****

**Activism Subcommittee**

**Saturday 18th November**

**10am – 4pm**

**Room F1**

**Human Rights Action Centre**

**17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**

**Present:**

Eilidh Douglas (Chair)

Liesbeth Ten Ham

Jamie Wheeler-Roberts

Tom Chigbo

Gemma Olive

Jenny Pollock

Jerry Allen

Martin Lunnon

**Staff attending:**

Kerry Moscogiuri

Andy Hackman

Jeni Dixon

Katherine Odukoya

**Guest:**

VCCP - Agathe Marian (part)

**Apologies:**

Katherine Walton

Bob Barron

|  |
| --- |
| ***Item No. 1 Agenda Topic:* Minutes and Matters Arising** |
| * 1. **Introduction**   Eilidh welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Introductions from all of the members of the meeting.   * 1. **Minutes from the September ASC meeting** * Minutes from previous meeting were approved with no amendments   **ACTION: Typo in the header of the last meeting notes to be changed from March to September and minutes to be posted on the website as final.**   * 1. **Matters arising**   Terms of reference for the Thematic Networks were reviewed between ASC meetings by Eilidh, Tom and Jerry and the final amended ToRs were approved by the Board. The changes to the committee size of become 8 were approved along with some other minor changed. The Student Action Network’s Terms of Reference were approved at the Student Conference and will be discussed further in the ASC meeting. All five networks have been working with the Nominations Committee on developing their process for nominating people for the Board seat reserved for network nominations. |
| ***Item No. 2 Agenda Topic:* Feedback from Constituencies** |
| **2.1 Country Coordinators Feedback**  Jamie reported back for the country coordinators.  The CC Conference took place earlier this month and was well received with great feedback. There was a workshop on public speaking that was particularly praised – Mike is looking into whether this could be offered at other conferences and to other activist groups.  **ACTION: Andy to feed this into our events calendar and list of skill requirements**  An editor has reached out to Barry to talk about questions children have asked about human rights in Russia (Link provided within report doc)  Hugh Sandeman has been working on Shawkan’s case – touring an exhibition in Exeter, Twickenham, west London, Bristol etc.  Campaign for Giulio Regeni film shown in Cambridge, Manchester and Cambridge – they are looking at whether this could be used in other cities where there are Amnesty groups.  Project on how Country Coordinators can engage with student groups – previously this hasn’t been done as students often don’t work on urgent actions and long-term case work. The aim was to have 5 student groups sign up but they have only had 1 so far. They are looking at how to get more engagement – social media and Facebook posts have been put up but engagement still hasn’t picked up.  Jenny suggested that as this was posted in October, when people were busy with Freshers. There may be more uptake if this was reposted now. She also noted that students are used to more spontaneous events rather than those that need to be planned well in advance.  Jeni also suggested that this could be down to number of student groups relative to the number of local groups.  This has not yet been formally discussed in a STAN meeting – something to mention at the handover meeting.  **2.2 Student Action Network Feedback**  Jenny fed back on behalf of the Student Action Network.  The Student Conference last weekend (11-12 Nov) had the highest turn out for a long time. 197 students had signed up, excluding volunteers, and approximately 180 turned up.  The conference had a keynote speech from Sakris Kupila followed by an action around London taking pictures with ‘Solidarity with Sakris’ photo frames. This was very well received, despite some apprehension to begin with. One group took around 150 pictures!  Students from Germany and Northern Ireland attended the conference and shared their experiences with us and the feedback on this was very positive.  A new StAN committee was elected during the conference. 18 candidates stood. There was a good range of candidates from different universities, genders, backgrounds etc.  StAN raised concerns about whether more than one person from each university can stand in terms of diversifying StAN – we had a few candidates from the same universities stand.  It was suggested that we could possibly zone by region but we want to encourage as many people as possible to stand. Maybe we should flag that StAN representatives will have to represent an allocated region when they are applying.  Student are starting to come to StAN to ask questions and for support – which is encouraging.  StAN Terms of Reference was debated at the AGM and agreed.  The StAN handover is happening on 2nd-3rd December.  **2.3 Youth Advisory Meeting**  Gemma fed back on behalf of the Youth Advisory Group.  Write for Rights has launched so we should have feedback from youth groups soon.  A new YAG has been recruited and their 1st meeting is on 2nd Dec.  **2.4 Regional Reps Feedback**  Liesbeth reported back for the regional reps following their meeting on 8th November.  They had a discussion on charging for conferences, with mixed views.  Local groups are planning many wonderful Write for Rights events.  Role descriptions have been discussed amongst the regional reps.  RMSO’s have expressed concerns that regional reps cater more to local groups and questioned how they are represented at ASC.  