**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH GROUP**

**Group Monthly Meeting**

**Tuesday 12th November 2024, 7:30pm – 9:00pm**

**Location: Crypt at St Margaret’s Church, Lee Terrace, London SE13 5DL**

1. Present: David Wi, Anne , Graham, Angela, Anita, Tatum , Brigitte, Amanda, Illon((a
2. Apologies: ?
3. Fundraising event 2025. (Graham, Brigitte, All)

* Date: Friday 30th May 2025
* Angela, Graham, Brigitte meeting with James at John Ball school about the sound system and seating
* Sound system: further discussion needed about wattage (given since) and number of mikes needed by the band

Seatuing: tiered seating at the back questionable as to suitability for older people and crowding.

Illona offered to contact Thomas Tallis school as an alternative

1. AIUK’s Amplify Human Rights Festival (Brigitte, All)
   * Date: Saturday 7th December 2025
   * Time: 11am to 5pm
   * Location: Woolwich Works, The Fireworks Factory, 11 No 1 St, Royal Arsenal, London SE18 6HD
   * Tickets free for guests
   * Display: Meeting at Brigitte’s on Dec 1st , 2pm to design and make the display for Write for Rights table.
   * To attend: David W, Rachel, Anita, Tatum, Illona
   * Volunteers on the Day: Anne morning, David W (morning), David WW all day, Rachel all day, Tatum morning, Brigitte all day
   * Anne to inquire about setting up times and parking

Country/regional campaigns – updates from Country Contacts: |IRAN: Graham:

The Iran October 2024 Newsletter contained two urgent actions:

1. Iranian authorities plan to execute 21-year-old Mohammad Reza Azizi, who was 17 years old at the time of the offense. He is being held in Adel Abad prison in Shiraz, Fars province. A letter will be prepared for November letter writing.
2. Five men who are at imminent risk of having their fingers amputated by the Iranian authorities at central Urumieh prison in West Azerbaijan province. Their names are Hadi Rostami, Kasra Karami, Mehdi Shahivand, Mehdi Sharifian and Morteza Esmaeilian. We have just issued a statement (<https://x.com/AmnestyIran/status/1851650242698981429>) calling on the international community to urgently intervene to stop this state-sanctioned torture and to press the Iranian authorities to abolish all forms of corporal punishment. We will contact the UK Iranian embassy and urge them to halt any plans to amputate the fingers of these men and quash the amputation sentences issued against them. We will stress that amputation as a form of punishment constitutes torture – a crime under international law and is prohibited under Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Iran is a state party.
3. AIUK (standing item)

* Healthcheck : done and sent in
* London Region meetings: Amanda attended and passed on events

1. Arrangements for future meetings (All)

* other speakers and guests

1. AGM – Jan 2025 David Wi to stand down as secretary,applications needed
2. AOB Our local group contact Thea leaving in December

**FUTURE EVENTS**

* **Tuesday 26th November 2024: Letter writing**

Location: The Princess of Wales 1a Montpelier Row Blackheath SE3 0RL.

Time: 7.30pm

* **Monthly Meeting Tuesday 10th December**

**Mulled wine and mince pies welcome**

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| **AIBG CONTACTS** | |
| **Position** | **Name** |
| Chair | Anne F |
| Vice-Chair | Brigitte |
| Secretary (enquiries contact) | David Wi |
| Treasurer | David We |
| Country Contacts | China - Angela, Graham - Iran, Europe - Brigitte, Roger - Central America, Anne F - Central and West Africa |
| Publicity & Social Media | Tbc |
| Membership & AIBG Website | David WW & David Wi |
| Letter writing co-ordinator | Brigitte |
| Meeting notes writer / provider of meeting refreshments | Rotated |

**Fundraising event 2025**

Option: Main Hall at John Ball School

*“To hire £42 per hour.*

*Plus £20 for lock up person*

*OR*

*An hourly rate for John Ball manager or assistant manager’s  presence for the evening. (I think this important)*

*Acoustics good*

*Seating is fixed but rows of chairs would be added. 150 capacity.*

*Full PA system. Manager James would talk a sound and light person through this. Or a band member. We would need to hire microphones if band need them.*

*There is a large suspended screen for any images we want displayed. This hangs opposite the seating area and so the band would play beneath.*

*They would not do ticketing. They suggest eventbrite*

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*We would have to arrange food. James suggested using local (pizza?) restaurant. We can use kitchen to store cold food but not to prepare.  And Majestic would be good on a hire/return basis. They also lend glasses. (Only breakages paid for). There is a delightful terrace area which a hall door leads on to for serving food if weather ok. There are 14 allergens that need to be considered.*

*We would need to get alcohol license from Lewisham Council. Takes time so at least a month before.*

*Entrance for audience through coded gate on road. There are 3 doors to the hall. [DW: how do you check peoples’ tickets as they enter?] There are two toilets available.*

*Nearer the time we would have to have a health safety conversation with James. Also fill in an insurance form.*

*It was a thoroughly pleasant visit. James Powles is the Manager and Penny Ashcroft is PA to the head teacher. She arranges things and he seems to do everything. They were both delightful and enthusiastic.*

*That’s it for the moment.*

*Are we sure that it’s the Youth sayers we want? Think we need to discuss and of course any other venues that people have thought of. Personally I think this one ideal. Brigitte’s sons and my son and granddaughters went there.*

*Oh AND. school are happy with Friday  May 30th. If we are.*

*Illona”*

**AIUK’s Amplify Human Rights Festival – from Anne F**

*“I have now managed to catch up with one of my colleagues in the W4R team and they were very keen to take you up on your suggestion. If members of your group are indeed keen to be present and lead on this, we can ensure there is one table for W4R-focused activity at the event.*

*However, please note that, due to space restrictions, this would need to be in an area of the venue that will only be open to the public at specific intervals during the day (i.e. when there are no sessions taking place on the main stage).*

*At present we anticipate this to be at the following times:*

*11:30am to 12pm (from doors open time to the start of the opening session)*

*12:45pm to 13:45*

*15:15 to 16:00*

*You would be sharing this space with the creative (banner-making) workshops that will be taking place at the exact same times.*

*We can set up a trestle table with a large postbox prop and ensure we have copies of the W4R 2024 case booklet, as well as some pre-printed letters and some pens.*

*Could you share this with the group and confirm whether you wish to go ahead - and, if so, what pre-printed letters relating to the 3 priority cases, for Oqba, Neth and Şebnem, you would like us to make available - and any other info you think needs to be taken into consideration as part of the planning?”*