.



FUNDRAISING

ART IN AID OF AMNESTY

In September, members of the **Bournemouth** group represented Amnesty at the Alexander Dakers Art Exhibition to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the coup in Chile and the struggle against Pinochet. The Mayor of Bournemouth attended and met three men who were sentenced to 30 years under the Pinochet era but were released after campaigning by Amnesty International. One of them was Alexander's grandfather Leopoldo Osorio who travelled from Chile for this inspiring event. The turnout exceeded expectations, and Alexander unveiled several artworks that were then sold in aid of Amnesty. The event raised over £2,000.

GARDEN PARTIES, AMNESTEAS AND QUIZZES

For the 13th year running, the garden of David Robinson was the venue for the Hornsey and Wood Green group's

annual summer party. Poet Alan Wolfson, comedian Dr Harry Stottle and French singer Ondine James entertained guests and Paul Duployen, group chairman, gave a short talk. It raised £700. Another celebration took place in member Anne Walker's garden, where the **Manchester** group held their annual AmnesTea. Cake and tea was enjoyed in the sunshine while listening to harp music. It raised £209. The **Bloxham** group's annual garden party on 13 July raised more than £500. Around 60 people attended the event, which featured bric-a-brac stalls, book sales, a raffle and refreshments. The **Woking** group raised over £750 and got 119 action cards signed at its first ever quiz night. More than 70 took part in the **Wolverhampton** group's second annual quiz night, which raised over £300. The **Newcastle** group raised over £200 through a quiz night and raffle.

NO STOPPING THEM

It's been a busy year for the **Freman College** group who've raised £4,000. Events included a Live Lounge music gig with juice bar, fete, quiz and fashion show. Earlier in the year, the group also achieved a world record for the highest number of political protests held in 24 hours. In May, 130 cyclists took part in the **Jersey** group's 18th annual Freedom Cycle. As ever, it was hugely successful, raising over £1,000.

STALLS

Uxbridge College group introduced students to Amnesty with a stall at their college. They sold cakes and a henna artist painted designs on students in return for donations. The **Glossop** group had a stall at the Glossop Carnival in July. People signed footprints for a hopscotch grid highlighting Malala's fight for education and to show solidarity for children who are not getting an education.



Bournemouth



Jersey



Manchester



Freman College



Glossop



Hornsey and Wood Green

This proved so successful, the Mayor contributed a footprint.

MUSIC

Queen's University Belfast group held the 'Variety Night for Rights' with poets, comedians, singers, bands and DJs. It raised £372 for Amnesty. Lady Eleanor Holles and Hampton School groups joined together to hold a live music event raising just over £600. Local talent took to the stage at the Falmouth and Exeter University gig. It included a DJ set at a venue called Fish Factory. The University of Plymouth group raised £150 by hosting an innovative James Bond themed night. It included a casino area, martini bar and a balloon drop with fantastic prizes.

WHO WON STUDENT RAISE-OFF 2013?

We are delighted to announce for this year's student fundraising competition. A big thank you to all groups who entered and raised funds. Now for the winners:

BEST FUNDRAISERS

The University of Exeter group – that's three years in a row now. Since their first title in 2011, they've raised nearly £15,000 for Amnesty. Keep up the great work.

MOST REGULAR FUNDRAISERS

The University of Cardiff group held so many events we lost count.

BEST FUNDRAISING

The University of Glasgow group broke their own record by raising over £2,000 at their annual Secret Policeman's Ball event.

MOST INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

The University of York group recruited more members than any other group in the country.

BEST CAMPAIGN ACTION

The Queen's University Belfast group won this with their inspiring march on Belfast City Hall in support of the Arms Trade Treaty.

RAISE-OFF 2014

Registration is now open for this year's competition. Winning groups receive a trophy, prizes and a fanfare at the Student Conference. To register, go to www.amnesty.org.uk/raiseoff or call 020 7033 1650.



