

Agenda

Link to December meeting email [here](#)

1. Welcome and apologies

- a. Attendance: [Ken, Neil, Freya, Merle, Christine, Claire, Andrew, Clara, Paolo, Kirstie and Carol.](#)
- a. Apologies: [Lauren and Mhairi](#)

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

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

a. Treasurer

- i. postage from letters: [£15.34](#)
- ii. other expenditure: [£14.51 on cards](#)
- iii. donations: [Calder High School collection tins - dropped off at the church \(Post-meeting update from Kirstie on our Signal Group - the tins contained £41,50. Kirstie will write to the school to thank them\).](#)
- iv. current balance: [£1,316](#)

b. Social Media & website (Lauren):

- Twitter/Bluesky discussion [agreed not urgent until AIUK moves]; Claire asked in the Amnesty Scotland WA chat to see if other local groups have come off Twitter

c. 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
 - [Ashraf is looking for volunteers to help in building this manifesto and bringing it to political activism in different target constituencies in Glasgow](#)
- On pause until more capacity: Paolo's HR Bill leaflet (see [here](#)) for Feb '26 hustings; confirm for website. Paolo to update website (<https://www.glasgowwestamnesty.org.uk/>) with AIUK resources & share webpage in Signal chat.
- d. *Not currently active: Regional/Country focus; Prisoner of Conscience/Individual At Risk; Theme Focus US Death Penalty* NB Paul Bridges is the lead on Anti-Death Penalty Project: Paul.Bridges@amnesty.org.uk - no takers as yet, let's remove from agenda.

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

- a. [Daytime Group Write for Rights 6.12.25 at Pollokshields Library](#)
- a. [Daytime Group: having to leave the Wee Retreat because of now being charged by venue £30/hour - any ideas of cheap venues? \(For comparison, our group currently pays £14/hour for use of the church hall\)](#)

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

- a. **Perth Group:** proposed Kashmir Forum - looking for people who would be interested in getting involved, particularly those with family ties to Kashmir. *The idea of a forum came from discussions with Perth Minorities Association(PMA) and Cherry Bird (AI India Coordinator). We know from attendance at the Iftar that we hosted last year together with PMA there seems to be a significant community in Glasgow who have family connections to Kashmir and which may be interested in getting involved in actions designed to address the human rights situation there. If you have any contact with this community pls spread the word about this forum & put them in touch with us.* Info to share:

Kashmir Forum

Following a successful Iftar which we held in 2024 together with Perth

Minorities Association(PMA) we have developed a close working relationship with them on human rights issues. The focus of our work so far has been on Kashmir where some PMA members have family ties and where human rights are under threat. We have recently held online discussions with Cherry Bird, one of Amnesty's country coordinators who has a keen interest on the Kashmir situation, a leading member of PMA, and a Kashmir based human rights activist. The aim is to develop a forum with the purpose of raising awareness about the human rights situation in both the Indian and Pakistan administered regions of Kashmir and to develop actions that reinforce and complement Amnesty's Kashmir campaign.

Membership: We are keen to widen the membership of this forum and it would be great to hear from anyone who would like to take part, but particularly from people who have family ties to Kashmir.

For more information please contact: Barrie Rutherford, Perth Amnesty Group, j.rutherford725@btinternet.com

6. Actions/updates from previous meeting:

- b. Did anyone attend the **AIUK training sessions on [A Guide to Direct Action](#)**? - no!
- c. Tree planting: Friday 21st November - [beautiful poem, thanks Carol; beautiful plaque, thank you Paolo and Andrew! Thanks Andrew for sending out Press Release on our 50th anniversary events & to Local Updates / Amnesty letter](#)

7. Urgent Appeals - Merle # of letters written during meeting: [] (to beat: 15!)

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

- a. **Write for Rights:** Hillhead Library 12-4pm Sunday 14th December.
- a. Thanks to Kirstie for sending out a Press Release! [Press Release: Amnesty International Glasgow groups Write for Rights press release 25.11.25](#)
- b. Note that Kyrgyzstan case (Journalist Makhabat Tazhibek-kyzy) has been withdrawn from W4R due to a deteriorating political situation in the country. Cross out this case from the W4R booklets and do not write any cards for it.
- c. NB pack of Refugees at Home materials for table at the W4R event (To encourage people to consider hosting a refugee in their home)
- d. Kirstie and Carol will, once again, set up a Write for Rights session at the Sunday Assembly meeting in the West End of Glasgow. This will also be on 14th December, taking place prior to our main W4R event at Hillhead library.
- e. Rota for Hillhead library:
 - i. 12pm-1pm (set up, needs car): Merle, Christine
 - ii. 1pm-2pm: Neil, Claire
 - iii. 2pm-3pm: Claire
 - iv. 3pm-4pm: (pack up, needs car): Kirstie
 - 1. Also Sunday Assembly that day - Carol & Kirstie - 11am-1pm
 - 2. NB take JCB petition <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jcb>. → submit to Council

