

**NATIONAL**

**CONFERENCE**

**AND AGM 2017**

CONFERENCE PAPERS

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**





# NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2017 CONFERENCE PAPERS

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### **\*NOTE ON FINANCE REPORTS:**

See page 39 for information about the way financial information is presented this year.



# WELCOME FROM THE AGM CHAIR

Dear Friend,

The world is a remarkably changed place since we had our last AGM. 2016 was a shock for many of us, but also a wakeup call. We have seen hard days, we have learned that we cannot stop, even for a second in calling out cases of injustice, and standing up for human rights. The human rights landscape has yet again changed, and now more than ever we must come together as a movement, shout louder, and campaign bigger. We must fight for, uphold and protect our rights. Everyone's rights. Human rights. We've been doing this for over 50 years, we have brought about change, we have saved lives, but there is still work to be done.

The AGM is one of the most important demonstrations of our democracy and the member-led nature of this movement – your movement. The time where Amnesty members from across the UK come together to help set the direction for AIUK, debate the important issues, learn about the campaigns that are going on, meet old friends and make new ones, and hopefully leave inspired to continue campaigning on the issues we all hold so dear.

If this is your first ever AGM, then a very warm welcome to you! I would strongly recommend attending the 'New to the AGM' workshop on the Saturday morning – it will give you all the information about how the AGM works, and the little idiosyncrasies we enjoy as an organisation.

If you are interested in getting more involved with the governance of Amnesty then the Nominations Committee will be on hand at the Engaging with Governance stall from 10am on Saturday. Even if you've never thought about it, I'd really recommend going and talking to them, there are loads of ways of getting involved – so go have a chat.

As ever we always try and make changes to improve the AGM, and how you can get involved in the governance of your organisation. All of these changes have come about due to feedback from previous delegates in their feedback forms so, after the conference, please do fill out the online survey so that we can continue making the event go from strength to strength.

I really look forward to seeing you all in Nottingham.

Alex Rhys  
2017 AGM Chair



## **About Alex Rhys**

Alex has been a member of Amnesty since he was 13, first joining at his school group. Alex previously sat on the Activism Sub-Committee for 5 years. This is his 13th AGM, having chaired 4, as well as an EGM, and has previously chaired the Standing Orders Committee.

Outside of Amnesty, Alex is in just finalising his thesis for a PhD in Cancer Research at Barts Cancer Institute in London. He enjoys mountaineering, and got married in June last year (2016 wasn't all bad!).

Alex says "The Amnesty AGM is one of the highlights of my activism year, an opportunity to talk to people who have the same passion and drive for human rights. I can't help but leave inspired to continue campaigning on the issues I think are important"



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE

## AND AGM 2017

# SECTION 1: WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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# PROGRAMME

## SATURDAY 8 APRIL 2017

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION	
10:00	<b>Registration opens</b>	Atrium	
	11:00 - 12:00   Standing Orders Committee available		
10:00 - 20:00	<b>Action Centre open</b>	Exhibition Hall	
10:30 - 12:00	<b>Pre-conference sessions</b>		
	10:30 - 11:30   New to the AGM? For all first-time delegates	Theatre	
	10:30 - 12:00   Youth activist meeting	Conference Room 1	
	11:30 - 12:00   Student activist meeting	Conference Room 4	
12:15 - 12:45	<b>Conference opening:</b> Alex Rhys, AGM Chair	Theatre	
12:45 - 13:20	<b>Board Report</b> Ruth Breddal, AIUK Section Chair Hannah Perry, Nominations Committee Chair Meredith Coombs, Treasurer	Theatre	
13:20 - 13:40	<b>Director's Report</b> Kate Allen, Director	Theatre	
13:40 - 14:30	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Exhibition Hall</b>	
14:30 - 15:30	<b>Keynote Panel:</b> Against Hate	Theatre	
15:30 - 15:35	<b>Explanation of Working Parties Process</b> Anne McFarlane, SOC Chair	Theatre	
15:45 - 17:45	<b>Working parties and Workshops</b>		
	15:45 - 16:45	<b>Workshops 1:</b>	
		I Welcome	Theatre
		Human Rights in the UK	Conference Room 3
		Palm Oil, Palestine & Trump	Gallery 1
		Human Rights Education	Discovery Room (Orchard Hotel)
	15:45 - 17:45	<b>Working Parties on proposed resolutions:</b>	
		Working Party A	Conference Room 1
Working Party B		Conference Room 4	
Working Party C		Conference Room 2	
17:45 - 18:00	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>	<b>Exhibition Hall</b>	
18:00 - 19:00	<b>Workshops</b>		
	18:00 - 19:00	<b>Workshops 2:</b>	
		I Welcome	Theatre
		Working with and for Individuals At Risk	Conference Room 1
		Human Rights Defenders	Conference Room 2
		Human Rights in the UK	Conference Room 3
		My Body My Rights and Stop Torture evaluation	Conference Room 4
		Palm Oil, Palestine & Trump	Gallery 1
International Governance	Discovery Room (Orchard Hotel)		
19:30 - 20:30	<b>Dinner</b>	<b>Exhibition Hall</b>	
20:00 - 23:00	<b>Chill Out Zone open</b>	Conference Room 3	
21:00 - 22:00	<b>Activism Showcase</b>	Exhibition Hall	
21:00 - 23:00	<b>Film screening</b>	Theatre	

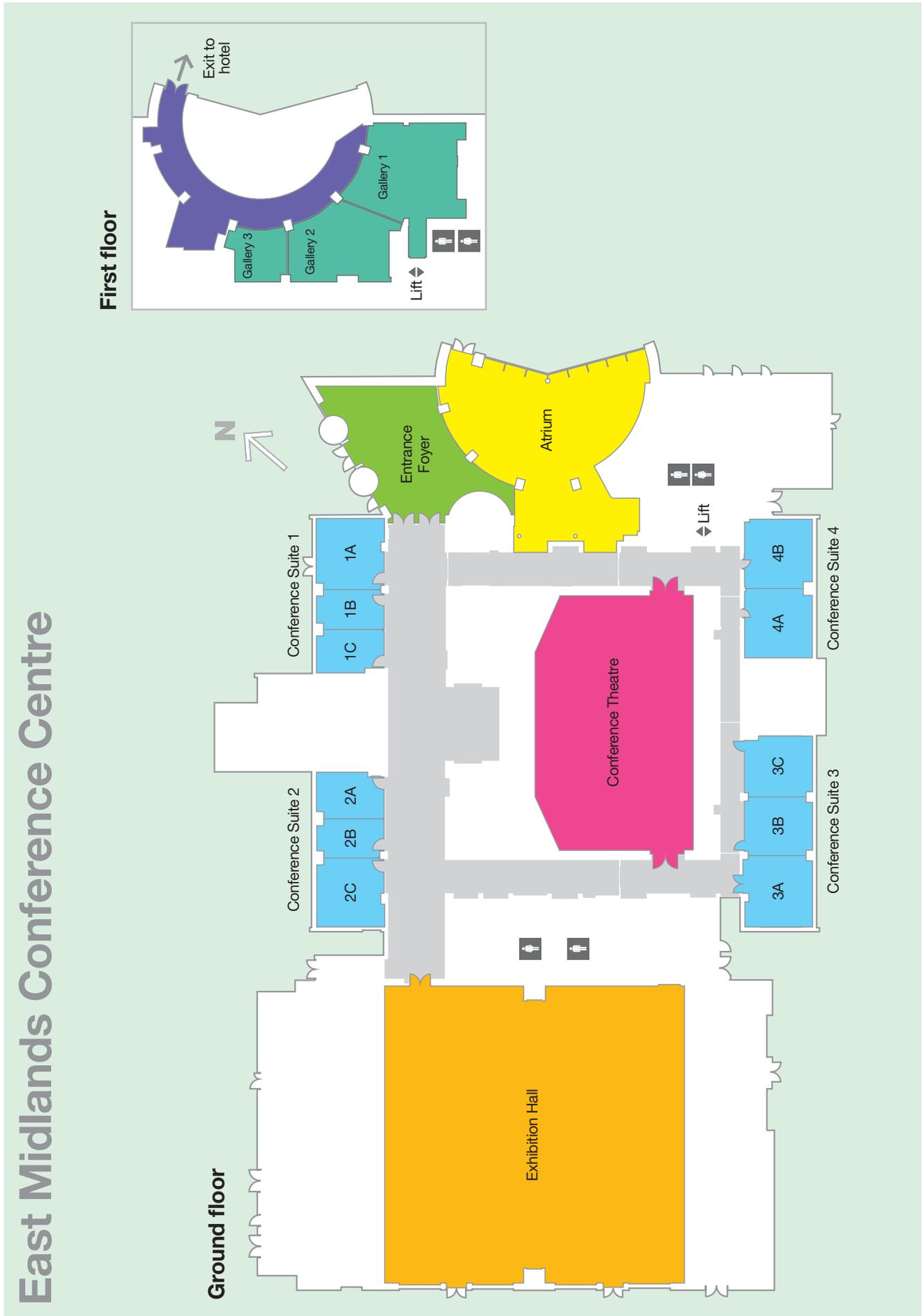
# PROGRAMME

## SUNDAY 9 APRIL 2017

TIME	SESSION	LOCATION
08:00	<b>Registration opens</b>	Foyer
09:00 - 14:00	<b>Action Centre open</b>	Exhibition Hall
09:00 - 09:10	<b>Welcome back</b> Alex Rhys, AGM Chair	Theatre
09:10 - 09:30	<b>Good News &amp; Activism Subcommittee Report</b> Eilidh Douglas, ASC Chair	Theatre
09:30 - 11:00	<b>Resolutions Plenary &amp; Voting Session 1</b>	Theatre
11:00 - 11:20	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>	Exhibition Hall
11:20 - 11:30	<b>Marsh Awards for Activism</b>	Theatre
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Election of candidates</b> John Pestle, Returning Officer	Theatre
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Board Q&amp;A</b>	Theatre
12:30 - 13:30	<b>Lunch</b>	Exhibition Hall
13:30 - 14:15	<b>Spotlight talk</b> Razan Ghazzawi	Theatre
14:15 - 14:30	<b>Tea and coffee break</b>	Exhibition Hall
14:30 - 16:00	<b>Resolutions Plenary &amp; Voting Session 2</b>	Theatre
16:00 - 16:30	<b>Closing remarks &amp; Against Hate action</b>	Theatre



# Conference centre



# SPEAKERS

## Amnesty International UK Section Board Report

Saturday 12:45 - 13:20



### Ruth Breddal, Chair Amnesty International UK

An Amnesty member for over 30 years, Ruth was elected to the Board in 2013 and was selected to be Chair in May 2016. Before this, she was a member of the SOC and also the ASC. She has represented AIUK at the International Council Meeting in 2015 and the Chairs Assembly in 2016. Ruth is also Chair of her Amnesty local group and is committed to promoting human rights through local activism. Ruth works as a Company Secretary and Director of a private company.



### Hannah Perry, Vice-Chair Amnesty International UK

Hannah became an Amnesty member at university where she chaired the Cambridge University group. She was elected to the Board in 2011, chaired the Activism Sub-committee (2013-15) and became Vice-Chair of the Board in 2013-15. She was appointed Vice-Chair again in 2016.



### Meredith Coombs, Treasurer, Amnesty International UK

A supporter of Amnesty International since his student days, Meredith has extensive experience of finance and accounting in both the commercial and charity sectors. He was latterly Director of Finance and Shared Services at St John Ambulance for eight years before retiring in June 2015. Meredith joined the Amnesty UK Section Board in September 2015.

## Director's Report

Saturday 13:20 - 13:40



### Kate Allen, Director, Amnesty International UK

Kate took up her post as Director of Amnesty International UK in early 2000. AIUK's major current campaigns are I Welcome, Human Rights Defenders, Individuals At Risk and Crisis Response. Kate is a member of the Secretary General's Global Management Team. She also sits on the Foreign Secretary's Human Rights Advisory Panel.

Before joining Amnesty International Kate was Deputy Chief Executive at the Refugee Council from 1995 to January 2000, where she was responsible for its policy and operational work and headed the UK emergency evacuation programmes from Bosnia and Kosovo.

## ASC Report

Sunday 09:10 - 09:30



### Eilidh Douglas, Chair ASC

Elected to the Board in May 2014, Eilidh is Chair of the Activism Subcommittee. Eilidh is also a School Speaker and served on the Student Action Network Committee in 2012-13. She is a lawyer at international law firm CMS specialising in energy disputes, with a keen interest in pro bono, having previously worked at the Edinburgh Free Legal Advice Centre. She is also of Equality Network, Scotland's national LGBTI equality and human rights charity.

## Candle lighter

Saturday 12:15



### **Brendan Cox**

Brendan Cox is an international campaigner and activist. Brendan started his work in the aftermath of the civil war in the former Yugoslavia working with children affected by the conflict and has a long-standing interest in refugee policy. He was Chief Executive of Crisis Action from 2006 to 2009, a charity that works behind the scenes to address armed conflict. After this Brendan served as Special Advisor to the British Prime Minister before joining Save the Children as Director of Policy and Advocacy. Brendan has spent the last 18 months developing an initiative to build open and welcoming communities in the UK and around the world. Brendan is the husband of the late Jo Cox MP and lives with their two kids on a boat on the river Thames.

## Against Hate Panel Discussion

Saturday 14:30 - 15:30



### **Laura Trevelyan, Amnesty International UK Against Hate Campaign Manager**

Laura Trevelyan is a Priority Campaign Manager at Amnesty International UK. She leads our Trump work as well as our Against Hate and Human Rights Act campaigns. Before joining the campaigns team Laura was in the advocacy team working on activist outreach. Laura's non-Amnesty life included leading Shelter's welfare and private renting campaigns and climate change campaigning at Christian Aid.



### **Fiyaz Mughal**

Fiyaz Mughal OBE is the founder and director of the not-for-profit organisation, Faith Matters, which works on reducing extremism and developing platforms for discourse between communities. He is also the founder and director of the national anti-Muslim hate crime monitoring project, TELL MAMA. Between 2012-2014, Fiyaz was part of the government's Advisory Committee on Tackling Anti-Muslim Hatred, administered by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and in 2016 was an adviser to the Women and Equalities Committee.



### **Naureen Shah**

Naureen Shah is Director of Amnesty International USA's Security and Human Rights program, which campaigns to end human rights abuses committed in the name of national security. She leads its work on the Muslim ban and countering anti-Muslim hate. She is author of reports on drone strikes, torture and secret detention, and domestic counterterrorism practices. She conducts advocacy with the White House, federal agencies, Congress and the UN.

## Spotlight Talk

Sunday 13:30 - 14:15



### **Razan Ghazzawi**

Razan Ghazzawi participated in the 2011 protests in Syria and was detained twice by the Assadist state; the threat of a third detention forced her to escape the country. Still, in 2013 she returned to live in Kafranbel, a town outside government control and lived there for approximately a year. She currently works with the Foundation to Restore Equality and Education in Syria (FREE-Syria) before entering the PhD program at the University of Sussex in 2017/2018.

# WORKSHOPS

Workshops are a great opportunity to hear about AIUK's current priority campaigns in more detail.

## **I WELCOME: SHARING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS – WHAT ROLE WE CAN ALL PLAY – Theatre**

**Saturday 15.45 - 16:45 and 18:00 - 19:00**

The international community is not adequately sharing responsibility for the global refugee crisis. With most of the 21 million refugees in the world today hosted in poorer countries, the UK and others can and must do more. The I Welcome campaign calls on the UK Government to expand opportunities for refugees to come to the UK through safe and legal routes and is seeking to create a more welcoming environment for those that are here.

This workshop will be a chance to hear more about the I Welcome campaign, share information about activities happening in local communities across the country and discuss how you can get involved in the campaign.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE UK – THE CHALLENGES AND THE OPPORTUNITIES – Conference room 3**

**Saturday 15.45 - 16:45 and 18:00 - 19:00**

Bewildered by the threats to the HRA and the ECHR? Wondering how you can stand against hate? This is the session for you. Come along and learn about the new threat to the European Convention on Human Rights and what this could mean for the Human Rights Act. Come along and hear about our campaign against hate, our research with Leicester University and how you can get involved. Come along and leave with the knowledge to defend our human rights in your communities.

## **PALM OIL, PALESTINE & TRUMP – CRISIS & TACTICAL CAMPAIGNS – Gallery 1**

**Saturday 15.45 - 16:45 and 18:00 - 19:00**

We'll give an overview of AIUK's crisis & tactical campaigns, such as Syria, Yemen, Israel/Palestine and Darfur but focus down on two tactical campaigns we want your creative input with in 2017: Trump's visit to the UK and preventing abuses linked to Palm oil. Help us brainstorm ideas for stunts and other activities so we can maximise coverage and mobilisation and give Trump a 'proper welcome' to the UK. Help us develop a subversive advertisement strategy that will help link household brands to human rights abuses.

## **CLASSROOM TO COMMUNITY: EDUCATING CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULTS ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS**

**– Discovery room (Hotel)**

**Saturday 15:45 - 16:45**

This workshop will explore what Human Rights Education is and how you can get involved in and promote AIUK's education work.

## **WORKING WITH AND FOR INDIVIDUALS AT RISK: OUR ETHICAL RESPONSIBILITIES – Conference room 1**

**Saturday 18:00 - 19:00**

Working with and for people who are facing human rights abuses is, and always has been, central to Amnesty but it is important that we do this safely and ethically. This workshop is an introduction to the ethical responsibilities we all have in all the ways we work with and for people, whether that involves direct contact with the individual or not.

## **INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE REFORM**

**– Discovery room (Hotel)**

**Saturday 18:00 - 19:00**

Later this year, the global movement's highest decision-making body, the International Council will meet. The most significant item for discussion will be proposals for the reform of Amnesty's international governance structures. Will the ICM scrap itself? How will votes be counted in the future? What will governance look like? This workshop will describe and discuss the International Board's proposals. If you're interested in governance or want to find out a bit more about how the international movement makes decisions, this is the workshop for you.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS – Conference room 2**

**Saturday 18:00 - 19:00**

We are witnessing a global trend of restricting civil society freedoms, often in the name of national security. Across the world Human Rights Defenders are being targeted and facing growing restrictions on funding, status and freedom to operate designed to stop their work and activities.

Right now, people across the world are risking everything to speak out against injustice. Student leaders, political opponents, journalists, lawyers, environmental activists and many others. But they're being harassed, tortured, jailed and even killed – just for daring to stand up for what's right.

In May 2017 Amnesty International is launching a campaign in response to this attack on human rights and those standing up to protect them. This session will focus on key issues and challenges facing Human Rights Defenders and opportunities for the upcoming AIUK priority campaign.

## **MY BODY MY RIGHTS EVALUATION – Conference room 4**

**Saturday 18:00 - 19:00**

My Body My Rights was Amnesty's global campaign to stop the control and criminalization of sexuality and reproduction. It focused on some priority countries where states encroach on these rights through control and criminalisation including Ireland (north & south), El Salvador and Burkina Faso, as well as working on Individuals at Risk cases and reactive campaigning including on Chile, Argentina, Peru and Spain. This workshop will look back at the key successes and learnings from the campaign, so we can apply this knowledge to help future campaigns.

# EXHIBITION AND ACTION CENTRE

Amnesty International UK works across an incredibly wide range of issues and areas, and you can find them all represented in the Action Centre, which will be open in all breaks in the Exhibition Hall, featuring stalls and interactive clinics.

This is also the place to take part in actions, uniting with hundreds of other supporters over the course of the weekend to stand in solidarity with individuals all over the world.

## INTERACTIVE CLINICS

Got a burning question about digital campaigning? Want to know more about Amnesty's communications strategy? Need some advice about lobbying MPs? Our three clinics – Digital, Communications and Lobbying are on hand to help.

## STALLS

Meet staff and activists working across a wide range of issues at our Action Centre stalls. These include:

- Regional Representatives and Local Groups
- Student Action Network
- Youth Groups
- Human Rights Education
- LGBTI Network
- Children's Human Rights Network
- Women's Action Network
- Asylum Justice Project
- Country Coordinators
- Amnesty in Nations
- Policy & Government Affairs
- Human Rights in the UK
- Individuals at Risk
- Crisis and Tactical Campaigns
- Trade Union Network
- Engaging with Governance
- Community Fundraising
- Innovations
- I Welcome
- Using Fiction to Explore Human Rights
- Regional Media Support Officers

# SATURDAY EVENING ACTIVITIES

Saturday 19:30-00:00

If you haven't had time to check into your accommodation, after 19:00 is a good time to do this. Check-in is open right until midnight!

At 19:30 dinner will be served in the Exhibition Hall. Grab a seat with friends (old and new!) and help yourself to food.

From 20:00 the chill-out zone will open, with books and board games if you fancy kicking back and relaxing after a busy day. (Please note this is a non-alcohol area).

At 21:00 you can get inspired by amazing examples of activism at our Activism Showcase in the Exhibition Hall. Alternatively you can watch a film screening in the Theatre.

The hotel bar will also be open all evening if you fancy socialising over a cuppa or a glass of wine.

# USEFUL MEETINGS

## If you're new to the AGM

### Getting to know your way around the AGM

Saturday 10:30-11:30

If this is your first time at the AGM? We've got experienced AGM attendees on hand to give you the lowdown on how things work and how to make the most of your time with us. Plus, you'll get a chance to meet other activists from all over the country.

## If you have a question about resolutions

### Standing Orders Committee available for consultation

Saturday 11:00-12:00

Do you have any queries about your proposed resolution? Do you need clarification about the order of debate? Have you got any queries about Standing Orders? If you have anything that you would like to discuss relating to any aspect of AGM business, feel free to come and chat to the Standing Orders Committee who will be happy to help you.

