

# Manchester Amnesty

Review of the year March 2024 - March 2025

# Israel Palestine Campaign



# Israel/Palestine campaign – selective summary

- All year – the weekly vigil, Mike's talks on Israeli Apartheid
- February/March 24 (?) – flowers laid – pink hearts started
- May – first hearts banner made; 2nd banner made in September
- August - letter in Manchester Evening News after 40th vigil
- October – 50th vigil – video of the hearts on Instagram
- November – Manchester Amnesty (Mike Reed) award at BMHC
- Mike interviewed for Sanjay's video
- December – contact made with Palestinian students – Zaatra project
- February – presentation from Palestinian students
- March – Resolution on BDS sent to Amnesty UK AGM



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5qz5-7CtNjI>

British Muslim Heritage Centre November 2024

## THE RESEARCH TEAM



Students from Palestinian Polytechnic University, Hebron – Zaatar project

# BDS resolution to AGM

## **RESOLUTION (Mike Reed, seconded by 4 Manchester Amnesty members)**

This AGM resolves that Amnesty UK:

- Calls for targeted sanctions and boycotts against Israel in response to its ongoing violations of international law.
- Supports the international BDS movement as a legitimate and effective tool for exerting economic and political pressure.
- Integrates BDS into Amnesty UK's ongoing End Israeli Apartheid campaign.
- Urges the wider Amnesty International movement to adopt and implement similar measures.

# Anti-racism – the Manchester 10

Continued support - via Kids of Colour and JENGBA

July – attended court - permission to appeal granted

December - attended appeal hearing

January – only one boy had his conviction quashed; 2 had sentences reduced.

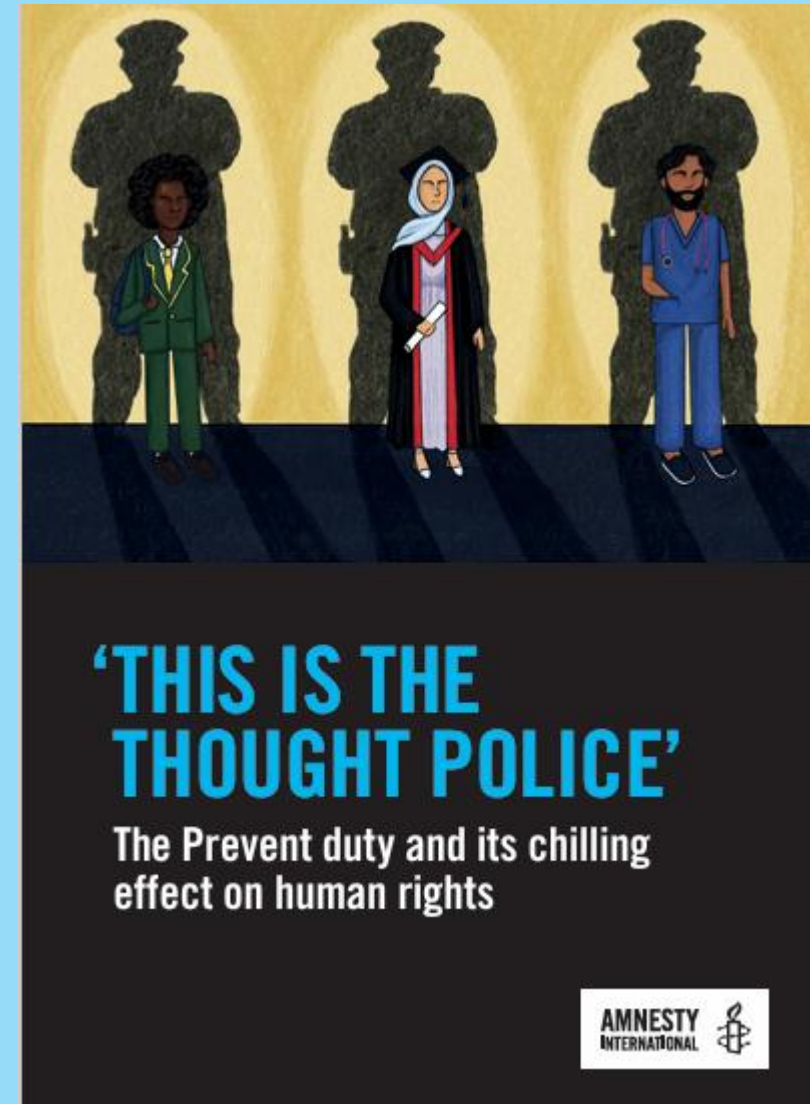
Further appeals pending





# Campaign to scrap the Government's Prevent Duty

- April – Manchester launch of AIUK report
- May – follow up meeting
- September – results of our research, emails councillors
- November – meeting with councillor
- December – hand delivered letter to Bev Craig