Uxbridge College



Falmouth and Exeter



Lady Eleanor Holles and Hampton School



Plymouth University

EVENTS

4 NOVEMBER

FARNHAM

Talk

7.30pm, The Pavilion, St Andrews Church

Kate Allen speaks about Amnesty UK's latest reorganisation and its impact on local groups.

Contact Frances Whewell at fj.whewell@gmail.com or 01252 312773

4 NOVEMBER

WOKING

Meeting

8pm, Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road

Work on Individual at Risk Azza Suleiman.

Contact Ruth Breddal at breddal@btinternet.com or 01932 354105

9 NOVEMBER

CANTERBURY

Greetings card stall

Whole World Fair, St Peter's Methodist Church

Contact Jean Barber at jbarber@uk2.net

23 NOVEMBER

ST ALBANS

Street collection

9am-4pm, town centre

Volunteers needed to collect for an hour. If you can help, contact Penny Williams on 01727 868367 penny.williams@virgin.net

7 DECEMBER

HASLEMERE

Greetings cards lunch

12.30-3pm, St Bartholomew's Church Hall

Contact Maggie Hamilton at m.j.hamilton@hotmail.co.uk or 01428 654705; 07801338630

7 DECEMBER

BRIGHTON

Write for Rights campaign

Friends Meeting House

Contact Emma Parker at brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

01273 232397

11 DECEMBER

CANTERBURY

Write for Rights card signing

Friends Meeting House

Contact Huw Kyffin on 01227 462210, or Jean Barber on 01227 831956 or jbarber@uk2.net

14 DECEMBER

BIRMINGHAM

Christmas concert

11am, Carrs Lane Church, Carrs Lane

Amnesty and Freedom from Torture present a concert for human rights. Tickets £6 (under 16's free).

Contact Amy Porter on 0121 314 6825

aporter@freedomfromtorture.org

24 JANUARY 2014

HULL

Concert

7.30pm, Hymers College, Hull HU3 1LW

Hull group presents chamber music by the Larkin Strings. Tickets £15 including refreshments.

Info/tickets from aubus@aubus.karoo.co.uk

01482 849443 or 01482 563235

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2014

Amnesty's 2014 National Conference and AGM takes place on 12-13 April 2014 at the Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. It's a weekend of discussion, debates, creative actions, international guests and workshops with the opportunity to meet Amnesty UK staff and other members. All Amnesty International members can attend and vote.

For more information, visit www.amnesty.org.uk/agm

RESOURCES

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Stickers

In solidarity in defiance

Product code CCC075

Pamphlet

Explaining Amnesty International's vision on human rights reform in Middle East and North Africa

Product code CCC076

TRUE DEFIANCE: TUNISIA'S 'JASMINE REVOLUTION' IN PHOTOS

In this exhibition, five activist photographers capture the essence of Tunisia's 'Jasmine Revolution' – 28 historic days of peaceful civil resistance sparked by Mohamed Bouazizi's self-immolation. The images, from Augustin Le Gall, Nesrine Cheikh Ali, Ezequiel Scagnetti, Lilia El Golli, and Naim Gharsalli, include pictures from Tunisia's historic first elections since the fall of President Ben Ali. Curated by Dr Lotfi Kaabi, the exhibition is dedicated to the people who faced down fear to demand their human rights and freedoms.

The exhibition consists of the following printed onto 5mm foamboard:
5xA2 text boards (portrait) – two outline the exhibition, three introduce each group of photos
18xA2 image boards to each photo
18xA6 caption boards to each photo
2x1620mm x 1500mm posters.

It is available on loan from the Activism Team.

REGIONAL CONFERENCES 2013/14

16 NOVEMBER

NORTH EAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE YORK

Defending the Defenders

Contact Peter Sagar at sagar@biddlestone-road.fsnet.co.uk

16 NOVEMBER

NORTH WEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

10am-4pm, St Peter's House, Manchester M13 9GH

Focus on the Stop Torture campaign, with a keynote speaker from Freedom from Torture.

