

AI Glasgow West Group Meeting Thurs 13th March 2025

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies

a. **Attendees:** Ailig, Paolo, Andrew, Neil, Carol, Claire, Kirstie, Clara Luca

a. **Apologies:** Mal, Cait, Merle & Mhairi

2. Agreement of previous meeting minutes [here](#)

3. Team Updates (list of roles [here](#)):

a. Treasurer (Kirstie)

i. The Stand Comedy Night

1. our current bank balance = £903

2. 1. £1,890 raised for AIUK Charitable Wing; £466 through raffle & collection tins. Plus £20 post-event - Thank you, Jean!

3. 2. Mal spent

4. £20 as a donation on social media advertising the event – Thank you, Mal!

ii. Fundraising: Paolo is running the Paris Marathon for Amnesty - pls share:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/paolo-grifa-humanrights>

- **Claire** to ask Cait/Mal to share on SM - see if we can tag national office

- **Andrew** to see if Scotland AI can share on national SM

b. Social Media & website (Mal/Cait)

- Update on Twitter/Bluesky discussion? <https://www.helloquitx.com/> - no update, both absent

c. Local Political Outreach

i. Paolo - invite Kaukab Stewart, MSP to come to a meeting (Neil Cowan suggested)

ii. invited - she's busy, maybe future meeting, but seems unlikely in short term

iii. we could look to have a collab with another org so be stronger

iv. one of us could go to a drop-in MP surgery

v. Indicated that there is likely to be a proposed Human Rights Bill in the SNP manifesto, but in an amended format from the previous proposal.

vi. Next steps i. **Paulo** email Neil Cowan w update - ask next tactics re. civil society pushing for it so SNP commit to it? & what other orgs we can link up with - open letter. Important to lobby across political parties, esp if likelihood of a coalition government.

vii. **Ailig** to let us know next Kaukab surgery drop-in. Our msg to her is we can help progress it, we care, how might we assist?

d. Regional/Country focus

i. **South East Asia/ Myanmar** (Mal) - absent, no update

ii. **Korea** (Clara) - no Korea update; June 4th Commemoration of Tiananmen Square - last year was in Edinburgh with HK group, this year maybe in Glasgow

e. **Theme focus - US Death penalty** - Mal to inform Death Penalty Network / follow up work on California - absent, no update

f. **Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update** (Cait - India BK16 - update held over from previous month) - absent, no update

4. Actions/updates from previous meeting Minutes:

b. **Seenaryo** (Lebanon) film screening - postponed till ~September

c. **Andrew** to link up Paolo with student amnesty group - done, but Paolo not managed to link up yet

d. **The Stand Comedy Night** - 150 tickets were sold, raising a total of £1,890 for AIUK's charitable trust. £369 in cash; £97 from card reader machine

. Save the date - Thurs 19th Feb 2026 for the next one!

5. Invite from Philippa (AI Local Groups Administrator – Community Organising):

Scotland has been identified as one of the three Office-led **AI Gatherings** 🎉 "We have been working with the **Perth** Group and in collaboration with the Perth Minority Group in organising the event in

early June 2025 (7th). We are now in the process of forming a Working group to collaborate on setting the agenda and programme for the event and would like to invite members of the Glasgow West Group to join the Working Group.

More info on the gatherings:

The Regional Gathering will foster connection by bringing together local Amnesty activists and like-minded communities to address pressing human rights issues. By building collective power, the gathering will expand the movement through meaningful engagement with communities beyond Amnesty, establishing impactful partnerships. Furthermore, it aims to reinvigorate regional action, inspiring and mobilising attendees to champion human rights campaigns with renewed energy and dedication.

- **Andrew** to let Philippa know no volunteers from our group but definitely interested in attending!

6. Glasgow Daytime group invite: Alex Jackson will be giving a presentation on Human Rights in Eritrea at our next meeting, Thursday 20 March at 13.00 - all welcome - at The Wee Retreat in the Southside

7. Activist Training:

- Activism Skills Training: How to Recruit New Members** - Tuesday, March 25 · 6 - 8pm GMT
- Campaign Effectiveness 101 Tickets, Sat, Mar 29, 2025 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite**

8. 2025 is Glasgow West AI group's 50th anniversary! - see Ideas doc [here](#).

- . Do we want to organise events to mark it? Ideas:
 - publicity in local press to help raise awareness of AI, recruit new members & raise funds
 - Historical Resources:
 1. Andrew received resources from former Group secretary, Brian Donnelly, who was active from the 1970s.
 2. Merle has a collection of carefully collated minutes and correspondence covering the period from the Group's founding in 1975 until 2002. This includes local press cuttings and information on the planning and events associated with our Freedom Festival, which was an art festival that took place in the city over several months in 1995.
 - ii. It was suggested to involve John Gerard & wife Margaret - previous members - Mal has contact details
 - iii. also Jill Young - Christine has contact details
- **Andrew** to link up with Daytime Group to do smthg together - hopefully speak at their March meeting

More ideas!

- Press articles over this year - **Andrew** to look at
- interview previous members - get into local press/SM
- Alexander Dakar painting of Chile football stadium
- Exhibition in a Library - Mitchell Library? Alec volunteered to ask Mitchell in the future
- Link in w film screening - e.g. "All Static and Noise" - Uighurs / "She's in Jail" - HK - no volunteers at meeting to look into this

NB after events are over: it was previously discussed that the Mitchell Library might be able to take our archive (thanks Merle for liaising with the library!) - Mitchell Library asked us to, firstly, confirm that neither AIUK nor AI Scotland Office wished to host the archive. AIUK responded to Andrew confirming they have no objection and

that they think the Mitchell Library is a good solution for depositing the archive. No response has been received from AI's Scotland Office regarding this. Andrew suggested we may wish to delay depositing the archive in the Mitchell in case we wish to utilise some of the historic information in publicity events to help raise awareness of the work of AI.

Urgent Appeals - Merle

1. [Ukraine/Russian Federation: Respect The Rights Of Injured Pow](#)
2. [Iran: Women's Rights Defender Resentenced To Death](#)
- [Kirstie got a return to sender from the Write for Rights Tunisia case](#)

AOB

Scottish Government are doing a review of grants given to companies who create armaments by Scottish Enterprise

AIUK Regional Organisers - Clara is advocating for Scotland to be one of the pilot regions

AIUK Local Group Updates – February link [here](#). Some of the items included in the Update are:-

- *Refugee Week will be celebrated from **June 16–22, 2025** with the theme “**Community as a Superpower**”, focusing on the power of community, collaboration, and shared humanity in the face of displacement.*
- *Country co-ordinator vacancies - The update lists a range of country co-ordinator volunteer positions that are open for application.*
- *AIUK is also recruiting for a number of regional co-ordinator vacancies, including a post for Scotland. Nomination deadline is April.*
- *New online courses - Gender Justice and Human Rights (online); Activism Skills Training: Digital Campaign Strategy (23rd Sept).*
- **5th/6th July - AIUK AGM** - new location Warwick Uni

AIUK Priority Campaigns [here](#); Amnesty [training courses](#): [Activist Education](#); & Updates from various local AI Groups across the UK