

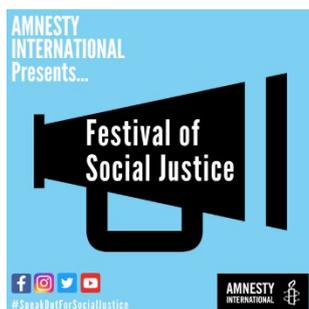
# Lincoln Amnesty International Groups

## April 2021 Newsletter

### The Alternative Market Update

Jessica has been in consultation Stallholders and now with the Bailgate Methodist Church over the booking of their Hall. She has asked them for possible dates in September and November with a view to booking a new date for the market. We hope to use the outdoor space there if possible.

### Festival of Social Justice



Join the Central Region as they host our Festival of Social Justice. Taking place between April 16 and May 31, the festival sees 40 local Amnesty International groups creating an exciting online programme of speakers, music, poetry evenings, photography exhibitions, theatre and panel discussions. Plus there's the chance for local activists to 'stand' on a virtual soapbox and share what social justice means to you. All events for the Festival of Social Justice are free but advance booking is recommended.

Follow the festival on Central Region groups' individual social media channels with the hashtags #SocialJustice #SpeakOutForSocialJustice

### Annual Subscription to Amnesty International UK

Ken is about to send off our £72 subscription. We usually send off a large contribution on top of that after our fundraising events.

### Immigration Bill

We are deeply concerned by the recent Home Office announcement about changes to the UK's immigration and asylum system. Sadly, the changes the Home Office intends to make are as harmful as we feared and confirms the Home Secretary's inability or unwillingness to fulfil her promise to reform Home Office culture.

Much of what has been announced, has been proposed or done before, often causing great suffering while exacerbating delays and backlogs. Long-term, Amnesty seeks a fundamental change in the UK's immigration and asylum system, so that it respects human rights. The recent announcement is a step in the opposite direction.

We have an opportunity to make our voices heard. The Home Office is launching an online consultation, on the proposals contained in a 50-page policy document. The consultation is set to run for six weeks. We are currently developing guidance for completing the consultation, and **we will update you very soon with details of our key areas of concern and how you can take part.**

## Hello from the South East Asia and the Pacific Region



The region continues to see severe crackdowns on freedom of expression and assembly. In Thailand, peaceful demonstrators critical of the government are facing trumped up charges, arrests and detentions. These violations of human rights are also faced by human rights defenders and protesters who have taken to the streets in Myanmar in defiance of the recent military coup. Amnesty calls for an immediate release of the protesters and for an end to the unnecessary and excessive use of force against them.

Moreover, we campaign to stand up for human rights defenders, such as the Vietnamese activist Pham Doan Trang persecuted for criticising the government.

### **South East Asia and the Pacific Team**

[Duncan Booth](#) - Thailand and Laos , and Regional Co-ordinator

[Basia Giezek](#) - Australia, Nauru, New Zealand and the South Pacific islands

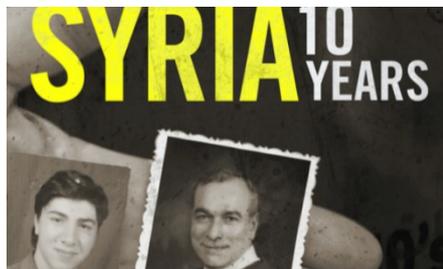
[Anna Vu](#) - Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei

[Lowis Fritchley](#) - Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Cambodia and Vietnam

[Teresa Hill](#) - Myanmar

Recruiting for a Philippines Co-ordinator

## Syria – 10 years after the uprising



In recent weeks AIUK has marked the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Syrian uprising and published a series of blogs and videos featuring brave Syrian human rights defenders we work with who are continuing to fight for justice.

Please watch and widely share this testimony by one of our main partners, Ahmad Helmi, reflecting on the past 10 years and talking about his plans which focus on justice & accountability on **Twitter** and on **Facebook**. Our **latest blog** post on Syria looks at the progress made by the Syrian human rights community towards accountability – despite so many activists being disappeared, tortured, or executed, they continue to **hunt down** torturers and war criminals, and have started securing guilty verdicts. Please read and share their story.

