

Minutes

1. Welcome and apologies (*introductions round table*)

Attending: Claire (Chair), Caitlin, Mal, Mhairi, Neil, Kirstie, Christine, Lucca, Clara and Andrew.

Also Attending: Sara, Freedom From Torture (FFT). (*For initial part of meeting only*)

Apologies: Tim and Carol.

2. Guest speaker/card-seller: Sara from Freedom from Torture

Sara from FFT spoke about the background of the organisation, it's roots having grown out of Amnesty and about the work it does to provide medical and other practical support to victims of torture, including assisting with asylum claims. Sara had brought along a mix of Xmas cards, calendars and prints, which members bought to help raise funds for FFT. Sara also reported that FFT's recent Comedy Fundraiser had been successful. A number of our Group had attended that. event.

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

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

a. Treasurer (Kirstie)

1. rent paid till March 2025
2. 2nd key for Church door got - thanks Kirstie
3. Balance: £523.09
4. Online banking set up

a. Social Media & website (Mal/Cait) - [pls follow & share](#)

b. Local Political Outreach (Neil) - [no update](#)

c. Regional/ Country focus – South East Asia/ Myanmar (Mal) - [no update](#); Korea (Clara) - [see below](#)

d. Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk Update (Han) / (Cait)

1. NB from Claire's meeting w Thea:

The IAR is smaller than before and stretched. Suggestion:

1. If someone wants to focus on a country, link up directly with Country Coordinator to get a case from that country. NB country coordinators work with Amnesty International so have more info than the IAR team.
2. If someone wants to focus on a theme, link up with the AIUK networks. These have been given more autonomy from central AI and are v proactive.
 1. The most active current networks are death penalty network, feminist network and anti-racism network.
 2. There is also the children's human rights network and trade union network (less active)
 3. There is also the rainbow network (in the process of re-forming – will be ready Jan hopefully) and the disabled people's human rights network [formed 2024, more fluid, no specific committee/campaign]
3. Cait requests support for BK16 action
 1. Kirstie wrote a letter, which was signed by members of our group and which will be sent to the Indian Govt
 2. Cait to prep letter to send prisoners directly - contact Cherry / look at W4R booklet
 3. Suggestion: research local UK politicians

5. Actions from previous meeting Minutes:

- a. Continuing action: emailing MPs asking them to sign [EDM](#) on Balochistan.

- b. Reminder: our group's AGM takes place in January. Please can people start considering roles (see list [here](#)) and ask current role holders for more info on the role responsibilities if you are at all interested!
- c. *For people to start thinking about:* Planning for Comedy Night fundraiser at The Stand Comedy Club - Thursday 20th February 2024 - Doors open 7pm / Starts 8pm / Ends 10pm. see planning doc [here](#)
Event link is now live!
<https://www.thestand.co.uk/performance/18996/benefit-in-aid-of-amnesty-international/20250220/glasgow>
w
Tickets: £13 / £11
 - [Cait to update flyer and share for people to print and put up around town!](#)
 - [All to save the date in diary if possible](#)
- d. Korea / disability rights - Clara/Cait; 3rd December is the [UN's International Day of People with Disabilities](#)
 - [Petition will be shared soon](#)
- e. Mitchell Library might be able to take our archive (thanks Merle!) - Mitchell Library asked us to, firstly, confirm that neither AIUK nor AI Scotland Office wished to host the archive.
 - [AIUK responded to Andrew confirmed 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.](#)
- f. FfT benefit at The Stand (20.10) - [great night!](#) / Alaa Abdel Fattah's book event (22.10.24) - [no-one was able to attend.](#) / All Static and Noise screening in Edinburgh (3.11.24) - [Luca went; good discussion w director after the film](#)
- g. AI Scotland office online meeting (initially scheduled for 30.Oct) - postponed till 27 Nov at 6.30pm:
<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/8c8386de-1005-423f-ad70-b4db9a27d33c@25090f06-e2b2-4802-8601-d6872d95aeed>
- h. Claire met Thea (Local Activism Team) as part of AIUK "Local Group Audit" - meeting minutes [here](#). Follow-up survey [here](#) (request to pls complete by mid-Nov/asap)
 - see note above re. IAR
 - Asked re. merch from central office/discounts on shop. Thea says she's talking w the shop about this; loads of tshirts she can send us (helps her because is clearing out London office)
 - Suggestion: email Marie Jackson (scotland@amnesty.org.uk) from AI Scotland office as they have loads of stock, including "Scottish human rights" stickers
- h. **Neil Cowan (Programme Director for Scotland Amnesty) confirmed for Jan meeting (09.01.24)**
 - [Andrew emailed Neil to ask if he had a preferred topic focus, but no response received yet.](#)
 - [Andrew will email Daytime and Uni groups to invite them nearer the time.](#)
- i. **[Seenaryo](#) film screening:** Mhairi update
 - [See minutes from previous meeting for other ideas, including the offer of a venue and assistance to screen at Glasgow University from Omar, with preferred dates specified in order to maximise attendance!](#)
 - [Volunteers: Cait, Clara \(re. uni contact\), Mal \(general\)](#)
 - [Our group could put a contribution towards venue payment - Mhairi to speak to GFT and see](#)
 - [Other venue idea - Arlington Baths, which has a monthly film screening. Holds c.100. Mhairi may wish to contact the secretary of the film club to discuss.](#)