## NEW TO THE AGM?

- Enjoy yourself – and get the most of the AGM. Meet as many people as you can.
- The AGM is conducted in accordance with set rules or ‘Standing Orders’. These are explained at the beginning of the meeting.
- If you don’t know something, ask. There are plenty of people around to help – and we all learn from each other.
- Switch off mobile phones in sessions – or put them on silent.
- The Chair is responsible for running the meeting and keeping order. If the Chair is speaking, delegates should wait until she/he has finished before they speak. It’s not an easy job, so everyone needs to help make it all go smoothly.
- Occasionally a debate can get very lively. But remember, respect everyone’s right to speak and to be treated with courtesy. Arguments should focus on issues not personalities.
- If you speak in a session, wait till the Chair calls on you, then start by announcing your name and membership category.
- Keep to the time limits for speakers. These are to ensure we get through AGM business on time.
- If you’re a group representative, take time to think how to feed back to your group so they can benefit from what you have learned.
- Have a great time! It is a tiring weekend – but also inspiring.

For more details on how meetings are conducted, see:

- Standing Orders on page 21
- Appendix for Activist Code of Conduct on page 59.

### A QUICK EXPLAINER

In case you don’t know...

- **THE BOARD** The body that oversees the AIUK section. It is made up of elected Amnesty members.
- **CHAIR OF THE BOARD** Ruth Breddal.
- **CHAIR OF THE 2017 AGM** Alex Rhys. The Chair is elected at each AGM for the next year.
- **THE DIRECTOR** Kate Allen. The Board appoints the Director, the most senior member of AIUK paid staff.
- **SOC** Standing Orders Committee: referred to a lot during the conference. Standing Orders are the rules of debate. The elected SOC makes sure these rules are obeyed! There is always an SOC member at working parties and formal plenary sessions.
- **ICM** International Council Meeting: this is like our AGM but is the meeting that makes decisions for the international movement. They take place every two years with delegates from all the Amnesty Country Sections.
- **I.S.** International Secretariat: the coordinating centre for the whole Amnesty movement. Carries out our global human rights research.
- **WORKING PARTY** Where initial discussions take place about resolutions. Here people can suggest changes (amendments) to resolutions. Final decisions are then made by the whole AGM in plenary session.
- **RESOLUTION** A proposal that Amnesty does something. It has to be put forward before the AGM so it can be checked and printed on the agenda. An emergency resolution is about something that happens after the official deadline.
- **SPECIAL RESOLUTION** A motion which involves a change to the AIUK constitution.
- **PLENARY** When everyone at the conference meets together in the main conference hall

## WANT TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

Elections take place on Sunday at 11:30. If you would like to nominate yourself or a fellow member for one of the following roles please fill in the form in your conference pack and hand it in at the registration desk by 8pm on Saturday 8th April. For more details on these roles please visit the governance stand in the Exhibition Hall.

### AGM Chairperson

The Chair presides over the business of the Annual General Meetings and Emergency General Meetings and is elected annually subject to a limit of three consecutive years. Experience of chairing large meetings is essential.

### Standing Orders Committee (SOC)

The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) consists of three members who are elected annually at the AGM. Standing Orders are the rules under which general meetings are conducted. The role of the Committee is to apply the Standing Orders to all business relating to AGMs and EGMs. The SOC advises the chairperson during general meetings and, in addition, the SOC updates the Standing Orders to reflect changing needs and external legal requirements. The SOC submits a report and any suggested changes to Standing Orders to each general meeting for ratification. Candidates for election need to be available for AGM/EGM preparatory meetings and reviews after, as well as attending the AGM/EGMs. Experience of managing Standing Orders or agenda committees of similar membership organisations is desirable. Must be an Individual Member of AIUK.

For more information about any of these roles please contact [returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk) or [nomcom@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:nomcom@amnesty.org.uk)

## WANT TO ASK A QUESTION?

The AGM is the perfect opportunity to meet the Board – the body that oversees Amnesty International UK Section. We really want to encourage you to talk with them, ask them any questions you might have about AIUK, and generally get to know them better.

To make them easier to spot in the lunch queue, you’ll find their photos on the “Who’s Who” page, but we’re also giving you a dedicated slot to put your questions to them (12pm on Sunday).

Because this is in plenary, with limited time, we are asking people to submit their question in advance, using the form in your delegate pack. Just fill it in and post it in the box at registration before 8pm on Saturday.

If you have a question around how to get more involved with AIUK, whether that’s joining the Board or taking on a committee role, do visit the Engaging with Governance stall in the Action Centre.

# WHO'S WHO

## Who is on the AIUK Board of Trustees?



**Ruth Breddal** Chair



**Hannah Perry** Vice-Chair



**Meredith Coombs** Treasurer



**Cris Burson-Thomas**



**Tom Hedley**



**James Lovatt**



**Jeremy Paul Allen**



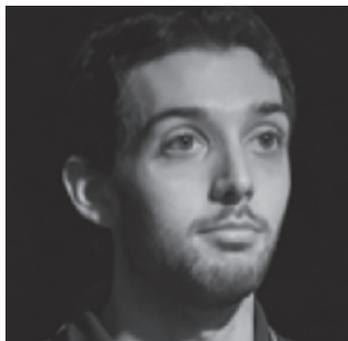
**Harrison Littler**



**Lucy Blake**



**Tracy Newton-Blows**



**Tom Sparks**



**Eilidh Douglas**

## Who's who on the Standing Orders Committee?



### **Anne McFarlane** Chair of Standing Orders Committee

Anne McFarlane has been a member of Amnesty International for over 20 years and became an active member when she joined the Reading Group in 1997. She is currently secretary of the Reading Group, having previously been chair and also a campaign co-ordinator. Throughout the year Anne can be found shaking collecting tins, helping on campaign stalls, organising fundraising events, writing letters, sending emails and signing petitions. Anne is a senior manager in the Public Sector. Anne says "I am so thankful for the rights and freedoms that I enjoy and I want to live in a world where human rights are truly universal. There have been a number of events over the past year that convince me that the work that Amnesty does is increasingly important and I'm glad to a part of it".



### **Melvin Coleman**

Melvin was Finance Director and Company Secretary of AIUK until his retirement in 2009. He was responsible for the incorporation of the Section as a Company Limited by Guarantee and with Mike Parkinson of Oxfam for the Charity Commission's guidelines on the *Promotion of Human Rights as a Charitable Purpose*. Previously he had been Treasurer of Liberty and chaired its Conference & Elections Committee. Since retiring he has served as a Trustee of Amnesty's international charity, latterly as Chair.

Melvin says "We enjoy our human rights today as a result of hard fought battles by courageous women and men in the past and constant vigilance is needed to protect them from those with power who find them too constraining. Amnesty's unique blend of research with individual activism and campaigning makes it indispensable in the struggle and I feel proud to be involved in such an inspiring organisation. I am committed to enhancing AIUK's democracy and grateful for the chance to have served on SOC this past year."



### **Sheila Banks**

Sheila describes herself as an opera and theatre loving feminist vegetarian atheist. She has been an active Trade Unionist throughout her working life in the Civil Service and although she retired nearly 4 years ago she remains involved with the PCS Retired Members' Section. She is Director of a Credit Union, a school governor and sits on CS Appeal Boards. She has been attending Amnesty AGMs for over 20 years, both as an affiliate and as an individual member. She was a member of the Standing Orders Committee for a number of years prior to chairing the AGM for 3 years and most recently she Chaired the AIUK Governance Task Force. This is her second year of this term on the SOC.

She says "I have been privileged to hold a number of AGM elected posts over the years all of which have been immensely satisfying, partly because the enthusiasm in AI is infectious. This is a wonderful and very necessary organisation full of people with incredible drive and commitment to human rights and I feel proud to be a member and to play a small part in the organisation".



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2017

## SECTION 2: WHAT ARE WE VOTING ON?

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# STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT

The SOC received sixteen resolutions for the 2017 AGM

One resolution was rejected on the basis that it did not contain a clear instruction for AIUK.

Resolutions F1 and F2 relating to the financial report will not be discussed in a WP. The remaining thirteen have been allocated between three working parties.

Resolutions A3 and A4 will be discussed in common debate. However, as A4 is logically dependent upon A3, it will automatically fall if A3 is lost. To be clear, a separate vote on A4 will only be taken if A3 is carried. As A4 seeks to amend the Standing Orders, it will require a two-thirds majority in order to be carried.

Resolutions C1S and C2S are constitutional amendments and therefore require three-quarters of votes cast to be carried. The outcome of all other resolutions is based on a simple majority. Members are reminded that, unlike ordinary resolutions, special resolutions cannot be amended.

Some of the resolutions required amendments to the wording, and we thank the proposers who worked with us to ensure the process worked as smoothly as possible. We also wish to thank those proposers who engaged with the SOC in advance of the deadline as early discussions can be very helpful to framing the final resolution. Unfortunately, not all of the resolutions were submitted on the form provided and we would like to take this opportunity to remind anyone who might be interested in submitting a resolution next year to use this facility.

There are 2 amendments to the Standing Orders. Firstly SO5. As a result of Special Resolution 3 from last year's AGM, this has been amended to reflect the need for members controlling a total of six votes to be required to propose a resolution to the AGM. Unfortunately, the Resolution Form did not initially reflect this change. Nonetheless, we are able to confirm that each resolution did receive the necessary level of support to meet this constitutional change.

Secondly, SO41. In order to be compliant with Company Law, the minimum number of members required to successfully call for a card vote has been reduced from fifty to five.

Anne McFarlane, Chair of SOC

# STANDING ORDERS

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1.1 The draft agenda shall be drawn up by the Board in consultation with the Director, and shall be submitted to the Standing Orders Committee for its consideration. The Standing Orders Committee report containing the Agenda, its recommendations for the procedure it considers desirable for the despatch of business, and the Standing Orders shall be submitted to the meeting for adoption, and once adopted shall only be varied by the meeting for good and sufficient reason.
- 1.2 An AGM Agenda shall include:
  - a) Presentation and, if thought fit, adoption of the report of the Standing Orders Committee.
  - b) Presentation and, if thought fit, adoption of the Board Chairperson's report together with any up-to-date supplementary reports, including a report on the implementation of the previous two AGMs' decisions. The AGM may reject the implementation report in whole or in part, this will require a further report at the next AGM on any matter thus rejected.
  - c) Presentation and, if thought fit, adoption of the Director's report together with any up-to-date supplementary reports.
  - d) Presentation of the audited financial statement of the last but one financial year, and presentation of the unaudited financial statement of the previous financial year.
  - e) Auditors' report and appointment of auditors.
  - f) Presentation and, if thought fit, adoption of the financial estimates for the current year and budget projections for the following two years.
  - g) Ballots for elections, which shall be so arranged as to ensure their completion before the end of the AGM.
  - h) Any other reports.
  - i) Duly submitted resolutions.

## RESOLUTIONS

2. A resolution must be clear and succinct and contain a recommendation for action.
3. The Standing Orders Committee shall have the power to composite or split resolutions after consultation with the proposers. In relation to conflicting resolutions, they shall also have the power to recommend that once one position has been adopted, any subsequent conflicting resolution(s) will be deemed to have fallen and not be heard.
4. The Standing Orders Committee shall have the power to arrange resolutions in a common debate in order to make the most efficient use of time available at the meeting. Each resolution within the common debate will be proposed in the order printed in the agenda and rights of reply and votes will be taken in the same order.
5. Resolutions shall be proposed by individual members, groups (either individually or from a regional meeting), affiliated organisations, or by the Board. Resolutions must demonstrate the support of a total of six votes by virtue of the voting strength of the proposing

## STANDING ORDERS

organisation or, by being seconded by 5 other members, (which can be made up of individuals, Groups, Affiliates or combinations of such) although the seconders do not have to be present.

6. If a resolution is to be debated in a plenary session or working party it shall be proposed by the original proposer, unless the Standing Orders Committee has been notified not later than the start of the plenary session or working party, as appropriate, that a specified other person or body will propose the resolution instead. If, when a resolution is called for debate in a working party or plenary session, the proposer is not present, the resolution shall fall.
7. A resolution may only be withdrawn in the plenary and only (subject to 6 above) by the proposer. A composite resolution may only be withdrawn with the consent of all the proposers of the original resolutions. In addition proposers may only withdraw a resolution with the consent of a majority of the meeting.
8. A resolution once lost may not be proposed again at the same meeting.
9. The Standing Orders Committee have the power to reject resolutions which in its opinion are similar to or identical with resolutions that were duly submitted, debated and not passed at the preceding AGM. The Standing Orders Committee will suggest to those proposers alternative ways of resolving the issues behind the repeat resolutions.
10. Resolutions other than those appearing on the agenda shall not be accepted for debate except:
  - a) any emergency resolutions submitted in accordance with Standing Orders 14 to 16.
  - b) procedural resolutions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 43.

### BACKGROUND NOTES

11. Proposers of resolutions may submit a background note.
  - a) The timetable for submission of background notes by proposers shall be the same as that for submissions of resolutions.
  - b) The Board shall state their position, provide resource implications and may also provide additional background notes to resolutions.
  - c) Background notes shall be brief and restricted to relevant factual information. The Standing Orders Committee may, after consultation with the proposer or Board, as appropriate, delete any part of a duly submitted background note which does not comply with this rule.
  - d) Where the Board feel that implementation of a resolution (in part or in full) is outside their power, it will be marked with an asterisk.

### ORDER OF PLENARY DEBATE

12. Debates shall normally be conducted in the following order:
  - a) proposal of resolution
  - b) proposal of each amendment
  - c) general debate on the resolutions and amendments.

This shall include an opportunity for the Board to make a statement on the matter under debate.

- d) votes on amendments
- e) vote on substantive resolution.

The proposer of the resolution, or their nominee, and the proposer(s) of any amendments, or their nominee(s), may exercise a right of reply at any time. Each may exercise their right of reply once. The proposer of the substantive resolution may in addition exercise one extra right of reply to each proposed amendment whose vote is taken before the conclusion of the debate on the substantive resolution.

13. The Chair of a debate may, at his/her discretion, vary the time at which a vote is taken on an amendment, subject to permitting any rights of reply to be exercised.

### EMERGENCY RESOLUTIONS

14. A resolution received after the closing date for receipt of resolutions shall not be deemed an emergency resolution unless it could not have been formulated and received in writing before the closing date for submission of resolutions, or if it calls for a change in the constitution.
15. Any such resolution must be submitted to the Standing Orders Committee in writing not later than the start of the first plenary session of the meeting.
16. If the resolution is not accepted as an emergency resolution by the Standing Orders Committee, the proposer shall have three minutes to explain to the plenary session why it is an emergency resolution as defined by Standing Order 14. The Standing Orders Committee will then have a right of reply. The proposal must have a two-thirds majority for the resolution to be accepted for debate.

### WORKING PARTIES

17. The Standing Orders Committee may recommend that the meeting refer any appropriate part of the business for discussion in a working party. A resolution that is to be debated in a working party shall also subsequently be debated in a plenary session.
18. The Nominations Committee, in consultation with the Chairperson of the AGM, shall appoint a chairperson and secretary for each working party and shall endeavour to notify the Standing Orders Committee of their names no later than five days before the start of the AGM. Each Secretary shall provide a written record of the business of the working party and the WP Chairperson will arrange for a verbal report to the plenary session if required.
19. The Chairperson of a working party shall take a vote by show of hands of those entitled to vote. The result is simply indicative and reported for information purposes to the plenary.

### AMENDMENTS

20. Amendments to resolutions shall be proposed at a meeting by individual members, groups (either individually or from a regional meeting), affiliated

organisations, or by the Board. Amendments from individual members (and from individual members only) must be seconded in person.

21. All amendments must, in the Chairperson's opinion:
  - a) not significantly alter the core features of, nor constitute a direct negative to, the original resolution;
  - b) be relevant to that resolution;
  - c) form with the resolution an intelligible and consistent whole; and
  - d) not re-state a previously rejected amendment.
22. If a resolution is discussed at a working party then no amendment to that resolution may be proposed at the plenary session unless it has previously been proposed at the working party.
23. If an amendment is to be debated at a plenary session it shall be proposed at that plenary session by its original proposer, unless the Standing Orders Committee has been notified not later than the start of the plenary session that a specified other person or body will propose the amendment instead. If, when an amendment is called for debate, the proposer is not present the amendment shall fall.
24. If an amendment is carried in the working party and is accepted as friendly by the proposer of the original resolution (or in the case of a composite resolution by all the proposers of the original resolutions) it shall become or form part of the substantive resolution to be debated and voted on in the plenary session.
25. If an amendment is
  - a) carried in the working party but is not accepted as friendly by the proposer of the original resolution, or
  - b) not carried in the working party,
 it shall not become or form part of the substantive resolution to be debated and voted on in the plenary session. It shall be debated and voted on in the plenary session unless withdrawn under SO26.
26. An amendment carried in the working party may only be withdrawn by its proposer and with the consent of the majority of the plenary session. An amendment defeated in the working party may be withdrawn by its proposer.
27. An amendment once lost in a working party may not be proposed again at the working party. An amendment once lost at the plenary session may not be proposed again at the same meeting.

### **RESOLUTIONS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION**

28. Resolutions to amend the Constitution shall not be capable of amendment.

### **QUESTIONS ON FINANCE**

29. Full accurate replies to questions arising from the audited financial statement cannot be given at the meeting unless notice has been received in writing by the Treasurer seven days before the meeting. Such notice should be given in a separate letter and not be included in correspondence dealing with other matters.
30. Questions arising from the unaudited accounts and the

financial estimates for the current year should be given in writing to the Standing Orders Committee no later than the start of the first plenary session of the meeting. The Standing Orders Committee shall ensure that the Treasurer is informed of these questions.

### **CHAIRPERSONS**

31. The Chairperson of the AGM shall be responsible for the order and conduct of the meeting and the Chairpersons of working parties for the order and conduct of their respective working parties.
32. When a Chairperson speaks, any person speaking or about to speak shall sit down and shall remain seated in order that the Chairperson may be heard without interruption.
33. Chairpersons shall conduct debate in accordance with the Standing Orders approved by the meeting. If a question arises which is not covered by these Standing Orders, they shall rule in accordance with the normal procedure of debate or may refer the matter to the Standing Orders Committee for advice. In the meantime the issue under discussion shall be suspended.

### **DELEGATES, NAME BADGES AND VOTING CARDS**

34. In addition to those having a constitutional right to attend the meeting, staff members and other persons invited by the Board may also attend.
35. Name badges, voting handsets and voting cards shall only be issued to, and used by, those entitled and may not be transferred.
36. Stewards and tellers shall be elected by the meeting and shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with SO41. No member of the Board may act as a teller or steward. Any person who has taken an active part in the debate immediately preceding a card vote shall not act as a teller in that vote. In the case of composite resolutions, no proposer of a composite resolution shall act as a teller or steward.

### **SPEECHES**

37. Each speaker shall announce his or her name and category of membership, or in the case of a member of the Board or Standing Orders Committee his or her name and office, before speaking on any point.
38. The proposer of a resolution may speak for no more than five minutes. All other speakers, including those exercising a right of reply, may speak for no more than three minutes. These time limits may be extended at the discretion of the Chairperson. Visual aids shall be limited to text and graphs.
39. Except for a speaker proposing more than one amendment or exercising a right of reply, no speaker may speak more than once on a resolution other than with the permission of the Chairperson.
40. The Chairperson may at any time, but subject to ensuring balance in the debate, close the debate, subject to the exercise of rights of reply.

### VOTING IN THE PLENARY SESSION

41. Voting shall be by a show of voting cards in the first instance. A collection of card votes shall be subsequently taken either by order of the Chairperson or at the request of five individuals who are entitled to vote. Where electronic voting is in place, that can form the basis for all voting.
42. Constitutional amendments require a three-quarters majority to be passed. All other resolutions require a simple majority to be passed. In the event of a tied vote the Chairperson shall not have a casting vote and the resolution shall fall.

### PROCEDURAL MOTIONS

43. The following procedural motions may be moved by voting members at any time, save that, those in (d), (e), (f) and (g) may not be moved in a working party. They shall be taken immediately, except that no procedural motion may be taken during a speech or a vote unless it relates to the conduct of a vote, and Points of Order shall take precedence. They need to be seconded and require at least two thirds majority, unless otherwise specified.
  - a) A challenge to a Chairperson's ruling.
  - b) A proposal of no confidence in the Chair.
  - c) A proposal that "The meeting move to the vote". The proposer shall specify which vote the proposal refers to. If the proposal is carried (simple majority), and if a statement on behalf of the Board has not already been made, the Board shall be given the opportunity to make such a statement. The proposer of the proposal may then exercise the right of reply.
  - d) A proposal to remit the resolution under debate to the Board for consideration (simple majority).
  - e) A proposal that "The meeting move to next business". If this is carried (simple majority) the question under discussion shall be dropped and no vote shall take place. The meeting shall then proceed to the next item on the agenda.
  - f) A proposal to suspend Standing Orders. This does not need to be seconded when proposed by the Standing Orders Committee. The proposal shall specify the Standing Order or Orders to be suspended and the duration of the suspension. The debate shall comprise a speech of not more than three minutes by the proposer and a reply of not more than three minutes by or on behalf of the Standing Orders Committee, or by any one other member when the proposer is the Standing Orders Committee.
  - g) A proposal to adjourn the meeting for a specified purpose and a specified time. Where a meeting is adjourned beyond the end of the last scheduled day of business the resumed meeting shall be summoned by notice like an Annual or Extraordinary General Meeting.

### POINTS OF ORDER

44. A point of order may only be made by a voting member and shall have precedence over all other business, except during the taking of a vote unless it relates specifically to the procedure of that vote. It must relate specifically to the conduct of the meeting or the debate, and shall not refer to, and contain no argument on, the

subject matter under debate. It may contain a request for a Chairperson's ruling. The Chairperson may rule out of order a matter raised as a point of order on the basis that it is not in fact a point of order.

### POINTS OF INFORMATION

45. A point of information can only be made to advise the meeting that something the speaker has just said is incorrect, to seek an explanation of something the speaker has just said, or to provide the meeting with relevant factual information. The Chairperson may rule out of order a matter raised as a point of information on the basis that it is not in fact a point of information.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

46. Any resolution not dealt with during the meeting shall be remitted to the Board for consideration. The Board will take into account the outcome of the working party.

