



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

4th July
Training/workshop
Afghan Women's Rights

1st August
Group Business Meeting

Letter Writing Evenings

An evening once a month to sit and write letters with fellow Amnesty members. These evenings are hosted at member's houses. All welcome, simply contact the host/hostess for details:

19th June
Host Emma
01273 232397

Monthly Collection

20th July
Contact Catherine : 07828 584430 to volunteer

Annual Street Collection

14th September
Brighton

Monthly Stall

20th July
Letter writing stall to
Guantanamo detainees
11am to 1pm

3rd August
LGBT Rights
PRIDE

Stalls are in Sydney Street outside the Amnesty bookshop
Contact Jill 01273 621697

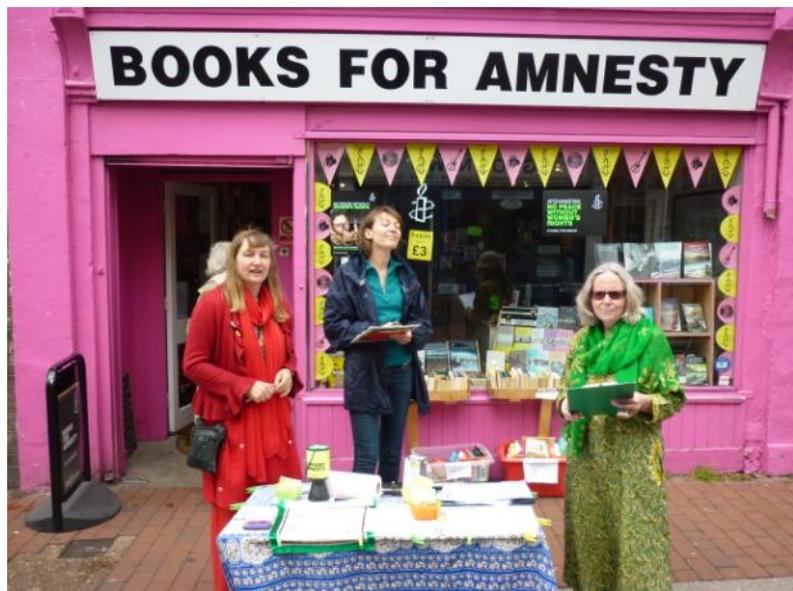
Amnesty Stall at BHASVIC charity fair

19th September

Write for Rights

Day of Action
7th December
Friends Meeting House

Saturday shoppers show support for Afghan women's rights



The Saturday stall this month was dedicated to the Afghan Women's Rights Campaign. Courtesy of Jill Francis, we had Afghan snacks to offer (dried mulberries, sugared almonds known as "nukuls", and pistachios), and some of us were colourfully dressed in Afghan costume. There was a lot of interest from the public. We collected around 200 signatures and purple fingerprints for the Afghan Women's Rights Campaign petition, and by the end of the session the long scarf Jill had created, hemmed in

purple and green, was almost completely decorated, with signatures and purple fingerprints. It all went well, and the weather was not too unkind. Many thanks to everyone who took part.

Gwyneth

For more information on this campaign visit <http://amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=12150>

Jill shows off the completed headscarf



Junior Urgent Action

Specially designed for 7 to 11 year olds



SUPPORT EVICTED FAMILIES IN ROMANIA



Where? Romania
Capital: Bucharest
Major Religion: Christianity
Population: 21.4 million (UN 2011)

THE COASTEI STREET FAMILIES

What happened?

On 17 December 2010, 76 families, the vast majority Roma, were forcibly evicted by local authorities from Coastei Street, in the centre of the city of Cluj-Napoca, north-western Romania.

They were given two days' notice that they were to be moved and were not given a chance to challenge the decision. Forty of the families were re-housed on the outskirts of the city in an area called New Pata Rat, close to the city's garbage dump and a former chemical dump. The remaining 36 families were left without alternative housing. Some were allowed to build improvised shelters in the area next to the modular houses, while the ones who did not have money for construction materials were left homeless.



New Pata Rat area in Cluj-Napoca –Romania © Joshua Tree Photography

Take Action!

SEND A MESSAGE TO THE MAYOR OF CLUJ NAPOCA

Draw a picture of a house or make an origami house and send it with a message to the Mayor. Tell the Mayor that people need safe and permanent places to live, with proper facilities, like access to clean water and electricity.

You will find instructions on how to make an origami house here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T-KctvxCcec> There are further instructions here: <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-house.html>



Please send your houses to Education Officer, Amnesty International UK, 17-25, New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. We will forward them to Romania

Minutes for Brighton and Hove Amnesty International Monthly Meeting

Thursday 6th June 2013

8.00pm **Welcome and apologies**

Apologies: Freya, Jim

Attendees: Julian, Iraya, Catherine, Madeline, Luke, Ester, Michael, Emma, Liz, Zewa, Tala, Hevat, Peter, Gwyneth, Celia, Jill, Nisha, Anna, Maude, Caroline

Guest Speaker – Husam

Husam Helmi spoke about the Syrian Non-Violence Movement, from its roots in peaceful protests against corruption and the Iraqi war, through to the Arab Spring and revolution. The talk focussed on the strength in non-violent methods, raising awareness amongst young people of alternatives to arms and the importance of maintaining education amongst the young people who are disproportionately affected by the current conflict.

