**Amnesty Kent Network newsletter April 2025**

Dear Kent Network members and supporters

**HIGHLIGHTS**

Welcome to our April newsletter.  This month, you can

* **join our online speaker meeting tonight**to hear about the work of the new Amnesty activist-led **United Nations Network**
* **learn more**about Amnesty's campaign to **scrap the Prevent Duty**
* **join**the Central England Network's session about **anti-racism education**on 29 April
* **join us** at one (or more) of the **Pride events**taking place in our area this year
* **keep lobbying your MP**to press for a **fair and efficient asylum system**
* **join the presentation**of Amnesty's new report on the realities of **social security in the UK**: and call on the Prime Minister to **stop the cuts**
* **ask the Saudi authorities** to release **Ahmed Al-Doush**; and **call on the UK government** to act to ensure this
* **register**to attend the **AGM and National Conference** at Warwick University on 5-6 July
* **get tips**about how to **build community partnerships** by joining the next training session on 22 April

**SPEAKER MEETING THIS TUESDAY: AMNESTY UK’S ACTIVIST-LED UNITED NATIONS NETWORK**

**A blue flag with a globe in the center

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**Join us tonight at 7:30pm** when Mark Clixby will tell us about the work of the new Amnesty activist-led **United Nations Network**.  This new network, set up last year, is campaigning on human rights issues related to the work of the UN and, in particular, against the use of the UN Security Council veto to obstruct action against mass atrocities.  **Email**[**mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk**](mailto:mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk)**for a link.**

**ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES**



[**Amnesty has called for an independent and impartial investigation**](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/israelopt-killings-paramedics-and-rescue-workers-gaza-must-be-investigated) into the circumstances in which at least 15 Palestinian medics and rescue workers, who went to southern Gaza for a rescue operation, were shot dead after Israeli forces opened fire on their vehicles.  Amnesty reiterated its calls for **independent monitors** to be granted immediate access to the occupied Gaza Strip.

**THE PREVENT DUTY**

**A person surrounded by surveillance cameras

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We have already held three round-table conversations in Medway to raise awareness of the ways in which the Prevent Duty acts to violate our human rights and to share views about how this should be addressed.  Amnesty has recommended that the Duty be scrapped.  **Our next round-table conversation will be in Medway on 4 June**.  If you would like to join this, please email me.

Meanwhile, if you would like to learn more about the Prevent Duty, you can **take Amnesty’s online course**.   This short course will enable you to understand what the Prevent duty is, the harms done to communities by Prevent, how it infringes on human rights, and understand what Amnesty has found as part of its research into Prevent.  **The link to the course is**[**here**](https://academy.amnesty.org/learn/courses/384/dont-prevent-rights-protect-them-an-introduction-to-the-governments-prevent-duty).

**ANTI-RACISM**

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The Central England Network are holding an online session on 29 April about **tackling anti-racism education**.  [Register here](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/ewsLGrNNThqN0veIvLQ9LA#/registration).

**PRIDES**

A group of people marching in a parade

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The number of Pride celebrations taking place across our area continues to grow.  Our Network aims to be present at as many of these as our resources permit.  **If you would like to join us as at a Pride celebration near you, or further afield, please email**[**mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk**](mailto:mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk).

**REFUGEES AND ASYLUM**



The Government’s Border Security, Asylum and Immigration Bill continues its passage through parliament.  Having passed its 1st and 2nd readings and the Committee Stage, it has now reached the Report Stage, for which several proposed amendments have been tabled.   Thank you to those who have written to their MPs to share Amnesty’s recommendations for a fair and efficient asylum system.  **If your MP has replied and shown interest in continuing a dialogue, please let me know**.  We can provide advice on this.

**SOCIAL SECURITY IN THE UK**

A person and a child holding hands

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The UK Government has announced **more cuts to social security**, continuing over a decade of decisions that have crushed the systems that people rely on to stay afloat.  Since 2010, social security has been chipped away bit by bit.  Now the same political choices are being made again.  These are choices that will hit the most marginalised hardest and push more people into crisis.

On **Thursday 8 May at 6:30pm**, Amnesty will host an event to present its **new report into the realities of social security in the UK**.   A panel of expert speakers, including people who have been affected directly, will discuss:

* Why social security is a human right
* Why, when it is violated, it impacts so many of our other rights
* Why poverty is a political choice and what can be done about it

The event will take place in Manchester but **you can join it online.   Register**[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-social-security-in-the-uk-erodes-human-rights-and-dignity-free-event-tickets-1303976150769?aff=oddtdtcreator).

