

Minutes

Link to February meeting email [here](#)

1. Welcome and apologies

- a. Attendance: Neil, Claire, Deborah, Clara, Andrew, Ken, Lucile, Emma, Ada, Paolo, Lauren, Mhairi, Merle
- b. Apologies: Kirstie, Carol, Pam

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

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

a. Treasurer

- i. postage from letters:
- ii. other expenditure:
- iii. donations:
- iv. current balance: £1,494

1. AIUK affiliation fee & church quarterly hire fee due soon

b. Social Media & website (Lauren):

- Thanks to Rob, our website has a new menu item called "campaigns". Paolo has created two pages, one about JCB and one for the Humans Rights manifesto. <https://www.glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk/campaigns/humanrightsscotland/>
- Twitter/Bluesky discussion: raised again with recent news of Grok images etc, more organisations leaving; Claire asked in the Amnesty Scotland WA chat to see if other local groups have come off Twitter
 - Only 1 Edinburgh group responded - they came off ~2 years ago
 - E.g Clyde College just came off it with the line "X (formerly Twitter), in its current form and editorial approach, is no longer aligned with the college's values and we will no longer use it for communications"
 - Arguments for / against → vote
 - Clara: China & East Asia team are coming off Twitter, increasing Insta presence
 - Agreed: There was unanimous agreement across the Group to no longer use Twitter / X. Lauren will post on the Group's Twitter that we will no longer use Twitter / X and will include in that message links to our alternative social media accounts,
- New Community Platform - looks great!

c. Regional/Country focus:

- i. China & East Asia: International Secretariat published a Press Release on North Korea (corruption / human rights) - Reports of N. Koreans embracing any aspect of S. Korean culture are being targeted by the regime. Clara to share in the chat for minutes
- ii. Uighurs Campaign in August, artistic campaign with 1 word - every day in August have 1 word on SM for people to learn. 21/08/26 - event

d. Local Political Outreach

- [A HUMAN RIGHTS MANIFESTO - Scotland 2026](#) - Published by AI Scotland office will be ready for May 2026 elections! Will launch in February
 - Scotland office is developing a toolkit for local groups - wait till next meeting
 - & when new MSPs elected - we should go and speak with them / send letters / invite to our meeting
 - Hustings?

Not currently active: Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk; Theme Focus US Death Penalty

4. Updates from local groups (Daytime / Glasgow Uni)

- a. Daytime Group: From February onwards the Daytime Group will meet on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm in Partick Library, 305 Dumbarton Rd, Partick, Glasgow

G11 6AB. Message from Graham, the Group's Chair - "Thank you for your support and help as we looked for a new venue."

- b. Edinburgh Central AIUK group: "We are having an open discussion (with any amnesty supporters) Monday 16th at 6pm on UK human rights and what we can do to defend them."

Hybrid - f2f: The Crannie, 9 Cranston Street (near Waverley Station) or on Zoom.

- Zoom link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77637311682?pwd=LOxo067Y9taWhBa0gpJMpnWp8IDLh1.1>

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

- a. **Training programme for members on how to campaign better/tools for activism** - 10 modules, v interactive - Paolo to share link in the Signal chat. Led by Ashraf, who will attend our next meeting.
- b. **Urgent Actions** - cut from new website. Lots of discussions around it - hopefully will be reinstated
- c. **Tuesday 17.02.26 7pm: online meeting with liaisons from all AIUK groups in Scotland** to catch up on current activities of each group. Ashraf will talk about Scottish elections and the political / activist training programme.
 - i. Who can attend? Please contact Paolo for the link - [maybe Andrew/Clara](#)
- d. Claire attended "**Group Planning Pack and Community Platform 2026**" meeting: Group Planning Pack 2026 is [here](#). Community Platform:
 - i. Group webpages on the AIUK website will contain the "About" for each Group and the Community Platform is where Group will post, blog and share about recent or upcoming events
 - 1. Abi.odell@amnesty.co.uk is happy to help us to move our website onto the platform.
 - 2. Can also keep our own website
<https://www.glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk/>
 - ii. Anyone who "follows" our group (on the platform) would be notified of any events we put on our webpage.
 - 1. Can also set "reminder" emails (like eventbrite)
 - iii. Hope is that we won't need to send out any emails from mail@ - would all be done through this platform.
 - 1. BUT that means everyone who has signed up to our mailing list would need to join the platform. "To continue to receive our updates, please join our platform"
BUT some people on our mailing list are "passive" readers - likely won't sign up to the platform - so maybe we want to keep doing the emails for the time being. There could also be an option to reduce to, say, quarterly in the future.
People don't have to be an AIUK member/UK-based to join the platform
- e. Reminder: midnight tonight (12.02.26) is the deadline for completing the **Earned Settlement Government Consultation** -
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/earned-settlement>
 - i. Amnesty Guide:
https://media.amnesty.org.uk/documents/Amnesty_International_UK_-_Guidance_Consultation_Response_-_A_Fairer_Pathway_t_7hsH4ns.pdf
- f. We sent in our **JCB petition** to Glasgow Council, but Gabriel from Dundee has made a new one - if anyone wants to send it in email form (good links in it) - it's [here](#).

- i. Would anyone like to send this in / lead on being JCB-Council contact?

