

FUNDRAISING UPDATE



February 2023

This month's local group fundraising update focuses on an account of an amazing fundraising event organised by the Silsden group that raised an incredible £1,000! Rather than try and do it justice ourselves, we invited them to do a write-up. Read on for a first-hand account of how to organise a brand-new fundraiser as a local group. We also have a reminder for those of you who are yet to complete their financial return forms or contribute to the local group appeal for our work promoting human rights in Ukraine.

How to Organise a Fundraising Ceilidh

Recently the Silsden Amnesty Group held their first ever fundraising ceilidh fundraising evening. It was a great success raising around £1000 for Amnesty International UK so we asked the group to tell us how they did it. Read on for a first-hand account of how to organise your own fundraising ceilidh:

We are a small group with 12 active members and this year decided to be more adventurous with our fundraising events and chose to organise a ceilidh evening. The following is a breakdown of how we attempted this, and we all had tasks to take on board:



Dancers at a ceilidh organised by the Church Stretton Amnesty Group in 2015

Venue: *one member had connections with the local Town Hall and negotiated a date and price, the legal requirements, capacity, times available prior to set up and clear away after the event.*

Band: *a local ceilidh band known to one of our members very kindly offered to play for free as it was an Amnesty event.*

Advertising: *our artistic member of the group designed the tickets and flyers and organised the printing. Tickets were available at the local newsagents and at the town hall, we also sold tickets to friends and relatives, and our neighbouring Wharfdale group also helped with ticket sales. They were priced at £12 and £6 for children and young people in education. We decided on tickets only as we were limited to 100 dancers in the hall and didn't want to turn anyone away at the door. One member of the group took on the task of coordinating the ticket sales.*

Raffle: *local shops/ businesses/ restaurants were approached, and some vouchers were donated as prizes. Group members also donated prizes. Two members encouraged the ticket sales on the night and the raffle alone raised around £250.*

GET IN TOUCH: fundraise@amnesty.org.uk / 020 7033 1650

We are committed to the highest standards in fundraising.
Read our promise to you: [amnesty.org.uk/promise](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/promise)



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Food: several group members in the helped organise the food negotiating the price of over 100 pork/cheese and onion pies at a local butchers, estimating how many packs of frozen mushy peas and mint sauce would be necessary, the purchase of tin foil dishes, cutlery, bin bags and paper towels. We had the use of the kitchen to warm food and then distribute it.

Announcements: one member was in charge of announcements, introductions, fire reg, plan for the evening and relevant thank yous etc...

Door: two people manned a desk at the door. As folk arrived they were asked if they were vegetarian and if so were handed a small piece of paper with V on. This was to ensure that non vegetarians didn't choose the veggie option as we didn't want to run out of those.

Bar: the Town Hall volunteers ran the bar and took the profit. We were happy with this as none of our group fancied attempting to pull a pint!

Some of our neighbouring Wharfedale Amnesty group also came along to help out on the evening. The ceilidh evening was a great success with lots of positive feedback and an excellent fundraiser. An article was sent to our local newspaper covering the event and promoting the Silsden Amnesty group.

Local Group Ukraine Appeal – Deadline for Contributions 31/03

For the past six months we've been asking local groups to contribute directly to our work promoting human rights in Ukraine. This appeal was in response to the shocking Russia invasion and subsequent human rights crisis. Sadly, a year on, the conflict shows no signs of ending and human rights abuses continue to be a part of it. By contributing to our appeal, you can help Amnesty International expose crimes against humanity and promote human rights in Ukraine. The appeal will close at the **end of March** so if you plan on contributing, please do so soon!

[Read more about our Ukraine Appeal and how you can get involved](#)

[Download a Donation Form for our Ukraine Appeal](#)

Local Group Financial Return Form

We ask all groups to fill out a Financial Return Forms to help give us an idea of the financial health of groups and how best we can support them. Thank you to everyone who has filled out one of these forms already. For those that haven't, you can request a hardcopy by contacting us using the details below or you can use one of the links below to access the form online.

[Download a PDF of the Financial Return Form](#)

[Follow this link to fill out a digital version of the form](#)

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