

WELCOME TO GU AMNESTY



Thanks to everyone who came to (and helped with) the stall, who signed up for the newsletter, or who found us and is along today. QR code should take you to presentation page!

WELCOME TO GU AMNESTY

- **What is Amnesty International?**
- **Who are GU Amnesty?**
- **Campaigns, Fundraisers and Events**
- **Elections**
- **Welcome social!**



First social tonight after the meeting at the Old Schoolhouse Woodlands Road.

WE ARE ORDINARY PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE WORLD STANDING UP FOR HUMANITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

WHAT IS AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL?

"We are Amnesty International. We work to protect men, women and children wherever justice, freedom, truth and dignity are denied.

With over three million members worldwide, Amnesty International is the world's largest grassroots human rights organisation. We investigate and expose abuses, educate and mobilise the public, and help transform societies to create a safer, more just world. We received the Nobel Peace Prize for our life-saving work."

source: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/issues/About-Amnesty>

Founded in London in 1961 by Peter Benenson, who wrote an article entitled 'The Forgotten Prisoners' about two Portuguese students who were imprisoned for toasting liberty.

HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS THAT BELONG TO EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US.

WHAT ARE 'HUMAN RIGHTS'?

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights- thirty rights and freedoms that belong to all of us.

Article one? We are all born free. We all have our own thoughts and ideas and we should all be treated the same way. The rights included in the following 29 articles include the right to asylum, the right to freedom from torture, the right to free speech and the right to education. No one can take these rights and freedoms away from us. They belong to everybody.

source: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/what-are-human-rights>

UDHR made in 1948 apropos of WWII. Universal, inalienable and interdependent.

WE'RE AN ACTIVE, FRIENDLY AWARD-WINNING SOCIETY

WHO ARE GU AMNESTY?

- We meet weekly on Tuesdays at 5
- Very active on campus with campaigns, events and fundraisers throughout the year
- Trips to AIUK student conference (& Scottish Conference!
- Collaborations with other groups (STAR, UNICEF, etc)
- Other one-off events (guest speakers, screenings etc)



We are you and you are us.

WE'RE AN ACTIVE, FRIENDLY AWARD-WINNING SOCIETY
WHO ARE THE COMMITTEE?



Committee stand up and introduce themselves!

CAMPAIGNS



Campaigns- some big, some small. Few examples of how we campaign- main campaigns chat and decision will be next week when we get to vote on which campaigns to focus on. Have a think about what campaigns interest you which you would like to focus on. Member choice is really important to the identity of the group, we want everyone to feel like they have an input and investment in what the group does. Not only because it's important in it's own right, but since the committee is renewed every year it's good if people they are already making decisions about what to do! So as not to prejudice the decision and bore everyone I will only mention a couple of previous campaigns in passing, as you're going to be more interested in what we will be doing this year than what we have done last year.

Letter writing is a good place to start because it's one of the things most associated with Amnesty International. Yes, we write letters! How many letters we write is really up to how keen people are to... write letters. Pretty much, for every campaign there is at least one obvious target for a letter, so we'll try to have that available for each campaign. I'm also keen to start a letter-writing lunchtime [dealie]. Lots of folks have lunch in the Fraser Building (you can buy stuff or bring your own) because it's central, so if folks are there over lunch I'd like to make it a weekly meeting place with a letter template available for people to base their own letters off while they eat their lunch. Plus it gives people a chance to hang out!

We also do demonstrations on campus, often on Library hill or outside the QM. We often make banners for these, to try and create a big visual impact. Also take photos of these so those who missed demo itself can see them on FB/Twitter etc and can get impact there too. There's generally lots of photography that will go on throughout the year, consider it fair warning! Although if you aren't comfortable with this just say and you don't have to talk part.



This gives me an opportunity to segue nicely into photo petitions. We *love* these, or maybe I love these. They are relatively easy to do, lots of people can take part easily, and they are visual. You can talk to people until their ear falls off - like this - show them petitions, statistics, well-written informed pieces, but a picture speaks a thousand words, and a whole bunch of pictures say... a few thousand words.

