

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter
January 2015

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Saturday 14 th February	<p>Stop Torture: How Activists Can Campaign for Safeguards. 11.00 – 15.30, HRAC, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA. Talks from Craig Murray, Frances Webber and Rhian Beynon.</p> <p>This event is free but places must be booked online http://www.amnesty.org.uk/events/stop-torture-how-activists-can-campaign-safeguards</p>
Saturday 14 th February	<p>Save Shaker Aamer Campaign march and demo at Parliament Square and Downing Street organized by Lewes and Brighton & Hove Amnesty groups.</p> <p>Assemble 12 noon - Parliament Square (opposite House of Commons) March to Downing Street- protest, speeches and deputation (ending at 2pm)</p>
Monday 9 th February	<p>Southwark Amnesty meeting 7.30pm – talk by Europe co-ordinators Ulrike Schmidt on Roma rights.</p> <p>Old Red Lion, 42 Kennington Park Road, SE11 4RS (near Kennington tube). Any queries email martin_hethering@hotmail.com</p>
Tuesday 17 th February	<p>Lambeth Amnesty meeting 7.30pm Bread and Roses, Clapham Urgent action letter writing and social</p>
Tuesday 10 th March	<p>Women's Rights in Iran - Film screening and discussion</p> <p>HRAC, 17-25 New Inn Yard London EC2A 6.30pm Tickets: https://itrulycare.com/events/women-on-the-front-line</p>
Saturday 18 th & Sunday 19 th April	<p>AGM, Warwick University. For more information please visit the website www.amnesty.org.uk/agm</p>

Meeting Notes from Tuesday 20th January 2015 at Bread and Roses, Clapham

Present – Ros, Anita, Gareth, Eleanor, Alexi

1. Introductions and apologies for absence

Alexi, an Amnesty International Social Media Advocate and a member of the Kingston Group gave a brief description of Amnesty's activity on social media sites such as Twitter and Facebook. Anyone who would like to know more about this is welcome to contact Alexi (please ask Ros for contact details).

2. Carol Singing and Write for Rights

Ros reported that the Group had raised £323.45 from carol singing at Clapham South tube station on 9th December and that approximately 30 cards had been written at the Write for Rights event that followed. The Group decided that although Clapham South had been a success in 2014 it would be worthwhile to inquire again about holding it at Brixton tube this coming December.

3. Groups planning pack and group roles

Ros talked the Group through the Groups Planning Pack sent by Amnesty. While the 'Stop Torture' campaign will continue this year (which includes a Global Day of Action to Mark Support for Victims of Torture on 26th June), a new campaign called 'My Body, My Rights' has been introduced. The main focus of this is the reproductive rights of women in El Salvador, where abortion for any reason is banned, and Northern Ireland. To find out more, please visit the website <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/my-body-my-rights>

The Group was informed that Imogen has volunteered to become the Group Organiser for the Asylum and Refugee Project. Gareth volunteered to bring the emailed monthly updates and actions from the Country Coordinators to the meetings. The Group is currently signed up to updates and actions from Asia and Africa. However, it was thought that focusing on a small number of countries from these continents might be best. Gareth will decide which are the most suitable. It was also suggested that the Group look into which nationalities are in the Lambeth area as a way to encourage more local people to come to the meetings and take part in actions that they may feel an affiliation to.

Ros went through the Group's Financial Return.

4. The Lobbying Act

The Group were told about the 'Transparency of Lobbying Act,' a new piece of legislation which means that if the Group spends over £200 on an event (for example, 'Stand Up Women') it must be declared to Amnesty.

5. Monthly action

There are no monthly actions for January but the December action for El Salvador can be found on the website <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/end-ban-abortion-el-salvador-beatriz> Please send an email to the President asking him to end the ban on abortion.

6. AGM

This year's AGM will take place at Warwick University on 18th and 19th April. Ros will be attending. The Group decided to discuss resolutions that they would like to take to the AGM at the 17th March meeting.

7. London events

London-wide action for the 'Stop Torture' campaign is being planned for the summer. Information to be confirmed.

Staying in touch with Amnesty in London

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

- Lambeth Amnesty website: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/lambeth
- London Amnesty website: www.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/events#.VCViaWddUmM

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be predominantly letter writing and **will start at the slightly earlier time of 7.30pm** on Tuesday 17th February at Bread and Roses, 68 Clapham Manor Street, London SW4 6DZ.

Usually, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.