Cost £12.

Contact barsbylaura@gmail.com

18 JANUARY 2014

SOUTH MIDLANDS Oxford

Contact Bob Corn at bb_corn@yahoo.co.uk

1 FEBRUARY

LONDON

Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC21 3EA

Contact Roger Bruneau at joseph.roger.bruneau@gmail.com

22 FEBRUARY

SOUTH EAST

10am-4pm, Dorking Christian Centre, Church St, Dorking RH4 1DW

Contact Philip Strudwick at philynda@btinternet.com or 01483 503876

1 MARCH

SOUTH

The Salvation Army Hall, Salt Lane, Salisbury SP1 1EE

Contact Jane Rendel at jjrendel@yahoo.com

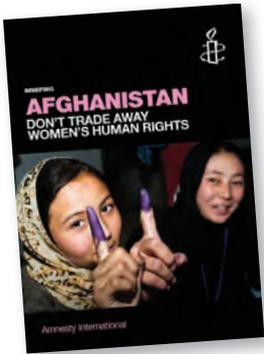
8 MARCH

EAST ANGLIA

Ely Methodist Church Hall, Chapel Street, Ely CB6 1AD

Contact Liesbeth Ten Ham at liesbet7200@googlemail.com

WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan: Don't trade away women's human rights Briefing

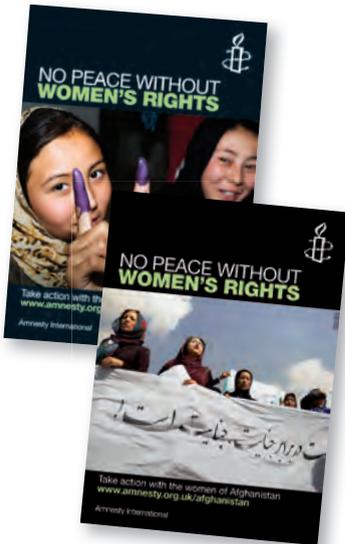
(A4, 12 pages)
This briefing looks at women's situation in Afghanistan today, and the risks posed by a 'peace' process that marginalises women.

Product code WM241

Afghanistan and women's rights Action Plan

This policy position paper provides more detailed information on Amnesty UK's recommendations to the UK government on women's rights in Afghanistan.

Product code WM248



Afghanistan and women's rights posters

Product code WM245



Afghanistan and women's rights stickers

Product code WM244

WRITE FOR RIGHTS



Write for Rights campaign booklet

Includes information on all the cases features in this year's campaign.

Product code WFR015



Write for Rights poster (A3)

Product code WFR016



Write for Rights map of cases 2013

Product code WFR017

Order for free:
call The Fulfilment Store on **01788 545553** and quote the product code

YOUTH AWARDS

Amnesty Youth Awards celebrate young people standing up for human rights. Students can enter competitions in human rights reporting, photography, song-writing and performance, campaigning and fundraising.

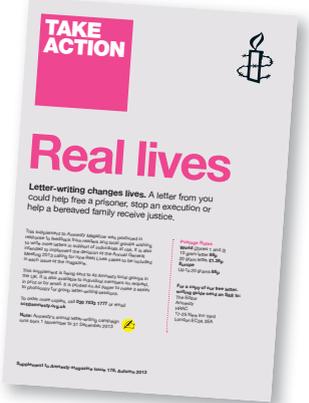
Enter at www.amnesty.org.uk/youthawards



Youth awards promotional booklet

Product code ED169

REAL LIVES



A quarterly supplement to the Amnesty magazine: nine letter-writing cases, printed on A4 paper to make it easy to photocopy for group letter-writing sessions.
To order: call 020 7033 1777 or email sct@amnesty.org.uk

