**AMNESTY UK KENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY 2025**

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Welcome to our February newsletter. This month, you can

* **Join this Tuesday’s speaker meeting** to hear about the **Amnesty Feminists** and their plans for 2025
* **Celebrate International Women’s Day** at the Human Rights Action Centre on 8 March
* **Choose to support** **us** at one or more of our **Network events** in 2025
* **Learn ways to celebrate Refugee Week** this year at the online conference on 26 February
* **Get up to date on refugee news** and **write to your local MP** about a fair and efficient process for people seeking asylum
* **Join an online briefing** about **Israel’s genocide against Palestinians in Gaza**
* **Attend the launch** of Amnesty’s report on **predictive policing technology** (or automated racism) on 20 February
* **Apply** to joinAmnesty’s **Anti-Racism Network committee**
* **Apply** to be a **Country Coordinator**
* **Learn more** about **gender justice** and human rights

**SPEAKER MEETING THIS TUESDAY: AMNESTY FEMINISTS AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN’S DAY**



For this month’s speaker meeting, **Jessica Fortune** and **Ophelia Chidgey** from **Amnesty UK’s Feminist Network** will talk about the work of the Network and their campaigning plans for this year. **Email** **arianna.pisetti@amnesty.org.uk** **for a link and join us at 7pm.**

**International Women’s Day will be on Saturday 8 March.** This is an important event in the feminist calendar, serving not only as a day to celebrate progress but, more importantly, to highlight the continuing struggles for gender equality and social justice. **Amnesty Feminists are marking the occasion with an event at the Human Rights Action Centre.** This is an opportunity to connect with fellow activists, exchange ideas and forge powerful collaborations in the movement for justice and equality. **Date and time: Sat, 8 Mar 2025 10:00 - 18:00 GMT.** [Register here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/activism-in-action-for-international-womens-day-tickets-1212787302469?aff=oddtdtcreator&_gl=1%2Areadwp%2A_up%2AMQ..%2A_ga%2AMTg4OTQ2MzQ2Ni4xNzM3NDY5Nzg4%2A_ga_TQVES5V6SH%2AMTczNzQ2OTc4Ny4xLjAuMTczNzQ2OTc4Ny4wLjAuMA..)

**PLANNED KENT NETWORK EVENTS FOR 2025**

The latest 2025 Kent Network Activities / Events Calendar is attached. **Please have a look at it and consider which ones you can support, even if it is only for an hour or two.** As usual, we will seek volunteers for each event nearer the time, but we know that diaries get booked up early so, if you want to support one or more of these events, **why not reserve the date(s) in your diary now?** We can only have an effective presence at these events if we have enough volunteers for them. You do not need to have any special knowledge or expertise as there will always be a lead organiser to guide you. **To volunteer, or for more information, contact the person whose name is against the event concerned, or email** **mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk**.

**REFUGEE WEEK 2025**

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**This year, Refugee Week will be celebrated on June 16–22, with the theme “Community as a Superpower**”, focusing on the power of community, collaboration, and shared humanity in the face of displacement. Refugee Week is a nationwide festival that celebrates the contributions, culture and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary. **Our Dover Team are planning to bid for a small grant from Amnesty to support a Refugee Week community event in Dover** – more on this in next month’s newsletter.

Meanwhile, if you want to learn more about Refugee Week, we recommend that you **join the online Refugee Week 2025 Conference** and find out how to get involved. It is on **26 February from 10:30am to 1:00pm**

Free tickets: on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-week-2025-conference-online-tickets-1115370957559?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**MORE REFUGEES NEWS**

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**The Home Office has reversed the harmful policy that was keeping Ukrainian children from reuniting with their parents.** Last year, the government suddenly restricted the Homes for Ukraine schemes, preventing refugees with temporary status from bringing their loved ones to safety in the UK. This particularly affected children who had been separated from their parents and were until now left stranded.

**However, the government’s new Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill, introduced to Parliament on 30 January, fails to remove harmful provisions** of its predecessors’ Nationality and Borders Act, including that which left victims of modern-day slavery and trafficking without vital protections.

**Since taking power, the current Government has focused on border security and cracking down on smuggling gangs.** This alone will not stop dangerous journeys across the Channel and deaths at sea. The bill contains no mention of family reunion, no commitment to safe routes but instead proposes new enforcement measures that risk punishing refugees.

 

**At a stall in Gillingham this weekend, the Maidstone, Medway and Swale Group collected signatures for Medway MPs**, urging them to support amendments to the bill aimed at ensuring protection of victims of modern-day slavery and trafficking, as well as any other amendments aimed at ensuring a fair and efficient process for handling asylum applications

**If you would like to send a similar message to your MP, I can send you a template. Just email me.**

**ISRAEL’S GENOCIDE AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN GAZA**

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Amnesty launched a report in December in which it concluded that **Israel has committed genocide against Palestinians in Gaza**. On **18 February** from 6:00pm to 7:30pm, Amnesty are providing an **online briefing** on the report, followed by Q&A and a participatory discussion to explore the ways in which we can take action in our own communities. This is immediately prior to our speaker meeting with Amnesty Feminists so you can transfer seamlessly from one riveting session to another.

