



Amnesty International Reading Group NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2016

PROTECT THE HUMAN

We are ordinary people from across the world standing up for humanity and human rights. Our purpose is to protect individuals wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.

Recent Events and Meetings

Do look at our Facebook page, join our Facebook group or follow us on Twitter to keep in touch between newsletters.

Our new prisoner of conscience, Dr Mohamed Al-Roken from the UAE



Mohammed al-Roken, a human rights lawyer and long-time Amnesty member, is serving a 10-year prison sentence in the UAE, following his conviction on 2 July 2013 in a mass trial of government critics and reform activists.

Our group has already started campaigning for Mohamed.

Drawing attention to tourists who might be travelling to the UAE – are they aware of the human rights conditions? We will be campaigning outside travel agents and at travel exhibitions this Autumn and Spring.

In our September meeting, we signed a birthday card for Mohamed and took this solidarity picture to boost our campaigning.





Reading Pride – Saturday 3rd September, Kings Meadow.

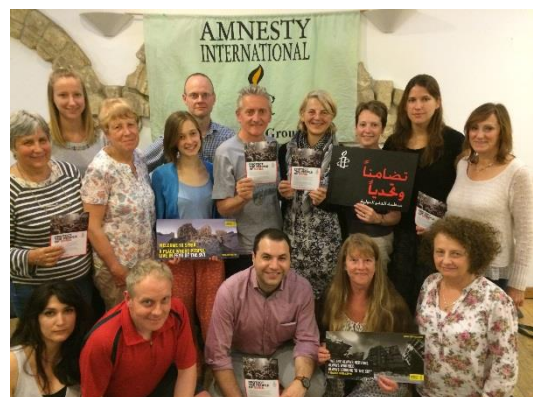
This year, we were campaigning for LGBTI rights in Tunisia, where it is illegal to be in a same sex relationship. We had a petition to the Prime Minister of Tunisia, for which we got 223 signatures. We have sent the photos to be added to a giant visual petition, raised £33.90 in donations and gained one new AI:UK member - and one sad gazebo due to too much wind! Pride goers were more than happy to sign the petition and have their photos taken to support.



Our event for this year’s Reading International Festival was focused on Syria

“Syria - through Syrian Eyes” was on *Thursday 27th October, RISC.*

Reading resident Wassim Al-Adel, a British-Syrian blogger and writer, spoke to a fascinated crowd. He shared his knowledge and personal experiences as well as his thoughts on the future.



Skills Share in London

Alice Coles spoke at Amnesty International skills in October for the skills share day in London about the work of Reading Refugee Support Group and City of Sanctuary on refugees.



September's group meeting

Kieran Aldred, AI:UK's advocacy officer, joined us for our September meeting to lead a great workshop on lobbying our MPs.



Andrea and Mario attended the #Refugees Welcome demo in London this Autumn.

Reading Group's Up Coming Events



From Beethoven and Bizet to Bebop

Friday 16th December, 7.30pm -The Chantry House, Henley-on-Thames - an evening of music in aid of Amnesty.

Come and join us for this wonderful event of music, mulled wine and mince pies. Presented by Syrinx (Katie Alcock flute, Rachel Porter oboe & cor anglais, Barbara Stuart clarinet, Ben Colyer horn, Bill Fox bassoon) with Andy Spiceley piano.

Tickets £13 Contact us at amnesty.reading@googlemail.com

Trek in Peru – May 2017



Calling all explorers!

Next May, travel to #Peru with #TeamAmnesty for a 10-day trek of a lifetime. Explore the Inca capital of Cusco, challenge yourself on a hike in the Peruvian Andes to #MachuPicchu, and meet #AmnestyInternational Peru. You'll even be trekking with Amnesty UK Director Kate Allen! Now there's an opportunity for some selfies your friends will actually be jealous of!

To book your place, visit www.amnesty.org.uk/perutrek or email team@amnesty.org.uk

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS – always 2nd Thursday of the month at 8pm at RISC, Reading
All are welcome, upstairs at RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading, RG1 4PS

- Thursday 10th November – group campaign updates and future planning
- Thursday 8th December – Write 4 Rights. Come and join us for Amnesty's annual greetings card campaign

Don't forget to keep up to date with our group's news, frequently updated with photos and updates:

- Website = <http://www2.amnesty.org.uk/groups/reading>
- Facebook page –search for Reading Amnesty International – Town Group = <http://www.facebook.com/groups/187525074719402>
- twitter = @amnestyreading

ALSO: We raise funds for Amnesty International, and can provide speakers about Amnesty and human rights issues for local organisations: contact our secretary Anne McFarlane, ammcf@btinternet.com
Amnesty Reading Newsletter editor Helen Ball- email: helenball03@yahoo.co.uk