j. **US Death penalty** - agreement over which US state to adopt? - Wyoming, Alabama, Texas, Georgia, California ---> **California** voted for → Mal to inform Death Penalty Network - Cait/Christine/Mhairi to support Mal

6. **2024 Write for Rights Campaign** - confirm roles/take merch home

1. Sunday 8.12.24 - Hillhead Library & on the same day "Sunday Assembly" organisation
 1. Omar offered 2/3 uni students to support!
 2. All members: encouraged to email organisations with specific cases e.g. environmental case (Vietnam) share w Green party / artists / musicians / lawyers
 1. ask them to let us know how many have been sent - → add to our tally
 3. Andrew had contacted AIUK asking for 12 booklets & posters
 4. Mal to create QR code poster for people to sign up to AIUK; Kirstie to make "business cards" for the group

Sunday Assembly at Partickhill bowling club in Partick: slot 11am-12pm; Kirstie organising materials & introduction with Carol; expected ~10-30 people - **no more vols needed**

Hillhead Library: 12pm-4pm - Kirstie liaising with library. Suggestion to make poster for the library so visitors to the new Hillhead market see it. Rota needed so 2 at the stall

12-1 Andrew, Mhairi, Mal

1-2 Merle and Christine

2-3 Neil, Cait

3-4 Neil, Kirstie ; NB to take photos of the stall for Chinese W4R for Clara & Claire whole day

2. NB Daytime Group Write for Rights event = Saturday 7 Dec 10.30am - 3pm in Langside Library, Sinclair Drive, Glasgow. Pls go along to support if you can.

Cards - all to check if have

7. **St Andrew's Day, Sunday 30th November 2024 - anti-racism event** organised by Stand-Up To Racism and the STUC - <https://www.stuc.org.uk/st-andrews-day-2024/>
10.30am Glasgow Green - march at 11am - rally at 12pm in the city centre

8. *[Longer-term idea for people to start thinking about]*

2025 will be Glasgow West group's 50th anniversary!

1. Do we want to do an event to mark it? Ideas:
 - publicity in local press to help raise awareness of AI & recruit new members & raise funds
 - Resources:
 1. Andrew obtained resources from widow of former Group secretary, Brian Donnelly, who was active from the 1970s, which are in our space in the church hall cupboard.
 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.
2. Involve John Gerard & wife Margaret - previous member - Mal has contact

9. **Urgent Appeals** - Merle passed a number of UA cases to Christine, who distributed them amongst the Group.

10. **AI Scotland office has started sharing a "AI Scotland Bulletin"!** Link [here](#)

"From now on, AI members will receive regular updates about:

- *the day-to-day work we're doing to uphold human rights across Scotland*
- *events we're excited about that you might find interesting"*

- *the actions you can take to amplify our work in Scotland*

11. AIUK Local Group Updates – October link [here](#)

- AIUK pilot Small Grants Programme for supporting local organisations involved in human rights activities. ~10-15 grants ranging from £3,000 to £4,000, for activity set to start in January 2025. Colleagues asked to consider and forward the information to any relevant groups.
- Thea is stepping down as Community Organiser Local Activism on 18.12.24. We will miss her collaborative support and fast replies to emails. Thank you Thea!
- Demand the UK suspend all arms transfers to Israel now - petition [here](#)
 - Write to your MP - [General Letter; Lib Dem, SNP, Greens Letter; Sinn Féin Letter](#)
- [Protect UK nationals arbitrarily detained abroad](#)
- [Amplify Human Rights Festival](#) - 7 December 2024, Woolwich Works, London, SE18 6HD
- **AIUK 2024 Priority Campaigns [here](#); Amnesty [training courses](#): [Activist Education](#); & Updates from various local AI Groups across the UK**

Other interesting articles/news shared in the past month in our Signal chat (open to all members, contact mail@glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk to join!): [Thank you for demanding Sasha's release](#)

Next meeting – Thurs 12th December 7.30pm - 9pm - **mulled wine & cake!**