

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL COMES TO BANBURY – YOUR CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED!



Those interested in supporting human rights are very welcome to attend the inaugural meeting of a new local group. The Banbury Area Amnesty International Group will hold its first meeting on **Monday 13 June at 8pm at The Friends' Meeting House, Horse Fair, Banbury OX16 0AH**. The Banbury Area Group will join several hundred local Amnesty volunteer groups working to support Amnesty's campaigns, raise awareness of human rights issues and to raise funds to support Amnesty's research and education activities.

This will be an opportunity to get involved in supporting key Amnesty campaigns, for example to stop torture, defend the Human Rights Act and to ensure fair and humane treatment for refugees, migrants and asylum seekers. The group will also work on individual cases of human rights abuse, working to put pressure on Governments around the world to deliver justice, freedom, truth and dignity for their citizens.

Amnesty's local groups consist entirely of volunteers and specialist knowledge of human rights issues is not necessary. The meeting on 13 June will include a talk by Kerry Moscogiuri, Amnesty's UK's Director of Supporter Campaigning and Communications. This will provide an overview of Amnesty's purpose and activities for those not familiar with Amnesty's work, and it will be a valuable update for those already involved. The meeting will also be an opportunity to input ideas and suggestions for how the Group should organise itself and what its priorities should be.

There has for a number of years been an Amnesty Group based in Bloxham, just outside Banbury. That Group will become part of the new Banbury Area Group, intended to serve Banbury and the surrounding villages.

Ian Myson, currently Publicity Officer of Bloxham Amnesty Group, said:

"We are lucky to live in a country like the UK where our basic human rights are usually respected. But this is not true of many parts of the world. Torture is routinely used, thousands of people are subject to the death penalty or arbitrary arrest, equal rights for women and many minorities are a long way off, and grinding poverty denies many people their basic human rights. It can be easy for individuals in the UK to think that these issues are too big for them to make a difference. But as part of Amnesty's worldwide movement of ordinary people standing up for justice, freedom and truth individuals can make a difference, both on the big issues and in securing human rights in individual cases. The new Banbury Area Group will I hope provide new opportunities for involvement for Amnesty members who have not hitherto been actively involved and for those coming to Amnesty for the first time. Everyone is very welcome to join us in our work for human rights."

Background and contact details

Amnesty International is a movement of ordinary people from around the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Amnesty's purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied. As a global movement of over seven million people, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. Amnesty investigates and exposes human rights abuses, educates and mobilises the public and helps transform societies to create a safer, more just world. Amnesty has received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work.

For more information on Amnesty International see www.amnesty.org.uk

The Banbury Area Group is a new local volunteer group within Amnesty UK's network of local, student and youth groups. There are about 700 such groups in the UK. This will be the first time there has been an Amnesty Group based in Banbury serving the town and its surrounding villages.

For more information on the Banbury Area Group contact Ian Myson on 01295 720951 or mobile 07801 200403 or email ian_myson@hotmail.com

We hope to see you on 13 June!