### AMENDMENT OF STANDING ORDERS

47. The Standing Orders may only be amended by a two-thirds majority decision of the meeting.

# GUIDE TO WORKING PARTIES

The purpose of the working parties is to allow for debate and deal with any proposed amendments in smaller groups and get a sense of whether there is consensus on the substantive issue – the idea being that this will allow debate in plenary to run more smoothly. The Working Party is led by a team of three: a ‘Working Party Chair’, a ‘Working Party Secretary’ and a ‘Rules Advisor’. They have a challenging role, so we ask all delegates to approach debates with respect and patience.

The Working Parties structure the debate as shown in the diagram opposite.

Working Party Chair states whether votes have been carried or defeated – narrowly, comfortably, overwhelmingly or is too close to call. If an amendment is accepted as friendly and carried, then it becomes part of the substantive resolution to be discussed in plenary.

- Do try and think about any amendments you wish to put forward in advance of the Working Party.
- Have the amendment written down ready to hand into the Working Party Secretary as you arrive – remember to keep a copy for yourself.
- Remember: An amendment must not constitute a direct negative, nor significantly alter the core features of the original resolution, must be relevant to that resolution and form with the resolution an intelligible and consistent whole.
- If you are speaking to a resolution or amendment please be aware of the time limit given and aim to get your key points across within that time – the Chair won’t want to cut you off, but will do so if necessary.
- If you have any queries about this, or any other aspect of debate and/or voting, please refer to the Standing Orders on page 23. In addition the Standing Orders Committee will be available for consultation on Saturday 11.00 - 12.00 in the registration area.

## Stage 1

Resolution is proposed

1. Resolution Proposer speaks (5 minutes maximum)\*
2. Initial show of hands for/against resolution

## Stage 2

Amendments are proposed

*At any point in Stage 2 an amendment can be proposed. Write your amendment down, and take it to the working party chair. Each amendment will be dealt with in turn until amendments are discussed and voted on.*

1. Proposer of each amendment speaks (3 minutes maximum).
2. The resolution proposer has the right to reply on each amendment, and then declares it friendly or unfriendly.
3. There is a general discussion on each amendment, in which the amendment proposer has the right to reply.
4. Each amendment is voted on. Note that all amendments are voted on again in Plenary, UNLESS friendly AND passed, in which case they automatically become part of the resolution.

## Stage 3

Final Resolution is voted on

1. General discussion on resolution
2. Right of reply of proposer on resolution, as amended or not
3. Vote on resolution

\* The board have the right to speak at any time (3 minutes maximum). They often use this right after the Proposer speaks.

## WORKING PARTY BASICS

## Stage 1

### Resolution is proposed

1. Resolution Proposer speaks (\*)  
(5 minutes maximum)

2. Initial show of hands for/against resolution

## Stage 2

### Amendments are proposed

*At any point in Stage 2 an amendment can be proposed. Write your amendment down, and take it to the working party chair. Each amendment will be dealt with in turn until amendments are discussed and voted on.*

1. Proposer of each amendment speaks  
(3 minutes maximum)

2. The resolution proposer has the right to reply on each amendment, and then declares it friendly or unfriendly.

3. There is a general discussion on each amendment, in which the amendment proposer has a the right to reply.

4. Each amendment is voted on.  
Note that all amendments are voted on again in Plenary, UNLESS friendly AND passed, in which case they automatically become part of the resolution.

## Stage 3

### Final Resolution is voted on

1. General discussion on resolution

2. Right of reply of proposer on resolution, as amended or not

3. Vote on resolution

The board have the right to speak at any time. (maximum three minutes)  
(\*) They often use this right after the Proposer speaks.

# 2017 AGM RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION		PROPOSER
F1	Financial Statements 2016	AIUK Board
F2	Appointment of auditors	AIUK Board
<b>WORKING PARTY A – RULES AND PROCESS</b>		
A1	Body of Rules for AIUK	AIUK Board
A2	Issue of amended resolutions	Ipswich Group
A3	Written statements to replace background notes to aid proxy voting	Ipswich Group
A4	Proposed change to standing orders if resolution A3 is passed	Ipswich Group
<b>WORKING PARTY B – CAMPAIGNS</b>		
B1	Eviction of the Chagossian People from the British Indian Ocean Territory*	Blackheath and Greenwich Group
B2	The improvement of standards for the detention of asylum seekers in the UK	Bournville Group
B3	The freedom of the Ahmadiyya “to manifest their religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance”	Glasgow Daytime Group
B4	Make the combatting of homelessness a priority campaign	QUB Student Group
<b>WORKING PARTY C – POLICIES AND REVIEWS</b>		
C1(S)	<b>Special Resolution</b> to amend the Articles of Association – Nominations for elections held at the AGM	AIUK Board
C2(S)	<b>Special Resolution</b> to amend the Articles of Association – Cessation of membership on bankruptcy	Stuart Hathaway
C3	AIUK Events	AIUK Board
C4	AIUK Regional Reps	Wythall Group
C5	Amnesty International Policy on ‘sex work’	Anna Cleaves

S Special Resolution (Requires 75% majority to pass).

\* Where the Board feel that implementation of a resolution (in part or full) is outside their power, it will be marked with an asterisk.

# FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

## F1 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2016

**Summary:** A routine resolution to receive the financial statements and reports

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

The AGM DECIDES

To receive the Report of the Directors and the audited accounts of AIUK Section for the year ended 31 December 2016.

### Proposer background notes

Receiving the financial reports is a formal part of every AGM.

The Treasurer's report, providing a summary of the financial position and further context, is provided in the AGM papers.

The audited financial statements will be placed on AIUK's website as soon as they are complete and have been reviewed by the Board.

## F2 - APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS

**Summary:** A routine resolution to reappoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the Board to determine their remuneration

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

This AGM DECIDES

To re-appoint BDO LLP as Auditor of the Company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company, and to authorise the Directors to approve the Auditor's remuneration.

### Proposer background notes

AIUK Section is required by law to appoint auditors at each AGM at which accounts are laid. The Board recommends that BDO be re-appointed, with the audit fee at an amount to be agreed by the Board.

# WORKING PARTY A RULES AND PROCESS

## A1 - BODY OF RULES FOR AIUK

**Summary:** As required by AGM Decision B5 (2016) this Resolution presents a body of rules for AIUK to supplement the Articles of Association

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

The AGM adopts the following Rules to complement the Articles of Association.

## Rules of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section adopted in accordance with Article 52 of the Articles of Association

1. General Provisions
  - 1.1. These Rules are adopted in accordance with Article 52 of Amnesty International UK Section's Articles of Association (the Articles).
  - 1.2. The meaning of terms used in these Rules shall be the same as the meaning set out in Articles.
  - 1.3. In case of any conflict arising between governance provisions, law shall have precedence, followed by the Articles, followed by the Rules.
  - 1.4. These Rules shall be made available on AIUK's website. A hard copy may be made available upon request.
  - 1.5. The Board shall review these Rules at least every three years.
2. Networks
  - 2.1. The Board shall consider the status of any Network which has not fulfilled the criteria specified by the Board for two successive years or is in substantial breach of any mandate or Rules of Amnesty International UK Section.
  - 2.2. The Board, acting by resolution passed at a Board meeting by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, may withdraw the status of Network conferred in accordance with the provisions of Article 16.1.

*Nominations for Elected Directors who are nominated by Networks*
  - 2.3. Recognised Networks may nominate any individual member of Amnesty International UK Section, provided that member meets the requirements stated in the Articles.
  - 2.4. Nominations by a Network shall be done by the Network Committee and this shall be recorded on the individual's nomination form.
  - 2.5. Following consultation with AIUK Section's Nominations Committee, each Network Committee shall establish decision-making procedures to support their nomination process and shall make these available to any member on request.
  - 2.6. The person nominated does not have to be a member of a Network.
  - 2.7. There is no limit on the number of people each Network can nominate.
3. Representatives of Affiliate Members, Family Members or Local, Student and Youth Groups
  - 3.1. The secretary or such other person who has been nominated in writing by the relevant Member of each Affiliate Member, Local, Student and Youth Group, whether incorporated or unincorporated shall be the ex-officio Representative of the relevant Member for the time being.
  - 3.2. Each Family Member shall nominate in writing one individual who shall be the Representative of the relevant Family Member.
  - 3.3. The Company Secretary shall be advised at the Office of the name and address of any Representative in writing. A Member may change its Representative at any time by written notice to the Company Secretary at the Office.
  - 3.4. If a Representative is unable to attend a General Meeting of Amnesty International UK Section, the relevant Member shall be entitled to send an individual who shall be called an alternate and

who shall have all the rights and duties of that Representative for the duration of the General Meeting. The Representative shall provide their alternate with a letter of authorisation which the alternate shall produce upon request.

4. Standing Orders Committee
  - 4.1. The Standing Orders Committee's role is to facilitate the smooth running of General Meetings by recommending to the AGM Chair, and the meeting more generally, the procedures it considers desirable for the despatch of business and to advise the AGM Chair on the interpretation of AGM Standing Orders and applicable Rules.
  - 4.2. Members of the Standing Orders Committee serve from the end of the AGM at which they were elected and must retire at the end of the third AGM following their election, unless re-elected at that AGM.
  - 4.3. No member of the Standing Orders Committee may serve for more than six successive AGMs before taking a break of not less than the following AGM.
  - 4.4. At least one member of the Standing Orders Committee must retire each year. Where no member is required to automatically retire due to completion of a full term or due to having reached the maximum term limit, the SOC members shall decide which of them shall retire by mutual agreement or, failing that, by lot.
  - 4.5. The following skills and experience are considered desirable to the role:
    - 4.5.1. Ability to advise on procedural and technical matters relevant to the running of meetings;
    - 4.5.2. Experience of participating in and advising membership bodies;
    - 4.5.3. Experience of participating in Amnesty International UK Section General Meetings.
  - 4.6. These desirable skills and experience shall be referenced in any call for nominations, together with any other skills thought to be desirable by the AGM Chair.
  - 4.7. In carrying out its work the Standing Orders Committee shall have access to legal advice and support as required.
5. Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee
  - 5.1. The Committee shall elect a Chair from amongst their own number.
  - 5.2. The Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee shall have access to legal advice and support as required.
  - 5.3. The Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee shall draw up procedures for considering appeals, and make these procedures available to members on request.
  - 5.4. The following skills and experience are considered important to the role:
    - 5.4.1. Experience of considering appeals, tribunal or equivalent hearings;
    - 5.4.2. Ability to review evidence and casework or similar material;
    - 5.4.3. Experience of governance of membership bodies.
  - 5.5. These desirable skills and experience shall be referenced in any call for nominations, together
6. Returning Officer
  - 6.1. The term of office for the Returning Officer shall be three years but no Returning Officer shall serve more than six consecutive years without a break of at least one year.
  - 6.2. The Returning Officer's duties shall be:
    - 6.2.1. Those duties set out in the Articles;
    - 6.2.2. Conducting the election of Board Chair, Board Vice-Chair and Board Treasurer, as required and in accordance with any Board Standing Orders that may be in effect at the time;
    - 6.2.3. Providing support and advice to the AGM Chair on the conduct of polls, ballots and other votes that may need to be taken at the AGM.
  - 6.3. In setting the timetable for nominations for posts and committees to be elected by the AGM, the Returning Officer shall, where possible, ensure that nominations are received in time to be published for Members at least 45 clear days in advance of the AGM. Should there be insufficient nominations to fill the vacant posts, the Returning Officer shall make a further call for nominations at the Annual General Meeting.
  - 6.4. Except where otherwise provided for in the Articles or these Rules, the Returning Officer may prescribe in writing such processes as deemed appropriate to produce a fair and transparent election and shall make these available to candidates and electors on request.
  - 6.5. In carrying out their work the Returning Officer shall have access to legal advice, third party electoral and ballot services and other support as required, subject to any budget agreed with the Board.

#### Proposer background note

The 2016 Annual General Meeting adopted Resolution B5 which required the Board to present a body of rules for adoption at the 2017 AGM. The Board consulted on draft rules from August to October and is grateful to those who took part.

The Rules presented in this Resolution are a foundation to build on and will help to increase transparency in AIUK's governance. Rules 2.1 and 2.2 and 3.1 to 3.4 were adopted as Interim Rules by the 2016 AGM and were previously included in the Articles of Association. They are unchanged.

Rules 2.3 to 2.7 increase transparency by setting out basic provisions to govern the nomination of Board candidates by recognised networks.

Rule 4.1 supplements the Articles of Association by making explicit the basic purpose of the Standing Orders Committee. Rules 4.2 to 4.4 increase the term of office for SOC members to three AGMs but establish a limit of six AGMs, after which a retiring SOC member must take a break of at least one AGM. Note that we refer to AGMs rather than years because the timing of our annual general meetings may vary. The provisions also establish retirement of SOC members by rotation. These Rules aim to safeguard experience and enhance continuity in this committee.

Rule 4.6 establishes basic desired skills for the SOC. The Board

are not proposing these as mandatory requirements but rule 4.8 requires that the skillset be set out in any call for nominations. Rules 5.4 and 5.5 do the same for the Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee (MDAC).

Rule 5.1 supplements the Articles by providing for the MDAC to have a Chair. Rule 5.4 is intended to ensure that this Committee has agreed procedures for considering appeals.

Rules 6.1 to 6.5 concern the Returning Officer. These rules are intended to increase transparency by setting terms of office and making explicit the Returning Officer's duties.

Rule 6.3 aims to ensure that, where possible, candidates for AGM elected positions are known in sufficient time for their names and "manifestoes" to be published at the same time as the AGM Notice and AGM Resolutions. This would enable groups to discuss their preferred candidates and for proxy voters to participate in the ballot. This helps to answer the concerns that led to AGM Decision B1 of 2016.

## A2 - ISSUE OF AMENDED RESOLUTIONS

**Proposer:** Ipswich Amnesty International Group

This AGM instructs the Board that when Amnesty International UK members receive the National Conference resolutions they are informed of the following matters at the same time:

- 1 That the National Conference can amend ordinary resolutions so that anyone they have mandated to vote on their behalf in advance of the National Conference may be required to cast their vote on different wording from the resolution's original wording.
- 2 That if the situation in paragraph 1 above arises the member can state when appointing their proxy whether or not the proxy should cast their vote if the resolution has been amended or otherwise changed e.g. split into two resolutions or combined with another resolution (composited).
- 3 That where they appoint the chair of the National Conference to vote as he or she thinks fit on their behalf the chair may wish to remain neutral and decide not to cast their proxy vote.
- 4 The wording of the standing order about what an amendment can cover.
- 5 The wording of the standing order relating to conflicting resolutions and any resolutions to which it will apply.

### Proposer background note

Prior to the 2016 National Conference the Board decided to introduce a system of allowing all Amnesty International UK members to appoint a person as a proxy to vote on their behalf at the National Conference and this differed from the previous system in that the proxy could be appointed in advance by an online system. The proxy could either be the Conference chair or a delegate at the Conference. In practice most people appointed the chair. The proxy could either be told how to vote on each resolution or could be left to decide for himself/herself. Although this allowed more members to vote at the Conference it has created a number of difficulties in practice.

One issue is what happens if the resolution is amended at the Conference itself as the wording of the resolution is then different to the wording the person saw when they told their proxy how to vote. There is not a very easy way to solve this but paragraphs 1 and 2 of the resolution require the member to be

told the position and would allow them to tell their proxy not to vote if the wording of the resolution had changed (assuming this is what the member wanted to do). Paragraph 3 covers what can happen if the member appoints the Conference chair to vote as the chair thinks fit. At previous National Conferences the chair decided to abstain and not use these proxy votes in order to remain neutral in the debate. The person appointing the proxy may therefore wish to tell the proxy which way to vote.

Paragraph 4 is to inform members what an amendment can cover (Standing Orders 21 and 21a at the 2016 National Conference). This would inform members that amendments are not allowed to alter the basic nature of the original resolution. Paragraph 5 is to deal with resolutions that contain opposing alternatives and is to inform members that if one such resolution is passed the other alternative resolution will be automatically defeated (this is in Standing Order 3 of the 2016 National Conference standing orders).

### Board background note

The Board opposes the resolution, as it believes it is unnecessary and risks adding to the complexity of proxy voting.

### Amnesty's work to date:

The Board wishes to make it easier for members to participate in AIUK's democratic decisions. To this end, the Board trialled an online platform to make it easier for members to appoint a proxy to vote at the AGM. The trial was successful in generating greater participation.

The online platform supplemented the long-standing ability to appoint a proxy by post or email. No other significant changes to the system were introduced in 2016. The right to appoint a proxy is longstanding and proxies must be appointed in advance of the AGM. This reflects the requirements of law.

Much of what this resolution calls for is already in place. The Frequently Asked Questions for proxy voting (2017 edition) already states that "the current AGM Chair wishes it to be known that if instructed to vote as he sees fit he will exercise that vote by abstaining". This adds further clarity to a note on the proxy form stating that unless instructed otherwise, the proxy will exercise a vote or abstain as they wish.

The Frequently Asked Questions also states that members appointing proxies do so in the knowledge that minor changes can be made to resolutions. Again, this amplifies a note on the proxy form. AGM Standing Order 21 clarifies that amendments should not be substantial. Again this reflects the law and is a measure designed to protect the interests of those who have appointed and instructed a proxy.

It should also be noted that if the Standing Orders Committee decided to composite or split a resolution (in consultation with the proposers) that this would take place before proxy forms are issued.

Forms for the nomination of a proxy must be clear and unambiguous. Adding additional voting options risks adding complexity.

### Amnesty's existing plans:

The Board, in accordance with 2016's AGM Decisions, are considering live-streaming the AGM and introducing real-time voting. This would allow members that are not able to attend in person to participate in the debate and cast their vote at the same time as those who are present in person. The project is at

a very early stage but if feasible would create a further means of participation.

#### Resource implications

The resource implications of this resolution are negligible

### **A3 - WRITTEN STATEMENTS TO REPLACE BACKGROUND NOTES TO AID PROXY VOTING**

**Proposer:** Ipswich Amnesty International Group

This AGM instructs the Board and Standing Orders Committee as follows:

- 1 That when Amnesty International UK members receive the National Conference resolutions they shall simultaneously be sent a statement in support and a statement opposing each resolution. Each statement shall not exceed 1000 words. The statement in support is to be provided by the proposers of the resolution. The statement opposing the resolution shall be provided by a committee elected at the National Conference and in accordance with paragraph 4 below. Members shall also be informed at the same time that the statements are for guidance and information and may not cover all the arguments for and against the resolution.
- 2 That the standing orders on background notes be altered to permit the arrangements in paragraph 1 above.
- 3 That the appointing of proxies to vote on behalf of members at the National Conference shall not begin until at least two weeks after the information in paragraph 1 has been sent out.
- 4 From the 2018 National Conference the National Conference shall elect a committee of three people each year to prepare the statements opposing each resolution. The Committee may consult the Board, groups and individual members in order to obtain a full range of opinions.
- 5 If this resolution is passed then there shall be a call for volunteers at the 2017 National Conference for three people to serve on the committee in paragraph 4 and if there are more than three volunteers the committee membership shall be decided by drawing lots. In all future years the committee shall be elected at the National Conference.
- 6 In addition to the above a google group or similar online discussion group shall be set up for members to discuss the resolutions and shall be available to members from the date when the resolutions are sent out until the date of the National Conference. The method for joining this online group is to be sent out with the Conference papers.

#### **Proposer background note**

Members appointing proxies in advance of the Conference do not hear the debate about the resolutions and have to decide how their proxy should vote on the papers they receive before the Conference. Members are currently sent the text of the resolutions and the Board's background note for resolutions proposed by the Amnesty UK Board. For resolutions proposed by other people members receive the text of the resolution, the proposer's background note and the Board's response to that. There is therefore an issue about how members who do not attend the Conference are to be informed of the issues and arguments for and against each resolution. This resolution proposes that there should be written statements summarising these arguments and that these statements should be sent out with the Conference papers. The 1000 word limit is so that the statements are not too long. The deadline for Conference

resolutions was brought forward in 2016 so there should be more time for the statements to be prepared.

The current situation means that members receive no counter-arguments to Board proposed resolutions unless they are physically present at the National Conference and therefore the proxy votes are cast having heard only one side of the argument.

The proposer would write the statement in support of the resolution (if they do not want to do one there could be a note to say this with the resolution). It is a bit more difficult to sort out who should prepare the statements against the resolutions but the committee elected at the National Conference is a way to do this and get a range of opinions. The proposals in paragraph 5 allow the committee to be set up and comment on the resolutions for the 2018 National Conference as there would not be time to hold an election at the 2017 National Conference if this resolution is passed.

The current standing orders only allow background notes with factual information but not arguments and so this would need to be changed and paragraph 2 covers this. The standing order dealing with this is number 11 in the 2016 Standing Orders.

Paragraph 3 is to allow time for members to read the resolutions and statements before they appoint their proxy and tell the proxy how to vote. As a lot of conference papers are sent by e-mail now the cost of the resolution should not be too large.

Paragraph 6 is to allow a separate more detailed discussion of resolution issues online for members who wish to engage in this.

#### **Board background note**

The Board opposes the resolution as the suggested process, which is highly unusual, would add more complexity to governance, be time consuming and is potentially expensive to administer.

#### Amnesty's work to date:

As noted above, the right to appoint a proxy and the requirement that proxies be appointed in advance of the AGM are of long standing in AIUK and are necessary to comply with the law. The innovation in 2016 was to enable the appointment and instruction of a proxy through an online platform, supplementing the ability to appoint by post or email.

Under current practice, all background notes combined rarely exceed 1,000 words per resolution. Therefore, this resolution has the potential to double or even triple the size of the resolutions documentation that members are invited to read.

