

Minutes

Link to August meeting email [here](#)

1. Welcome and apologies

- a. Attendance: Claire, Kirstie, Luca, Andrew, Merle, Paolo, Clara, Cayden (online)
- b. Apologies: Lauren, Debra and Ken

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

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
- ii. Donations: £50
- iii. Balance: £1,786 (no change from last month due to other amounts tbc)

b. Social Media & website (Lauren): promoting Uighurs campaign - ongoing

c. Regional/Country focus (Clara) - Uyghur Campaign for August; how was the Farmers' Market? Good engagement & conversations, esp w existing AIUK members; good to know - people glance at the sign and then walk past. For future: have something gimmicky/eye-catching

- i. Uyghur Vigil 18.08.26 - Clara to share information in Signal. Details and lin were also included in the email/newsletter for this month's meeting
- ii. SOAS Uyghur exhibition will include our Group's "mehr" cloth banner
- iii. Monday 31.08.26 - event to celebrate Uyghur culture in London, anniversary of UNHCR report. Overall Event cost is £400. Cultural celebration & bringing together of all the actions. Clara to share eventbrite & gofundme to help cover the costs in Signal.

- 1. Confirmed agreement for a £50 contribution from our AI Glasgow West group for the event

iv. Looking for more volunteers / newsletter

d. Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk (IAR) (Ken - Türkiye)

- i. Ken has received info about 5 IAR in Türkiye. Many HR issues in Türkiye
- ii. Türkiye Country Co-ordinator has offered to do a presentation for our group - online. We will invite them to our September meeting

e. *Not currently active: Theme Focus US Death Penalty*

4. Updates from previous activities

- How was Pride? (discuss next steps below!)
- Pride Actions - 3 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?
 - BBC - Kirstie LGBTQI+ discourse in UK media
 - Türkiye - Ken has recently agreed to take on an Amnesty role with regard to IARs in Türkiye. Will discuss this at future meeting, including link to Amnesty's Country Co-ordinator for Türkiye.
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- How was the Canal Walk?
 - Fun, over £1,000 raised so far! (more details below)

5. Updates from local groups (Daytime / Glasgow Uni / AIUK / [Community Platform](#))

- a. Daytime group: organising a day-long presentation in Partick Library on Saturday 22 August starting at 10.30am as part of the Uyghur campaign.
 - i. Do we have our group flyers we can give them?
 1. [Clara to send details to Claire](#)
 - ii. Who can deliver flyers/attend?

6. Urgent Appeals - Merle Three UAs were circulated and responses written, both online and via hard copy for posting.

7. Updates from Scottish Activism Rep (Paolo) / Scotland-wide WhatsApp group chat

- a. **Joint fundraiser walk/cycle Canal Glasgow**
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/scottishamnestygroups-canalwalk>
 - The closing date for the challenge is the end of October and you can take part any time between now and then, e.g. can do different legs on different weekends - if you do that, great to let everyone know when you will be doing it so others can join you.
 - Follow our progress! <https://amnestyscotlandwalk.netlify.app/>
 - Canal walk WhatsApp joining link for those interested - ask Claire
- 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. The stall dates and times are:
 Tuesday 1st September - 9-1.30
 Sunday 20th September - 9-12
- c. **Scotland-wide Gathering** - Saturday September 26th, in Edinburgh
 10.00am-5pm; agenda tbc
- 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/>

8. Pride 2027 - what's our plan?

- a. Pride Organisers admitted in a meeting with Claire and Paolo before the event that they accepted Coca Cola as a sponsor because they focus on how the companies treat their LGBTQ+ employees, rather than their focus on international relations
- b. We need unity. 2026 there were 3 Pride events!
- c. Draft: [Dear Pride, 20.07.26 - commitment to ethical sponsors for 2027!](#)
 - i. All to review draft & approve next meeting
 - ii. Saved here: [Pride](#)

- d. 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"** - people looked at the resources, no-one has capacity now; suggest at next meeting

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

- **AIGW's Newsletter** - Our monthly Newsletter, which is circulated by email (Mailchimp) shortly before each of our Group meetings is circulated to a current total of 211 subscribers. Data is available via Mailchimp indicating the number of recipients that 'open' the email. This will include those who only open it momentarily before closing again, those who read the full Newsletter and those in between. Analysis of the monthly data across the past twelve months indicates that the lowest 'open' rate was just 10% in March 2026, with the highest regular monthly newsletter being opened by 29% in February 2026. The average 'open email' rate across the past year is around 25%. Given the work involved in pulling together the monthly newsletter / email, we are looking to review how its content and impact could be improved. This might include:
 - Seeking ideas to improve the 'open' rate / make the monthly emails more attractive;
 - Possibly undertaking a short survey of the mailing list to seek views on how the newsletter could evolve, its content, frequency, etc;
 - Looking at the newsletter within the wider context of our Group's communications;
 - Consideration will be given to this over the coming months, In the meantime, any initial ideas / feedback on the monthly newsletter would be much appreciated by messaging the Group secretary at mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk

Next meeting - Thurs 10th September 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]