

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter

January 2014

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Tuesday 18 February 2014 at 8pm	Lambeth Amnesty Group Meeting, all welcome! 61 St Luke's Avenue, SW4 7LG
Wednesday 5 March 2014 at 7:30pm	London Region Meeting at the Human Rights Action Centre
Saturday 8 March 2014 at 6:45pm	Stand Up Women: South London Amnesty Groups comedy night for International Women's Day, upstairs at the Bedford in Balham - Details: http://aiukstandupwomen.wordpress.com/
Saturday & Sunday 12-13 April 2014	Amnesty International UK AGM in Edinburgh: http://www.amnestyagm-blueprint.com/

Meeting Notes from 21 January 2014 at Anna's House

Present Caroline chaired the meeting and welcomed Ros, Anita, Anna, Gareth (notes), Gemma and Eleanor.

Secretary's Report, Campaign updates and upcoming events

Unfortunately, there was no monthly mailing from Amnesty. This meant that there was no monthly action or letter to sign. However, various group members gave updates regarding events and activities, and the group discussed possible new venues.

The Stand Up Women comedy night is going ahead on 8 March (International Women's Day) with a strong line-up of comedians including Sara Pascoe. All details can be found on the website at <http://aiukstandupwomen.wordpress.com/> and it would be great if everyone can share the link, like the facebook page and buy tickets to the event. Tickets cost £10 plus a £1 booking fee if bought in advance, and if any remain on the night they will be available for £13 on the door.

Gareth is in touch with Amnesty about getting a speaker and campaign actions on women's rights in Afghanistan. Caroline has been in touch with local businesses to arrange a number of great raffle prizes. Ros showed the group some draft posters for comment.

There is a planning meeting on Thursday 30 January and Gareth will attend to provide updates from Lambeth group members. Anyone else who would like to help out is welcome to come along.

Ros is going to the AIUK AGM in Edinburgh on 12-13 April. It was agreed that the group is happy to contribute towards her expenses, but Ros insisted this was not necessary. If anyone else is interested in going then they can book online at <http://www.amnestyagm-blueprint.com/>

London Regional Conference has been postponed until the Autumn.

The next London Regional Meeting is on Wednesday 5 March at 7:30pm at the Human Rights Action Centre.

Unfortunately, our proposed new venue for group meetings requires a large upfront security deposit and we are not prepared to pay this. This is very disappointing, but various members of the group have looked into alternatives.

The Bread & Roses in Clapham have an upstairs room that we could have for free, however it is not wheelchair accessible and the group felt that it is not ideal to hold meetings in a pub.

St John's Church Hall on Clapham Road would be happy to accommodate us, but the building is not ideal because it also serves as a homeless shelter at night time.

The Brix at St Matthews has a meeting room available for £20/hr, with a capacity of 12. This could be a good option, although it is slightly more expensive than our previous venue and the small capacity limits the number of attendees.

Gemma will continue to look into a few other venues that she has identified and report back at the next meeting. Ros agreed to look into the Brixton Rec as a possibility, and Gareth agreed to look into Hawkesworth Community Hall. We will need to discuss this again and make a decision at the next meeting. Anna has kindly offered her home again as a venue for the meeting on 18 February.

The 18 March meeting will be an informal letter-writing at Electric Social in Brixton, as it proved a very effective venue for the December greetings cards evening.

Gareth will try to find out whether the Celebrating Sanctuary festival will be taking place on the South Bank for Refugee Week this year. If it is, Gareth will not be around so he will put Ros in contact with the organizers.

Ros passed around a flyer for an Amnesty event in Sydenham: "A volunteer's extraordinary experiences in Colombia." Dan Slee from Peace Brigades International worked alongside human rights defenders for 3 years, and will be speaking to Amnesty members and supporters at 8pm on Tue 28 January at 149 Silverdale, SE26 4SQ. Contact amnesty.beckenham@gmail.com for full details and to RSVP.

Ros is also planning a London-wide social for Amnesty group members, and she will keep us updated when there is a date and venue confirmed.

The group wished Caroline all the best for her upcoming wedding and honeymoon, and look forward to seeing her at the March meeting when she returns.

The group also thanked Anna for her hospitality in hosting this and the next meeting.

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

The February meeting will take place on Tuesday 18 February from 8pm at 61 St Luke's Avenue, SW4 7LG.

Usually, meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month, starting at 8pm. We are currently looking for a new regular venue.