#### Amnesty's existing plans

The Board, together with the AGM Review Group, wishes to explore the possibility of establishing a platform for online discussion of resolutions prior to the Annual General Meeting. However, the risks to holding such debates on public or unsecured digital platforms need to be assessed.

As noted above, we are also considering live streaming the event and introducing real-time remote voting, which would enable those not attending the AGM to listen to debates and then cast their votes, if they wish to.

The Board's strategic aim is to increase participation in AIUK's democratic decisions, which involves removing barriers to taking part. The increasing length of documentation on

resolutions and the stepped process to viewing resolutions and then appointing proxies creates a risk of adding to the barriers.

#### Resource implications

The resource implications are likely to be significant, as the creation of an online forum restricted to members may be costly and time consuming and may need to displace other planned activity. The time requirements of moderating such a forum are not known and are likely to vary depending on the issues under consideration. However, they may be significant. The election of a committee to create arguments against a resolution would add to the time required to process resolutions and further time might be needed to check and validate any statements advanced by the proposed committee, in order to avoid misleading AIUK's membership.

### **A4 - PROPOSED CHANGE TO STANDING ORDERS IF RESOLUTION A3 IS PASSED**

**Proposer:** Ipswich Amnesty International Group

This AGM instructs the Board and the Standing Orders Committee that Standing Order 11 about "Background Notes" shall be deleted and replaced with the following Standing Order:

Proposers of resolutions may submit a written statement.

- a) The timetable for submission of written statements by proposers shall be the same as that for submission of resolutions.
- b) The Board shall state their position, provide resource implications and may also provide a written statement on each resolution.
- c) The committee appointed or elected at the AGM shall submit a written statement summarising the issues or arguments against each resolution.
- d) Written statements shall be limited to 1000 words and shall be relevant to the resolution. The Standing Orders Committee may, after consultation with the proposer, committee in paragraph c) above or Board, delete any part of a duly submitted written statement which does not comply with this rule.
- e) Where the Board feel that implementation of a resolution (in part or in full) is outside their power, it will be marked with an asterisk.

#### **Proposer background note**

This is the proposed new wording for the standing order on background notes so that the resolution about written statements of arguments against resolutions can be sent out with the National Conference/AGM papers. It is similar to the previous standing order but replaces background notes that are supposed to be factual only with written statements that are a summary of the issues or arguments for or against the resolution. Obviously the written statements can contain factual information as well.

#### **Board background note**

The Board opposes this resolution, as it is consequential on Resolution A3.

This resolution seeks to provide the wording for a Standing Orders change that is a consequence of Resolution A3. The Board therefore refers members to its previous background note.

# WORKING PARTY B

## CAMPAIGNS

### **B1 - EVICTION OF THE CHAGOSSIAN PEOPLE FROM THE BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY\***

**Summary:** This resolution calls for Amnesty International UK to campaign for the indigenous Chagossian peoples' right to return to the Chagos Islands from which they were forcibly evicted by the British government and, human rights protection.

**Proposer:** Blackheath and Greenwich Group

This AGM notes a 2015 UK government commissioned independent expert study found resettlement to be economically, environmentally and socially sustainable, yet, in November 2016, the government decided against return citing economic barriers. The government has instead, offered a £40m compensation package and an official apology for its actions, however, exiled communities continue to support, en masse, their human right to return to their homeland.

This AGM asks the AIUK Board to: where possible, using existing resources, in balance with and, not detracting from AIUK's other campaign priorities, increase its campaign activity for the Chagossian population currently living in poor conditions in the UK. This should include campaigning for

- (1) Chagossians' right to return to the Chagos islands;
- (2) increased awareness of the human rights abuses faced by these evicted communities; and
- (3) elevation of return and human rights protection to the United Nations.

#### **Proposer background note**

AI has an active and successful campaign policy on Indigenous peoples. Yet to date, campaigning has not extended to the documented eviction and human rights abuses of the British authorities against the Chagossian people.

In the late 1960s to early 1970s the British government expelled the indigenous Chagossian people through policies designed to 'encourage' them to leave. Policies included the separation of families, killing of family pets, restrictions of food supply to the islands, and, in 1973, a programme of forced night time ship deportations to Mauritius and the Seychelles.

Deportation was a condition of a UK-US lease agreement on the use of one island, Diego Garcia, for military purpose, in return for which the US gave the UK a discount on the development of the Polaris nuclear weapons system. In 2010, a Marine Protection Area was created around the Chagos Islands. Documents released on the WikiLeaks site proved that this was a deliberate attempt to undermine the return campaign.

The cost of rebuilding Chagossian society is cited as a concern by Ministers yet cost estimates outlined in the independent resettlement feasibility study are modest. A 2015 government consultation with the Chagossian community indicated mass support for return and included 'second-generation' Chagossians born in exile, of working age and thus able to offer a wide range of relevant skills to use on the islands.

British citizens, then as now, Chagossians have for decades fought in the courts for the right of return. This AGM asks AIUK

to consider, on balance with its other campaign priorities and using its existing resources only, to start a campaign for the Chagossians' right to return to their homeland.

### Board background note

The Board opposes this resolution and would be unable to implement it, as written, without prior policy work by the International Secretariat (IS).

### Amnesty's work to date

At present, Amnesty International has no position on the right to return of the Chagos Islanders and has not conducted work on this issue. Therefore, the Board would be unable to take the requested action. Implementation of this resolution would first require the IS to research the specific circumstances of this case, in order to determine whether or not the islanders have a claim that is consistent with international law (and Amnesty policy on the right of return in situations of forced exile or blocked return). This work could be complex, particularly given the previous acceptance of a compensation payment from the UK Government to the Chagos Islanders.

Amnesty International has previously noted that Diego Garcia (the largest of the islands) was potentially used for rendition and torture by the CIA.

### Amnesty's existing plans

Neither Amnesty International UK nor the IS have plans to undertake work on this issue.

### Resource implications

The resources required from Amnesty International and AIUK would be significant. The IS would need to review the issue, in line with our policy on right of return, and develop a policy position accordingly. AIUK would then need to develop campaigning plans and an advocacy strategy for engaging the UK Government, who are the decision makers on the issue.

## **B2 - THE IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARDS FOR THE DETENTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS IN THE UK**

**Summary:** Calling on AIUK to focus part of the I Welcome campaign on the terms and conditions under which asylum seekers are held in UK detention

**Proposer:** Bournville Group

This AGM calls on Amnesty International UK Section, within our I Welcome Refugees campaign, to focus part of the campaign on the terms and conditions under which asylum seekers are held in detention

To campaign for the British Government to implement all the recommendations of the "Shaw Review", including

- Publish a strategic plan for consistency in the treatment of asylum seekers and the management of Immigration Detention Centres
- Reduce to 28 days the statutory period of detention, thus reducing the number of detainees "boldly and without delay" (Shaw)
- Ensure the fullest recognition of all their human rights including full access to legal advice and support
- Provide all the necessary facilities for their care and wellbeing
- Ensure the welfare of vulnerable persons as defined by the extended list of categories proposed by Shaw
- End completely the detention of pregnant women

- Reduce the number of offences subject to criminal procedures and penalties, including several of those (under Section 24) related specifically to status-related violations

And other such improvements as AIUK may itself identify and in consideration of improvements deemed desirable by other organisations campaigning for the better management of the asylum process

### Proposer background note

Amnesty believes there is considerable room for improvement in Britain's treatment of asylum seekers.

By mid-2015 there were 117,234 refugees, 37,829 pending asylum cases and 16 stateless persons in the UK (0.24% of the population). Asylum applications to the UK are relatively low – 32,733 in 2015, significantly lower today than the peak of 84,000 in 2002. (UNHCR Refugee Action)

Immigration detention in the UK: Immigration Detention Centres Home Office website, run by private security companies or the Prison Service. Detainees cannot leave and have very limited freedom of movement within the centres. Security levels "are similar to prisons". (Detention Action)

"The UK's immigration detention system ... has been the target of numerous lawsuits, investigations, and public demonstrations ... the new Immigration Act 2016 fails to include many sought after reforms." Global Detention Project

Between 210 and 260 people in detention have been held for over a year. These (Home Office) figures exclude the many people held in prisons under immigration powers, so the true figure will be higher. The detention process is also costly (Detention Action).

Criticism: The "Shaw Review," called for reducing "boldly and without delay" the detention of certain populations, an overhaul of the management of immigration casework, and several additional reforms, including

- Treatment of vulnerable groups, notably pregnant women and children
  - The role of private security companies
  - Increased detention of ex-criminal foreigners after they have served their criminal sentences
  - Lack of limits on the length of detention

A 2015 joint inquiry by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Refugees & the All Party Parliamentary Group on Migration (APPGs) concluded that the country should cease indefinite detention, imposing a time limit of 28 days.

Immigration Act 2016: In a statement after the Immigration Act was passed, the APPGs were, "disappointed" that Government continues to oppose an overall time limit, despite the growing evidence that indefinite detention has an extremely negative mental health impact, costs more to the public purse and is less effective than alternative immigration enforcement models; that Government has not accepted the case for an absolute exclusion of pregnant women from detention. (Reduced to a maximum of 72 hours or up to a week with special permission)

Welfare: Shaw took the view that all aspects of a detainee's treatment affect welfare; access to social media, their immigration status, the length and uncertain duration of detention all affect their own sense of welfare.

**Board background note**

The Board supports this resolution, whilst noting that the Shaw Report was not asylum-focussed and that some of its recommendations are more likely to affect other groups of immigration detainees.

Amnesty’s work to date

During 2015, AIUK contributed to the Shaw review, submitting evidence and twice meeting Stephen Shaw. Expert staff also joined the detention subgroup of the National Asylum Stakeholders Forum. As noted in last year’s report to the AGM on the implementation of AGM decisions from 2015, some of AIUK’s recommendations were recognised in the Shaw report (published in January 2016).

Amnesty’s existing plans

AIUK planned to commence research on detention during 2016 but this was not possible, largely due to the development and planning work required for the global refugee campaign - #IWelcome. We have rolled those plans into 2017. This work will follow-up a number of Shaw’s recommendations. The treatment of those most often described as ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’ are within the scope of our plans.

However, it is not feasible for AIUK to actively work on all 64 of Shaw’s recommendations. Amnesty International does not have a policy position on all of them and it will be necessary to prioritise.

The Shaw Report was not asylum-focussed and some of its recommendations are more likely to affect other immigration detainees. Our plans do not limit our current focus to asylum-seekers, as this may weaken the potential research and its value to current and future partners.

Any campaign planning specific to detention issues would be likely to take place after the research has commenced but we expect this work to complement the #IWelcome campaign in two ways. Firstly, calls for improved standards and reduced use of immigration detention should benefit asylum-seekers (and other migrant populations). Secondly, contributing to the significant pressure that has been built from various quarters concerning the use of immigration detention should, in effect, be a collaborative and supportive act, thus contributing to the movement building and partnership aspect of the campaign.

Resource implications

The research necessary for this work is currently within our plans, so there are no resource implications. However, additional resources for campaigning may be required, particularly if the objectives are not consistent with #IWelcome campaign plans.

**B3 - THE FREEDOM OF THE AHMADIYYA “TO MANIFEST THEIR RELIGION IN TEACHING, PRACTICE, WORSHIP AND OBSERVANCE”.**

**Summary:** This resolution supports the rights of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community and urges Amnesty to actively support them in the UK and abroad.

**Proposer:** Glasgow Daytime Group

This AGM

- i- asserts the right of the Ahmadiyya, as guaranteed by Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to practise their religion;
- ii- instructs AIUK to campaign to raise awareness of the

- Ahmadiyya issue in the UK; and
- iii- instructs AIUK to campaign with the aims of:
  - (a) urging the Government of Pakistan to remove the 1974 Second Amendment to the Constitution which defines the Ahmadis as “Non-Muslim” and to rescind Ordinance XX, passed in 1984, which effectively prohibits Ahmadis from preaching or professing their beliefs; and
  - (b) achieving the release of Ahmadis held as prisoners of conscience in Pakistan under blasphemy laws.

**Proposer background note**

The Ahmadis are a Muslim sect, founded in 1889 numbering around five million. They have consistently faced religious persecution in various countries but it has been particularly severe and systematic in Pakistan. Persecution of Ahmadis, hate-related incidents and violent attacks by various groups regularly occur.

In 1974, after a violent campaign, the Bhutto government amended the constitution declaring Ahmadis to be non-Muslims.

In 1984, General Zia, President of Pakistan, issued Ordinance XX which effectively prohibited Ahmadis from preaching or professing their beliefs. Many Ahmadis were arrested within days of the promulgation of this ordinance, and it led to widespread sanctioned as well as non-sanctioned persecution.

Ordinance forbids Ahmadis from calling themselves Muslim or to “pose as Muslims”. This means that they are not allowed to profess the Islamic creed publicly or call their places of worship mosques. Ahmadis in Pakistan are also barred by law from making the Muslim call to prayer, using the traditional Islamic greeting in public, publicly quoting from the Qur’an, preaching in public, seeking converts, or producing, publishing, and disseminating their religious materials. These acts are punishable by fines and imprisonment of up to three years.

Ordinance XX and the 1974 amendment to the constitution effectively gave the state the exclusive right to determine the meaning of the term “Muslim” within Pakistan.

When citizens apply for a passport, it is mandatory to either denounce the founder of the Ahmadis and attest that Ahmadis are not Muslims or be identified as an Ahmadi on their passports.

In 1986 a new blasphemy provision was applied to Ahmadis.

In more recent years, mob attacks on Ahmadi Mosques and numerous murders have continued in Pakistan.

The problem has spread to several other countries including the UK.

Following attacks on two Ahmadi mosques in Pakistan in 2010, leaflets were distributed in the UK asking readers to kill Ahmadis following which two Ahmadi mosques were vandalised. Calls were also issued to sack Ahmadi employees and boycott businesses owned by Ahmadis. Ofcom criticised the UK-based Ummah Channel for broadcasting three interactive television programmes in which religious leaders and callers had said that Ahmadis should be killed.

In 2016, the Glasgow Ahmadi shopkeeper, Asad Shah, was murdered by a religiously motivated man who had travelled from Bradford specifically to assassinate Asad Shah. This murder led to a widely supported anti-extremism campaign in Glasgow.

**Board background note**

The Board currently takes no position on this resolution.

Amnesty's work to date

AIUK has not worked significantly on the subjugation of rights of the Ahmadiyya community in Pakistan. Following violence in 2000, the movement issued several press releases condemning the actions and the lack of government response. There are no current or recent relevant case files adopted by the section, nor on the international IAR portfolio.

The IS published a report in 2016, *As Good as Dead: The Impact of Blasphemy laws in Pakistan*, which identifies that "the Ahmadiyya community, in particular, are... vulnerable to such laws", and highlights a number of Ahmadiyya individuals as case studies. The IS has also highlighted the abusive nature of blasphemy laws in annual *State of the World's Human Rights* reports and has undertaken advocacy work with successive governments in Pakistan, urging the repeal of the laws that effectively outlaw and sponsor violence against the Ahmadi people.

More specific reports on the Ahmadi have been produced, but not since the early 1990s. There have been occasional Urgent Actions on Ahmadi cases, but none in the past two years. The IS has made public statements on particular incidents, such as the violence in Lahore in 2010.

Amnesty's existing plans

AIUK's capacity to work on the Ahmadiyya in Pakistan is contingent on the output of the IS. They have upcoming plans to lobby the Government of Pakistan on the content of the *As Good as Dead* report, which will highlight the Ahmadi cases alongside the other case studies identified in the document. There are currently no plans for campaigning actions pertaining to this resolution.

Resource implications

As the Ahmadiyya in Pakistan are not expected to fit within priority campaigns at AIUK, work would be undertaken by the volunteer Country Coordinator. Their capacity will be defined by the availability of source materials from the IS and the time they have to devote to the project amongst their other priorities. Country Coordinators are asked to devote 5-7 hours a week to their work. AIUK's South Asia team is keen to work on the issue. On the assumption that campaigning was led by the Country Coordinator team and is based on the upcoming work planned by the IS, financial implications would be negligible.

**B4 - MAKE THE COMBATTING OF HOMELESSNESS A PRIORITY CAMPAIGN**

**Summary:** This resolution is designed to suggest that Amnesty International should recognise homelessness as the massive and endemic human rights abuse that it is being perpetrated all around us, however uncomfortable it is to talk about, and do all in its power to integrate the combatting of homelessness into its work.

**Proposer:** QUB Student Group

This AGM calls on Amnesty UK to develop a policy to combat homelessness and make it a priority campaign. It further instructs the wider international movement to recognise homelessness as a human rights abuse and take action to combat the issue.

**Proposer background note**

Homelessness is a human rights issue which takes place all around us every day. The UDHR states that human rights include the right to life, dignity, an adequate standard of living, security of person and social security. The UDHR includes this to mean "food, clothing, housing and medical care". Homelessness not only means those who live on the streets but also squatters and those with insecure or inadequate housing. Shelter, the homelessness charity, states that 124,000 children will be homeless this winter. It is well documented that homeless people suffer worse health, are subject to abuse and have reduced life expectancy. There are many different reasons for being homeless including relationship breakdowns, domestic violence or illegal eviction. Homelessness is a pressing human rights issue because it threatens our right to an adequate standard of living, discriminately affects younger people, women and those on low incomes. It is also frequently experienced by asylum seekers or refugees, an area in which Amnesty International is already hugely active. Despite the fact that local councils have legal duties to provide for emergency accommodation as well as advice to homeless people, or people who are likely to become homeless, the homeless too often go without the help they are legally entitled to have. Amnesty could help in any number of ways including legal protections for homeless people by lobbying councils to provide the help they should, practical solutions and aid as well as national political lobbying to bring solutions to the crisis.

**Board background note**

The Board opposes this resolution as it believes the resources required to develop a priority campaign would be significant and could require that we stop work on another priority campaign (#IWelcome, Human Rights Defenders or Human Rights in the UK/Human Rights Act).

Work to date

Amnesty International does not have a fully developed set of policies on homelessness. We have publicly stated that homelessness is a human rights issue and issued Urgent Actions on severe instances. We also view criminal sanction issued against anyone just for being homeless as a human rights violation.

In *Cuts That Hurt*, the 2016 report on legal aid in the UK, Amnesty International noted that a potential impact of cuts could be to drive vulnerable individuals into homelessness, as a result of being unable to access justice in the civil legal system. The IS has also published research showing how direct discrimination was forcing UK Roma and Traveller communities into homelessness through evictions.

Amnesty's existing plans

The IS acknowledges that homelessness presents a clear human rights challenge in some contexts. They are planning a project on the criminalisation of homelessness in Hungary, where homeless people are targeted with both criminal sanctions and harassment by authorities. They are planning further work in South East Asia and scoping a project looking at the issue of begging. We are not aware of any plans for the UK.

Homelessness in the UK is not necessarily the result of a lack of housing (which is a human right) but is often a crisis situation that sits at the intersection of a multitude of problems and state failures. For example, a lack of sufficient drug and alcohol programs; post-traumatic stress; familial violence; chaotic lifestyle of the individual. Developing a single policy position on homelessness in the UK would be challenging.

AIUK's priority campaigns for 2017 are the Global Campaign on Refugees, the Global Campaign on Human Rights Defenders and the Human Rights Act campaign. We also intend to scope a campaign on hate crime, following a reported rise in incidents after the EU referendum.

Resource implications

Resource requirements for AIUK would be substantial. The policy work could also entail a significant resource investment at the IS. Given our limited resources, AIUK would need to stop work on another priority campaign and recruit a policy expert to research the issue and liaise with the International Secretariat.

## WORKING PARTY C

### POLICIES AND REVIEWS

#### **C1(S) - SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION - NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS HELD AT THE AGM**

**Summary:** This Special Resolution will ensure consistency of approach to the nomination procedure for elections held at the AGM, clarifying that the nominations timeline is set by the Returning Officer and allowing for nominations for the Standing Orders Committee to be received in advance of the AGM.

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by:

1. Deleting the words "at the AGM" from Article 27.6, after the words "from nominations received";
2. Inserting the words "The Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee shall be elected by the Members at the AGM from nominations received in accordance with a timetable announced by the Returning Officer" into Article 17.1 after the words "not be current Directors".

**Proposer background note**

At present, the Articles of Association are silent on the nomination process for the Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee, leave the timing of nominations for the AGM Chair to be determined by the Returning Officer, and state that nominations are to be received at the AGM for the Standing Orders Committee. This Special Resolution gives the Returning Officer responsibility for setting the nomination timetable for all three posts and committees.

Allowing the Returning Officer to set the timetable for nominations for all of these positions is intended to provide greater consistency and clarity of process. It could allow the nominations to take place in advance of the AGM, allowing members to assess and, where relevant, discuss the credentials of the candidates prior to the AGM and to vote for these positions by proxy. Having information on the candidates prior to the AGM will allow members (including groups) who can't attend the AGM to make an informed proxy vote (addressing concerns raised at the 2016 AGM through decision B1).

#### **C2(S) SPECIAL RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION – CESSATION OF MEMBERSHIP ON BANKRUPTCY**

**Summary:** To delete Article 14.2 on automatic cessation of membership of bankrupt members.

**Proposer:** Stuart Hathaway

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by deleting the current Article 14.2 (commencing "if the member, being an individual, has a bankruptcy order") and updating the numbering and cross referencing in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of this change, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Proposer background note**

Art. 14.2. provides for the automatic expulsion from membership of AIUK of a member who is made bankrupt. It is understood that this provision is standard in the articles of companies with shareholders, who therefore have a financial interest in the company, (in particular in a small company where a shareholder may have a controlling or other significant interest), to prevent a trustee in bankruptcy from seeking the winding up of the company to access the bankrupt's share of its assets, in order to pay the bankrupt person's debts. AIUK Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and a member does not have any shares, hence there is nothing for a trustee in bankruptcy to sell. (A mere right to vote at AGMs, in elections, etc. is not an asset which has any financial value when it cannot result in any payment to the member). If AIUK were to be wound up its surplus assets after payment of its debts cannot be distributed to the members, but must be given to Amnesty International Ltd i.e. the international movement (see Art.54). This provision does not therefore protect AIUK financially.

