Amnesty Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 10th September 2026

Minutes

Link to September meeting email here

1. **Welcome and apologies**
    a. Attendance: Frankie, Katya, Christine, Lauren, Neil, Carol, Claire, Cayden, Clara, Andrew, Ken, Paolo; online - Kirstie, Merle
    b. Apologies: /
2. **Agreement of previous meeting minutes link**

Guest Speaker: Chris Ramsey, AIUK Europe Coordinator on the current situation and Amnesty's work in Turkiye

- Advice to look at www.bianet.org/news for human rights news
- No UAs at the moment, but yes to solidarity actions e.g. Gezi 5.
- PPT link here (in our Gdrive): Human Rights in Turkey Sept 2026.pptx

3. **Team Updates** (list of roles here)**:**
    a. **Treasurer**
        i. Expenses: £ for Paolo for Meal / venue- ongoing; £ for taxi for Pride tbc; £ for stamps for July UAs tbc ; flyers (Clara)
        ii. Donations:
        iii. Balance: tbc
    b. **Social Media & website** (Lauren)
    c. **Comms - AIGW's monthly Newsletter -** Seeking ideas to improve the 'open' rate / make the monthly emails more attractive, e.g. survey / review wider group Comms
    d. **Regional/Country focus** (Clara) - Uyghur Campaign for August; how was the month ; Daytime stall ; London closing event?

Lovely message received from Emily, Co-China Country Coordinator

Dear Glasgow West,

I know that Clara has been keeping you up-to-date but I wanted to reach out directly to offer my heartfelt thanks to all of your for your material, creative, and moral support.

I am delighted to share that USM received exhibition space and that today, we installed your collaborative banner at SOAS University Library's Wolfson Gallery.

This is a really powerful display and draws into discussion advocacy for Ahmetjan alongside Mamatjan's artwork and other creative activism types.

Thank you for everything you've shared to make our campaign a success - from financially enabling me to survive after booking the perfect venue (!), for contributing this beautiful, playful, and meaningful banner, and for how you have amplified the messages we were trying to raise. I know that Mamatjan was incredibly touched by the end display - both for how his art was platformed and how his brother's case was raised. Many Uyghur people have been reaching out to express what this campaign means to them... It's such a tough time for Uyghur diaspora right now and this campaign you have contributed to brings such huge hope. Please thank your whole group for me.

e. **Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk (IAR)** (Ken - Türkiye)
f. Claire: will be away in October - who would like to Chair the meeting?
g. ***Not currently active: Theme Focus US Death Penalty***

4. **Updates from previous activities**
   - Pride Actions - petitions
     - 'Reading for Resistance': Andrew to look into Amnesty Queer Rights Network petition - and possibly wider book censorship issues / Is this a campaign our local Group might wish to prioritise involvement in? - **tbc**
     - BBC - Kirstie LGBTQI+ discourse in UK media - **posted**
     - Turkiye - Ken - **sent to Embassy**

5. **Updates from local groups (Daytime / Glasgow Uni / AIUK / Community Platform)**
   a. **Message from Daytime group:**
      i. I'm writing to inform you that the Daytime Group has written to Bob Doris MSP about the Scottish Human Rights Bill legislation asking him to support the commitment to bring forward this long-awaited Bill. Apart from the letter which we were encouraged to write by Amnesty Scotland, we have asked if we could meet with him in the autumn to discuss this matter. If a meeting is set up we wondered if any of the West Group would like to meet with him in his constituency office.
   b. **Message on Community Platform re. A Petition A Week newsletter:**
      i. My name is Oliver and I am a member of the Durham University and Colwyn Bay Amnesty groups. I have also founded, and currently run, the A Petition A Week newsletter, which has been going for almost a year now. Every Tuesday, everyone on the mailing list receives a petition – with an accompanying background – related to human rights in the United Kingdom and around the world straight into their inbox. There are now more than 100 subscribers and the initiative was featured in the Amnesty Local Group monthly mailings at the start of March. So far, there have been petition covering human rights issues in countries and terroritories as various as Palestine, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Hong Kong, Cambodia, as well as here in the United Kingdom. I understand that your members will likely already be signing lots of petitions and may be loath to receive more, but there will only be one email per week, with a petition that takes at most a minute or two to sign, and could be a great way to find out about human rights issues that are not usually covered, even among human rights groups. A full list of the petitions can be found here: **https://apetitionaweek.substack.com**. You can subscribe here: https://apetitionaweek.substack.com/subscribe

6. **Urgent Appeals**
   Three UAs were circulated and completed by those at the meeting.

