

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter

September 2013

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Saturday 5 October	Wandsworth Amnesty Group Embassy Crawl – meet 11am at Embankment Station (riverside)
Tuesday 15 October	Lambeth Amnesty monthly meeting with speaker on Latin America, 8pm at the Clapham Community Project
Thursday 24 October	Hampstead Group Syria solidarity action in Parliament Square, details tbc
Tuesday 19 November	Lambeth Amnesty monthly meeting to write Urgent Action letters and watch a film about extra-judicial killings during the Spanish Civil War, 8pm at the Clapham Community Project
Friday 22 November	Soul Night organized by Mayfair & Soho Amnesty Group at Market House on Coldharbour Lane, £5
Tuesday 10 December	Lambeth Amnesty Carol Singing at Brixton Tube and Write for Rights greetings card campaign in the Dogstar pub, full details tbc

Meeting Notes from 17 September 2013 at Clapham Community Project

Present

Ros Davidson chaired the meeting and welcomed Caroline Toogood, Susan Evans, Anita Sollis, Anna Reisenberger, and Gareth Williams (notes)

Secretary's Report, Campaign updates and upcoming events

The monthly action was related to the upcoming elections in Azerbaijan. Amnesty is neutral in terms of the outcome of the election but is concerned the elections are not free and fair. Members of the group signed a letter to the President.

The group noted that Tuesday 10 December is Human Rights Day so we will book Brixton tube for the annual carol singing on this date and also the Dogstar for the Write for Rights greetings cards campaign.

Caroline received an update from Graham, AIUK's Latin America coordinator. He will come to our group meeting on 15 October. The current focus is on the San Jose peace community in Columbia, indigenous people in Paraguay, and a new case in Brazil promoting sustainable development in the face of opposition from logging companies.

The group would like to work on the case of a specific individual. Caroline will email round some examples of individual cases from China, as she was approached by the China co-ordinator about this. Group members can feed back what case they would like to take on, and we will adopt a case as a group.

The Hampstead Amnesty Group are organizing a Syria Solidarity action on 24 October in Parliament Square. So far, we have no further details about the event.

The Wandsworth Amnesty annual Embassy Crawl is on Saturday 5 October, focusing on Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). All sympathetic people are welcome, and the meeting point is Embankment Station (riverside) at 11am. The aim is to deliver a number of letters to various embassies about the problem of FGM and to learn more about the issue from people on the day. There will be a stop-off to eat lunch in Hyde Park along the way.

The Mayfair & Soho Amnesty Group is arranging a Soul Night at the Market House on Coldharbour Lane in Brixton on Friday 22 November. Tickets are £5 and we hope to have further details at the next meeting. We will try to ensure some local Lambeth members attend the event in order both to show our support and to publicize our group meetings to those in attendance.

The Southwark group has been in touch to ask for volunteers to help organize the third annual Stand Up Women comedy night in March 2014. If anyone is interested, please send an email to the group address or attend the next meeting to volunteer.

Ros reminded us that there is a Peace Day in Wandsworth organized by local Quakers for the United Nations International Day of Peace. This will take place from 8am-6pm on Saturday 21 September at Southside Shopping Centre, on the corner of Wandsworth High Street and Garrett Lane. All are welcome, anytime.

Anna reported that a former local group member who now lives in Spain has written subtitles for a documentary. It is about the extra-judicial killings of ordinary people during the Spanish Civil War and the various people trying to find their remains and commemorate them. He has sent us a copy of the film and we may like to watch it in a meeting and/or distribute it amongst ourselves. The group agreed to watch part of the film at our November meeting.

At Susan's suggestion, the group discussed the idea of publicizing the group at local markets by having a stall or handing out flyers. We agreed to keep a look out for suitable events that we can attend, such as the farmer's market on Venn Street and the various Brixton markets.

Caroline also suggested holding a Pub Quiz in the new year. We noted that 21 January is a Tuesday, and will look into the White Horse on Brixton Hill as a possible venue.

Ros mentioned that there is a documentary showing at the HRAC on 3 October called Pussy Riot: A Punk Prayer. It is sold out, but people may be interested in looking up the film.

The group also noted with concern the issue of LGBT rights in Russia. The Mayfair & Soho Amnesty Group is campaigning on this by holding information stalls at a theatre in Soho, but we have no further information from Amnesty on the issue at this time.

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

We agreed that the November meeting will be a film-watching and letter-writing meeting. This will be on Tuesday 15 October from 8pm at the Clapham Community Project.

Usually, meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Clapham Community Project, starting at 8pm.