**Board background note**

The Board supports this resolution.

Article 14.2 was introduced in 2016 as one of a number of grounds for cessation of membership. A company may decide that a bankrupt should be disqualified as a member, however this not a legal requirement. A bankrupt member may exercise their vote, although any benefits or distributions which are incidental to membership vest in the Trustee in Bankruptcy, and the bankrupt will be required to vote in accordance with the wishes of his Trustee. A cessation of membership article can be an important requirement for a company limited by shares but is not essential in a company limited by guarantee where there are a significant number of members.

#### **C3 - AIUK EVENTS**

**Summary:** This resolution seeks AGM approval for exploratory work on developing AIUK's governance and activist events in order to improve how AIUK engages and inspires people in its human rights work and governance. Any resulting proposed changes would be brought to the 2018 AGM for approval.

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

This AGM resolves that AIUK will:

1. Develop, during the course of 2017, options for the most effective use of available resources to deliver an event, or programme of events, which:
  - a) fulfils the legal requirements of the AGM;

- b) engages people in the democracy of the organisation;
  - c) inspires and empowers existing activists to campaign for human rights; and
  - d) inspires new people to engage with and join the Amnesty movement;
2. undertake a consultation with members on those potential options; and
  3. bring a resolution to the 2018 AGM with any proposals for implementation from 2019 onwards.

#### Proposer background note

AIUK currently runs several events whose aim is to inspire engagement in human rights and with the governance of AIUK - notably the AGM, and also regional conferences (led by Regional Representatives), the Student Conference, Networks Conference, Country Coordinators Conference, as well as various skillshares and other events.

AIUK spends around £350,000 per year on events which are designed to inspire and involve people in human rights and the governance of AIUK. The vast majority of this expenditure (£270K) is spent on the AGM. These costs don't include the costs of the staff time involved in developing and running events.

Engaging more people in Amnesty's work and improving our governance are two key parts of the 2016-2020 AIUK strategic plan. It is in this context, and mindful of the significant investment that AIUK currently makes in this work, that the Board would like to review the way that we currently operate and explore options which might enable us to achieve our strategic goals more effectively with the resources that we have.

Any concrete proposals for change which may arise from this work would be brought to the 2018 AGM for approval.

#### C4 - AIUK REGIONAL REPS

**Summary:** Request to AIUK to review the role of, and possible remuneration for Regional Reps.

**Proposer:** Wythall Group

This AGM instructs AIUK to undertake a review of the role of Regional Reps and, in the light of current problems of recruitment, retention and performance, to consider offering remuneration to all Regional Reps proportional to their responsibilities and workload. We recommend that this should be at a rate at least equivalent to two days a week for paid staff with comparable levels of responsibility.

#### Proposer background note

The proposers of this resolution recognise the importance of the role which can be played by Regional Reps in supporting groups, enabling them to work together within their regions, and energising the membership through local activism. We would like to see them closely linked with the Activism Sub-Committee in coordinating campaigns and projects within and between regions. They also need to be in touch with members of networks within their regions.

However the recent increase in vacancies for Regional Reps, and past experience in some regions of long periods without a Regional Rep, or with a Rep who was unable effectively to fulfil their role, as set out in AIUK's 'Role Outline', suggests that we can no longer expect to recruit members to these posts on a purely voluntary basis.

#### Board background note

The Board opposes this resolution as it believes it would be costly and fundamentally alter a significant voluntary, activist role.

#### Amnesty's work to date

Our local groups are currently organised into 13 UK regions. There are 14 Regional Representatives who support their work. Regional Representatives are elected by local groups in their region for a term of 3 years. As of January 2017, there were two vacancies, South and South Midlands.

The Board is extremely grateful for the very significant contributions to AIUK's work and impact made by many leading activists across a range of different roles.

Over the past two years we have been considering ways to better support lead activists and increase collaboration between them. These initiatives include:

- a pilot committee model in Scotland
- steps to support different activist constituencies to work together in their communities (e.g. Regional Representatives and the Student Action Network Committee)
- new lead activist roles, such as Regional Media Support Officers
- plans to pilot an approach to supporting activists in their community-based advocacy work.

Informal discussions have commenced that consider the roles of Regional Representatives, their connections with other key activist roles and their support needs.

#### Amnesty's existing plans

During 2017, staff plan to work with Regional Representatives to review roles in the context of developing an "Impact of the Movement" strategy. This is likely to consider how to support leading activists in various roles.

#### Resource Implications

The resource implications would be significant. We currently cover out of pocket expenses but do not pay any activists for the work they do. This resolution could cost £185,000 per annum to implement. However, if this resolution led to employment or remuneration of any other AIUK activist roles, the cost would increase significantly.

The proposed change would mean that Regional Representatives would cease to be volunteer activists and become paid employees. This has wider implications that have yet to be assessed. For example, Regional Representatives currently play a representative role within Amnesty UK's democratic structures, which may have potential conflicts with an employee status.

#### C5 - AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON 'SEX WORK'

**Summary:** Re-evaluation of Amnesty International policy in the light of evidence of consequences of models adopted across Europe.

**Proposer:** Anna Cleaves

This AGM calls on AIUK to advocate to the international secretariat board to:

- 1 Undertake balanced, rigorous research to make comparisons from recent findings between countries where prostitution is either decriminalised or legalised or which

- have adopted the Swedish legal framework (the latter being countries by which the UK is now practically surrounded).
- 2 Use inclusive terminology to represent people in the sex trade rather than the term 'sex worker' and 'sex work', terms not representative of how most people in prostitution identify. The terms fail to include the vast majority of those in prostitution, 90% of whom are women. A more inclusive term would be 'prostituted persons'
  - 3 Work with survivors of prostitution, to support their human rights and to recognise what survivor organisations are saying about the men who buy and pimp women.
  - 4 Review the framework in which any policy on prostitution should sit. Alternative policy frameworks such as the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Women (CEDAW), prevention of torture and trauma or ending violence should be considered. To recognise that the Harm Reduction principle identified in AI's policy is inappropriate in the context of prostitution.

#### Proposer background note

Evaluating decriminalisation (1999) in Denmark the Danish Social Agency (2012) reported an increase in the prevalence of prostitution. Decriminalization did not curb the high levels of violence that prostituted individuals experience, demonstrating that prostitution is inherently violent and abusive (New Zealand Law Review Committee, 2008). The majority of prostituted persons are female whereas the majority of sex-buyers are male (Dank et al 2014).

Empirical analysis for a cross-section of 150 countries shows that on average countries where prostitution is legal experience larger reported human trafficking inflows', (Neumayer 2013). None of the objectives (to destroy the stigma of prostitution; end trafficking; improving safety and generating tax revenues) of legalisation introduced in Holland in 2000 was achieved (Raymond J. 2013)

The Swedish Sexual Purchases Act (1999) in which buying sex becomes a criminal offence is adopted in France, Northern Ireland, Norway, Iceland, Canada, Lithuania and Israel and supported by the European Parliament. Prostituted people are decriminalised, criminal records wiped clean and Exit programmes offered. In Sweden street prostitution has halved, and murders of women in prostitution have dropped.

In evaluating the Swedish law Justice Skarhed (2010) submitted that on a gender equality and human rights perspective, shifting focus away from those who are exploited in prostitution to demand, i.e. traffickers, procurers and sex purchasers, the distinction between voluntary and non-voluntary prostitution is irrelevant. As survivor Moran R. (2013) states, 'To depict prostitution as chosen, with the prostitute in control, is to sanitise the true nature of prostitution: the commercialisation of sexual abuse.'

The 1949 UN Convention on the Suppression of Trafficking in persons, declares that prostitution and trafficking are exploitative and 'incompatible with the dignity and worth of the human person and endanger the welfare of the individual, the family and the community.' The 2000 UN Palermo Protocol against Transnational Organised Crime states that any form of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power, or of a position of vulnerability or the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve consent nullifies the apparent consent. Hence there is no such thing as consensual prostitution.

#### Board background note

The Board opposes this resolution as it believes a review to be premature; policy was only recently finalised, after considerable consultation and a decision by the 2015 International Council Meeting (ICM).

#### Amnesty's work to date

Amnesty's policy, *State Obligations to Respect, Protect and Fulfil the Human Rights of Sex Workers* (AI Index POL 30/4062/2016), was finalised in May 2016, implementing a democratic decision of the 2015 ICM. It was informed by worldwide consultation and reviews of evidence and international human rights standards. First-hand research was conducted in Papua New Guinea (ASA 34/4030/2016), Hong Kong (ASA 17/4144/2016), Argentina (AMR 13/4136/2016) and Norway (EUR 36/4034/2016)<sup>1</sup>.

Amnesty's policy reflects wide-ranging research findings and, as well as calling for decriminalisation, its recommendations to states, include:

- Address discrimination, harmful stereotypes and structural inequalities that lead to individuals from marginalized groups selling sex in disproportionate numbers;
- Respect all peoples' economic, social and cultural rights;
- Ensure meaningful participation of sex workers in the development of law and policies that directly affect their lives and safety;
- Refocus laws towards the protection of sex workers' health and safety and to opposing all acts of exploitation and trafficking in commercial sex (including of children)
- Ensure there are effective services that allow people to leave sex work
- Ensure sex workers have equal access to justice and protection under the law.

In Norway, which has adopted the "Swedish model", Amnesty found sex workers exhibited a high threshold for reporting violence (as elsewhere). Researchers heard that some sex workers have been evicted or deported after engaging with police and are at risk of eviction by landlords who can be prosecuted for renting property to them if they sell sex there. The research also found that sex workers are unable to work together for safety or to hire third party support, like security, as this could qualify as "promotion of prostitution".

Researchers found that many sex workers feel that "prostitute" or similar terms are demeaning. Organised sex worker groups generally refer to the term sex worker or "person in the sex industry".

#### Amnesty's existing plans

Amnesty regularly reviews its policy positions. However, as this policy is less than a year old, there are no current plans to review it.

#### Resource implications

The resource implications of recommending a policy review to the IS are negligible. However, the resources required to conduct such a review would be considerable.

<sup>1</sup> Available on [www.amnesty.org](http://www.amnesty.org)

#### **NOTE ON AIUK FINANCIAL REPORTS TO 2017 AGM**

The AIUK financial year runs from January to December in accordance with global Amnesty International policy. The Treasurer's report (below) outlines the pre-audited financial position for 2016. The full audited accounts will be available on the website from Wednesday 5 April 2017 at [www.amnesty.org.uk/finances](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/finances) and will be available in hard copy on the governance stall at the AGM.

# **TREASURER'S REPORT TO THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

## **Introduction**

### **1. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL ACCOUNTS**

- 1.1 At the time the AGM packs went to print in early February 2017, the 2016 accounts had not been finalised and the audit had not been completed. The figures included in this report are therefore provisional, subject to audit. At the AGM, the Treasurer will highlight any significant changes from the draft position to the final audited accounts,
- 1.2 In accordance with company law the 2016 audited accounts of Amnesty International UK Section will be laid before members of the company at the AGM. Copies of these accounts will be available from the governance stall at the AGM and on our website.
- 1.3 Previous years' accounts can also be found on our website.

### **2. STRUCTURE OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK (AIUK)**

- 2.1 AIUK comprises two active corporate entities:
  - Amnesty International UK Section ("Section") is the body whose objects are set out in the Amnesty International Statute as amended from time to time. It is responsible for most of the operations carried out in the UK – specifically, campaigning, communications, fundraising and administration. Members, Groups and Affiliates belong to this body, which leases offices and shops and carries out the majority of the trading activities. It is a company limited by guarantee but has dispensation to omit the word "Limited" from its title.
  - Amnesty International UK Section Charitable Trust ("Trust") is the body established to fundraise for its charitable objectives which are "to promote human rights (as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - ("UDHR") and subsequent United Nations conventions and declarations and in regional codes of human rights which incorporate the rights contained in the UDHR and those subsequent conventions and declarations) throughout the world." It is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered charity and also has dispensation to omit the word "Limited" from its title. The Trustees are appointed by the Board of Section.
- 2.2 The financial year end of both companies is 31 December. For each financial year, we prepare a separate set of accounts for each company. We also prepare an aggregated set of accounts reflecting both companies – we refer to these as the "combined" accounts.

### 3. 2016 COMBINED ACCOUNTS – DRAFT AND UNAUDITED RESULTS

3.1 All figures in this report relate to the combined accounts of both Section and Trust unless otherwise stated.

		Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2016			Previous year
		Actual - Draft	Budget	vs Budget	Actual
Net fundraising and other income	Fundraising income	25,734	26,037	-303	24,458
	Fundraising expenditure (incl. Salaries)	(6,032)	(6,503)	+402	(5,871)
	<b>Fundraising net income</b>	<b>19,702</b>	<b>19,534</b>	<b>+100</b>	<b>18,587</b>
	Other income	353	298	+55	367
	<b>Total net income</b>	<b>20,055</b>	<b>19,832</b>	<b>+155</b>	<b>18,953</b>
Other expenditure	International movement	(9,428)	(9,507)	+79	(7,575)
	Other salaries	(5,997)	(6,067)	+138	(5,719)
	Corporate services	(1,858)	(2,390)	+532	(2,317)
	Supporter campaigning	(2,246)	(2,381)	+135	(1,845)
	CE's office	(262)	(313)	+51	(273)
	Directorate	(39)	(118)	+79	(116)
	<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>(19,830)</b>	<b>(20,777)</b>	<b>+1,015</b>	<b>(17,846)</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>(944)</b>	<b>+1,170</b>	<b>1,107</b>	

3.2 The combined accounts show a draft surplus for the year of £0.2m, which is £1.2m better than budget.

Fundraising income	Income for the year ended 31 December 2016			Previous year
	Actual - Draft	Budget	vs Budget	Actual
Individual giving	17,205	17,613	-408	17,062
Social giving and retail	1,385	1,491	-106	1,275
Major gifts fundraising	1,732	2,110	-378	1,589
Legacies	3,904	3,312	+592	3,110
Gift Aid	1,508	1,511	-3	1,423
<b>Total fundraised income</b>	<b>25,734</b>	<b>26,037</b>	<b>-303</b>	<b>24,458</b>

3.3 Charity fundraising from individuals remained challenging during 2016, with increased regulation, including the establishment of the Fundraising Regulator, and guidance restricting our ability to contact supporters. The resulting £0.4m shortfall in Individual Giving was offset by strong Legacy income during 2016.

3.4 A major fundraising achievement in 2016 was the matched giving appeal for Human Rights Education on Early Forced Marriage and FGM in West Africa. The Department for International Development (DfID) has agreed to match supporters' donations, acting as an incentive for supporters to donate. Activities linked to the appeal were undertaken across all Fundraising teams, raising over £0.8m from supporters, against a budget of £0.5m, and helping to recruit a significant number of new donors. The amount raised will be matched in a restricted grant from DfID, received over a 3 year period.

3.5 We ended the year with around 212,000 financial supporters, some 3,000 more than at the start of the year, in part a result of the DfID matched funding appeal.

3.6 Legacy income in 2016 was £3.9m, £0.6m better than budget. Income from this source can be unpredictable in both timing and amount.

3.7 Major gift receipts were £0.4m below budget. £0.1m of this shortfall was due to the later than expected receipt of DfID matched funding. This will now be received from 2017 onwards.

3.8 Other costs: Corporate Services expenditure was £0.5m less than budget. Major factors contributing to this were: savings in organisational innovation and training; greater VAT recovery than anticipated; and non-utilisation of a general contingency. Overhead expenditure was tightly managed in line with expected income levels.

3.9 During 2016 there was a transition to a new formula governing AIUK's contribution to the International movement. The contribution in 2016 was a hybrid, 50% of the amount payable being based on 2014 historical performance and 50% on actual performance in 2016. In 2017, the full contribution will be calculated under then new formula, based on actual performance in 2017.

#### 4. FREE RESERVES

- 4.1 Towards the end of 2016 the Boards of Section and Trust reviewed the level of free reserves considered necessary to provide an adequate level of financial stability, and concluded that a balance of free reserves should be maintained in the range £6.0m - £8.0m, reflecting the risks of the organisation, the prospective economic environment and longer-term financial prospects and performance. Free reserves at 31 December 2016 were £8.8m, slightly above the agreed range.
- 4.2 The Boards review the reserves policy each year, updating it as considered appropriate in the light of prevailing circumstances.

#### 5. 2017 BUDGET AND LONGER TERM FINANCIAL PLANNING

- 5.1 The figures set out below reflect the combined budgets and financial plans of both Section and Trust.

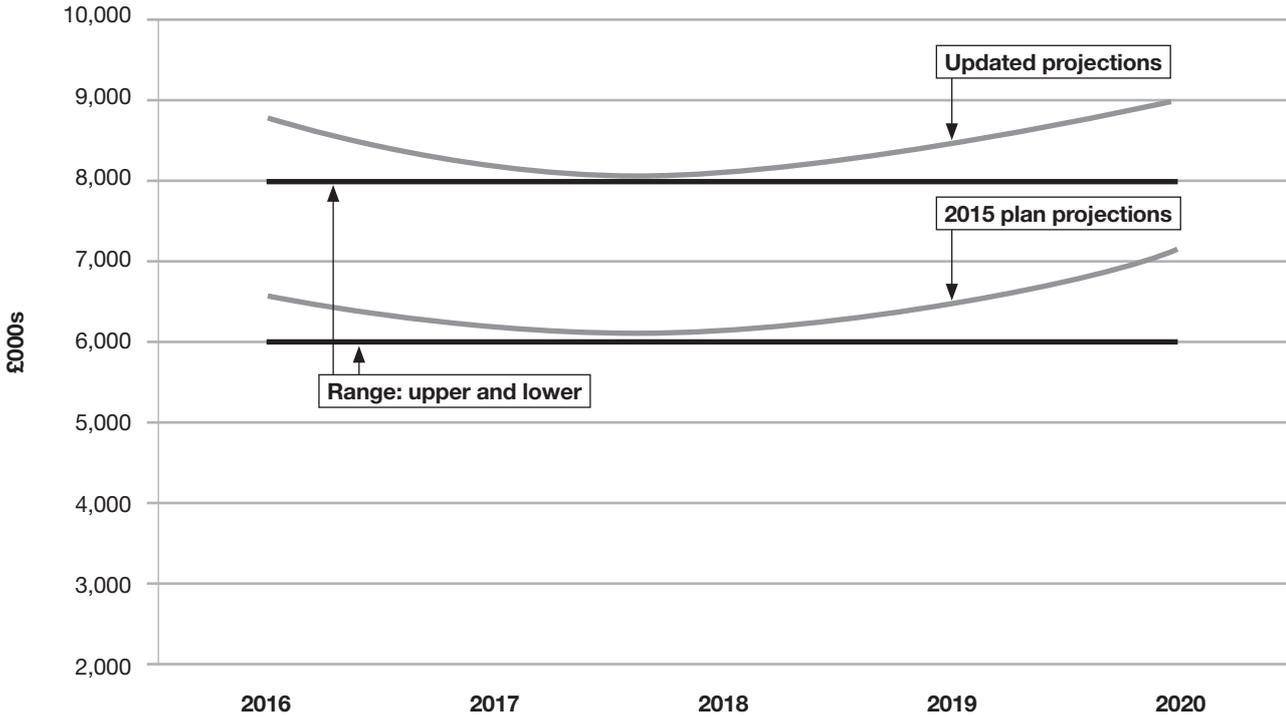
		Full year		
		Budget 2017	Actual 2016 – draft	Change
Net fundraising and other income	Fundraising income	26,603	25,734	+869
	Fundraising expenditure (incl. salaries)	(7,647)	(6,032)	-1,615
	<b>Fundraising net income</b>	<b>18,956</b>	<b>19,702</b>	<b>-746</b>
	Other income	315	353	-39
	<b>Total net income</b>	<b>19,271</b>	<b>20,055</b>	<b>+785</b>
Other expenditure	International movement	(8,675)	(9,428)	+753
	Other salaries	(6,359)	(5,997)	-362
	Corporate services	(2,222)	(1,858)	-365
	Supporter campaigning	(2,465)	(2,246)	-219
	CE's office	(224)	(262)	+38
	Direcorate	(100)	(39)	-61
	<b>Total other expenditure</b>	<b>(20,044)</b>	<b>(19,830)</b>	<b>-215</b>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit)</b>		<b>(774)</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>-999</b>

- 5.2 2017 is the second year of the 5 year strategic plan agreed by the Boards in 2015. The strategic plan is ambitious both in terms of our financial growth and the human rights work that this will enable. This 2017 budget has been developed to focus AIUK's resources effectively to deliver that plan and to maintain the necessary financial stability.
- 5.3 2017 will see a continuation of the fundraising strategy to grow and diversify our income. The budget enables significant investment in fundraising, both to make the most of the channels which currently work for us and to diversify our income streams and acquisition channels.
- 5.4 The 2017 budget will increase our ability to achieve change for human rights, with three well-resourced priority campaigns: Human Rights in the UK; I Welcome; and Human Rights Defenders. We will maintain our campaigning on crisis issues and individuals at risk, and will continue to develop our human rights education work and increase its priority within the Section. The budget is intended to support our long-term goal of engaging 2% of the UK population with Amnesty by 2020.

#### 6. LOOKING AHEAD

- 6.1 The strategic plan included financial projections for the 5 years 2016-2020. The graph below shows projected free reserves over this period, with budget / projected annual results.

