

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter

March 2013

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Until 4 th April	'Documenting Afghan Women's Narratives' – Human Rights Action Centre, free exhibition weekdays 10am – 6pm http://britishafghanwomen.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/DAWN-flyer-with-dates_01.jpg
Tuesday 16 th April	Lambeth Amnesty Meeting – Update on Afghan Women campaign
Tuesday 23 rd April	Letter writing meeting – location tbc
Tuesday 21 st May	Lambeth Amnesty Meeting

Meeting Notes 19th March 2013 at Clapham Community Project

Present

Ros Davidson, Anita Sollis, Caroline Toogood, Gareth Williams, Anna, Simon Nash, Hannah Cook, Joe Lythgoe, Jordan Hughes, Peter Cox

Secretary's Report

Peter Cox from Croydon Community Against Trafficking gave a very informative talk on CCAT's work with local agencies and the police to try to help victims of trafficking and prevent abduction and exploitation, followed by questions from the group. (See <http://www.ycaht.com/> for more information).

Peter also recommended that we show the film 'The Whistleblower' at a future meeting – this highlights issues of sex trafficking in post-war Bosnia.

It was agreed that we should arrange a joint letter writing meeting next month with the other South London groups.

Ros reported back from the recent successful London region conference, and from the recent skill share event.

The group agreed to apply for a stall at this year's Lambeth Country Show – the application deadline is May 3rd, so we will run through the forms at the next meeting.

Campaign Updates/IAR

We have been provided with pledge cards to ask our local MPs to sign, committing them to supporting AI's campaign to maintain women's rights in Afghanistan. This asks them to call upon the Secretary of State for International Development and the Minister for the Commonwealth Office to work together to ensure that they will consult with Afghan women's organisations working to end violence against women, allocate appropriate funding, support Afghan women human rights defenders, assist the Afghan government to implement the Elimination of Violence Against Women law and support and fund Family Response Units (which address domestic violence). At our next meeting we will go through the campaign update on this, but in the meantime, **please find out who your local MP is**, so we can contact them with these pledge cards.

The group had received updated Control Arms campaign materials – this is very prescient given the current UN negotiations towards a new international Arms Trade Treaty. More information on this can be found here: <http://www.amnesty.org/en/campaigns/control-arms>

We will send out letters for the most recent 'individuals at risk' cases at our letter writing meeting next month.

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

Normally, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Clapham Community Project starting at 8pm (no meeting in August). The next meeting will be on **Tuesday 16th April 2013**. This will be focused on the current AI campaign relating to women's rights in Afghanistan.