1. Paolo can update the website with the new letter

6. Actions/updates from previous meeting

- a. **Re AI Scotland manifesto** - Paolo - did Liz reply to our qs re. Is this the first in a series of launch events re. the manifesto / Should we as a group come / e.g. do a petition / & did you tell her we feel there should be more communication between us / Ashraf / Amnesty Scotland office
 - i. Confirmed the initiative that Amnesty Scotland was involved in was led by another organisation
 - ii. Toolkit will be first step to work together

7. Our Stand gig: **Thurs 19 Feb 2026, doors 7pm show 8pm, duration 2hrs**

- a. [Benefit in aid of Amnesty International - The Stand Comedy Club](#)
- b. NB new venue cap 200 cabaret style (or can increase to 250 theatre style)
- c. 18+, ticket price £13/11 ; as of 11.02, only 45 tickets sold!
- d. Who can come? Carol, Kirstie, Claire, Paolo, Lauren, Andrew

Pre-event tasks:

- Contact press: ??
- Share on SM: Lauren
- Take materials from the hall (AI banner, posters, badges, leaflets re. Manifesto ; group flyers), [raffle proceeds poster](#), raffle books, collection tins:
- Prizes (*e.g. candles / alcohol (champagne/whisky/wine/gin ' box of chocs; more basic gifts can be grouped into gift bags (e.g. bath sets)*): Neil, Andrew, Claire
- **6.45pm arrive:** Clara, Ken, Debra, Andrew, Lauren, Claire
- **Sell tickets:** NB prices - £2 for 1 strip; £5 for 3 strips. (N.B. Do not detach individual tickets from strips!)
 - **money collected:** sellers to give funds raised from raffle to Kirstie
 - Mhairi, Lauren, Clara, Debra

Photographs / Social Media:

- Photo consent: Stand manager announces that photos are being taken (make sure he does/we do)
- take photographs at the event for use in publicity: Paolo

AI Input on the night - Lead: Ashraf. Tasks:

- liaising with the host and asking them to lead the raffle
- providing a brief overview of the work of AI during the interval
- thanking The Stand, the performers and others giving freely of their time
- liaising with the host on buying the performers a drink ([Treasurer](#)) to reimburse cost

Follow-up:

- Andrew to write a short article for the AIUK Local Groups Update on the Fundraiser and include photos. (Funds Raised - Once the final total raised for AIUK Charity is notified by The Stand, AIUK arranges re. invoice)
 - Line-up: Fred Macaulay headlining
 - Pay for ads to boost sales

8. Review of 2025 & thanks to past & current role-holders.

9. AGM ([Team Roles](#))

NB one of Amnesty's (and our group's) goals is to form new leaders in this field - please ask/step up if you'd like to be mentored/coached this year to be able to take on a role next year. You can be "apprentice" or "vice" this year. Remember you can then add this to your CV/ask for a reference!

- a. Chair / Vice-Chair (could include e.g. alternating Meeting Chairs) - Claire, Clara
- b. Secretary / Vice-Secretary - Andrew, Luca to assist (after May)
- c. Treasurer / Vice-Secretary - Kirstie
- d. Social Media Coordinator; Content Creator - Lauren
- e. Urgent Actions - Merle
- f. PoC (IAR) Lead - Mhairi
- g. Country/Region Lead
- h. Action Days / Events / Campaigns Coordinator
- i. Amnesty Group Liaison - Paolo
- j. Welfare and Diversity Coordinator - vacant
- k. Political Outreach Coordinator - vacant
- l. Community Outreach Coordinator - vacant
- m. Press Coordinator - vacant

10.2026 Plan for the year ahead - [Glasgow West 2026 Planner.docx](#)

11. Discussion/brainstorm:

- a. How can we get new active members?
- b. How can we keep active members?
- c. Any suggestions for the current/new role-holders on how to conduct their role?

12. Urgent Appeals - Merle # of letters written during meeting: [] Tally for the year: []

13. Meal! Review [Community Meal Sunday 22.03.26](#) & sign up to roles

- a. Main qs:
 - i. confirm target audience: [people who are interested in human rights / Palestine](#)
 - ii. volunteer to put on eventbrite - [Claire](#)
 - iii. volunteer to email contacts (v overachieving list here! [Local organisations / stakeholders](#)) - [Luca, Ken](#)
 - iv. Agree: Screen, mic, speakers - loan theirs ~£100
 - v. Need: 5/6 "stewards" - Mhairi, Clara, Andrew, Lucile, Emma, others
 - vi. Time: 10am set up, 11.30am-12.30pm Speakers; Lunch 12.30pm-2pm; Mingle 2pm-3pm.
 - vii. Musicians - Paolo will look into
 - viii. Raffle: yes - We need to buy more tickets
 - ix. Action from Amnesty - Pip; JCB petition

14. Claire can't attend next meeting - anyone to Chair? → [Clara](#)

AOB

- [27.02.26: deadline for AIUK AGM resolutions - does our group want to co-propose resolution on independent review into AIUK finances? - agreed YES, Clara to liaise with other groups](#)
- Did you know you can support Amnesty International UK by taking on a challenge event? From running, cycling, swimming to trekking, there's something for everyone, [have a look and see if there's anything you fancy taking on in 2026!](#)

AIUK Local Group Updates (*none received*)

Next meeting - Thurs 12th March 2026 - Guest Speaker Ashraf re. AIUK local group campaigning

Future Meeting

- Suggestion: MSP candidate hustings (April 1st = candidate announcement deadline)

Potential Speakers for 2026:

- [*Waiting*: Refugee Action - potentially with Daytime group]
- Clara: journalist from Somalia - Clara to check his availability and if needs transport/accommodation
- Paulo: law professor re. UK supreme court ruling that affects trans rights.
- AIUK Equality Network speaker - Ailig to look into - how to have conversations w family and friends
- Ebba: Palestinian researcher: <https://sgsahblog.com/2025/01/27/activist-ethnography-in-palestine/>
- Refugees at Home - have contacted us to ask if we'd like a speaker
- [Amicus: after find out about Death Penalty network - admin@amicus-alj.org - Allan]