Free reserves 2016-2020 (£000s)



Updated surplus / (deficit)	Actual 2016 - draft	Budget 2017	Projected 2018	Projected 2019	Projected 2020
		226	(773)	(241)	194

Original strategic plan surplus / (deficit)	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
		(944)	(630)	(304)	34

- 6.2 Free reserves at the end of 2016 were approximately £2.0m better than had been anticipated in the original 5 year financial projections. £0.8m was due to an improved opening position, as the 2015 result was £0.8m better than had been envisaged, largely because of late arising legacy receipts. £1.2m reflects the better than budget draft outturn in 2016.
- 6.3 The 2017 deficit budget anticipates a fall in free reserves towards the top of the agreed range.
- 6.4 Additional free reserves are to be held as compared to the original 5 year strategic plan, as we enter the latter years of the plan. Because of the extremely uncertain economic outlook in the later years of the plan period – particularly in light of Brexit – it is considered prudent to hold free reserves towards the higher end of the range. There is also increased risk due to the impact of restrictions around fundraising and of the currently unknown impact of compliance with European data protection regulations.

*Meredith Coombs*

**Meredith Coombs, Treasurer**

3 February 2017

# DRAFT MINUTES FROM THE 2016 NATIONAL CONFERENCE & AGM

9-10 APRIL 2016  
EAST MIDLANDS CONFERENCE CENTRE  
NOTTINGHAM

## 1. SATURDAY MORNING PLENARY SESSION CONFERENCE OPENING

- 1.1 **Alex Pool, conference Chair** welcomed delegates to the 2016 National Conference & AGM and thanked them for attending. The conference opened with a film about the Stop Torture Campaign. Delegates were informed about the case of Moses Agatukba from Nigeria who was arrested, abused and tortured by the authorities who then sentenced him to death. Many Amnesty members from across the world campaigned for his release. Moses was freed in May 2015 – it was a great achievement for Moses and for Amnesty activists.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed **Beverley Foulkes-Jones**, Country Co-ordinator for Tunisia and Regional Co-ordinator for North Africa to introduce **Justine ljeomah**, a Human Rights Activist in Nigeria and Director of the Human Rights Social Development Environmental Foundation (HURSDEF) to light the candle to officially start the Conference.
- 1.3 Justine ljeomah spoke of the hope Amnesty International gives to prisoners of conscience in his country Nigeria and all over the world. He spoke of his personal experience working to protect children living in slums and on the street. Justine and his family have withstood many hardships including arrests, torture, threats and re-locations because of the work he does. Amnesty has a huge impact in the lives of the downtrodden and poor people in Nigeria, Amnesty is now the last beacon of hope for the poor to receive justice.
- 1.4 Justine ljeomah updated the conference on Moses Akatugba's case, he read out a message from Moses to all AIUK Amnesty Activists – thanking them for their letters and support while he was in prison, Moses wanted AIUK Activists to know that they have inspired him to join and work with Amnesty Nigeria to help change bring about change in his country. Justine ljeomah thanked the conference for the privilege of lighting the Amnesty candle.
- 1.5 The Chair thanked Justine ljeomah and officially declared the conference open.
- ## 2. AMNESTY SECTION UK – SECTION REPORT
- 2.1 **Sarah O'Grady, AIUK Section Chair** welcomed delegates to the conference. The AIUK Chair informed delegates that this will be her last AGM as Section Chair, it has been a tremendous privilege for her to serve on the Section Board for six years and to have served as Chair for three, she thanked all serving Board members for their hard work and dedication.

2.2 A substantial amount of time has been dedicated by the Board and staff to revise and bring up to date the Section's governance practices. The AIUK Chair referred to the 13 special resolutions brought to the conference (after consultations with members and advice from lawyers) - intended to bring the constitution in line with legal obligations and compliance. The special resolutions are important to the development of the Section, to fulfil the responsibilities entrusted to the Board of Directors and to ensure that Amnesty becomes an example of best practice.

2.3 The AIUK Chair highlighted the changes made to the voting systems (on line voting, proxy voting and hand-held voting pads) – changes designed to ensure ALL AIUK members can vote, including those who cannot attend the conference. There have been other changes made to increase transparency and improve governance including clearer role descriptions for Board members, a new Code of Conduct, bringing all key governance documents in one place, establishing rigorous version control and standardised Terms of Reference for Board Sub-Committees and a better, re-focused Activism Sub-Committee with representatives of Amnesty's different activist constituencies assisting the Section with two-way communication.

2.4 The AIUK Chair drew attention to the strategic priorities set against the context of Amnesty International's global Strategic Goals for 2016 to 2020 agreed at the International Council Meeting (ICM). The goals are to ensure;

- Everyone knows and can claim their rights
- Human rights and justice are enjoyed without discrimination
- People are protected during conflict and crisis
- Human rights abuses are held accountable
- Amnesty International is a larger, stronger and more diverse movement

At the ICM, the AIUK Delegation worked hard to deliver against last year's AGM decisions. The delegation secured a positive mention of work with Trade Unions and with AI Spain also ensured improved reporting by the International Board as sought by AIUK's resolution. The debate about sex workers' rights was difficult, Sections worked hard to try to find a workable compromise between different views but ultimately, the matter went to a vote – which the Section voted to abstain.

2.5 The AIUK Chair concluded by thanking former Chairs and Board members, staff and volunteers for their dedication and hard work. She also thanked human rights defenders like Justine ljeomah, Mazen Darwish, Raif Badawi, Claudia Medina and Jenny Williams and so many others like them, men and women who have endured violations and through their courage have inspired us to stand with them in the defence of human rights.

## 3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.1 **Kate Allen, AIUK Director** gave an overview of the Section's campaign and activism on Refugees - individual and collective action by Amnesty activists who contacted 99% of MPs in the UK trying to bring attention to the plight of refugees. Amnesty activists

are leading the way in concerted action and initiatives like the AIUK's Asylum Justice Project, an activist-led project campaigning for an end to the fast tract asylum system and an end to indefinite detention. Staff and activists working in partnership is the best way to ensure we achieve the changes we seek.

- 3.2 The Director talked about the achievements of each of the Sections Campaign Priorities for 2015;
- **My Body My Rights;** In 2015 the focus was on N. Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, where it is illegal to have an abortion in almost all circumstances - even in cases of rape, incest or fatal foetal impairment. Amnesty campaigned hard on this issue and, in a landmark ruling in November 2015, the High Court in Belfast found that laws governing abortion in N. Ireland in cases of serious malformation of the foetus and sexual crimes are in breach of Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights. There is an appeal outstanding on this – so we still have work to do.
  - **Stop Torture;** The global stop torture campaign, which launched in May 2014, had some notable successes in 2015. The focus was on Mexico and Nigeria - as well as the UK. In August 2015 the Mexican Government approved the 'Standardised National Protocol for the Investigation of Torture,' which included key safeguards we had been campaigning for. Although it still lacks a monitoring process, it is a clear strengthening of Mexico's process for investigating torture – the key safeguard that we have campaigned for. Closer to home, we focused on the EU trade in tools of torture. In Oct 2015 MEPs voted overwhelmingly to close loopholes in the EU law prohibiting trade in torture equipment, something we have been working for since 2005. Here in the UK is leading efforts for a judge-led enquiry into allegations of UK Government complicity in torture.
  - **Individuals at Risk;** In 2015 there were 541 recorded campaign activities on IAR by Country Co-ordinators. Over 300,000 people signed the petition for Meenakshi Kumari and her sister who were sentenced by the male only village council to be raped as a punishment for their brother's actions. India's Supreme Court has ordered protection for the two sisters and they and their family have told us how grateful they are to everyone who signed the petition to India's Home Secretary. Other successes were the release of Moses Akaktugba, Albert Woodfox and Filep Karma among others.
  - **Crisis Response;** The Section will continue to focus on Syria and respond where necessary to the human rights crises that will inevitably emerge in the future. Campaigns will be tactical where it is thought that high media profile on an issue increases the chances to raise human rights concerns. The next focus will be human rights in Brazil in the lead up to next summer's Olympic Games there.
  - **Save the Human Rights Act;** AIUK campaigned vigorously to retain the Human Rights Act and succeeded, by working in partnership with other organisations and thanks to our activists, in forcing the UK government to relent on this initiative. 89,000 people have signed the petition to retain the Human Rights Act – this campaign continues until it is won.
- 3.3 The Director then talked about the plans for the Section in the Strategic Plan including ambitions to engage 2% of the UK population by the end of 2020, tripling the

Section's size in members, supporters and activists. Campaign priorities for 2016 to 2020 are 'People on the Move', 'Crisis Response', 'Individuals at Risk', 'Protecting the Human Rights Act' and 'Human Rights Education'.

- 3.4 The Director concluded by thanking the AIUK Section Chair Sarah O'Grady for her determination to get governance right for the Section. Sarah O'Grady stands down in May, she is a dedicated, hardworking Chair whose care and support for the staff shines through and is much appreciated.

#### 4. ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 4.1 **Sheila Banks, Standing Orders Committee** informed conference that the SOC received a total of 25 resolutions 13 of which are special resolutions (allocated to Working Party S) which require a 75% majority to pass. Ordinary resolutions are passed with a 51% majority. No emergency resolutions have been submitted. The standing orders have been reviewed following on from the work of the Governance Task Force, the following amendments have been made;
- SO3; To enable SOC to deal with conflicting resolutions (going forward).
  - SO9; To clarify understanding around repeat resolutions
  - SO11b; To instruct the board to state its position on each resolutions in its background note
  - SO19; To clarify that working party votes are indicative only
  - SO 21a; Understanding what constitutes a fit and proper amendment
  - SO28; Allows minor amendments to special resolutions in line with company law
  - SO41; Allows for the possibility of electronic voting
  - SO42; Clarifies that constitutional amendments require three quarters majority to pass
- 4.2 Two of the special resolutions deal with the calling of an EGM, they appear on the agenda as resolution 6 and 6a. SOC recommends that if resolution S6 is carried then S6a will automatically fall. Resolutions F1 and F2 will be taken in conjunction with the financial report and will not be discussed in a working party. The Chair formally moved the SOC report, the **conference ADOPTED the SOC report.**
- #### 5. ADOPTION OF 2015 AGM MINUTES
- 5.1 There were no amendments to the minutes. The Chair asked conference to adopt the minutes, **the 2015 AGM minutes were ADOPTED.**
- #### 6. ADOPTION OF THE 2015 AGM DECISIONS IMPLEMENTATION REPORT
- 6.1 The conference **ADOPTED the 2015 AGM Decisions Implementation Report.**
- #### 7. CHANGES TO THE VOTING SYSTEM & CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 AGM CHAIR, SOC, MEMBERS AND DIRECTOR'S APPEALS COMMITTEE AND CONFERENCE TELLERS
- 7.1 The Chair welcomed **John Pestle, the Returning Officer** who informed conference of the changes made

to the voting system. There will be handheld voting systems in plenary (administered by the Electoral Reform Society) an online proxy voting facility was made available this year, the deadline for the receipt of online votes was **5th April** and those votes have already been submitted.

- 7.2 The Returning Officer called for nominations for next year's Conference Chair, Standing Orders Committee and Members and Director's Appeal Committees and listed the tellers who have come forward to help count the votes. **The Conference APPROVED the list of tellers.**

## 8. KEYNOTE PANEL "Refugees"

- 8.1 Conference heard from a panel made up by Dr. Natalie Roberts (Policy Advisor on Refugees and Migration in Europe, Médecins Sans Frontières), Trevor Trueman (Member of Malvern Hills Amnesty group & co-ordinator of Amnesty's Asylum Justice Project), Forward Maisokwadzo (Development Worker, City of Sanctuary), Steve Symonds (Programme Director, Refugee & Migrant Rights AIUK), it was Chaired by Kate Allen (Director of AIUK).

## 9. STANDING ORDERS

- 9.1 The Conference Chair formally moved a procedural motion to suspend Standing Order 38 detailing length of time for resolution proposers (5mins) and speeches for/against (3mins) – the Chair proposed that the proposer is allowed 3 minutes and speeches for/against are allowed 2 minutes. This change has been seconded by the SOC. The conference APPROVED the change to the standing orders for the remainder of the conference.

## 10. AWARDS

- 10.1 **Dan Jones, AIUK's Creative Co-ordinator** presented awards for outstanding activism and fundraising to the following groups;
- Southampton Group
  - Cardigan and North Pembroke Group
  - Buxton Group
  - Belfast/Mid Down Groups
  - Chris Moss
  - Reading and Fylde Prides
  - Henley College
  - Edinburgh University
  - Freman College
  - Malvern Hills
  - Susan Kerr

## SUNDAY 10 APRIL

### 11. GOOD NEWS

The Conference heard from various delegates who wanted to share their good news about activism, fundraising and their successful campaigns.

### 12. TREASURER'S REPORT

- 12.1 **Meredith Coombs, AIUK Section Treasurer** presented the key financial events since the last AGM, the 2015 financial result and a forward look over the next five years. In 2015 the movement agreed a new formula

for contributions to the International Secretariat, contributions are calculated on the basis of the results of the actual period concerned – real time. The contribution is based on the net result after allowing for certain costs, particularly fundraising costs. The full impact of the new formula will be felt from 2017 onwards when it will be fully in place.

- 12.2 In 2015 both Boards reviewed the level of free reserves required. Account was taken of the various risks that could materialise and have an adverse financial impact. The Boards were satisfied with a free reserve 'target' in the range of £6m to £8m. This will be reviewed again in 2016 in the light of prevailing circumstances, as required by Charity Commission Guidelines.

- 12.3 In 2015 the balance on the loan on the Human Rights Action Centre was just short of £2m and it was converted to a short term loan lasting until May, at its meeting in March the Trust Board agreed to repay the loan in full, as the cash balances held were sufficient to do this, with a result saving of £250k loan interest no longer payable.

- 12.4 The financial outturn for 2015 is a surplus of £1.1m at the end of the year. In 2015 the Section spent £1.2m more on human rights campaigning, this was offset by £1.6m less that was paid to fund the international movement. The expenditure for the year was £0.4m below 2014 and income was £1.9m lower than in 2014 due to a record amount of legacies received in 2015.

- 12.5 Looking ahead over the next five years, reserves will stay within the £6 to £8m target range, there will be projected deficits in 2016 to 2018 and then surpluses from 2019 onwards. The Section can afford to incur some deficits because of the high level of reserves available.

- 12.6 The Treasurer formally moved financial resolutions F1 and F2;

#### **F1 - FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015**

**Summary:** A routine resolution to receive the financial statements and reports.

**Proposer: AIUK Board**

This AGM DECIDES

To receive the Financial Statements, the Reports of the Board and Auditor for the year ended 31 December 2015.

**Votes FOR: 2,088 (99.48%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 11 (0.52%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

#### **F2 - APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

**Summary:** A routine resolution to reappoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the Board to determine their remuneration.

**Proposer: AIUK Board**

This AGM DECIDES

To re-appoint BDO LLP as Auditor of the Company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company, and to authorise the Directors to approve the Auditor's remuneration.

**Votes FOR: 2,022 (98.11%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 39 (1.89%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

**13. RESOLUTIONS FROM WORKING PARTIES**

The AGM Chair explained the voting process. The Chair held 2,432 proxies and where there has not been a preference/indication stated on the form, the Chair has abstained. The voting results will incorporate the proxies (submitted on line and held by the Chair) and the count of the hand held devices by delegates in the conference. The Electoral Reform Society (ERS) were present to help delegates with the devices and collate the vote.

**WORKING PARTY S**

**13.1 SPECIAL RESOLUTION 1  
 INCREASE IN GAP BEFORE A FORMER BOARD  
 MEMBER IS ELIGIBLE TO STAND AGAIN AFTER  
 RESIGNING, OR END OF MAXIMUM TERM**

**Summary:** At present, an elected Board member must take a break of nine months, after serving six consecutive years. The proposal is that any Board member who steps down (at any point, including mid-term) and is not immediately re-appointed or re-elected must take a break of at least three years before serving again. This provision should be looked at in conjunction with special resolution 2, which (among other changes) specifies an absolute limit on Board members serving more than nine consecutive years without taking a break. The period of six consecutive years is also retained for all Elected Directors except the Chair and Vice-Chair.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by;

1. Adding the following provision at the end of the current Article 35.1.4 (and deleting the full-stop):  
 “; or  
 35.1.5 if they have previously retired (and not been immediately re-appointed or re-elected in accordance with the other provisions in the Articles) or have ceased to be a Director for any other reason, and have not taken a break of three years.”.
2. Replacing the words “*nine months*” in the current Article 36.3 with “*three years*”;
3. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof (and amending the ‘level’ of the numbering so, for example, Article 35.1.1 would become Article 35.1. subject to any other necessary changes).

**Votes FOR: 2,424 (95.21%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 122 (4.79%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

**13.2 SPECIAL RESOLUTION 2  
 CLARIFYING THE RELEVANT TIME LIMITS AND  
 INTRODUCING NEW/AMENDED MAXIMUM TERMS  
 OF OFFICE FOR DIRECTORS, THE TREASURER,  
 THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR.**

**Summary:** Clarifies that a Director would not be required to stand down after six consecutive years if they are in post as Chair or Vice-Chair, but they may not serve for more than nine consecutive years. Changes the terms of office for Chair and Vice-Chair from one year to three years. A Co-opted Director would not be required to stand down after three years if they are in post as Treasurer, Chair or Vice-Chair. Changes are also made to the wording to clarify the start and end dates of the Treasurer, Chair, and Vice-Chair’s terms of office.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

- 1 Deleting the words “*at the first Board Meeting after each AGM*” from the current Article 43.6.
- 2 Adding the word “*Elected*” after the first word “*Each*” in the current Article 36.3.
- 3 Inserting, before the full-stop at the end of the current Article 36.3, “, *unless they are Chair or Vice-Chair*”.
- 4 Inserting, before the full-stop at the end of the current Article 37.3, “, *unless they are Treasurer, Vice-Chair or Chair*”.
- 5 Deleting the current Article 43.6.1 and 43.6.2 and inserting the following:  
 “*43.6.1 the Chair, who shall serve until the first Board meeting after the third Declaration Date after their appointment;*  
*43.6.2 the Vice-Chair, who shall serve until the first Board meeting after the third Declaration Date after their appointment.*”.
- 6 Inserting a new Article after the current Article 43.6, as follows:  
 “*43.7 Each Chair or Vice-Chair may be re-elected to a second consecutive term, but must then not be elected to such role for three years. For the avoidance of doubt, the Chair or Vice-Chair may serve as a Director for up to a total of nine years, as appropriate.*”.
- 7 Deleting the current Article 43.7 and inserting the following new Article:  
 “*43.8 The Directors shall elect the Treasurer from among their number and they shall serve until the first Board meeting after the third Declaration Date after their appointment. For the avoidance of doubt, if the Treasurer is a Co-opted Director they may remain a Director and complete their term as Treasurer, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 37.3.*”.
- 8 Inserting the following provision after the current Article 38.1.6:  
 “*38.1.7 notwithstanding the other provisions in these Articles (but subject to Article 36.4), they have served as a Director for nine consecutive years;*”.
- 9 Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special

resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,900 (76.83%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 573 (23.17%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

13.3 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 3  
 INCREASING THE MINIMUM SUPPORT FOR  
 PROPOSING RESOLUTIONS TO THE AGM**

**Summary:** For members controlling a total of six votes (one principal and five seconders) to be required to propose a resolution for the AGM.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Inserting, after the wording "*Resolutions to be proposed at general meetings shall either be proposed by the Board or by Members*" in the current Article 27.2, the following wording:  
 ", being:  
 27.2.1 *An Individual Member or Family Member, with the support of either:*  
 (a) *Five other Individual Members or Family Members (or a combination thereof);*  
 (b) *A Youth Group, Local Group or Student Group;*  
 (c) *An Affiliate Member entitled to exercise at least five votes in accordance with Article 30.1; or*  
 (d) *An Affiliate Member who is entitled to exercise fewer than five votes in accordance with Article 30.1, together with the support of such other Members as are necessary to form at least five additional votes in total.*  
 27.2.2 *A Youth Group, Local Group, or Student Group; or*  
 27.2.3 *An Affiliate Member which is:*  
 (a) *entitled to exercise at least six votes in accordance with Article 30.1; or*  
 (b) *entitled to exercise fewer than six votes in accordance with Article 30.1, with the support of such other Members as is necessary to form at least six votes in total*".
2. Inserting a line break before the remainder of the current Article 27.2.
3. Amending the words "*general meetings*" in the current Article 27.2 to read "*General Meetings*".
4. If it has not otherwise been inserted into the Articles, inserting the following provision, at the correct alphabetical place in Article 1.1:  
 "1.1.23 "*General Meeting*" a general meeting of the Company;".
5. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,920 (76.89%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 577 (23.11%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

13.4 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 4  
 AMENDMENTS TO THE DEADLINE FOR THE  
 RECEIPT OF AGM RESOLUTIONS**

**Summary:** To increase the current 60-day deadline for receipt of resolutions to 90 days.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:  
 Replacing the period "*60 days*" in the current Article 27.2 with "*90 days*".

Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,800 (77.65%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 518 (22.35%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

13.5 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 5  
 AMENDMENTS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
 CHAIRING GENERAL MEETINGS**

**Summary:** Proposes that the Chair of AIUK Section's Board chairs the formal part of the AGM.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Deleting the present Article 25 ("*AGM Chair*") and replacing it with the following new Article:  
 "25. *Chair of General Meetings*  
 25.1 *The Chair (if any) or in the Chair's absence some other Director nominated by the Directors shall preside as chair of every annual or extraordinary General Meeting.*  
 25.2 *If neither the Chair nor any Director nominated in accordance with Article 25.1 is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting and willing to act, the Directors present shall elect one of their number to chair the meeting and, if there is only one Director present and willing to act, that Director shall be chair of the meeting.*  
 25.3 *If no Director is present and willing to act as chair of the meeting within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the Members present in person, by Representative, or by proxy and entitled to vote must choose one of the Members present in person to be chair of the meeting. For the avoidance of doubt, a proxy holder who is not otherwise a Member entitled to vote shall not be entitled to be appointed chair of the meeting under this Article 25.3.*".
2. Deleting the present Article 1.1.4 ("*AGM Chair*") in its entirety.
3. Replacing the words "*AGM Chair*" with the words "*chair of the meeting*" at every instance where it occurs;
4. Inserting the following provision, at the correct alphabetical place in Article 1.1:  
 "1.1.23 "*General Meeting*" a general meeting of the Company;".

5. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,222 (54.50%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 1,020 (45.50%)**  
**This resolution was NOT CARRIED**

- 13.6 Resolutions S6 and S6A were taken in common debate, the Chair explained that because the two resolutions are contradictory, voting on S6a will take place if resolution S6 falls. If resolution S6 passes, then S6a will automatically fall.

**SPECIAL RESOLUTION 6  
 AMENDMENTS TO THE THRESHOLD FOR CALLING  
 EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETINGS**

**Summary:** Increases threshold for calling an extraordinary general meeting from 100 members to members representing one per cent of the voting rights of all members.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Deleting the words “at least 100 Members” in the current Article 20.1 and inserting instead the following wording:  
*“Members representing at least 1% of the total voting rights of all the Members having a right to vote at General Meetings (such total as reported in the most recent published Annual Report of the Company)”*.
2. If it has not otherwise been inserted into the Articles, inserting the following provision, at the correct alphabetical place in Article 1.1:  
*“1.1.23 “General Meeting” a general meeting of the Company;”*.
3. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,106 (47.90%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 1,203 (52.10%)**  
**The resolution was NOT CARRIED.**

- 13.7 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 6A  
 CHANGE TO MEMBERS RIGHTS TO CALL AN EGM  
 INTENDED TO PRESERVE THAT RIGHT BUT AVOID  
 THE POTENTIAL FOR ABUSIVE USE**

**Summary:** To amend the ability of members to convene an EGM by retaining the core right for 100 members to convene an EGM but to introduce additional safeguards so that the 100 members must have been members for at least a year and at least 5 must be youth, student or local groups, to lessen the danger of abusive use  
**Proposer: Liesbeth TenHam (Secunder: Saffron Walden Local Group)**

IT IS PROPOSED as a special resolution that the Articles of Association of the Company be amended by inserting the words “(a) each of whom shall have been a member of the Company during the year preceding the date of the requisition, or whose signature is endorsed by a Local Group, Student Group or Youth Group (and provided that no such group may endorse more than one signature) and (b) at least 5 of whom shall be Local Groups, Youth Groups or Student Groups” in Article 20.1 after the words “at least 100 Members”.

**Votes FOR: 1,753 (79.39%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 455 (20.61%)**  
**This resolution was CARRIED**

- 13.8 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 7  
 REDUCING THE NOTICE PERIOD FOR THE  
 BOARD CALLING AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL  
 MEETING**

**Summary:** Enables the Board to call an extraordinary general meeting on 14 days’ notice where an ordinary resolution requires urgent consideration.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Deleting the existing Article 21.1.
2. Inserting the following Article 21 (immediately below the heading “Length of Notice”):  
*“21.1 The Directors may call an extraordinary General Meeting on at least 14 clear days’ written notice, for the passing of ordinary resolutions, in urgent circumstances (as are reasonably determined by the Directors).  
 21.2 Subject to Article 21.1, an AGM and any extraordinary General Meeting shall be called by at least 45 clear days’ written notice.”*.
3. If it has not otherwise been inserted into the Articles, inserting the following provision, at the correct alphabetical place in Article 1.1:  
*“1.1.23 “General Meeting” a general meeting of the Company;”*.
4. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,942 (81.84%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 431 (18.16%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

- 13.9 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 8  
 REDUCTION OF THE MAXIMUM SIZE OF THE  
 BOARD AND REMOVAL OF RESERVED SEATS**

**Summary:** This principally reduces the size of AIUK Section’s Board to a maximum of 12 and states that all of the elected Board places may be filled by members nominated by the requisite number of people from the entire membership.

**Proposer: AIUK Section Board**

It IS hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Deleting the number "15" in the current Article 33.1 and replacing it with "12";
2. Deleting, in the current Article 37.5, the words "that the appointment does not cause the number of Directors to exceed 15" and replacing it with "that no new appointment may be made under this provision if, following the appointment, the number of Directors will be greater than 12".
3. Replacing the words "12 Elected Directors" in the current Article 34.1.1 with "nine Elected Directors;"; and deleting the rest of the current Article 34.1.1.
4. Inserting the words "and subject to Article 33.2" after "Unless otherwise decided by ordinary resolution" in the current Article 33.1.
5. Inserting a new Article 33.2:  
"33.2 If the total number of Directors exceeds 12 when these Articles are adopted, the maximum number of Directors set out in Article 33.1 shall only apply from the first point at which the total number of Directors is 12 or fewer."
6. Inserting, at the end of the current Article 37.1 (before the full-stop), ", provided that no new appointment may be made under this provision if, following the appointment, the number of Directors will be greater than 12".
7. Deleting the current Articles 36.8.2 (commencing "the category of Elected Director"); 36.10 (commencing "Nominations for Elected Directors who are nominated by Local Groups"); 36.11 (commencing "Nominations for Elected Directors who are nominated by Networks"); and 38.1.10 (commencing "being a Country Co-ordinator");
8. Inserting the word "and" immediately following the current Article 36.8.1.
9. Deleting " or" and inserting a full-stop at the end of the current Article 38.1.9.
10. Deleting the definition "Country Co-ordinator" in Article 1.1.
11. Deleting the words "and the category of Director for which they have been nominated" from the current Article 36.12;
12. Replacing the word "four" with "three" in the current Article 36.1;
13. Replacing the word "six" with "five" in the current Article 43.5; and
14. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,636 (69.77%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 709 (30.23%)**

**This resolution was NOT CARRIED**

13.10 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 9  
AMENDMENTS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR  
ELECTING A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THE  
BOARD**

**Summary:** Chair and Vice-Chair elected from amongst any of the Board members.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Replacing the words "from among the Elected Directors" in the current Article 43.6 with the words "from among their number".
2. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,316 (60.62%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 855 (39.38%)**

**This resolution was NOT CARRIED**

13.11 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 10  
AMENDMENT TO THE ROLE AND CONSTITUTION  
OF THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

**Summary:** Makes the Nominations Committee a Sub-Committee of the Board

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

IT IS hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. Deleting the current Article 29 ("Nominations Committee") in its entirety and replacing it with the following:  
"29 Nominations Sub-Committee  
29.1 There shall be a Nominations Sub-Committee consisting of at least three Directors or Individual Members appointed by the Board.  
29.2 The Nominations Sub-Committee shall provide an annual written report for the Members recommending the skills and experience it believes should be sought in the election of Directors."
2. Replacing all references to the "NC" with "Nominations Sub-Committee".
3. Changing the definition of "Nominations Sub-Committee" in the current Article 1.1 (as amended by paragraph 2, above) so it states "The committee established in accordance with Article 29;".
4. Deleting the definition "NC Member" in the current Article
5. Deleting the words "NC Members and" from the definition of "Members" in the current Article 1.1.
6. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,713 (81.77%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 382 (18.23%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED**

13.12 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 11  
AMENDMENT TO ARTICLES TO ALLOW THE  
ADOPTION OF RULES AND OTHER AMENDMENTS**

**Summary:** Clarifies that the Directors may draw up Rules, which may not be inconsistent with the

Companies Acts, the Articles or any rule of law, and which must be approved by the Members in such manner and form as determined by the Directors.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

1. The adoption of two new Articles after the current Article 50 "Alteration of Articles" as follows:
  - "51. Rules
    - 51.1 *The Directors may from time to time make, repeal or alter such rules as they think fit as to the management of the Company and its affairs. The Rules made under this Article from time to time shall be approved by the Members (such approval in such manner and form as reasonably determined by the Directors) and following this, shall be binding on all Members of the Company. No Rule shall be inconsistent with the Companies Acts, the Articles or any rule of law.*
    - 52. *Exclusion of model articles The relevant model articles for a company limited by guarantee are hereby expressly excluded."*
2. Inserting the following definitions (if they have not otherwise been inserted) in the correct alphabetical place in Article 1.1:
  - "1.1.23 "General Meeting" a general meeting of the Company;"
  - "1.1.38 "Rules" those Rules proposed from time to time by the Directors and approved by the Members in accordance with Article 51;"
3. Deleting the current Article 12 ("Representatives") and inserting the following:
  - "12. Representatives
    - 12.1 *An Affiliate Member, Family Member or Local, Student or Youth Group may nominate a Representative to act on their behalf, in accordance with such procedures as may be set out in the Rules."*
4. Deleting the words "(including charging additional postage to Members living abroad)" in the current Article 16.1.
5. Deleting the current Article 17.2 (commencing "The Board, acting by resolution passed").
6. Deleting the current Article 19.2 (commencing "The business of the AGM shall be").
7. Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof.

**Votes FOR: 1,691 (79.24%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 443 (20.76%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

13.13 **SPECIAL RESOLUTION 12  
 OTHER AMENDMENTS TO THE ARTICLES**

**Summary:** To amend the Articles to take account of miscellaneous changes and any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting.  
**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

It is hereby resolved by way of special resolution that, with effect from the time immediately following the implementation of all other alterations to the Articles of Association of AIUK Section which have been agreed at this meeting (or any adjournment thereof), the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by:

- 1 Amending all provisions highlighted in yellow and indicated (as added or removed) in tracked changes in the attached draft Articles of Association, and excluding those amendments which have been proposed by Special Resolutions 1 to 11 above (for the avoidance of doubt, the amendments are illustrated by the tracked changes, but the tracked changes themselves will not be inserted into the Articles of Association).
- 2 Updating the numbering and cross-referencing in the above resolution and in the Articles of Association as necessary to take account of the above changes, in conjunction with any other changes which are made by other special resolutions passed at this meeting or any adjournment thereof (and, where applicable, amending the 'level' of the numbering so, for example, Article 15.1.1 would become Article 15.1, subject to any other necessary changes).

**Votes FOR: 1,830 (88.75%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 232 (11.25%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

14. **MARSH AWARD**

- 14.1 **Peter Titley** – Voluntary Ambassador for the Marsh Christian and Emily Reeves, Manager of the Marsh Christian Awards presented the Marsh Awards for Human Rights Activism to the Chiltern Edge Schools Amnesty Group (for the School/Youth Group Category), Hull Amnesty Group (for the Local Group Category) and the Kingston University Group (for the Student Group Category).

15. **ELECTION OF CANDIDATES**

- 15.1 **John Pestle, Returning Officer** informed delegates that Alex Pool was the only candidate for 2017 AGM Chair and was therefore elected unopposed. Sheila Banks, Melvin Coleman and Anne McFarlane were elected unopposed for the Standing Orders Committee. Stephen Broadhurst and David Webbe-Wood were nominated for the Nominations Committee, however given the result of special resolution S10 the Nominations Committee is now a committee of the Board and the Board will decide as to who serves on the Nominations Committee. Maggie Towse was successfully elected to serve on the Members and Directors Appeals Committee.

16. **RESOLUTIONS FROM WORKING PARTY A**

16.1 **RESOLUTION A1  
 A1 - AIUK'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020**

**Summary:** A resolution to provide AGM approval for AIUK's Strategic Priorities for the years 2016 through 2020.

**Proposer:** AIUK Board  
 This AGM AGREES

the AIUK Strategic Plan 2016-2020; that the Board should report on the progress of implementing the Strategic Plan at future Annual General Meetings.

**Votes FOR: 2,303 (99.05%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 22 (0.95%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

## 16.2 A2 - HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA

**Summary:** This AGM instructs AIUK to campaign for

- 1 the rights of Eritreans to have secure national borders
- 2 the release of prisoners of conscience in Eritrea; and
- 3 the rights of prisoners in Eritrea.

**Proposer:** Glasgow Daytime Group

This AGM instructs AIUK to campaign:

- 1 For the rights of Eritreans to have secure national borders as determined by international law by urging the UK Government, the EU and other international agencies to use non-military means to persuade Ethiopia to withdraw from Eritrean territory
- 2 for the release of all prisoners of conscience in Eritrea and the ending of secret detentions; and;
- 3 for prisoners to have rapid and regular access to lawyers, doctors and relatives; effective legal process so that people can challenge their detention and treatment; independent judges; and fair trials within a reasonable time.

An amendment was proposed (by Chris Moss on behalf of William Howard Youth Group) to remove paragraph 1 as Amnesty International would be unable to enact it. Speeches for and against the amendment were heard, the **amendment was CARRIED**.

The amended resolution was voted on;

**Summary:** This AGM instructs AIUK to campaign for

- 1 the release of prisoners of conscience in Eritrea; and
- 2 the rights of prisoners in Eritrea.

**Proposer:** Glasgow Daytime Group

This AGM instructs AIUK to campaign:

- 1 For the release of all prisoners of conscience in Eritrea and the ending of secret detentions; and;
- 2 For prisoners to have rapid and regular access to lawyers, doctors and relatives; effective legal process so that people can challenge their detention and treatment; independent judges; and fair trials within a reasonable time.

**Votes FOR: 2,135 (89.71%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 245 (10.29%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED**

## 16.3 RESOLUTION A3 WESTERN SAHARA

**Summary:** The resolution calls for Amnesty International UK to campaign against continued human rights violations in Western Sahara.

**Proposer:** Cambridge City Group

This AGM instructs the AIUK Board to: where possible using existing resources, increase its campaign activity for the human rights of the indigenous Sahrawi population in Western Sahara, focusing on human rights activists and prisoners of conscience in particular. This should include campaigning for the UN Security Council to include a human rights monitoring mandate in its Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO).

**Votes FOR: 2,228 (95.38%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 108 (4.62%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

## 16.4 RESOLUTION A4 REVIEW OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON ACCESS TO ABORTION SERVICES

**Summary:** A resolution to confirm whether AIUK's membership wishes to seek a review of Amnesty International's policy on access to abortion, leading to support for wider access to legal and safe abortion based on a woman's right to choose.

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

THIS AGM ENDORSES The Board's intention:

- I. To initiate a process of discussion to determine if the international movement would support a review of Amnesty's current policy on abortion.
- II. That in such discussion, AIUK's Board will support a change in policy to assure wider access to legal and safe abortion services based on a woman's rights to choose whether or not to terminate her pregnancy, subject to reasonable restrictions.
- III. That the AGM supports action by the Board to promote policy change through ICM discussions or a resolution in 2017 and beyond.

**Votes FOR: 2,050 (87.98%)**  
**Votes AGAINST: 280 (12.02%)**  
**The resolution was CARRIED.**

## 16.5 RESOLUTION A5 CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE

**Summary:** This resolution calls for Amnesty International UK to bring forward a motion to the 2017 International Committee Meeting (ICM), calling for the development of research and policy on the human rights impact of climate change and consideration of climate change as a global priority campaign.

**Proposer:** Edinburgh University Amnesty International Society

**Secunder:** University of Kent Amnesty International Society

This AGM instructs the Board to:

- Advocate for and support a global priority campaign on climate change during the next review process.
- Develop and bring a resolution to ICM 2017 calling for the below and otherwise work to influence and ensure adequate implementation of the setup of the currently established working group

ICM 2017 Resolution

- Resource the working group in the IS developing a strategy towards:
  - researching and communicating the impact of climate change on human rights;
  - highlighting the obligations of states, corporations and other organisations by using the human rights framework; and
  - establishing what action is needed from a human rights perspective to hold states and corporations effectively to account and safeguard human rights in the face of climate change.
- Include a climate change perspective on human rights as a selection criteria of the review process for establishing global priority campaigns.

**Votes FOR: 1,851 (74.01%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 650 (25.99%)**

**This resolution was CARRIED**

**17. RESOLUTIONS FROM WORKING PARTY B**

**17.1 RESOLUTION B1  
VOTING RIGHT FOR ELECTIONS HELD AT THE AGM**

**Summary:** To change the voting rights for the elections that are held at the AGM to one person equals one vote  
**Proposer:** Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School Group

This AGM instructs AIUK to:  
Amend the voting rights at the AGM elections to be in line with universal suffrage (1 person equals 1 vote) to enhance the democratic nature of AIUK, instead of the pre-existing voting rights. This should become effective for the 2018 AGM. This will require a Special Resolution at the 2017 AGM.

**Votes FOR: 1,303 (66.28%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 663 (33.72%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

**17.2 RESOLUTION B2  
CLOSURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS NGO ACCOUNTS BY THE CO-OP BANK**

**Summary:** This resolution calls on AIUK to take action to challenge decisions of the Co-operative Bank and related government regulations which have led to the bank closing the accounts of many human rights organisations including the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.  
**Proposer:** Richard John Barnes

This AGM instructs the AIUK Board to:

- Express serious concerns publicly about the adverse impact of the Co-operative Bank's account closures on human rights organisations and other NGOs, having regard to the issues raised by the Charity Commission and others
- Seek further explanations and information from the Cooperative Bank on the grounds and motivation for these account closures
- Take appropriate action to persuade the Co-operative Bank to give effect to its ethical principles and to adopt policies and practices that facilitate civil society organisations to operate freely, to undertake advocacy, and to support individuals

and communities at risk, including Human Rights Defenders

- Raise its concerns about the human rights impacts of regulatory requirements with relevant ministers, departments and representatives of the UK Government, and with the UK Charity Commission
- Undertake further research on the situation, in coordination with the AI International Secretariat
- Collaborate with and support UK and European organisations engaged in dialogue with the Financial Action Task Force, and relevant UK governmental bodies
- Review AIUK's relations with the Co-operative Bank and other banks in view of the above evidence
- Report back to the membership with recommendations on appropriate action

**Votes FOR: 1,895 (88.88%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 237 (11.12%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

**17.3 RESOLUTION B3  
USE OF LIVE STREAMING AND ONLINE VOTING AT THE AIUK AGM**

**Summary:** A resolution intended to open up decision making at the AGM to the full AIUK membership, and allow greater representation and communication for all groups and members.

**Proposer:** Shetland Group *[As Shetland Group were unable to attend the AGM, this resolution was moved on their behalf by Malcolm Dingwall-Smith]*

This AGM instructs the AIUK Board to:

- make a full commitment to having the main sessions of the AGM available to live stream exclusively to registered AIUK members across the UK by the 2018 AGM.
- find a method of implementing online voting to allow registered AIUK members across the UK to vote on resolutions in real time, and to have a proposal on how this will be implemented prepared to present to the 2017 AGM.

**Votes FOR: 2,106 (93.85%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 138 (6.15%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

**17.4 RESOLUTION B4  
BANNERS AND PLACARDS FOR GROUPS AND NETWORKS**

**Summary:** Production of banners and placards for campaigning action

**Proposer:** Chelmsford Local Group

This AGM calls on AIUK Section to produce durable banners and placards for local groups and networks to use when engaged in campaigning, awareness raising, fundraising or educational events.

**Votes FOR: 1,910 (93.54%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 132 (6.46%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

**17.5 RESOLUTION B5  
DEVELOPING A BODY OF RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF AIUK**

**Summary:** A resolution establishing Interim Rules for AIUK and requiring the Board to consult on a wider body of rules before presenting them for adoption at the 2017 AGM.

**Proposer:** AIUK Board

The AGM DECIDES

- A. That the Board shall draft Rules to support the governance of Amnesty International UK Section;
- B. That the Rules shall not be inconsistent with the Companies Act, AIUK Section's Articles of Association or any rule of law;
- C. That, the Board shall consult with members on the draft Rules before submitting them to the 2017 Annual General Meeting for adoption by ordinary resolution;
- D. That, in case of any conflict arising between governance provisions, law shall have precedence, followed by AIUK Section's Articles of Association, followed by any Rules adopted

The AGM ADOPTS the following Interim Rules as binding, with the numbering and cross-referencing of Articles to be updated to take account of any Special Resolutions of the Company adopted at the 2016 AGM;

1. Interim Rules concerning Representatives of Affiliate Members, Family Members or Local, Student and Youth Groups.
  - 1.1 The secretary or such other person who has been nominated in writing by the relevant Member of each Affiliate Member, Local, Student and Youth Group, whether incorporated or unincorporated shall be the ex-officio Representative of the relevant Member for the time being.
  - 1.2 Each Family Member shall nominate in writing one individual who shall be the Representative of the relevant Family Member.
  - 1.3 The Company Secretary shall be advised at the Office of the name and address of any Representative in writing. A Member may change its Representative at any time by written notice to the Company Secretary at the Office.
  - 1.4 If a Representative is unable to attend a meeting of the Company the relevant Member shall be entitled to send an individual who shall be called an alternate and who shall have all the rights and duties of that Representative for the duration of the meeting of the Company. The Representative shall provide their alternate with a letter of authorisation which the alternate shall produce upon request.
2. Interim Rules concerning the withdrawal of Network Status
  - 2.1 The Board, acting by resolution passed at a Board meeting by a majority of at least two-thirds of the votes cast, may withdraw the status of Network accorded in accordance with the provisions of Article 16.1 from any organisation which has not fulfilled the criteria specified by the Board for two successive years or is in substantial breach of any mandate or rules of the Company.

**Votes FOR: 1,906 (89.82%)**

**Votes AGAINST: 216 (10.18%)**

**The resolution was CARRIED.**

## 18. AIUK SECTION BOARD QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

- 18.1 AIUK Section's Board took the stage to answer questions from the conference. There were questions around the cost of an EGM, holding human rights abusers to account, using IT developments in increasing activism, the Arms Trade Treaty and the Saudi/Yemen conflict, global governance – international governance reform (changing the ICM into a global council) and keeping up with the trends on social media to increase inclusion and diversity of supporters and activists.

## 19. PERMISSION TO DESTROY THE BALLOT PAPERS

- 19.1 John Pestle, Returning Officer requested and was granted permission to destroy the ballot papers. The Returning Officer thanked his team of tellers for all their help and the delegates for making the transition to a new way of voting.