Farshid has done some research into the historical average of active members in groups and found that historically the average has been 12 and the current average is also 12. Most groups think that they are too small when actually they are average size.  Liesbeth suggested that this might mean that the focus should be around setting up more groups in certain areas rather than growing existing groups. However, it was suggested that a hindrance from setting up groups may be due to concerns about having to compete with each other for members.  Martin suggested that we could still have a big group in large cities rather than small groups all over the cities.  We also don’t always have to have geographical groups – we could have ‘daytime groups’ for example.    Liesbeth noted that one big group doesn’t work unless you divide them into groups. 12 may be an optimal number – not that it should be capped but seems it may be a kind of natural number for working well together  It was also suggested that we shouldn’t zone in to the number too much in case smaller groups are put off.  **2.5 Networks Feedback**  Martin fed back on behalf of the thematic networks.  The Thematic Networks Conference is on 9th December with a panel discussion on the shrinking space for human rights defenders.  Updates from the Women’s Action Network:  They are pleased to have expanded their active member base and are happy to be collaborating on the work on online violence against women. They participated in running a workshop at the student conference.  The children’s network are working in partnership on the PRCBC.    The LGBTI Network had a successful pride season and are working on the third stage of the Chechnya campaign..  The thematic networks are having their elections around the thematic networks conference. |
| ***Item No. 3 Agenda Topic: Implementing the Communication Strategy*** |
| **Guest: VCCP - Hatti**  Kerry introduced the brand proposition work to the ASC. She explained that last year we completed our communication strategy called more people, which was vital to our work. We put out a tender and appointed VCCP to help implement this. They have met with Jo Shaw on impact of the movement and attended the student conference. Hatti conducted a Q & A session with the ASC in order to inform the development of the brand proposition.  Eilidh thanked Hatti for coming along to the meeting |
| ***Item No. 4 : Improving the Impact of the Movement*** |
| 1. Strategic Summary   Jo Shaw attended the last ASC session  We’ve now done 8 sessions – starting with the staff session then YAG and run 5 regional workshops – Bristol, Manchester, London, Glasgow, Birmingham  b. Next Steps  Andy is developing the next steps which he will bring to the January ASC. This will include proposals for pilot projects. |
| ***Item No. 6 AGM and Events*** |
| 1. Schedule of events and their purpose   Andy distributed a handout of our regular events calendar. This is attached to these minutes.  The team are reviewing the events programme to ensure that, across the whole programme, we are clear about the role and purpose of each event and that the programme as whole meets our objectives of inspiring and enabling people to campaign with Amnesty .   1. Recap of recent events and learnings  * 6 Regional Conferences * Human Rights Defenders Skill share in Manchester * Student Conference and Country Coordinators Conference * We need to be more explicit about saying ‘this event is for everybody – its fine if you are just interested’ and to enable a more diverse audience to attend. We have recently asked if you have an accessibility needs and we have seen that this has enabled more people to attend. |
| ***Item No. 7 AGM 2018*** |
| Our National AGM is taking place in Swansea on 7th & 8th April 2018.  The board will be discussing drafts for special resolutions in December and had asked for ASC advice at this meeting to inform that discussion.  The ASC advised caution on increasing the tenure for the co-opted Directors and in general that the board should seek democratically elected positions wherever possible.  The ASC were keen that members should have the opportunity to amend resolutions to improve their quality and that currently the working parties play a valuable role in that. The ASC understood that at the AGM it is not possible to make substantive amendments to the resolutions and suggested that the Board could look at ways to do that before resolutions are published to be voted on (by proxy or at the AGM).  **ACTION: ASC were asked to provide any comments on the remaining resolutions by email to Kerry before the 9th December**  Jenny and Liesbeth are on AGM Review group so are able to consult other ASC members on an ongoing basis. |
| **Item No.8 Student Network Terms of Reference** |
| Nothing controversially different from the previous terms of Reference   * 1 year StAN committee terms only * Outgoing StAN officially must hold a handover for a new StAN   Inconsistent numbering on ToR reference document to be changed and also:  **4.2.2** To ***lead on*** representing the network at external events, rather than ***to*** represent  **4.4.1** questions over what constitutes the ‘equivalent means’ – this should be in line with our wider expenses policy |
| ***Item No. 7* Agenda Topic: Upcoming ASC Dates 2017** |
| **Next meeting is 20th January 2018**  Proposal that the local groups survey comes back on the Agenda for next ASC meeting.  Request that the Community Organising Unit set up their own Facebook Page. |
| ***Item No. 8 Agenda Topic: AOB*** |
| Eilidh thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. |