



Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Meeting 27th November 2013 7.30pm

Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, HP20 2RT

Present:

Carol Tarrant
Bob Corn
Frances Booth
Jim Edwards
Jim Cobley

Gwyn Jenkins
Henry Mayer-Gross
Annelies Varsey
Katherine Danflous

Apologies: Bronwen Lee, Bridgitte Glanville (a broken arm) – also Bob, Carol, Fran and Jim Edwards apologised for being very late – traffic problems!!

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1.0 Previous Minutes – Agreed

2.0 Monthly Action:

- 2.1 If anyone has created an A4 Poster for support to Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe (as discussed at our last meeting), could they send it as soon as possible to Amnesty International UK, The Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, LONDON EC2A 3EA

3.0 Write for Rights:

- 3.1 Carol introduced the topic, noting that Annelies will lead this campaign this evening – Carol also spoke of Bronwen's work in setting up a 'taster day' in Hale Leys Shopping Centre on 13th December 2013, with 'the real thing' taking place from 13th January 2014 to 18th January 2014. Volunteers to support Bronwen will be very welcome – could they liaise directly with her – Carol herself immediately offering help on one of the days. Unfortunately, the last day (Saturday 18th) clashes with the South Midlands Regional Conference which Oxford City Group are hosting this year – this was the only day available in the West Oxford Community Centre venue.
- 3.2 Annelies shared all of her AIUK 'Write for Rights' information with the Group – everyone having an instructive booklet – Annelies directing the members to Page 9 wherein 'Brasil' should be added to an address; and Page 11 wherein special cards are requested as the Prisoner has been released on bail, and she still needs encouragement in her struggle for her Human Rights. Everyone selected a case from the booklet, each writing letters – also signing the special cards as requested.

4.0 AIUK's Website:

- 4.1 Noting that the September meeting had raised concerns about the AIUK website, Bob had raised the issue with the new Director of Campaigning, Kerry Mosconi, who had asked us to let her know the detail of our concerns – since when a member of AIUK staff had written asking us to list the matters which need attention:
- 4.2 Black on Dark Blue – difficult to read; current Home Page is very Black – a 'printer friendly' option is required to prevent huge ink usage; the Group Template needs a similar 'printer friendly' option; the 'Search' facility remains very clunky; there is no 'Photograph' gallery option on the Group Template – thus there is no visible history of actions which a Group can display; often a character is bleached out, and it is difficult to get the new format to reflect us a Group; needs to be a bit less like 'teacher talking to naughty children'; we can't easily find reference to Filep Karma and Johan Teterissa (POC's which our Group is very interested in and supportive of) – finding specific articles is always very difficult; we need to have a good site map, with access to things like the Universal Declaration of Human Rights readily available – this is after all what we are primarily about!

4.3 Bob to pass the comments on to Kerry Moscogiuri's web person.

5.0 Evening at the Cinema:

The meeting agreed to have a Group social gathering on 3rd January 2014 around us all going to see the new Nelson Mandela film 'Long Walk to Freedom' – and hope that Bridgitte Glanville will be well enough to join us, since her son-in-law Justin Chadwick is the Director of the film! Suggestions will be gathered as to where we will perhaps meet for a meal before going to see the film at the Aylesbury Odeon.

6.0 South Midlands Regional Conference:

6.1 This to be held at the West Oxford Community Centre on 18th January 2014 – registration at 10.00am. Speakers will include Kate Allen, Director of AIUK; Kerry Moscogiuri, Director of Campaigning at AIUK; Country Coordinators for AIUK Hugh Sandeman and Paul Hainsworth; and a member of the British Institute of Human Rights.

6.2 The members present who wish to attend will work out travelling arrangements – Bob and Carol needing to be at the venue for 9.00am, since Bob is running the day, and Carol giving her experience and advice to the Oxford City Group who are new to hosting a Regional Conference.

There was no other business.

7.0 NEXT MEETING: 29th January 2014 at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury HP20 2RT

Bob Corn, Minutes Secretary,
23rd January 2014