

Lambeth Amnesty Group Newsletter
October 2014

Forthcoming dates for the diary

Tuesday 4 th November	A Joke Too Far: Stand Up For Burma – The Hackney Attic, 270 Mare Street, London, E8 1HE – 7.30pm £12.50 purchase tickets in advance online at https://www.wegotickets.com/event/285400
Tuesday 18 th November	Lambeth Amnesty meeting – 8pm Bread and Roses, Clapham
Thursday 4 th December	Southwark group Write for Rights – 42 Kennington Park Road, SE11 4RS, time tbc
Tuesday 9 th December	Lambeth Amnesty Carol Singing and Write for Rights greeting card campaign, full details tbc

Meeting Notes from Tuesday 21st October 2014 at Bread and Roses, Clapham

Present – Ros, Anita, Anna, Caroline, Rachel, Gareth, Eleanor

1. Carol Singing and Write for Rights

Anne-Marie is looking into booking Brixton Tube on Tuesday 9th December (5pm – 7pm). However, in case this is not possible, Gareth will also look into the possibilities of Waterloo Station and Streatham Tesco. He will also submit a registration form to the Metropolitan Police for a public place caroling license. If caroling cannot take place then the group will still hold the Write for Rights event and look into a way of raising money through this, potentially by selling Christmas cards. Ros will order the Write for Rights materials.

2. Campaign Update – Stop Torture

The group signed a letter to Local MP's Charles Tannock and Syed Kamall asking them to support Amnesty's calls to strengthen legislation and close all loopholes in the trade of goods that are used for torture, ill-treatment or the death penalty. This is soon to be debated by the Foreign Affairs (AFET) and International Trade Committees (INTA), proposing to amend Council Regulation 1236/2005 which is supposed to prohibit the trade of torture equipment.

3. Monthly Actions

Asylum Support – A call to contact your Local MP about increasing support for people seeking asylum. A cross-party Early Day Motion (EDM 99) calls on the Government to raise asylum support rates to at least 70% of Income Support. Please write to your local MP:

First, check on the parliament website to find out if your MP has signed EDM 99:

<http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/99>

☐ If your MP has not yet signed the EDM, please write to ask them to do so [see sample letter 1].

☐ If your MP has already signed the EDM, please write to thank them for doing this and ask them to

write to the Home Secretary and raise the issue with their party leader [see sample letter 2]. All the details can be found here: www.amnesty.org.uk/resources/groups-activity-pack-october-2014-call-asylum-support-be-increased

4. Urgent Actions

The group wrote urgent actions for imprisoned British Iranian student Ghoncheh Ghavami. The Southwark group are arranging for a Country Coordinator to give a talk and Ros will find out about the possibility of making this a joint event.

Staying in touch with Amnesty in London

There are numerous ways to find out about what Amnesty is doing in London:

- Lambeth Amnesty website: www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/lambeth
- London Amnesty website: www.london.amnesty.org.uk
- London Amnesty Google group (you can sign into this to get regular updates of events and opportunities for volunteering): <http://groups.google.com/group/amnesty-london-region>
- Amnesty UK website for events: www.amnesty.org.uk/events#.VCViaWddUmM

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be at 8pm on Tuesday 18th November 2014 at Bread and Roses, 68 Clapham Manor Street, London SW4 6DZ.

Gareth will give a talk about his time in Uganda at this meeting.

Usually, meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month.