



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*

1st April
Group AGM
and
Planning workshop

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:

24th April
Emma
01273 232397

Monthly Collection
Contact Julian
julianwatmore@gmail.com

Monthly Stall's
Contact Jill 01273 621697
Next stall
17th May
Sydney St

Jumble sale
3rd May
12.30 to 3pm
Jumble for sale, raffle, tea and
cakes
St Martins Church Hall
Jumble and volunteers needed!
Contact Emma
01273 232397

GRAND JUMBLE SALE



TO BE HELD AT

**THE PARISH HALL,
SAINT MARTINS CHURCH,
LEWES ROAD, BRIGHTON**

ON

**SATURDAY 3RD OF MAY 2014
BETWEEN 12.30PM AND 3PM**

If you are able to volunteer on the day or want to donate
jumble please contact Emma on 01273 232397



An Amnesty Supporter Abroad...



In September of last year, I moved away from the Brighton and Hove Amnesty group to take a job teaching English in Nancy. Nancy is a city in Eastern France, situated in the centre of Lorraine (a region famous for its quiches!). The region's proximity to the borders with German and Luxemburg makes it both historically and culturally interesting. The small mountain range, known as the Vosges, located in the south of Lorraine, also

attracts many tourists from both within and outside France. However, in recent years the region has suffered economic decline, mainly due to the collapse of its traditional industries, such as mining. Rising unemployment is a large concern, with 11.1% out of work at the end of 2013, slightly above the national average. Nancy itself, largely due to its huge student population (10% of residents during term time),



is a bustling city with a very attractive old town. The most famous area is the large 18th century square named Place Stanislas (after the former Polish King and Duke of Lorraine who played an important role in expanding the town). The square is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. I always knew I wanted to continue supporting Amnesty during my stay in France, so, on arrival in Nancy, I quickly got in contact with the local student group and in October I went along to my first meeting. Everyone was welcoming, friendly and full of ideas. It all felt very familiar... Amnesty International France (AIF) was created in 1971. It currently has 400 local and student groups (known as 'antennes jeunes'). It's National Secretariat (which coordinates AIF's activities) has 69 paid staff and 350 volunteers and AIF has 2,250,000 supporters. The President of AIF (the equivalent to Kate Allen) is a lady called Geneviève Garrigos. AIF and AIUK share similar campaigning priorities, such as forced evictions, the death penalty, torture, individuals at risk, discrimination and the Middle East and North Africa. Also like Amnesty UK, Amnesty France is a very creative section. I'm sure you've all seen the moving animation

'Signatures' which is an AIF production.

Nancy boasts two Amnesty groups: one for students (AJ Nancy) and another, larger local group (Amnesty Nancy), which is the equivalent to the Brighton and Hove group. Throughout this year, I have taken part in activities organised by both organisations. For example, in the first

I'm committed to human rights because I want to believe in humanity and the ability of each of us to change things! (Cécile, Student at Sciences Po, Nancy)



term, the antennes jeunes decided to focus on a campaign regarding discrimination against Roma, in particular forced expulsion. We organised a flash mob on Place Stanislas where we re-enacted the demolition of a Roma settlement by the police (making a lot of noise whilst doing so!). We took advantage of people's natural curiosity and whilst they crowded around us we requested signatures for our petition. We also attracted the curiosity of the real police, but after reassuring them that we were not setting up camp for good, they let us carry on!

The other Amnesty group is particularly good at fundraising. One annual fundraiser which

works incredibly well exploits the mad Christmas shopping rush. Amnesty Nancy has a relationship with a very large shop in the centre of the town. Each year, the shop gives

'I have been a member of Amnesty International for several years. I was part of the Antenne Jeunes in Aix en Provence before creating the group in Nancy because Amnesty's peaceful actions fit best with my convictions. All the activism and positions taken by Amnesty correspond exactly with my own. But my favourite actions are those which allow people to be convinced of the paramount importance of human rights.' (Maëva, Law student)

the organisation a free space at the entrance and piles of wrapping paper, tape and ribbon. Amnesty members take turns in wrapping the customers' new purchases in return for a donation. I helped out for a couple of hours and I have never wrapped so many presents over such a short time! It really helped me to get into the festive spirit.

'I am a member of the organisation because humanitarian work and human rights are important to me. And the actions that I prefer? Um, the flashmob on the Roma.'
(Guillaume, Journalism student)

Other activities throughout the year have included film screenings, panel discussions, book sales and stalls.

The strengths of Nancy antenne jeunes are the enthusiasm for carrying out creative, public actions and the ability to pull things together at the very last moment! However, with all student groups, the constant turnover of members is a concern and this makes it challenging to carry out sustained campaigns. The positives of Amnesty Nancy are its large network of supporters in the city and its propensity to carry out large annual events. The two groups complement each other well and together, definitely help to boost public awareness of Amnesty International in Nancy.

However, nothing quite compares to the dynamic and lovely Brighton and Hove group. I am looking forward to seeing you all again this summer!

Freya Lyte

Monthly Action

Shaker Aamer

Reprieve has filed a US court motion to have Shaker Aamer returned to the UK on medical grounds. Details of which can be found at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-26933512>

Please write to William Hague to call for the immediate release of Shaker Aamer. You may use or adapt the enclosed letter worded by the Save Shaker Aamer Campaign.

Local Events Notice board

To commemorate Conscientious Objectors Day Women's International League for Peace and Freedom will be hosting readings from the histories of Conscientious Objectors and poetry from WW1

Thursday 15th May @ 6.00pm until 8.00pm

To be held in the Lecture Room at the Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

Please come along to listen or read aloud about the people who objected to the first World War and suffered for their beliefs.

All welcome

BRIGHTON & HOVE AMNESTY GROUP CONTACTS

Chair – Emma brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com Tel: 01273 232397

New Member Secretary: Sue Tel: 07790 755921

Group Secretary—vacant

Email Secretary: Emma Tel: 01273 232397 **Group Email:** brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

Minutes Secretary: Catherine 07759 271399

Treasurer: Catherine 07759 271399

Newsletter editor: - Emma Parker: Tel: 01273 232397

Please email any contributions for the newsletter to brightonandhoveai@googlemail.com

Lanes collection organiser: - Julian julianwatmore@gmail.com

Web Site co-ordinator: Michael Fisher - michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Amnesty Stalls co-ordinator—Jill Francis—01273 621697

Campaign Co-ordinators:

Afghanistan—Women's Rights—Gwyneth gwyneth.jones@ntlworld.com

Prisoner of Conscience – The Displaced People of Tawargha (Libya) Celia Stubbs—01273 593833

Security and Human Rights—Michael—michaelowenfisher@hotmail.com

Arms Trade Treaty—Luke lukebeale@hotmail.com

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

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

Follow us on twitter @AmnestyBrighton

See our photos on Flickr—

<http://www.flickr.com/groups/amnestybrighton/pool>

Amnesty UK Human Rights Centre - Tel: 0207 0331500

