



## MANCHESTER AMNESTY GROUP NEWSLETTER

August 2013

<http://manchester.amnesty.org.uk/>

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### N.B. HELP NEEDED AT PRIDE PARADE AND STREET COLLECTION

## AMNESTEA

27 members and friends of the group held a tea party in Anne's garden one Sunday in July. We raised £216.50, wrote lots of letters and ate lots of cake. A special thanks to Alice for providing a sublime musical accompaniment. More pictures can be accessed on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/manchesteramnesty/sets/72157634769552718/>



### Burma event



On Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, Manchester Amnesty held a screening of 'They call it Myanmar' (<http://www.theycallitmyanmar.com/trailer/>) at the Manchester Buddhist Centre. As well as raising awareness of the continued troubles in Burma which still exist despite current reforms, we also raised a fantastic £79.58 to hopefully help us continue our work on Burma. Special thanks go to everyone who came to show their support, and in particular to Olga and the Manchester Buddhists for welcoming us and giving us the opportunity to use the great facilities at the Buddhist Centre.

### Zimbabwe elections

We all know that the elections in Zimbabwe have been and gone, with Zanu-PF declaring a clear victory. Pleasingly, there appear to have been few reports of the violence that marred the 2008 rerun but I'm sure that the discussions on the fairness of the vote will rumble on for some time. Maggie Towse, the AIUK Zimbabwe coordinator, sends her thanks to all who signed the petitions and sent letters and postcards. A petition with 11,400 signatures was taken to the Tanzanian High Commission and 7000 cards addressed to Jacob Zuma were delivered to South Africa House. See the AIUK website for up to date information on the situation in the country.

### BBC Radio 4 Saturday Live

A great plug from Mike for Manchester Amnesty - the studio guest was Nigel Kennedy and Mike sent a message recalling the time he played for us outside the Bridgewater Hall for our Burma POCs. You can listen again: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/i/b037r5d7/>. Mike's email is about an hour into the programme.

### Group Meetings

Held 2nd Wednesday each month - Cross Street Chapel - 7.30pm

*If you are in town, why not join a few of us for a pre meeting meal just after 6 at Grinch, immediately adjacent to Cross St Chapel.*

**14<sup>th</sup> August :** Len Grant, author and creator of Life Without Papers, a blog shortlisted for an Amnesty media award, is talking to the group at the August meeting. See: [www.lifewithoutpapers.co.uk](http://www.lifewithoutpapers.co.uk)

*'For a five-year-old she certainly can shift on her new bike. Her mum has to jog to keep up as Dyanna pelts down the pavement of their terraced street. "She's been pestering me for month's for a bike," says Ruth. "So when I got paid I just went to Argos and bought the cheapest." Not an unremarkable scenario except that, after she's paid all the outgoings from her illegal job, I know that Ruth has barely £25 a week to spend on food for herself and her energetic daughter. She doesn't budget, tries not to think too much about the impossibility of making ends meet. Instead her energies go into staying under the radar - an undocumented migrant in limbo, unable to go forward or back.'* I've been telling Ruth and Dyanna's story for six months or so, hopeful that the reality of undocumented lives will educate and inform. The website on which their daily struggles feature - Life Without Papers - was shortlisted for the Amnesty International Media Awards this year. It didn't win but sharing a room with dozens of inspirational journalists, film-makers and editors was triumphant enough. I bought a new shirt for the occasion. The fact it cost the same as Ruth's weekly disposable income wasn't lost on me.

## Coming up...

### Pride Parade

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> August, late morning, early afternoon**

Manchester City centre

We will be bright and colourful, dressed in 80's clothes holding banners stating - Amnesty still supporting LGBT'.



If you can take part send your name, phone no and email to Natalie Dodds ([doddnatalie@gmail.com](mailto:doddnatalie@gmail.com)). Drag along your friends and family!

### Acoustic Amnesty

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30 for 8pm £7.50**

Venue 2022NQ, Basement, 20 Dale Street, M1 1EZ

Music and poetry from a great range of generous artists – see facebook for full line-up

**BOOK YOUR TICKETS NOW**

<http://www.wegotickets.com/event/224209>

### Street Collection

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September, all day**

Our annual Street Collection will be held on Saturday 28th September 2013 in Manchester City Centre. We need plenty of volunteers to help us raise funds from the Manchester public so we can continue to campaign for human rights worldwide. Campaigns cost money to organise, so every pound we collect really helps.

If you can spare an hour or two on the day, please contact the collection organiser, Sean Dunne, by email to [sean.a.dunne@btinternet.com](mailto:sean.a.dunne@btinternet.com), or speak to him at the 14th August or 11th September Manchester Amnesty meetings. Please let Sean know what times you can be available - we will be starting at 10 a.m. and finishing at 4 p.m.

## Group Calendar

Month	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
<b>Group Meeting</b>	Speaker - Len Grant	Jennifer Devans – Death Penalty	Ian from Kimbolo Project (DRC)	TBC	Greetings cards/IAR/ /creative session
<b>Events</b>	Pride Parade (24 <sup>th</sup> )	Acoustic Amnesty (5 <sup>th</sup> ) Street Collection (28 <sup>th</sup> ) Letter writing (21 <sup>st</sup> )	Manchester Lit Festival (19 <sup>th</sup> )	NW Regional Conference, Manchester (16 <sup>th</sup> )	Greetings card stalls

### Manchester Literature Festival Event: Writing A Path Through Palestine

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2-3pm**

Cross Street Chapel,

Tickets £7/£5 (concessions)



We are proud to present an afternoon with London-based writer, critic and broadcaster, Bidisha. Specialising in social justice and international affairs, Bidisha is a 2013 International Reporting Project Fellow working to raise awareness of global development issues.

Bidisha will be reading from her new book, Beyond the Wall: Writing a Path Through Palestine, described as 'an unflinching portrait of life in the West Bank'. The book draws on testimonies given by activists, ordinary citizens, international aid workers and foreign visitors. It also draws upon Bidisha's own personal experience of the West Bank's checkpoint culture.

The event brings to light the often hard-to-grasp reality of life in an occupied territory. It reveals the diversity of experience and different aspects of the occupation, focusing on a variety of locations. The talk will be followed by a short question and answer session and an opportunity to buy the book and have it signed.

### North West Regional Conference

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2013.**

St Peter's Chaplaincy, Oxford Road, Manchester  
Speakers on torture, Zimbabwe, the Roma, Ethiopia and Afghanistan + Creative action to take onto the streets.  
Booking opening soon.

## Subscriptions please.

Annual donations from members are vital to keep the Group going. The suggested sum is £20pa if you have a wage, £3 otherwise, or whatever you can afford to give. If you haven't already donated this year, please bring your cash or cheque to the next meeting or contact the Treasurer ([manchestergroup@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:manchestergroup@amnesty.org.uk)) if you aren't going to be at a meeting in the near future and he will tell you how to get the money to him. **Thanks!**