

## Hartlepool for Global Peace and Justice - Minutes of Regular Meeting on 14/09/15

**Present:** Chris Eddowes(chair), Richard Eddowes, Bill White, Lynn Fletcher, Keith Gorton Sheila Deacon, Diane Wanduragala, Michael Unwin, Jennifer Kerridge

**Apologies:** Martin Green, Irene Green Susan Atkinson

**Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2015 were accepted as a true record.

### **Matters Arising:**

- **Newcastle Jubilee Development Lecture.** LF reported that there were two speakers at the event. The first, from MEDACT described the relationship between health & politics & that climate change is the biggest threat to health. There is a need to disinvest from the fossil fuel industry. We should support campaigns that aim to get large investors (for example pension funds) to invest in other industries.

The second speaker was Tim Jones from the Jubilee Debt Campaign. He demonstrated a total grasp of debt & world economics. He made the comparison between how we treated debtors 150 years ago (by imprisonment) & how we treat debtor countries now. He explained that debt per se is not bad but responsibility for managing debt must be shouldered by both borrower & lender by sharing resources.

- **Violence Against Women** CE said she had not received a reply to her letter to I Wright.
- **Refugee re-settlement** KG reported that he had checked his emails but could find no response to the Group's letters. I Wright had written to the Home Secretary & had received a letter from the Rt Hon James Brokenshire which he had forwarded to KG. In I Wright's accompanying letter he expressed concern that the letter from James Brokenshire "betrays a very callous, uncaring policy", KG indicated that the James Brokenshire letter was primarily focussed on the need to prevent the exodus of migrants from their country of origin & on the Government's deployment of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme. Between January 2014 & the end of March 2015, 187 people were relocated to the UK! CE commented that the Government should not just address the problem of future migrants but should also address the problem of those who are already in Europe. The Group considered that a response to the letter was needed.

#### ***Action KG to respond via I Wright to James Brokenshire***

DW asked if the Group should write to Hartlepool Borough Council to thank them for their sympathetic attitude towards accommodating refugees & that the Group could offer to help.

#### ***Action KG to write to HBC***

LF said that the 5 regions (Churches) had got together re refugees & that she would forward the relevant email to the Group.

#### ***Action LF to forward email***

MU complimented the initiative taken by Father Leon in organising the collection of aid in Hartlepool for the Calais refugees. KG stated that there is on Facebook a page entitled "Hartlepool for Calais" on which can be found details of the support being given.

CE asked if the Group should write to I Wright to ask him, once the Labour Party had sorted itself out, what's its policy is on welcoming refugees to the UK. The Group agreed that it should write.

#### ***Action KG to write to I Wright***

## FAIRTRADE

- Pop-Up Shop. Jenny Medhurst hasn't yet got a shop for Xmas. Only one offered is in Coulby Newham.

For the St Georges pop-up shop (date is 5 December) it was agreed that 500 leaflets (A5) should be produced & that the cost of a plastic banner/poster (to be mounted outside the church a week before the event) be looked into.

**Action CE to ask Catcote Academy to print leaflets & how much it would cost to prepare a plastic banner/poster.**

LF asked if we could make the event more celebratory, perhaps by having a singing group. CE agreed to look into this.

**Action CE to find out there are any appropriate singing groups/choirs**

## LONGER TERM CAMPAIGNING ISSUES

- Climate change – see minute re Jubilee Development Lecture.
- Tax Dodging – no current issues raised.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- TTIP (38 Degrees). KG reported that he had gone to St Johns Tavern on 22 August. Although calling twice, there were no signs of any 38 Degrees reps.
- CE reported that she had received two emails
  - From Global Justice Now re how to make TTIP protests to get local authorities to become TTIP Free Zones. An information pack costs £5 & it was agreed we should get one.

**Action CE to order information pack.**

- From Christian Aid re a Climate Change Workshop to be held at St John the Baptist, Newcastle on Mon 28<sup>th</sup> September 7pm to 9pm. The workshop will include a preview of the new campaign. **(NB last train to Hartlepool departs 21.18)**
- LF had received notice of "Justice and Mercy", an evening of music, information & practical action featuring David Goulding & Gareth Davies-Jones at Enon Baptist Church, Sunderland on Wed 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm.

## AOB

- KG told the Group that following a Fairtrade meeting at Sunderland, he received regular email updates from a lady in Cumbria (Jo Alberti) on the subject of Tax & Tax Dodging. As this is one of the Group's long term campaign issues he suggested that he forward these updates to members.

**Action KG to forward Tax Dodging updates to members.**

## NEXT MEETING

Is on Monday 12 October at St Georges at 7.30 pm  
(NB CE & RE will not be able to attend)