This was followed by a question answer session. Questions explored the difficulty of maintaining unity amongst those against the regime and what citizens of the UK can do to show solidarity with those affected by the conflict in Syria.

Minutes and matters arising

None noted

Regular events and actions

Lanes collection – Catherine

It is now agreed with the Friends Meeting House that we will hold the Lanes collection on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Rota passed around for the Lanes collection Saturday 15th June.

Monthly Action and mailing from head office – Liz

The group signed a card of solidarity to the family of Dr Tun Aung, a Burmese man who was arrested in June 2011 for 'inciting violence'. This was despite eyewitness claims that when riots broke out in Rakhine State last year, the Muslim community leader tried to calm a crowd that had gathered at his local mosque. Amnesty considers Dr Tun Aung a prisoner of conscience, targeted because he is a Muslim community leader.

Monthly stall – Jill

Saturday June 22nd 2013 outside Books for Amnesty, Sydney Street: Afghan women campaign with a creative action. Discussion re. Pride stall: Decided we would go down to the parade between 11-1 and flyer/hand out stickers, then do the stall and action later between 1-3 when more people are likely to be on Sydney Street.

Monthly letter writing evenings – Emma's House, Wednesday 19th June.

The group was reminded there is a list in the newsletter of the Guantanamo Bay hunger strikers and how/who to send postcards to.

Afghan Women's Rights – Meeting with Caroline Lucas

This meeting was extremely successful with Caroline Lucas agreeing to all that was asked of her including being a champion of Afghan women's rights in Parliament, asking questions and ensuring debate amongst government on this issue.

Global weekend of Action re Guantanamo

Again this was reported to be successful. Attendees particularly thought that dressing up really worked as an eye-catching strategy when campaigning or doing a creative action. Was suggested that this happens more often! Members encouraged to listen to the radio 4 report on Guantanamo Bay hunger strike – can find it here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-22794099> and the BBC interview with Shaker Aamer (last British resident to be held in Guantanamo) which can be found here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p019pmhy>. From June 3rd for 7 weeks on Monday-Friday there will be a protest outside parliament against Guantanamo Bay. They need as many people as possible to get involved to ensure that someone is there every day. Anyone who is in London can just pop by you do not need to let anyone know in advance – orange boiler suits provided.

Fundraising event (Clothes Swap) – Freya

To discuss next meeting

Annual Street Collection (14th September - Brighton)

The council is no longer allowing us to book two dates in September for our yearly street collection. Emma agreed to 14th September for the Brighton collection and Catherine is to get permission to collect outside a Hove super-market for the 2nd Hove collection.

Plight of Roma in Romania (request from Farshid)

Any other business

- Celia and Maud are taking part in "creating an art of protest against fascism." They will be sewing a reproduction of Picasso's 'Guernica' and will be holding their first public sew in Jubilee Library on 16th and 23rd June either side of refugee week.

- Gwyneth to look in to using the Library as a possible location for the Afghan Women creative action.

Discussion surrounding details of the creative action – message in middle of scarf to say 'injustice to one woman is injustice to all'.

- Anna encouraged all group members to go along to 'nerd night' – a night of interesting talks about interesting things - on June 22nd when one of the speakers will be talking about 'Whistleblowing and the information era'.

Good Companions pub 7.30 pm £4/£3 students.

- Caroline informed the group that Southern Water are installing meters in the Brighton area that are supplied by Israel and encouraged members to contact Southern Water to show their discontent.

Meeting Closed

Love is a Human Right Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) issues

All over the World people are mistreated for their sexual orientation and gender identity.

On 3rd August we are holding our stall outside the Amnesty bookshop from 1pm to 3pm on the day of Brighton Pride and we will be asking people to take action by signing letters and petitions to campaign about a current LGBTI human rights issue.



There is a great atmosphere on Pride day while the town is bustling with visitors who have come to join in the festivities. So a great opportunity for us to get loads of signatures and talk about human rights to a new and receptive audience. If you would like to volunteer contact Jill on 01273 621697 or Celia on 01273 593833

Take Action



CITIZEN JOURNALIST ALI MAHMOUD OTHMAN – SYRIA

Ali Mahmoud Othman has been subjected to enforced disappearance. Please sign and send the attached letter. Thank you.

Celia

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

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Prisoner of Conscience—MOHAMED SAYED IBRAHIM ABDEL LATIF—Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

End Forced Evictions: Poverty and Human Rights—Freya - freya_lyte@hotmail.co.uk

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Amnesty Websites: international - www.amnesty.org AI UK -

www.amnesty.org.uk local group - www.amnesty.org.uk/brighton

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