

SOLIHULL AMNESTY GROUP  
Minutes of meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2015

Present: Celia, Janet, Aisha, David, Pauline, Bernard, Cathy

Apologies: Ruth

Minutes and Action from November meeting:

- Cathy has received feedback from AI relating to the failure of the **US government** to ratify the **International Convention on the Rights of the Child**. Their policy is to consider individual human rights treaties carefully on an individual basis. The predominance of Republicans in the current government is hindering ratification. It was agreed that a letter should be written about this in the second part of the meeting.

Recent events:

- **The stall on International Human Rights Day** in Poplar Way was a success although it was less easy to get people to sign than last year. Next year it will better to start at 11am. David regrets that blogger Raif Badawi of Saudi Arabia was not selected as a recipient of a card.
- Kathy and Lynne were thanked for hosting our **December social event** which was greatly enjoyed.

Future events:

- **Julian Knight, Conservative candidate for Solihull**, will come to our meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March. We will invite people outside the group who are interested in human rights issues. By the February meeting we should have received guidance from AI on their focus during the election campaign. Our approach to Julian will be discussed then.  
ACTION (re INVITING PEOPLE) EVERYONE
- **Street collection** on 28<sup>th</sup> March: Bernard will bring tins to March meeting. The number of collectors has diminished in recent years. We all need to think of new collectors and suggest that they participate.  
ACTION EVERYONE
- Celia reminded us about **national conference** at Warwick on 18/19<sup>th</sup> April. Book via [www.amnesty.org.uk/agm](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/agm). Book by 2<sup>nd</sup> March.

Secretary's Items:

- AI has established a **national project on refugees and migrants**. This is the result of a national conference motion proposed by Bournville Group several years ago and much work by the West Midlands Asylum Consortium led by Ralph Braunholtz. Celia will continue to attend consortium meetings and will notify others of future meeting dates.
- Celia is away for February meeting. Cathy will organise the agenda. ACTION CATHY

Treasurer's Report: A spreadsheet showing income and expenditure was circulated. Our current bank balance is £768. We will ask Anna to send £400 to AI.

Campaign Reports:

**Johan Teterissa:** Janet circulated a new letter writing rota. We are asked not to write directly to Johan because he has had to pay charges for receiving mail.

**Sombath Sophone** – Laos: new individual at risk for us. David circulated a rota which involves 4 letters a week until April (stamps paid for by his talks). David hopes to work with other groups on this.

Future of 10 minute news item as a regular part of meetings

It was agreed that longer reports on human rights issues in the news could work well. A planned programme for this will be discussed at February meeting.

Letter writing activities.

- A letter was written from the group to the US ambassador in London asking for ratification of the International Convention on the Rights of the Child by the US government.
- Individual letters were written to the President and Attorney General of Indonesia asking for plans to execute 6 prisoners to be halted.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16 February. Minutes Janet Tea etc David