



MANCHESTER AMNESTY GROUP NEWSLETTER

January 2016

<http://manchester.amnesty.org.uk/>

- find us on Facebook Manchester Amnesty International
- follow us on twitter @amnestymanc

Group meetings – new venue!

We are moving venue for our regular monthly meetings, starting with our January meeting. The new venue is café bar Terrace NQ, in the Northern Quarter, who have offered us the use of their large upstairs room free of charge.

Terrace runs between Thomas Street and Edge Street with entrances on both (main entrance is on Thomas St - postcode M4 1NA). The best entrance to use is off Edge Street as you can then go up the stairs immediately inside that entrance. If you have problems with steep stairs, there is an alternative staircase in the centre of the bar with multiple landings.



Terrace is 5 mins walk from the Market Street Metro stop with NCP parking close by.

A few of us will be meeting up at about 6pm for a bite to eat at Terrace. Please feel free to join us. The menu can be found at <https://www.zomato.com/manchester/terrace-northern-quarter/menu#tabtop>.

Group Meetings coming up

Normally held 2nd Wednesday each month - 7.30pm upstairs at Terrace NQ, Thomas Street, M4 1NA.

Wednesday 13th January – Preparing for the Human Rights Act Challenge

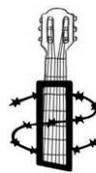
Wednesday 10th February – Life in North Korea, a talk by Jihyun Park based on her personal experiences

Wednesday 9th March – Planning our campaigning and Group's AGM

Other Group News

Acoustic Amnesty

Acoustic Amnesty returned in December, this time in aid of Salford Women's Aid as well as Manchester Amnesty International. We had another lovely evening of top class music and raised £630. A big thanks to all the artists who gave their time for free, Sacred Trinity Church and most of all to our very own Steve Lindsay for getting it all together.



Christmas Cards

We sold Christmas cards at all the events during November and December and also at a Christmas Card Fair in Heaton Moor. In total we sold some 167 packs and made £242.66 for the group (including donations). A good effort.

Write for Rights

The group held Write for Rights stalls at various events throughout November and December. We sent at least 230 messages of support and 15 letters to the authorities.

The marvellous Whalley Range Peace and Justice Group event resulted in nearly 600 messages of support.

**Well done
and a big thank you to all who took part!**

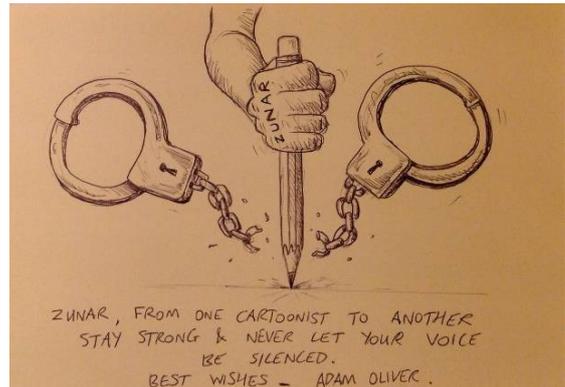
Next Letter Writing Session

Saturday 28th January 2-4pm
The Eighth Day Café, Oxford Road
Case sheets, pen and paper provided.

Make a New Year's resolution to write more Amnesty letters.

All Welcome.

One of this year's cases was political cartoonist Zulkiflee Anwar Ulhaque, aka 'Zunar', who is facing a long prison sentence in Malaysia for cartoons that he tweeted in February 2015. A member of the public who is a professional cartoonist drew this super cartoon as his message to Zunar.



Subscriptions please!

Annual donations from members are vital to keep the Group going. The suggested sum is £20 if you have a wage, £3 otherwise, or whatever you can afford to give. Please bring your cash or cheque to the next meeting or contact Treasurer Sean Dunne (Sean.a.dunne@btinternet.com) and he will tell you how to get the money to him.

Thanks!

Campaigning

The Human Rights Act challenge

AIUK are challenging us to come up with the most creative way to visually represent the Human Rights Act. The subgroup have come up with a plan for a pop up street theatre action – to take place on Saturday 16th January in Manchester City Centre provided that we have enough volunteers to take part.

We will be featuring 4 real life cases where the UK Human Rights Act has been used to help people claim their rights. Come along to the group meeting in January to find out more and to help make placards and practice the mini plays devised by Heather.

**Volunteers
needed**

We need volunteers for the actual day – email Heather at heathercard12@gmail.com. Meet Exchange Square at 10.30am.

Southern Africa

At our January meeting Simona will bring along an urgent action (letter to sign) for soldiers in Lesotho, a country with significant political instability. After the dismissal of the Head of the Lesotho Defence Force, 50 soldiers have been arrested and allegedly tortured. 23 soldiers are still being detained and are facing a trial on 1st February 2016. There is concern that the trial will not be fair. If found guilty they face death penalty. She will also have updates for South Africa and Swaziland on campaigns that AI has followed through the years.

Burma (Myanmar)

We have been allocated the Unity 5, 5 journalists imprisoned in 2014 for doing their jobs, as our special case to work on long term and we hope to receive appeal postcards in Jan. More details on this case can be found at <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/04/journalists-silenced-in-myanmar-free-the-unity-five/>

Stop Torture, Asylum Justice Project, Women's Rights, South America, Children's Human Rights

No updates this month

NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2016



AIUK's National Conference & AGM takes place on 9-10 April 2016 at East Midlands Conference centre in Nottingham. This is your chance to influence AIUK policy by joining in the discussions on the resolutions. The National Conference is also a time to hear from inspirational speakers, attend workshops, meet other activists and AIUK's staff, and hear from the Board of Trustees.

All national Amnesty International members can attend and vote. Group members who aren't individual members of AIUK can attend but do not get an individual vote.

Please visit <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/agm> for more information and how to book your place.