There are other things we do for campaigns, but this should give you a flavour and hopefully spark off some ideas of your own. I could talk about collaborations on Syria, CFCI and International Women's Week, debates, guest speakers, panel discussions, film screenings and more, but then we'd never get to the Old Schoolhouse.

Socials. We like socials. If you haven't heard, there's a social this evening at the Old Schoolhouse after the meeting, why not come along? I may repeat this again. But the point is what I made earlier- people interested in human rights and activism tend to be pretty decent people to hang out with and chat in any case; and although we work hard on our campaigns and events (more on those in a minute) we're not a button-down all-serious regimented society. Hopefully it's obvious that we're both passionate and laid-back. And as I said to folks at the Freshers' stall; while we'd love to see you every week and at every even unlike Scientology there's no commitment to pledge yourself to for all eternity. Everyone has lives, but we hope you look forward to a Tuesday evening.



CFCI! Just over two years old.

FUNDRAISERS AND EVENTS



Big Events and Fundraising. Of our big events two are the biggest, although one is slightly biggest-er than the other. The best known one is our annual comedy night, the multi-award-winning Secret Policeman's Ball. This is a big comedy night hosted for the last seven years by the hilarious and irreverent Billy Kirkwood, to whom we owe a giant debt of gratitude. This is also usually our biggest fundraiser too, which is important for the national raise off. We're looking for creative ways to expand how we compete in the Raise off, as we were very narrowly beaten by Exeter University last year. If you are very keen on running events, or are interested in the SPB specifically please let me or another committee member know as there's a great opportunity to be involved in the planning and organisation of the SPB this year. It's the kind of thing that looks fantastic on a CV - organised an award-winning comedy night - and we've lots of experience of putting them on so you won't be making it up as you go.



Our other big event is Jamnesty, a band night held in November. Last year it was part of our LGBT rights campaign to celebrate Love is a Human Right and was held on the Transgender Day of Remembrance.



Pub quiz, ceilidh, Arramnesty, Amnestea, bake sales etc. More ideas for this year!

UPCOMING CAMPAIGNS

- **Death penalty (Week 3)**
- **More to be decided by you guys!**
- **More on LGBT rights to tie in with Jamnesty?**
- **Women's rights to tie in with International Women's Week?**
- **Syria? Iraq? Israel&Palestine?**



JOIN THE COMMITTEE IF YOU'RE KEEN TO BE INVOLVED
ELECTIONS IN TWO WEEKS!

- **Elections for position of 'Ordinary Board' x2 in two weeks (3rd October)**
- **A committee role which has scope for getting involved in a disparate variety of things**
- **Short speech required!**

So you've heard a whole bunch of information. Are there any questions at this point? The other important point is people should feel comfortable speaking up in meetings, whether it's to ask questions or make suggestions.

On a very related note is to give everyone a heads-up about the election of Ordinary Board members happening in two weeks on Tuesday 7th October. This is a committee position, which means getting really involved in the organisation of the group. It's a really important function to fill, [although I should stress that even if you aren't committee you can still do a whole bunch of things like present meetings [[etc etc]]

TODAY: CHAT AND SOCIAL

- **Social! After this meeting:
Old Schoolhouse,
Woodlands Road**
- **Campaigns suggestions
for next week**
- **Stop torture action /
CFCI photo petition**



GHRN roundtable on Gaza CWLT Thurs 5:30 PM-7PM (drinks after), GUSH welcome back drinks 6PM

Our first social is tonight at 6:30/7PM - after this meeting at the Old Schoolhouse on Woodlands Road. 5/10 minute walk. Would encourage everyone to come along and get to know other members, committee and chill out for a while. OS does decent food! One of things committee members talk about strongly is how good it is to hang out with Amnesty folks and this is a great opportunity to do it. It's also good to know the folks who will be turning up to meetings/demos/events.