[Please register here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-briefing-on-israels-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza-tickets-1226582634679?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**ANTI-RACISM**



On **20 February** at 6.30pm, Amnesty UK will launch a new report looking at **the harmful consequences of predictive policing technology**. Speakers will include Amnesty UK’s Ilyas Nagdee, authors Dr Adam Elliott-Cooper and Leah Cowan, Hope Chilokoa-Mullen of the 4Front Project and researcher and activist Griff Ferris. They will discussing the report’s findings and what can be done about the use of this technology. **The event will take place at the Human Rights Action Centre, 25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA and online**. [Register to attend here](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/automated-racism-a-report-on-predictive-policing-technology-tickets-1224992829529?aff=ebdsoporgprofile).

**Amnesty's Anti-Racism Network is recruiting committee members** to lead on building the network's campaigning, presence and education work. Over the next year, the Network will be looking to expand their engagement with grass roots communities and other anti-racist organisations, as well as enhancing their campaigning. **If you want to get involved, see the application form below** for more information. [Apply here](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jobs/anti-racism-network-committee-member?utm_content=&utm_campaign=MEMA5894S_ARN+Newsletter+Jan&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk&utm_content=158499&utm_campaign=MCFR1424S_LG_MM_Jan_25&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk)

**COUNTRY COORDINATOR FORUM VACANCIES**

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**Country Coordinators are volunteer activists who lead much of Amnesty UK's work on their countries**. From building and developing relationships with embassies and UK government officials, to designing and delivering public campaigning to spotlight human rights abuses, the role is broad, varied and powerful.

The Country Coordinator team is a group of around 50 individuals, each working on one or more countries. They are divided into 13 regional teams of several coordinators, who work together, as well as independently. **There are currently vacancies for the following countries**: Mexico; Cuba; Haiti & The Dominican Republic, English Speaking Caribbean: Russia (Gender, Sexuality, Identity focus); Japan and Mongolia; Laos and Thailand; Jordan and Lebanon; Tanzania, Sudan, South Sudan and Chad; South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini.

I have been a Country Coordinator for over 10 years and Mark Clixby has recently become one too. **We would be happy to tell you more about the role**.

[Apply here](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/jobs/activism?utm_content=&utm_campaign=MEMA5894S_ARN+Newsletter+Jan&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk&utm_content=158499&utm_campaign=MCFR1424S_LG_MM_Jan_25&utm_medium=email&utm_source=amnestyuk)

**COURSE ON GENDER JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

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For many decades, feminist and LGBTI+ movements have fought against violence and discrimination. With the return of President Trump, many are expecting even more draconian abortion bans and restrictions to LGBTI+ rights. With this in mind, Amnesty have built a free online course for people who want to grow their understanding of gender justice.

[Access the course here](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/gender-justice-and-human-rights?utm_campaign=amni_bau&utm_medium=email&utm_source=partner)



**Still continuing. Guantanamo exhibition at Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London E1 6LA. Phone 020 7613 7498 first as end date not certain.**

**Tuesday 18 February at 6:00pm - 7:30pm - Campaign Connect: A briefing on Israel's Genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.** [**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-briefing-on-israels-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza-tickets-1226582634679?aff=oddtdtcreator)

**Tuesday 18 February at 7:30pm to 8:30pm. Kent, Surrey and Sussex Network online speaker meeting with Amnesty Feminists. Email** **arianna.pisetti@amnesty.org.uk** **for a link.**

**Thursday 20 February at 6:30pm to 7:40pm. Predictive Policing Report launch online and in person at the Human Rights Action Centre, 25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA.** [**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/automated-racism-a-report-on-predictive-policing-technology-tickets-1224992829529?aff=ebdsoporgprofile)**.**

**Wednesday 26 February at 10:30am to 1:00pm. Refugee Week 2025 Conference.** [**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/refugee-week-2025-conference-online-tickets-1115370957559?aff=oddtdtcreator)**.**

**Saturday 1 March – Sunday 2 March at the Human Rights Action Centre. Amnesty UK Student Festival at the Human Rights Action Centre. For students only.** [**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/amnesty-uk-student-festival-tickets-1118858458769?aff=oddtdtcreator)**.**

**Monday 3 March at 7:30pm. Maidstone, Medway and Swale Group meeting at Newnham Court Inn, Bearsted Road, Weavering, Maidstone, ME14 5LH****. Email** **mmands.amnestygroup@gmail.com** **for details.**

**Wednesday 5 March at 1:00pm to 3:00pm at Parliament Square, London. Monthly Guantanamo Vigil. All welcome. Email** **Mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk** **for more details.**

**Saturday 8 March at 10:00am to 6:00pm at the Human Rights Action Centre. Activism In Action for International Women’s Day by the Amnesty Feminist Network.** [**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/activism-in-action-for-international-womens-day-tickets-1212787302469?aff=oddtdtcreator&_gl=1%2Areadwp%2A_up%2AMQ..%2A_ga%2AMTg4OTQ2MzQ2Ni4xNzM3NDY5Nzg4%2A_ga_TQVES5V6SH%2AMTczNzQ2OTc4Ny4xLjAuMTczNzQ2OTc4Ny4wLjAuMA..)**.**

All the best

Graham