

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter

January 2013

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Until 19 th January	'A Place at the Table' Daedelus Theatre production – Human Rights Action Centre, £15 (£12 concessions) See attached flyer. http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=2290
Monday 21 st January	'The Lives of Others' – Film Screening, The Exhibit, Balham 7 pm
Wednesday 23 rd January	Jane Backhurst talks of her experiences in Palestine as part of the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme , Hornsey and Wood Green Group, 8pm, Friends House, Church Crescent, N10 3NE
Wednesday 30 th January	Holocaust Memorial Day Event – Human Rights Action Centre, £3 (£2 concessions) http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=2288
Tuesday 12 th February	'No' film screening – Ritzy Cinema, Brixton 6.30 pm £10.50 (£9.50 concessions) www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=2077 www.picturehouses.co.uk/cinema/Ritzy_Picturehouse/film/No_2012/
Saturday 16 th February	WOZA 10th Anniversary Rally – Zimbabwean Embassy, 1-2 pm http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events_details.asp?ID=2292

Meeting Notes 15th January 2013 at Clapham Community Project

Present

Ros Davidson, Anita Sollis, Caroline Toogood, Gareth Williams, Rebecca Aron, Jalira Kiyemba, Anna, Simon Nash

Secretary's Report

We discussed the recent AIUK Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM, Saturday 12th January) at some length. Please see attached a follow up letter from the Chair of the AIUK board, and a summary of the resolutions proposed, three of which passed.

Those who had been present at the EGM gave a summary of their thoughts, following the meeting, and in particular it was generally held that there is some confusion regarding accountability and general management expertise provided by the AIUK Board. The EGM discussions focused around the agreement by AIUK to work towards the 2021 target of contributing 40% of all funds raised annually to the international committee, for further spending and capacity-building in the global South (this target has been agreed by all sections at the 2011 International Council Meeting). Alongside this, it is clear that AIUK's most recent fundraising targets have not been met (achieving a 2% annual growth, rather than the 6% planned), and that AIUK is currently spending capital reserves in order to maintain the current levels of staffing and workload. The most recent staff re-structure proposals detail a loss of 17 FTE staff overall, although there is a further focus on new fundraising staff rather than the staff working on international research, campaigning or training.

There is further information on the Amnesty website: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=12402>

It was agreed that it would be useful to attend this year's Annual General Meeting, held at the Warwick University Campus on the weekend of the 13th and 14th of April, as there will be further updates and likely resolutions during the AGM, as well as votes for new Board members. Registration for the AGM must be completed by the 1st of March 2013. If any group members are keen to attend, please email the Lambeth Amnesty address to let us know.

Jalira provided an update on the comedy night planned for the 8th of March at the Bedford pub in Balham, to celebrate International Women's Day. It seems that many comedians have already confirmed that they will be performing, and the organising group are due to agree arrangements for compering and ticketing this week. Tickets will be £10.

The group would welcome any suggestions for sourcing raffle prizes for this event.

Following this discussion, we ran through upcoming London events – see above.

The Lambeth and Southwark groups will be manning a stall and introducing the film at the screening of 'No' at the Ritzy Cinema next month.

The group then ran through some ideas for future meetings. It was agreed that we will book letter-writing meetings roughly every couple of months, and aim to arrange speakers or events for the remaining meetings. Ros has made contact with the Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund, who have agreed to provide a speaker for the April meeting. Caroline has made contact with the Croydon Campaign Against Trafficking, who have agreed to provide a speaker for a future meeting. We also agreed that some of the March meeting should be given over to use discussing the various proposed resolutions/debates prior to the AGM in April.

Campaign Updates/IAR

It was agreed that the group would continue to focus on the West and Central Africa campaign, which includes ongoing work relating to oil pollution in the Niger Delta. We would also try to contact the campaign manager who had previously sent information regarding political prisoners in Burma.

The group did not receive the monthly campaign pack, so Caroline will contact the activism team to confirm our details and check we are registered for updates.

There are a few current actions outstanding for individuals at risk – these are attached to the newsletter email. Please feel free to write and send letters on any/all of these cases in your own time – deadlines for action are given at the bottom of each briefing document.

Staying in touch with Amnesty in London

There are numerous ways to find out about what Amnesty is doing in London:

- Lambeth Amnesty website: <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/lambeth>
- London Amnesty website: <http://london.amnesty.org.uk>
- London Amnesty Google group (you can sign into this to get regular updates of events and opportunities for volunteering): <http://groups.google.com/group/amnesty-london-region>
- Amnesty UK website for events: www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=10011

Next Meeting

Normally, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Clapham Community Project starting at 8pm (no meeting in August). The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 19th February 2013 at the Bread and Roses pub on Clapham Manor Street**. This will be a letter-writing meeting, and people are welcome to pop by from 6.30 pm.

How to get to the Bread and Roses pub:

68 Clapham Manor Street, SW4 6DZ

From Clapham North tube station: Head South along Clapham High Street. Take the 4th turning on the right into Clapham Manor Street. The pub is a short way along the road on the left hand side.

From Clapham Common tube station: Head North along Clapham High Street. Take the 5th turning on the left into Clapham Manor Street. The pub is a short way along the road on the left hand side.