Meanwhile, you can **sign and share Amnesty’s new action calling on the Prime Minister to stop the cuts**to social security in this country and build a fair, compassionate system that protects everyone**:**[**Prime Minister: Stop the Cuts**](https://email.amnestyuk.org.uk/c/12y0EERIXqfiGWp2cOOFBVzPrPNu)

**AHMED AL-DOUSH**



On 31 August 2024, British citizen **Ahmed al-Doush was arrested while trying to return home to the UK** from Saudi Arabia after a family visit.  He was targeted by Saudi authorities over a social media post and an alleged link to a government critic.  Since then, he has been held in solitary confinement, denied legal representation for months and remains arbitrarily detained.  [**Ask the UK government to ensure his release**](https://email.amnestyuk.org.uk/c/12y0Gnej39hJCV2xHSh9oy5BXFm5)**.**[**Ask the Saudi authorities for his release**](https://email.amnestyuk.org.uk/c/12y0GCqocP9e2UQtlJUEdMrRKv0s).

**AGM AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025**

A close-up of a logo

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A reminder that **this will take place on 5-6 July 2025 at the University of Warwick**.  The event will bring AIUK members and activists together to learn, connect, scrutinise, inspire and   celebrate, as  well as taking part in Amnesty UK decision-making and planning for the year ahead.  In addition to AGM business, the Conference will feature a range of workshops, panel sessions and networking opportunities.

**Attendance at the event is free.   Advance booking is recommended.**[**Tickets are available here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/amnesty-amplify-summit-agm-national-conference-registration-1234724587479?aff=LGM).

**HOW TO BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

A group of hands holding each other

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Amnesty are holding another **online training session on How to Build Community Partnerships on 22 April from 6:00pm to 8:00pm**.  The aim of these sessions is to help local activist groups or teams to deepen their connection to their local communities, to work with other organisations to strengthen our campaigning and to understand the importance of collective action and solidarity.   **You can sign up to the training**[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-build-community-partnerships-including-mapping-tickets-1302114923789?aff=oddtdtcreator&_gl=1%2A92blp5%2A_up%2AMQ..%2A_ga%2AMzAzNzM0MjAzLjE3NDMwMDM3MzE.%2A_ga_TQVES5V6SH%2AMTc0MzAwMzczMC4xLjEuMTc0MzAwMzg2MS4wLjAuMA..).

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**Tuesday 15 April at 7:30pm to 8:30pm.  Kent Network online speaker meeting about the work of Amnesty UK’s activist-led UN Network.  Email**[**mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk**](mailto:mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk)**for a link.**

**Tuesday 22 April at 6:00pm to 8:00pm.  Online training session on How to Build Community Partnerships.  Sign up**[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-to-build-community-partnerships-including-mapping-tickets-1302114923789?aff=oddtdtcreator&_gl=1%2A92blp5%2A_up%2AMQ..%2A_ga%2AMzAzNzM0MjAzLjE3NDMwMDM3MzE.%2A_ga_TQVES5V6SH%2AMTc0MzAwMzczMC4xLjEuMTc0MzAwMzg2MS4wLjAuMA..)**.**

**Wednesday 7 May at 1:00pm to 3:00pm  Monthly Guantanamo Vigil at Parliament Square, London.  All welcome.  Email**[**Mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk**](mailto:Mark.clixby@amnesty.org.uk)**for more details.**

**Thursday 8 May at 6:30pm.  Presentation of Amnesty report on social security in the UK online or in person in Manchester.  Register**[**here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/how-social-security-in-the-uk-erodes-human-rights-and-dignity-free-event-tickets-1303976150769?aff=oddtdtcreator)**.**

**Monday 12 May at 7:30pm.  Maidstone, Medway and Swale Group meeting at Maidstone Community Support Centre, 39-48 Marsham Street, Maidstone, ME14 1HH.  Email**[**mmands.amnestygroup@gmail.com**](mailto:mmands.amnestygroup@gmail.com)**for details.**

**Tuesday 20 May at 7:30pm to 8:30pm.  Kent Network online speaker meeting: Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.  Details to follow.**

**Wednesday 4 June at 6:30pm to 8:00pm.  Roundtable conversation about the Prevent Duty at Nucleus Arts Centre & Café Nucleus, 272 High Street, Chatham, ME4 4BP.  Email**[**graham.minter@amnesty.org.uk**](mailto:graham.minter@amnesty.org.uk)**for details.**

**Saturday 5 July to Sunday 6 July.  Amnesty UK National Conference and AGM at Warwick University.**[**Tickets here**](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/amnesty-amplify-summit-agm-national-conference-registration-1234724587479?aff=LGM)**.**

All the best

Graham