CONTACT US

LOCAL GROUP ENQUIRIES

Activism Team
020 7033 1675
activism@amnesty.org.uk

YOUTH AND STUDENT GROUP ENQUIRIES

Education and Student Team
020 7033 1596
student@amnesty.org.uk

FUNDRAISING ENQUIRIES

Community Fundraising Team
020 7033 1650
fundraise@amnesty.org.uk

Amnesty International UK
The Human Rights Action Centre
17-25 New Inn Yard
London EC2A 3EA
Telephone 020 7033 1500
Facsimile 020 7033 1503
Textphone 020 7033 1664

GROUPS NEWS

EDITORIAL TEAM
Dan Jones, Farshid Talaghani, Richard Glynn, Hannah Shaw and Anne Montague
DESIGN
Amnesty International UK

TELL US IF YOU HAVE CHANGED

It is vital that you let us know about any changes to your group's office holders, such as Secretary, President, Campaign Coordinators and Treasurer. This will help us to communicate with the right person in your group. When the office holders or their addresses change, please send us details of name, address, phone and email, as well as details of the outgoing person.

Local groups:
Please send details to the Activism Team.
Youth and student groups:
Please send details to the Education and Student Team.

IF YOU'RE SENDING IN PHOTOS

Photos should be high-resolution jpegs (at least 300KB) and emailed as an attachment or sent on a CD. For more tips, read the 'Women's rights in Afghanistan – let's take action!' blog post at www2.amnesty.org.uk

STUDENT MEDIA SUMMIT 2013

On 28-29 August Amnesty UK and the National Union of Students (NUS) teamed up to stage this year's Student Media Summit at the Human Rights Action Centre. The two-day event, which was attended by 130 students from across the UK, was designed to prepare attendees for a career in journalism.

It offered an excellent opportunity to network and develop skills through workshops, panel discussions and Q&As. There was also a wide range of expert speakers from the UK media including: Deborah Haynes, the defence editor of the *Times*; Ramita Navai, a reporter for Channel 4's *Unreported World* programme; Ronke Phillips, a senior reporter for ITV London News; and Charlotte Hawkins, a presenter for Sky News. Students also heard from Amnesty UK's press officer Niall Couper and

student manager Hannah Shaw, as well as the president of the NUS, Toni Pearce.

John-Paul Kozah, a member of the Student Action Network committee, said that attendees left the summit 'with new-found wisdom and insight not only into the practicalities of the profession but also its foundations'.

FRESHERS FAIRS

In September, at university and college freshers fairs across the UK, student groups took action for Pussy Riot. Wearing masks designed by artist David Shrigley, thousands of students posed for photos with 'Free Pussy Riot' placards. These photos will be used to create a giant photo petition, which will be sent to the Russian prosecutor general. Amnesty is calling on him to respect and uphold the right to freedom

of expression in the Russian Federation, and ensure that band members Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and Maria Alekhina are immediately and unconditionally released. As well as the Pussy Riot protests, university groups marked freshers week in a variety of ways. The Exeter University group staged a beach trip and human rights-related film screening, while the Royal Holloway, University of London group held an AmnesTea and letter-writing event. The University of Stirling group organised a treasure hunt and the University of Westminster held a 'meet and greet' session. The Edinburgh University group organised a human rights tour of Edinburgh for freshers, while Queen Mary's University London held an Amnesty barbecue in Mile End park.



Student Media Summit



Birmingham City University



New York University in London



Student Media Summit



Newcastle College



Barking and Dagenham College



Leeds University



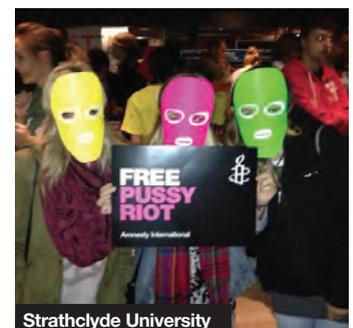
Ronke Phillips



Edinburgh University



Portsmouth University



Strathclyde University