7. **Updates from Scottish Activism Rep (Paolo) / Scotland-wide WhatsApp group chat**
   a. **Joint fundraiser walk/cycle Canal Glasgow** - ongoing, pls keep sharing! https://www.justgiving.com/page/scottishamnestygroups-canalwalk

b. **Berry picking fundraiser** - Perth Amnesty have a stall at Thomas Thomson's fruit farm in Blairgowrie where people can pick as many blueberries as they want & make a donation to Amnesty. Sunday 20th September - 9-12

c. **Scotland-wide Gathering** - Saturday September 26th, in Edinburgh 10.00am-5pm; agenda tbc, but we need to do a presentation on what we've done this past year.
   i. Any volunteers to make presentation?

d. **Scotland office template letters:**
https://www.amnesty.org.uk/about/uk-nations-and-regions/amnesty-in-scotland/our-latest-template-letters-for-activists-in-scotland/

e. **Liz from the Scotland Office is inviting a rep from our group to Parliament! Anyone fancy it?**
Please find attached an invitation to a parliamentary reception being hosted by Amnesty International's Scotland office and sponsored by Karen Adam MSP on Tuesday October 6th and 6pm.
We would be delighted if a representative of your local group could attend.
Please RSVP to myself by September 21st and include details of any dietary or accessibility requirements in your response.

Tackling Inequality by Advancing Rights
Sponsored by Karen Adam MSP
Tuesday October 6th, 6-8pm, Committee Room 3.

Amnesty International UK would like to invite you to an evening reception sponsored by Karen Adam MSP. This reception provides an opportunity for members to hear directly from human rights and community organisations about why a Human Rights Bill must be central to efforts to tackle poverty and inequality in Scotland.

The event will be hosted by Amnesty International with guest speakers from community led organisations across Scotland.

Please RSVP to: elizabeth.thomson@amnesty.org.uk by Monday September 21st

8. **Pride 2027 - what's our plan?**
   a. Draft: Dear Pride, 20.07.26 - commitment to ethical sponsors for 2027!
      i. All to review draft & approve next meeting
      ii. Saved here: Pride
   b. Suggestion: contact those who attended Pride this year to get a coalition of people asking for them to commit to ethical sponsors
      i. Commitment as a minimum to not take from the BDS list - add to their ethical guidelines

9. **Campaign Action suggestion:**
   a. **Feminist Network Exposing Glasgow's "Pregnancy Crisis Centres"**

10. **"Persuasive Conversation Activation Session"**

a. Persuasive Conversations Resources - would anyone like to go for a street wander to speak to strangers about the Human Rights Bill / human rights in Scotland?
    i. Scotland: Tell the First Minister it's time to deliver the Human Rights Bill: https://www.amnesty.org.uk/get-involved/take-action/sign-a-petition/scotland-tell-the-first-minister-its-time-to-deliver-the-human-rights-bill/

11. Glasgow West 2026 Planner.docx

- **Discussion/brainstorm:**
    - How can we get new active members?
    - How can we keep active members?
    - Any suggestions for the current/new role-holders on how to conduct their role?

AOB

Next meeting - Thurs 8th October 2026

Potential Speakers for 2026:

- [Refugee Action - potentially joint event with Daytime group - awaiting update from Graham in Daytime Group]
- Clara: journalist from Somalia - Clara to check his availability and if needs transport/accommodation
- Ebba: Palestinian researcher: https://sgsahblog.com/2025/01/27/activist-ethnography-in-palestine/
- [Amicus: after find out about Death Penalty network - admin@amicus-alj.org - Allan]