



Aylesbury Amnesty International Group

Monthly Group Meeting, 28th September 2016, 7.30pm

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

Present:

Carol Tarrant

Bob Corn

Katherine Danflous

Sallyann Thilthorpe

David Barnard

Frances Booth

Henry Mayer-Gross

Apologies: Bronwen Lee, Jim Edwards, Annelies Varsey

Carol welcomed everyone to the meeting – hoping that everyone had had a good summer break! This evening, we are starting on a regime where members take a current campaign from Amnesty International UK (AIUK), and bring relevant current actions and updates to the membership – this evening, Fran is taking the ‘My Body, My Rights’ campaign, since the campaign is reaching its conclusion.

1.0 Previous Minutes – Agreed

2.0 Fran Booth - My Body, My Rights Campaign:

2.1 Forced Marriage – Video footage – YouTube ‘The Right to choose, the consequences of forced marriage’ – Fran spoke of the surprisingly large number of arranged or forced marriages; Video Footage – YouTube ‘Fighting Forced Marriages and Honour Based Abuse’ – evidently there are (conservatively) 5,000 ‘Honour’ Killings per year internationally; Video Footage – YouTube ‘Exposure: Banaz an Honour Killing’ – this happened in London.

2.2 Child Marriage – evidently there are 14 million child marriages globally (although this figure can be regarded as an underestimate), concentrated in Western Africa and South Asia. Video Footage – YouTube ‘Why Yemen won’t ban Child Marriage and Rape’ – this sparked a discussion on the sale of girls into marriage, and international child marriage – noting also that domestic violence frequently occurs; Video Footage – BBC News ‘12 year old child bride dies giving birth’.

2.3 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – apparently around 200million women have suffered this ‘cutting’, which has no known health benefit; it evidently is slowly declining as a practice, but still very widely carried out. Video Footage – YouTube ‘Sara’s Story: FGM Aware’; ‘Mummy, why did you cut me? Survivors share the pain of FGM: End FGM’.

2.4 LGBTi – the right to a relationship without prosecution. The membership discussed the fact that same-sex relationships are still the object of discrimination, persecution, and in some cases the death penalty; Fran illustrated the discussion with statistics – a google search ‘Where is it illegal to be Gay?’ highlighted a BBC News report.

2.5 Fran was congratulated on a very informative and richly illustrated presentation.

3.0 Urgent Actions:

3.1 Letters had been prepared in support of Augustinus Aud (West Papua); Natalya Sharina (Russia); and Limi Umerov (Crimea).

3.2 Everyone present signed the letters – Bob to post.

4.0 Any Other Business:

There was no other business.

5.0 NEXT MEETING: 26th October 2016 at 7.30pm, Friends Meeting House, 9 Rickfords Hill, Aylesbury, HP20 2RT – David and Katherine will present an evening around the AIUK ‘People on the Move’ Campaign - Refugees, Migrants and Asylum Seekers.