# Press Freedom and Julian Assange

- 26th March – interim ruling seeking US assurances
- 20th May – court not satisfied with assurances so further appeal allowed
- 25th June – Assange released after plea deal with US



# Refugee rights

- Main thrust of our work has been support for Together with Refugees Fair Begins Here campaign
- Manchester Amnesty signed the Fair Begins Here pledge and a letter to editors of local papers
- Photo actions (June '24 during Refugee Week, and February '25 for Valentine's day)
- December 24 – February 25 collected signatures on petition
- March 25 – letter to MPs ready to go

*This week – Refugee Week – we are coming together as a community to celebrate with refugees who have felt the welcome our area offers and enriched our lives as friends and neighbours.*

*But our celebrations are against a backdrop of uncaring, chaotic and costly refugee policies. With people living in fear of being banished to Rwanda the situation is especially stark.*

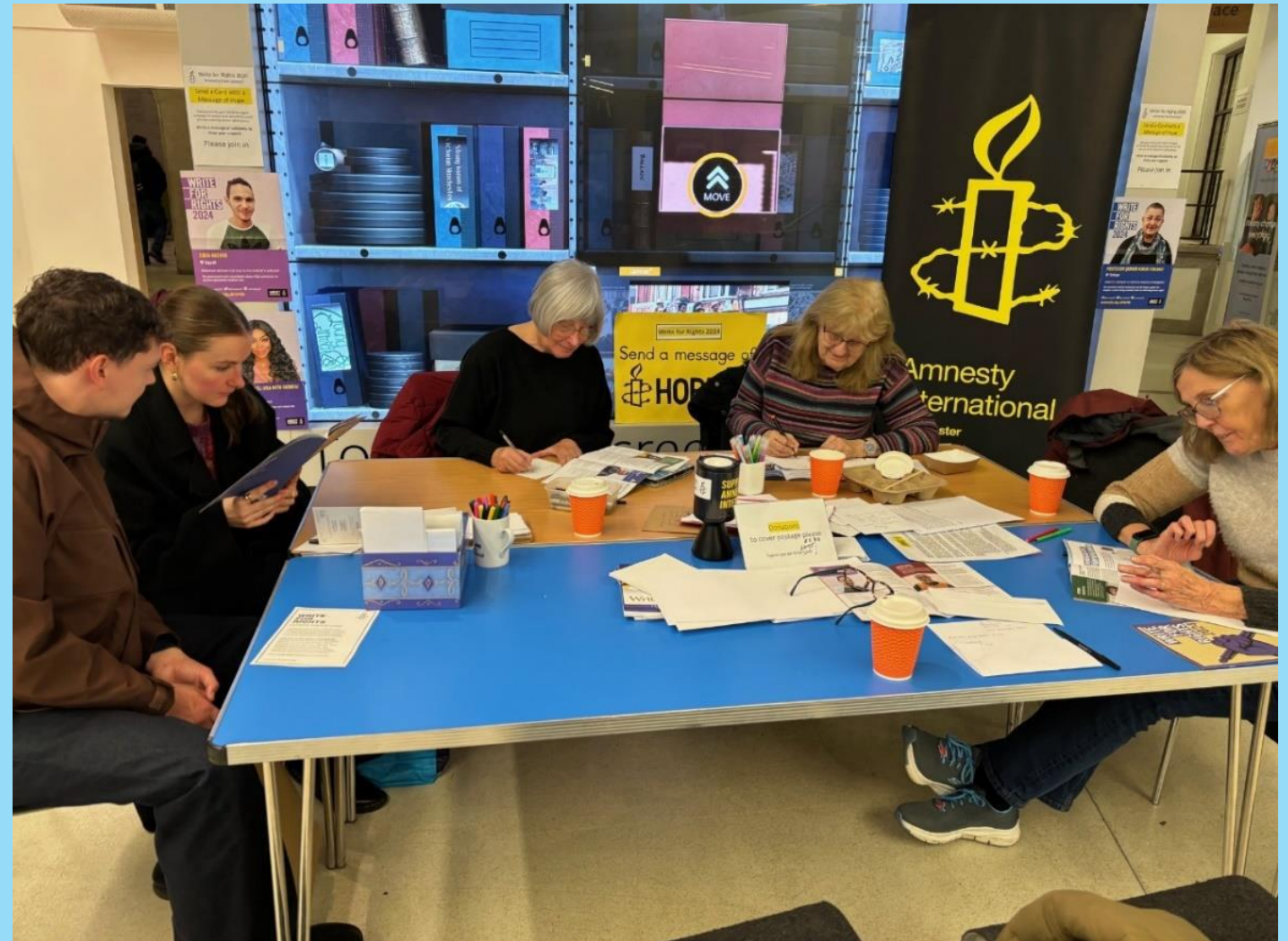
*That's why we have signed the Fair Begins Here Promise from coalition campaign Together With Refugees. The Promise calls for a new plan for refugees – one that is fair, compassionate and well managed. By supporting this we commit to stand together and reject attempts to divide us, keep building communities of welcome, and take action to win a fair new plan for refugees.*

