

Minutes of Solihull AI Group Meeting 18/3/13

Present: A Parslow, R Wade, C Rimington, C Harris, P Perry B Mackey, P Mackey J White, M Simpson
Asos Nemeddin (Freedom from Torture), C Roon (Freedom from Torture)
Apologies: D Hess

Our speakers from the Midlands Freedom from Torture Campaign gave us a very interesting talk on the work of their organisation which employs about 12 people. They also use many volunteers and engage with other services. They see 30 to 40 victims of or witnesses to torture a month and provide medical, counselling, psychotherapy, group and alternative therapies, legal and housing advice. 60% of their finances come from voluntary sources.

The victims can suffer from many traumas including torture, flight, exile, loss of language etc.

Business Items

1. Matters Arising

We will have speaker on Johan Teterissa at our May meeting. **Action: Celia**

2. Minutes of the February Meeting were accepted.

3. Future Items

The AGM will be held at Warwick on weekend of 13 April. Pauline, Bernard and Celia hope to attend.

4. Secretary's Items

The monthly action is a petition to prevent the execution of a Japanese prisoner.

At the next meeting we will consider 40 years of Urgent Action. Also which countries we might additionally work on. A workshop on Zimbabwe is available.

5. Street Collection

The total raised was £518 of which Wythall's share was £102. The amount is down because of fewer collectors and appalling weather. It is agreed we will request Bentley Heath instead of Dorridge next year.

Bernard will ascertain the minimum age for collectors. **Action Bernard**

6. Campaigns

A new rota for Johan Teterissa will be provided for the next meeting. **Action Celia**

7. Next Meeting

Phil will talk about use of new technology - Twitter, Facebook, blogging at our April Meeting