

## **AMNESTY SOUTHAMPTON**

In the tradition of its 53 years of non-stop campaigning, the group will continue to fight for universal human rights. It is easy to feel overwhelmed nowadays by the problems facing the world. Refugees, hate crimes, injustice, impunity, and terrorism feature daily in the media. But Amnesty exists to take action on these issues, rather than sitting down and wringing our hands. With the support of journalists and politicians of goodwill we remind governments of their obligations under international law, and – most importantly – support victims of human rights violations and give them courage and hope.

More and more we are joining with like-minded organisations to add impact to our message. We will celebrate Southampton's status as a City of Sanctuary with groups dedicated to helping refugees. We will be lobbying politicians to save the Human Rights Act, which the government is threatening to repeal despite the protection it has given to the rights of vulnerable individuals in the UK. And we will be fighting for freedom for individuals the world over whose only 'crime' has been to demand justice for themselves and others.

After reading our leaflet, please don't just sit on your hands – come and join us, and see how strong we are together!

## **'I WELCOME' CAMPAIGN**

A global campaign which will run until 2018 was launched with the Refugees Welcome Here march in September 2016. There are four strands: 1) Political Change, which aims to get the UK Government to improve asylum rights and increase its share of responsibility for hosting refugees. 2) Welcome, which aims to engender a positive experience of and towards refugees nationally and in communities. 3) Movement

Building, which aims to ensure there is a stronger and more sustainable movement of people and organisations working together for refugees' rights. 4) International, which aims to ensure refugee rights are respected internationally.

## **DEATH PENALTY**

We campaign for an end to all executions around the world - no matter what the circumstances. Depending where you live, you can be beheaded for charges of sorcery, stoned for adultery, or hanged for drug smuggling! The death penalty is the ultimate denial of human rights.

## **SAVE THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

We will be campaigning to ensure that politicians do not take away the rights we enjoy under this Act, which many people around the world are still fighting for. It is not yet known what steps the government might take to repeal the Act and replace it with alternatives of their own choosing. Action is likely to include lobbying local and national politicians and using the media to dispel myths, highlight how the Act has been used to protect people's rights, and make sure that attempts to repeal the HRA are not submerged in the Brexit negotiations.

## **PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**

This campaign, begun in May 2017, will aim to reinforce and implement protection mechanisms for HRDs against any type of violence, threat, reprisal, discrimination or pressure. It will also seek effective remedy for victims where these mechanisms have failed, and try to halt the global trend towards repressive legislation in the name of national security which threatens the ability of HRDs to carry out their crucial work.

## **PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

The Chinese government is continuing to step up its crackdown on anyone perceived to be challenging its authority. Activists calling for wider human rights are detained and jailed or put under indefinite house arrest. Their families are intimidated and lawyers acting for them are also at risk. As well as responding generally to violations of freedom of expression, we will continue to focus on two of the many Human Rights Defenders languishing in Chinese prisons. **Liu Xia**, the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, remains under heavy surveillance, and we are campaigning for this to be lifted. After calling for an end to government corruption, **Liu Ping** was sentenced to six and a half years in prison. She is in poor health, but is receiving only basic medical care. Her sight is at risk, but she is not allowed reading glasses. Petty cruelty like this is a regular feature of China's treatment of its political prisoners. Campaigning will focus on obtaining full access to the medical help Liu Ping needs so desperately.

## **SOUTH ASIA**

This region includes Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India. Action is likely to include work on the treatment of women in Afghanistan; the lack of religious freedom in Pakistan; attacks on minorities in Bangladesh; the use of pre-trial detention in India; and work for human rights defenders and people who are affected by the coal mining activities in Adivasi (tribal people) areas of India

## **WRITE FOR RIGHTS**

This is a global action to send messages of goodwill and solidarity to victims of human rights abuse and their families. Members of the public can join us at an event, or full campaign details can be downloaded at [www.amnesty.org.uk/write](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/write) from 1st November.

## WORKING FOR INDIVIDUALS AT RISK

### 1. Eskinder Nega, Ethiopia

Journalist Eskinder Nega was arrested in September 2011 after criticising the Ethiopian government and calling for freedom of expression to be respected. He was found guilty of 'terrorism' charges as well as of 'high treason'. He was sentenced to 18 years in prison on 13 July 2012.

Amnesty considers Eskinder to be a prisoner of conscience, and we shall be publicising his case and making regular appeals for his release.

### 2. Jorge Lázaro Samba Nunes dos Santos, Brazil

Against a background of widespread violence by security forces, Jorge is seeking justice for the murder of two of his sons and striving to keep his remaining family secure. Our campaigning will focus particularly around 2 December, Jorge's birthday, and 22 January, the anniversary of Ricardo's murder by military police. Our aim is justice, and social, economic and psychological support for this family whose safety is still at risk.

## PROGRAMME

### September 2017

M. 11<sup>th</sup> Public Meeting: Turkey: Human Rights under an elected dictatorship. *Richard Williams*

W. 20<sup>th</sup>: Sofar Sounds gig supporting Amnesty's 'I Welcome' Campaign. Band of Skulls & other groups.

Tickets [www.sofarsounds.com/giveahome](http://www.sofarsounds.com/giveahome).

### October 2017

M. 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Video on Refugee Campaign. Planning and action for refugees.

### November 2017

M. 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting: Seeking justice for Eskinder

Date tbc: Write for Rights with the Quakers

W. 29<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm: Write for Rights event at Phoenix Film Society's screening of CLASH.

### December 2017

Details tba: Avenue Campus. Annual Human Rights Lecture.

Su. 10<sup>th</sup>: *Human Rights Day*

M. 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Write for Rights action

### January 2018

M. 8<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Holocaust Memorial action:

The Power of Words. Recorded stories of survivors

### February 2018

M. 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Equality, Diversity and Human Rights. Speaker tbc

### March 2018

Tu. 8<sup>th</sup>: *International Women's Day*

M. 12<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: China. *James Lovatt*

### April 2018

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>: Amnesty UK AGM & National Conference.

(Swansea University)

M. 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Report & Discussion on outcome of Amnesty UK AGM

### May 2018

M. 14<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Topic tba

Date tbc. Sponsored Walk in aid of Amnesty.

### June 2018

M. 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Topic tba

19<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: *Refugee Week*

Details tbc. Music for Refugees

### July 2018

Mon. 9<sup>th</sup> 7.30 pm Meeting: Group AGM & social

*For up-to-date information on all group activities, please see our website.*



# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## Southampton Group

**Meetings take place  
on the second Monday of each month  
(except August)  
at 7.30 pm  
in St Andrew's United Reformed  
Church, The Avenue, Southampton**

**Annual Membership £12.00. Please come along or  
get in touch!**

E-mail: [amnestysouthampton@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:amnestysouthampton@yahoo.co.uk)

Website: [www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southampton-city/homepage.php](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/groups/southampton-city/homepage.php)

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