*We need organisations across the area to join us and sign the Fair Begins Here Promise at [togetherwithrefugees.org.uk](http://togetherwithrefugees.org.uk). And what better time to get involved than Refugee Week. Whether you're a business, trade union, sports club, faith group or school, organisations from across our community can be part of this important movement. Because fair begins here, with all of us.*



# Individuals at Risk: Appeal writing drop-ins & Write for Rights 2024

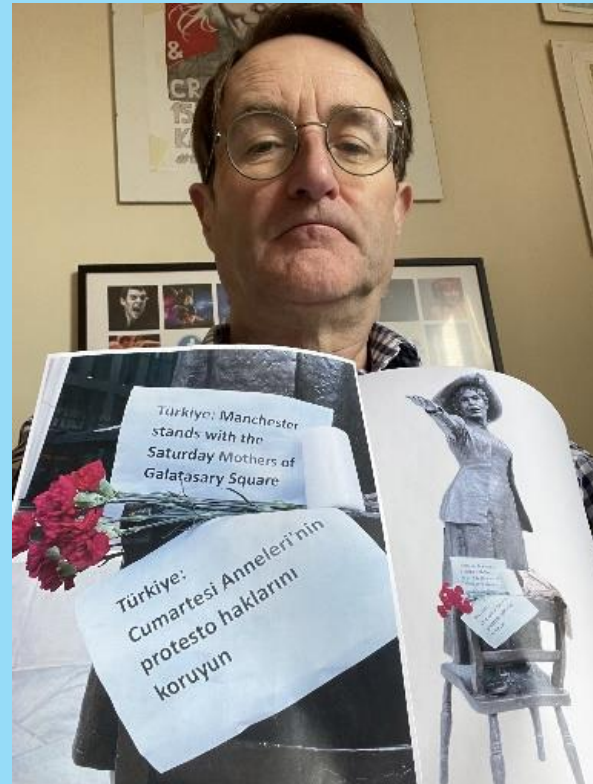
- Last Saturday  
January, March,  
May, July,  
September,  
November
- Write for Rights  
campaign in  
December





June 7<sup>th</sup> Human Rights in the UK, MMU Sustainability Festival  
Sadly we had to cancel the scheduled Human Rights walk

# Saturday mothers of Galatasaray Square 25<sup>th</sup> May 2024 – 1000<sup>th</sup> protest



# United Arab Emirates



- UAE 84 trial outcome 10<sup>th</sup> July
- Keys to Manchester City Football club
- Letters to MPs and to David Lammy asking for him to meet with us
- Sima Watling (UAE CC) at our July meeting

# LGBTQ+ rights and Pride



- 25<sup>th</sup> June invited talk about protest rights at Manchester Pride community event
- We withdrew from the annual Pride parade, due to sponsorship by booking.com
- We are looking for a new coordinator for our LGBTQ+ rights work



# North West Regional Conference



November 23<sup>rd</sup>,  
in Manchester

Manchester Amnesty heavily  
involved as organisers & speakers





Stall at 5<sup>th</sup> Margaret Ashton lecture (organised by Trailblazers and others) 1<sup>st</sup> March.

# Craftivism – our wonderful hearts banners



# Social Media and Communications

Thanks to

- Steve Lindsay for X
- Sara Baptista and Lucy Downing for Instagram
- I post actions, vigil notices, and meetings on Facebook, but if anyone wants to help with FB, please let me know!
- I maintain our web page, suggestions for improvements welcome.
- Thanks very much for all your copy for the quarterly bulletins.