



Norwich Amnesty Group

Open Meeting - 18 April 2012

Minutes

Chair: David Huband
Minutes: Debbie Campbell

Welcome

Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

Apologies

Received from: Leslie Phillips and Sue Mills

Minutes of Last Meeting

- **AGM Report on the Women's group:** Chair thanked Roz Cadwallader for her very full report to the AGM.
- **Alternative venue for meetings:** David Ford and Jim Massy still investigating other options.

AOB items

- Chair asked if there were any items to be brought up under AOB at this meeting - none raised.
- Chair asked that items for AOB could, as far as possible, be identified in advance of meetings so that they could be allocated enough time for discussion within the main agenda.

Campaigns

- **Children:**

Joanna Kinnaird reported that a Resolution had been passed at the recent AIUK AGM which agreed on the need to be more active on children's issues, and in particular to work on behalf of street children in Central and South America - with particular reference to Brazil where links could be made to the forthcoming football World Cup in 2014 and Olympics in 2016 which Brazil would be hosting.

AIUK AGM

David Huband (DH) and David Ford (DF) had attended on behalf of the group.

- DH reported that there had been very good speakers on Syria, Azerbaijan, and also on Zimbabwe by Jenni Williams, national coordinator of *Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA)*.
- DF reported on the *Individuals at Risk* workshop. Amnesty will, once again, be placing greater emphasis on individuals.
- DH reported that AI would be working on influencing the Arms Trade Treaty. It was important to put pressure on local MPs, giving weight to this by flagging up to them the numbers of people who signed the Amnesty petition.
- The AGM made special mention of the Norwich group for its fundraising during the past year (4th best in the country), and presented an award to David Ford for the Choirs for Amnesty project.
- AIUK's Treasurer gave a full, clear report.
 - It hadn't been a very good year for the UK Section (though doing better on fundraising than many other sections), and fundraising is static at present.
 - Fundraising using cold-calling is losing favour.
 - There was discussion on the charitable issues relating to Amnesty. If these could be resolved, there is potential for a saving of £1m but this would depend on constitutional change.

Group's Treasurer's Report - David Ford

DF reported that there is £2,392 in the group's bank account.

Monthly Action - Roz Cadwallader

This was for a Tamil student whose death in 2006 needs investigating to ensure justice.

The group decorated cut-outs of the figure '6' as representation of the 6 years since the death and 6 years of waiting for justice. Roz to use these as campaigning tool.

Notices

- Street Collection - Nicky Leech

This will be held on 12 May. A rota was handed round for members to sign themselves up to slots throughout the day.

- Shaker Amer - Becky Lawrence

BL reported that she had received replies from the local MP and from central government in response to her own letter. The response emphasised that the issue was largely out of the UK's control and so was not encouraging.

Events of Interest

The Chair informed the group of events which may be of interest to the group and Amnesty's work:

- United Nations Association (UNA): a series of talks given by invited speakers at the local UNA meetings
- UEA: series of talks (all beginning at 5.15pm, Lecture Theatre 2) on 17/24/31 May and 7 June. See UEA website for further details
- Aung San Suu Kyi has been invited to Oxford in June but will not commit until she can be sure of being allowed re-entry to Burma.

Planning for coming year - David Yates

The group discussed ideas for Fundraising, Campaigning, Awareness-Raising, Priorities. DY to draw up plan for next committee meeting. **ACTION: DY**

Urgent Action - Roz Cadwallader

Group members were alerted to two AI Urgent Actions.

Close of Meeting

- Chair thanked all for their attendance.
- Reminded the group that they were invited to stay on for a demonstration by Carl Grint of the *Mailchimp* software.
- Confirmed that the next meeting would include a talk by guest speaker, Evan Ruth, on '*Working for the UN Refugee Agency, and being a judge on the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal*'.

Mailchimp demonstration

- Carl Grint gave a demonstration of the capacity of the *Mailchimp* software and offered training to any members of the group who would like that.
- Concerns around data protection of members' details were raised; agreed would be discussed at next committee meeting.
ACTION DH

Next Meeting

- **Wednesday 16 May, 7.30pm: Charing Cross Centre**
- **Speaker: Evan Ruth on 'Working for the UN Refugee Agency, and being a judge on the Immigration & Asylum Tribunal'.**