9. Meal! Paolo to check 22nd and 29th March 10am-3pm - total **£500 for venue (room & kitchen) - deposit of £125 hall and kitchen deposit of £250 = £375 deposit (10am-3pm) - by 28.12.25**

- 1. Or without kitchen = £200 less

- i. Budget: ~£1000-£1,500
 - ii. To discuss: do we want to break even / make a profit / accept a loss?
 1. Venue: Woodside Halls, in Maryhill - 120 people max; tables & chairs there ; mic & sound system
 2. Food:
 - a. Palestinian caterer (PalCafe <https://palcafe.org/>), buffet, prepared in advance and warmed up in the kitchen - expect ~£5 per person
 - b. OR professional caterer, but then we'll need to serve
→ ticket price tbc??
 - could do PWYC on eventbrite invite with labels e.g. "concession" / "cover costs" / "solidarity [pay for 1.5 meals]" / "additional donation" - starting at £0 so that people who can't afford (or aren't comfortable with online banking) can come. We can have donation tins at the venue to help recoup some of the costs.
OR just free ticket on eventbrite and people PWYC on the door? (easier than linking eventbrite up w a bank acc and maybe simpler for people). Could use card reader so people can pay by card/cash?
 - iii. Target audience / number of invites: activists, supporters & their families OR open event for all /community meal to provide people with hot food during winter time
 - iv. Entertainment:
 1. Exhibition (same as at Civic Reception)
 2. Speakers
 3. Musicians?
- NB running costs for the year (Pride march / website / postage / church hall / AI affiliation) = ~£1000, the Stand raffle raises ~£500 for our Group. Current balance = £1,316.
 - Could we do the meal as a fundraiser? Present it as a fundraiser? Prepare it like a proper event.
 - Could push it to summer? So not so close to The Stand
 - Kirsty will talk to PalCafe people
 - The event could be a collaboration with PalCafe, meaning some of any funds raised after costs could be shared with them
 - That amazing Palestinian woman who was at the Perth gathering - Clara will ask Jack for contact - could invite Jack?
 - Sunday 22nd or, Sunday 29th March as potential dates?
(Post-meeting update - Paolo confirmed on our Signal Group there is availability on 22nd March)
 - Do it as a campaign event - agreed that this would give teh community meal more of a focus.
 - Need to cover the cost

10. Our Stand gig for next year is already confirmed: **Thurs 19 Feb 2026, doors 7pm show 8pm, duration 2hrs** - plan in January!

- a. [Benefit in aid of Amnesty International - The Stand Comedy Club](#)
- a. NB new venue cap 200 cabaret style (or can increase to 250 theatre style)
- b. 18+, ticket price £13/11

- Petition about asylum accommodation in army barracks:
<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/stop-accommodation-centres>

AIUK Local Group Updates – December [link](#)

(As always, the latest Local Groups' Update link is also included in the monthly newsletter that is sent out to our mailing list via Mailchimp)

- "Netanyahu Wanted by ICC" posters - available to order. Do we want to order to put up around town?
 - There isn't any action e.g. petition, etc. Instead, the action would be whether any of our local activists would want to put up posters within the community.
 - [The group decided not to take this forward at the present time](#)
- 2 webinars to enable AIUK's activists to ask questions and receive further information about AIUK's current financial outlook and the steps we need to take to return to a balanced budget.
 - Tuesday 16 December 2025, 7pm – 8.30pm. To register for this event, please go to:
 - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1976718103058?aff=oddttdtcreator>
 - Wednesday 21 January 7.30pm – 8.30pm. To register for this event, please go to:
 - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/1976732382769?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Next meeting - Thurs 8th January 2026 (*Apologies submitted from Andrew*) - **AGM?**

As before:

- **Petition:** [Last year was the deadliest year for journalists. Add your voice to defend press freedom.](#)
- **Ban Israeli Settlement Goods Campaign Pack** - [here](#), general info [here](#), launch presentation [here](#) - calling on the UK Government to end its trade and business complicity in illegal Israeli settlements, and to hold Israel accountable for its violations of international law in Gaza and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
 - Does anyone want to take a lead on this? Getting us:
 - engaged with MPs ; form coalitions with local Palestine Solidarity Campaign branch ; Organise community Apartheid-Free Meal
 - Resource - forward any replies from MPs to Amika (Amika.George@amnesty.org.uk)
 - [2 template letters to MPs](#)
 - [the template Press Release for an Apartheid-Free Meal](#)
 - local procurement ask to councillors [here are the materials](#)

11. Potential Speakers for 2026:

- [Waiting: Refugee Action - which is being organised by Daytime group per discussion with them in Sept]
- 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]

12. Local [Groups Planning Pack 2025](#) from central AIUK, [Calendars](#) with key events/trainings.