



Southampton Group

AMNESTY NEWS

www.amnesty-volunteer.org/uk/southampton-city

If you would like more information about the Group or would like to take part in any activities please get in touch by e-mailing:

AmnestySouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

June 2021

MODERN SLAVERY

“All that is required for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing”
(Edmund Burke)

Simon John spoke to a number of AI Groups on zoom about the issues of Modern Slavery.

Definition of Modern Slavery:

- The total CONTROL of one person by another
- With a view to the economic exploitation of their labour
- With the use or threat of VIOLENCE to maintain that control
- It involves the loss of effective free will.

Modern slavery can include/involve; Human trafficking, people smuggling, economic migrants & asylum seekers, cheap labour and child labour.

Prevalence of modern slavery:

- 40.3M people in some form of modern slavery
 - 25.3M in forced labour
 - 15M in forced marriage
- 70% female
- 25% of enslaved people are children
 - 3.3M in forced marriage
 - 6.77M in forced labour

Common forms of modern slavery:

- County lines drug gangs
- Forced sexual exploitation in brothels
- Domestic slavery
- Shops, bars, nail bars car washes and farms
- Waste disposal plants

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AI's VISION
is of a world in which every
person enjoys all of the human
rights enshrined in the
Universal Declaration of
Human Rights and other
international standards

AI's MISSION
is to undertake research and action
focused on preventing and ending grave
abuses of the rights to physical and
mental integrity, freedom and conscience
and expression and freedom from
discrimination, within the context of its
work to promote all human rights

AI's CORE VALUES
remain those of international
solidarity, effective action for the
individual victim, global coverage,
the universality and indivisibility of
human rights, impartiality and
independence, and democracy
and mutual respect

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We all benefit indirectly:

- Internet porn! 4.8 million people are victims of forced sexual exploitation
- Knock of goods-handbags, sunglasses etc
- Food-fish & shellfish < S Atlantic & Indian Ocean, chocolate, tea, coffee and wine
- Clothing especially Uzbekistan, Xinjiang (Uighurs) fast fashion.

Ethical consumer basics:

- Never buy “knock-off” goods, often made by child slaves
- Fair trade-imperfect but best, allows millions of children to go to school
- Ethicalconsumer.org is a complete guide to goods/services
- Boycott pariahs such as Nestle & Mars
 - Child slaves < Mali to Ivory Coast- regarding chocolate particularly Mars, Nestle and Hershey.

A slave’s life may be in the palm of your hand:

- If it doesn’t feel right check it out “National Slavery Helpline 08000 121 700
- “Safe” car wash app > report concerns
- Farm worker welfare app: > report concerns
- Stop the traffic app to report
- Giki app scans products barcode, provides feedback

NB we will also send around a more detailed paper produced by the speaker entitled **“Doc. 1: “What can I do: Spot & Report”: Signs & Indicators of Modern Slavery & Some Helpful APPS.**

BUSINESS MEETING

1. **AGM:** Valerie to check out Group voting. Motions to be discussed at June mtg
2. **Kent Strategy:** i.e. getting involved with several local groups to work together on asylum seekers/refugees. To be further discussed
3. **Development of a Group video to celebrate Amnesty’s 60th birthday.**
 - a. Gareth will develop the script
 - b. All to review photographs
 - c. Peter will contact a range of news radio and TV outlets
 - d. Mary to produce a piece for the Echo.

SOUTHAMPTON GROUP 60TH BIRTHDAY VIDEO

THIS CAN BE FOUND ON “YOU TUBE”

<https://youtu.be/SvNFQEvlpZO>

Uyghur parents separated from their children

Uyghur parents from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region in northwest China who went to study or work abroad sometimes left their children behind with family members. But since 2016 the Chinese government's ruthless mass detention campaign in Xinjiang has made it impossible for the parents to return to the country. It is also virtually impossible for the children to leave China, as many have had their passports denied or confiscated.

Six sets of parents told Amnesty about the problem. At first they could have some contact with their children but over the years many of the relatives who were caring for the children have been sent to internment camps or have cut off all communications with family members outside China for fear of persecution.

The parents, who currently live in Australia, Canada, Italy, the Netherlands and Turkey, believe their children have been taken to state-run "**Orphan Camps**" or boarding schools. Most have had no contact with their children since 2016. They are desperate to reunite their families.

APPEAL: Urge the President of China to:

- Ensure children are allowed to leave China so they can be reunited as promptly as possible with their parents, guardians or siblings abroad, if that is what they wish.
- Ensure everybody from Xinjiang can regularly communicate with relatives and others, including those living overseas, without interference, unless specifically justified in line with international human rights law.
- Urgently release all children held in state-run institutions without the consent of their parents or guardians.

SEND TO: President of China Xi Jinping
Zhongnanhai, Xichangan'jie
Xichengqu, Beijing Shi 100017
People's Republic of China

Email: english@mail.gov.cn

Salutation: Dear President

COPY TO: Chargé d'affaires
Embassy of the People's Republic. London W1B 1JL

Salutation: Dear Chargé d'affaires.

CORONA VIRUS

For the foreseeable future the Southampton Group will not be holding face-to-face meetings. However, we will be arranging virtual meetings see DIARY box. And if possible some external fundraising events

We plan to continue to produce a monthly News Letter.

Each month we will include at least one letter or action, which you will either be able to copy or email, any update we may receive about cases we are working on and news from the web.

DIARY

For details of how to join any of the events/meetings outlined below please contact our secretary, Valerie at our email address: AmnestySouthampton@yahoo.co.uk

JUNE 2021

Monday 14th June:

1. Refugee week planning
2. AGM Motions
3. Planning for next year

This meeting will be held on zoom, see details above of how to join this meeting

SOUTHAMPTON GROUP WHO'S WHO

Group Officers:

Chair: Giampaolo D'Alessandro

Secretary: Valerie Oswald

Treasurer: Gareth Davies

Outreach and Parliamentary Officer:
Veronica Tippetts

Newsletter: John Williams

Campaigning Activity:
People on the move
Protecting the space for human rights defenders
Death Penalty
HR Act
Snoopers Charter
South Asia
China

Case file: Marielle Franco, Brazil

Individual at Risk: Aster Fissehatsion and Dawit Isaak, Eritea

Issues on the Web amnesty.org.uk Include:

Russia: Navalny is a prisoner of conscience after "politically motivated" sentencing.

Egypt: Detainees in severely overcrowded jails being denied health care.

Syria: Deaths by coronavirus – the latest fate awaiting Syrians.

Turkey: We are frightened for friends & colleagues in Turkey.

Institutional discrimination: Israel and Occupied Territories.

NB the views expressed in this News Letter may not necessarily be those of Amnesty International. John Williams editor