## 20. VOTE OF THANKS

- 20.1 Ruth Breddal (Vice Chair) and Hannah Perry (Board member) thanked Sarah O'Grady, AIUK Section Chair for all her hard work and help in bringing through all the constitutional changes and helping the section to start updating its governance. The conference thanked Sarah O'Grady – who in turn thanked the Director, the Senior Management Team, the staff and her fellow volunteers on the Board, Trust and other governance structures.
- 20.2 Sheila Banks, Standing Orders Committee thanked Alex Pool for chairing the conference.

## 21. CLOSING REMARKS

- 21.1 Alex Pool, Conference Chair thanked the delegates for attending and participating in the debates, the Board, Standing Orders Committee, the Returning Officer, the tellers, the production crew from Blueprint and the East Midlands Conference Centre. AIUK staff, working party secretaries and Chairs and the Events Team. The Conference Chair officially closed the conference and AGM and wished delegates a safe journey home.

# REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS

## DECISIONS FROM THE 2016 AGM

### **F1(2016) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2015**

### **F2(2016) APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS**

*These decisions have been implemented.*

AGM Decisions F1 and F2 are routine financial decision to receive the accounts and appoint auditors. They were self-executing and have been implemented.

**SR1(2016)** Increase in gap before a former Board member is eligible to stand again after resigning, or end of maximum term

**SR2(2016)** Clarifying the relevant time limits and introducing new/amended maximum terms of office Directors, the Treasurer, the Chair and Vice-Chair

**SR3(2016)** Increasing the minimum support for proposing resolutions to the AGM.

**SR4(2016):** Amendments to the deadline for the receipt of AGM resolutions

**SR6a(2016):** Change to members' rights to call an EGM intended to preserve that right but avoid the potential for abusive use

**SR7(2016):** Reducing the notice period for the Board calling an extraordinary general meeting

**SR10(2016):** Amendment to the role and constitution of the Nominations Committee

**SR11(2016):** Amendment to articles to allow the adoption of rules and other amendments

**SR12(2016)** Other amendments to the articles  
*These resolutions have been implemented*

These Special Resolutions completed the review of AIUK Section's Articles of Association. The Articles have been duly amended and lodged with Companies House.

### **A1(2016) AIUK'S STRATEGIC PLAN 2016-2020**

*Implementation of this decision is ongoing.*

This decision approved AIUK's Strategic Plan 2016. The Board receive regular updates on the progress of the strategic plan and will report to the AGM in 2017 and in future years.

### **A2(2016) HUMAN RIGHTS IN ERITREA**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

AIUK is now working on the second Eritrean Individual at Risk from the IS portfolio (we are now working on both on them). The Country Coordinator is leading the planning of this work.

The Community Organising unit has contacted the IS team to ask them what materials and support they can give to this

campaign. They are happy with the campaign area and follow up conversations are taking place to develop specific support for the Country Coordinator on campaigning for the release of Prisoners of Conscience and the rights of all prisoners in Eritrea. Campaign planning will then be developed with the Country Coordinator for Eritrea.

### **A3(2016) WESTERN SAHARA**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

The IS has previously released an Action Circular calling for MINURSO to return to full functionality and for sustained human rights monitoring by the UN in Western Sahara. Staff in Community Organising and campaigns are looking at how best to support the Country Coordinator to roll this action out.

Individuals at Risk casefiles and Urgent Actions are unlikely during the IS team's move from London within the Global Transition Programme.

### **A4(2016) REVIEW OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL'S INTERNATIONAL POLICY ON ACCESS TO ABORTION SERVICES**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

Following discussions with a number of sections, AIUK submitted a resolution to the 2017 International Council Meeting in January 2017. The resolution was co-sponsored by AI Ireland, AI Sweden, AI Argentina, AI Paraguay, AI Uruguay, AI Peru, AI Tunisia and AI Israel.

The text of the Resolution is:

*The International Council Meeting*

**Instructs** the International Board to conduct a review of AI's policy on 'Select Aspects of Abortion'<sup>1</sup> with an intent to ensure that the policy:

- Aligns with current international human rights law, norms, and standards;
- Aligns with AI's policy on 'Sexual and Reproductive Rights'<sup>2</sup> and other related policies, for the purpose of policy coherence;
- Responds to AI's research and other international evidence on the impact of restrictive abortion laws, policies, and practices on the human rights of women and girls;
- Provides a mandate for the AI movement to campaign for full realisation of sexual and reproductive human rights of all women and girls.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> AI Index: 39/005/2007

<sup>2</sup> AI Index: POL 39/011/2007

<sup>3</sup> Throughout this resolution we refer to "women and girls". However, any future policy should also recognise that whilst majority of personal experiences with abortion do relate to cisgender women and girls - who were born female and identify as female - transgender men and people who identify as neither men nor women may have the reproductive capacity to become pregnant and so may need and have abortions.

**Further instructs** the International Board to update the policy, pending results of the review, after consultation with the Chairs Assembly or by referring the decision to the Global Assembly no later than in 2018.

The ICM will meet in August and the Board will inform next year's AGM of the outcome.

#### **A5(2016) CLIMATE CHANGE IS A HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

Whilst staff at the International Secretariat are undertaking some work on gaps in international law and on analysis of the Paris Treaty on climate change, the Board felt that this was not likely to meet the expectations of the AGM and accordingly submitted a resolution to the 2017 International Council Meeting in January. The text of the Resolution is:

*The International Council:*

*DECIDES that the International Board shall*

- *Resource the working group in the International Secretariat to ensure by 2019 the delivery of a strategy on climate change that includes:*
  - *Researching and communicating the impact of climate change on human rights;*
  - *Addressing relevant gaps in international laws and standards;*
  - *Highlighting the obligations of states, corporations and other organisations by using the human rights framework and,*
  - *Establishing what action is needed from a human rights perspective to hold states and corporations effectively to account and to safeguard human rights in the face of climate change.*
- *Include a climate change perspective as a selection criterion for establishing global priority campaigns.*

We are currently co-ordinating with Amnesty International New Zealand section, who have submitted a similar resolution. We anticipate working closely with them and other sections that we believe share an interest in this issue in the lead up to the ICM, which takes place in August 2017. The Board will inform next year's AGM of the outcome.

#### **B1(2016) VOTING RIGHTS FOR ELECTIONS HELD AT THE AGM**

*The Board are proposing an alternative means of addressing concerns raised by this decision*

This Decision called for the Board to table a Special Resolution to reduce the number of votes cast by groups in elections held at the AGM. AIUK groups currently hold ten votes. The decision asked the Board to produce a Special Resolution reducing the vote allocation to just one vote per group for the AGM elections. This proposal emerged from concerns that because nominations to the Standing Orders Committee, Members' and Directors' Appeals Committee and AGM Chair were only received at the AGM, groups were not able to consult on their preferred candidates and should not therefore exercise more than one vote.

The Board reflected on this issue during 2016 and is proposing to address the concerns through other means. Instead of reducing group votes at the AGM, it is proposing a Special Resolution to this year's AGM which enables the Returning Officer to set the timetable for nominations for these positions. In the Resolution proposing the Rules, there is provision for

a timetable that allows information about candidates to be published at least 45 days before the AGM. This will enable groups to consult on their preferences.

#### **B2(2016) CLOSURE OF HUMAN RIGHTS NGO ACCOUNTS BY THE CO-OP BANK**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

Work has been ongoing since the 2016 AGM, including a working-level meeting with the "Save our Bank" group and, on 6 July, an AIUK-hosted seminar with a number of external bodies to discuss the impact of bank closures. The International Secretariat participated in this (in the context of scoping work for the campaign on the shrinking of civil society space).

Follow-up work included close co-operation with financial crime experts at the Royal United Services Institute to assess the regulatory environment in which the Co-op has been operating and to assess their actions in this context. This included a working-level meeting with a representative of the bank.

In June, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to revise its problematic Recommendation 8 (concerning NGOs) to clarify that not all NGOs are high risk with respect to money laundering and terrorist financing and that not all are intended to be addressed by Recommendation 8. The FATF has also said that the revision is intended to align the implementation of Recommendation 8 with risk-based approaches. This is a positive development.

We are planning to meet the Co-op in early 2017 and will provide an update at this year's AGM and in next year's implementation report.

#### **B3(2016) USE OF LIVE STREAMING AND ONLINE VOTING AT THE AIUK AGM**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

We are planning to test "live-streaming" at the 2017 AGM. We plan to build on any lessons learnt for live streaming in future years.

We have also talked to our solicitors about moving beyond live streaming to enable members to vote in real-time. To achieve this, we need to be able to provide the means for people to participate remotely. This means providing for two-way communications and ensuring access to all parts of the AGM (not only plenaries).

To the best of our knowledge, only one FTSE company and no NGOs have conducted a UK AGM that facilitates remote participation.

Further work is required to establish if suppliers are available to meet our needs and, if so, to establish costs and technical feasibility.

We plan to undertake this work during 2017 and, if suppliers are available at reasonable cost, to submit any required resolutions to the 2018 Annual General Meeting. Without further research, it is not possible to fully specify the nature of any reforms that might be necessary to AGM procedure.

Should suppliers be available at reasonable cost and should the AGM accept any changes to procedure that might be required, we would plan to facilitate remote participation and real-time voting in 2019.

**B4(2016) BANNERS AND PLACARDS FOR GROUPS AND NETWORKS**

*Implementation of this decision is ongoing*

There are currently weatherproof placards available for groups to order from our Fulfilment Store (MDA) across our campaigns. Where appropriate, all long-term campaign placards are weatherproof.

We will create weatherproof banners in 2017, in line with the roll out of the Communications Strategy and new Visual Identity.

**B5(2016) DEVELOPING A BODY OF RULES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF AIUK**

*This decision has been implemented*

An initial draft set of rules was circulated for consultation in autumn 2016. Comments received led to significant changes and the Board has proposed a set of Rules to the 2017 AGM as a resolution.

## RESOLUTIONS FROM THE 2015 AGM

**B4(2015) ADDRESSING IMPUNITY IN GUATEMALA**

*This decision has been implemented to the extent possible*

Amnesty International UK has coordinated closely with the British TUC and members of the Workers' Group of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, as well as with the International TUC. For tactical reasons, our union partners have decided not to pursue a request for a Commission of Inquiry on Guatemala at the ILO Governing Body, and there are no current plans to initiate such a request. The resolution has therefore been implemented to the extent possible.

**C2(2015) ASYLUM DETENTION IN THE UK  
C4(2015) AIUK WILL UNDERTAKE RESEARCH INTO THE WRONGFUL DETENTION OF TORTURE AND TRAFFICKING VICTIMS IN BRITISH DETENTION**

*Implementation of this decision is in progress and a further report will be provided to the 2018 AGM.*

As noted in the Implementation Report approved by the 2016 AGM, AIUK has previously submitted written evidence to the "Shaw inquiry" and taken other steps to engage in this issue and influence debate. Since the AGM, staff have developed initial proposals for a project on immigration detention. However, further progress has not been possible due the requirements of planning for the Global Campaign on refugees. At present, we regard this as a delay to our plans. We hope that the project will proceed in 2017 but recognise the competing demands on staff time in this important area of work. We will provide a further update to next year's AGM.

# GLOSSARY

<b>A2D</b>	'Assessment to Distribution' – a stream of work to examine how the global movement should be funded. Work is led by a committee reporting to the International Executive Committee	<b>ICP</b>	International Committee on Policy (a sub-committee of the IEC)
<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting (part of AIUK's National Conference)	<b>IGO</b>	Intergovernmental Organization (eg, United Nations, Council of Europe)
<b>AI</b>	Amnesty International	<b>IISC</b>	International Issues Sub Committee – the AIUK Board sub-committee addressing issues relating to the international movement and policy
<b>AIUK</b>	Amnesty International United Kingdom Section – AIUK is one of 70 national sections and structures in the international movement	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>AM</b>	(Welsh) Assembly Member	<b>IMT</b>	International Mobilisation Trust – an international fund to assist the growth and development of small AI sections and structures
<b>ASC</b>	Activism Sub-Committee – the Board sub-committee that addresses issues relating to the health of AIUK's activist base (of AIUK Board)	<b>INGO</b>	See NGO
<b>CAP</b>	Country Action Programme	<b>IPCC</b>	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
<b>CAPP</b>	Cost And Priorities Programme	<b>IS</b>	International Secretariat – the global headquarters of Amnesty International, which leads on research and movement coordination, headed by the Secretary-General.
<b>CC</b>	Country Co-ordinator – volunteer activists who specialise in campaigning on specific countries or regions	<b>ISOP</b>	the International Secretariat's (2 year) Operational Plan
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (or the Committee established to examine implementation of the Convention)	<b>ISP</b>	Integrated Strategic Plan – AI's worldwide 6-yr plan
<b>CHRN</b>	Children's Human Rights Network	<b>ITUC</b>	International Trade Union Confederation
<b>CID</b>	Cruel inhuman and degrading (treatment)	<b>JUA</b>	Junior Urgent Action
<b>CORE</b>	Corporate Responsibility coalition	<b>LGBTI</b>	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual and Intersex
<b>CRC</b>	Convention on the Rights of the Child	<b>LWOP</b>	Life without Parole
<b>CP or CPR</b>	Civil and Political Rights	<b>MEP</b>	Member of the European Parliament
<b>CSR</b>	Corporate Social Responsibility	<b>MLA</b>	Members of the (Northern Ireland) Legislative Assembly
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of the Congo	<b>MSP</b>	Member of Scottish Parliament; also sometimes used to refer to Military, Security and Police (see AST, above)
<b>DV</b>	Domestic Violence	<b>NGO</b>	Non-Governmental Organization – those operating at an international level are sometimes called International NGOs or INGOs
<b>ECAT</b>	European Convention Against Trafficking	<b>NUJ</b>	National Union of Journalists
<b>ECHR</b>	European Convention on Human Rights	<b>OHCHR</b>	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
<b>EGM</b>	Extraordinary General Meeting	<b>PEST</b>	Political, Economic, Sociological, & Technological (as in 'PEST analysis' – sometimes part of a planning process)
<b>EHRC</b>	Equality & Human Rights Commission – formerly Commission for Racial Equality	<b>POC</b>	Prisoner of Conscience
<b>EJE</b>	Extrajudicial execution	<b>Prep Com</b>	Preparatory Committee – a body that prepares major conferences
<b>ESCR</b>	Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<b>PSNI</b>	Police Service of Northern Ireland (formerly the RUC – Royal Ulster Constabulary)
<b>EU</b>	European Union	<b>PTH</b>	Protect the Human
<b>FGM</b>	Female Genital Mutilation	<b>RAN</b>	Regional Action Network (replaced by World Regional Teams)
<b>FSC</b>	Finance Sub-Committee (of AIUK Board)	<b>SMT</b>	Senior Management Team
<b>GMT</b>	Global Management Team	<b>SG</b>	Secretary General (chief executive of AI)
<b>GNL</b>	Groups Newsletter	<b>SOC</b>	Standing Orders Committee (Administer the AGM rules)
<b>GPS</b>	Global Positioning Statement	<b>SPB</b>	Secret Policeman's Ball
<b>GTF</b>	Governance Task Force	<b>S/S</b>	Sections and structures of Amnesty International
<b>GTP</b>	Global Transition Programme	<b>STAN</b>	Student Action Network
<b>HRA</b>	Human Rights Act	<b>TUC</b>	Trades Union Congress
<b>HRD</b>	Human Rights Defender	<b>TUNC</b>	Trade Union Network Committee
<b>HRE</b>	Human Rights Education	<b>UA</b>	Urgent Action
<b>HRV</b>	Human Rights Violation	<b>UDHR</b>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
<b>IANSAs</b>	International Action Network on Small Arms – one of AI's coalition partners in the Control Arms campaign	<b>UN</b>	United Nations
<b>IAR</b>	Individual At Risk	<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women
<b>IB</b>	International Board elected by the International Council, it provides strategic leadership of AI. Previously known as IEC	<b>WAN</b>	Women's Action Network
<b>ICC</b>	International Criminal Court	<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights	<b>WHR</b>	Women's Human Rights
<b>ICESCR</b>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	<b>WP</b>	Working Party
<b>ICM</b>	International Council Meeting – the highest decision making body of AI, meeting every two years. It is comprised of delegates from national sections and structures	<b>YAG</b>	Youth Advisory Group
		<b>YUA</b>	Youth Urgent Action



# NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND AGM 2017 APPENDIX

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK SECTION

### ACTIVIST CODE OF CONDUCT

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

'Those who today still feel a sense of impotence can do something: they can support Amnesty International. They can help it to stand up for freedom and justice.'

**Peter Benenson, Founder Amnesty International 1961**

'We're creating a new kind of force for human rights. It combines the worldwide strength and reputation of Amnesty, with the voices of grassroots activists everywhere.'

**Atila Roque, Director, Amnesty International Brazil 2014**

Amnesty International was conceived in 1961 as a one-year campaign. 'Women and men of good will' around the world demanded that the human rights of six individual prisoners of conscience be upheld and that they be released. It worked. What would become the world's largest human rights movement was born.

Our central principle is that **people** are the instruments of change. The more people actively engage in our movement, the more we can promote and protect human rights. We encourage as many people as possible to participate in and feel part of this vibrant, effective movement.

We want to maintain an environment for activists that is open, accessible and welcoming. Amnesty supporters have great energy, skills and useful knowledge. Everyone has a role to play.

This Code of Conduct provides guidance on the values and behaviours we need to uphold. It also details the procedure to follow on the rare occasions when complaints or other issues arise.

All activists need to

- **Make** people feel welcome and able to contribute in ways that draw on their individual skills.
- **Value** and respect different opinions and approaches to achieving our aims. We are all working for a common cause.
- **Be open** to new ideas and different ways of working.
- **Work** together as part of a global movement to create a world in which human rights are known, claimed and enjoyed by all.

'The success of the Amnesty Campaign depends on how sharply and powerfully it is possible to rally public opinion. It depends, too, upon the campaign being all-embracing in its composition, international in character and politically impartial in direction ... How much can be achieved when men and women of good will unite.'

**Peter Benenson**

## 2. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Code outlines reasonable guidelines for behaviour. Such guidelines are neither a binding commitment nor legal obligation. AIUK reserves the right to vary its processes if exceptional need arises.

Should any situation arise where an allegation may warrant a police investigation or arouse child protection concerns, AIUK will seek advice from the police or the designated Child Protection Officer on how to proceed.

## 3. DEFINITIONS

An **activist** is anyone who carries out unpaid activity on behalf of Amnesty International UK, including fundraising, campaigning, training or providing support to other activists. There are many ways to contribute and everyone's contribution is valued.

The Code of Conduct does not cover AIUK's board. Board members have a separate code that relates to their governance responsibilities.

Volunteers who work in AIUK's offices and shops have their own charter, while staff are governed by a separate code of conduct and employment procedures.

An **'activist role-holder'** has a regular, specific role, for example regional representative, country coordinator, officer of local or student group, school speaker and so on.

We hope this document assists our activists. AIUK has tens of thousands of supporters who annually organise hundreds of events, raise hundreds of thousands of pounds and contribute to our campaigns and wider work in many different ways. Problems are rare. Whenever possible we try to resolve difficulties informally.

## 4. VALUES

The values that inform our work as activists are drawn from a number of sources including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Amnesty International Statute. The Nolan Principles for Public Life have also informed the development of this Code of Conduct.

### a) Dignity, respect and equal opportunities

Everyone is entitled to dignity and should have an equal opportunity to contribute to our work. We will treat everyone with respect, including those who disagree with us. AIUK's equal opportunities policy is available on our website: <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/equality-and-diversity-policy>. It is intrinsic to the values expressed in this document.

### b) Honesty and integrity

Activists undertake their work in the interests of Amnesty International UK and the wider international movement. They do not seek financial or other material benefit for themselves, family or friends, nor do they place themselves or AIUK under financial or other obligation to outside individuals and organisations that might influence us in our work, or create a perception that such influence exists.

When activists carry out activities for Amnesty or make decisions on its behalf, they will make choices based on merit, including with respect to making appointments, awarding contracts, recommending people for rewards or obtaining goods and services on behalf of Amnesty.

Activist role-holders will declare any personal interests that may be perceived to impact on their choices or actions when contributing to AIUK's work. See 'Conflict of Interest', below, for more information.

### c) Impartiality

AIUK will praise conduct that advances human rights and criticise conduct that infringes them. Such praise and criticism should be objective and based on Amnesty's own research and statements. We are not party political; we do not advocate any particular form of government or religion; we are impartial in our approach to political and social disputes not connected to fundamental human rights.

### d) Accountability

Activists are accountable for their actions and willing to submit themselves to the scrutiny that is appropriate to their particular roles.

### e) Openness

Activists should be as open as possible about their decisions and actions. They should give reasons for their decisions and be willing to provide information except where it is not in the public interest, in AIUK's interest or in the interests of those we work with.

### f) Independence

AIUK activists are encouraged to work with other activists and organisations from time to time in a way that maintains (and is seen to maintain) AIUK's independence.

### g) Democracy

We are a democratic organisation. Activists should promote participation in the democratic processes of AIUK and the wider international movement. They should maintain the integrity of those processes and respect their decisions.

### h) International solidarity

AIUK is part of a global movement. We respect our partners in the international movement and the wider body of human rights defenders. We show solidarity when appropriate.

## 5. ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

This section provides guidelines to inform the conduct of activists in specific situations. They aren't exhaustive but are provided to help negotiate dilemmas that can arise.

### a) Public actions and statements

All public actions and statements related to Amnesty's work should be in accordance with Amnesty's policies and positions.

Activists should observe the law and ensure that necessary consents are obtained and notices given for actions and events.

### b) Acceptance of awards

Activists sometimes may be nominated for an award (with or without monetary value) as a consequence of their work for Amnesty. This is usually to be welcomed and celebrated. Nevertheless advice from Amnesty staff should be sought before accepting any award of regional or national significance, or that may receive media attention beyond the local press.

### c) Reasonable expenses

AIUK reimburses expenses for some activities. If you are not sure whether yours qualify for reimbursement, ask a relevant staff member. Where expenses are paid, activists should ensure

that they are reasonable and should follow AIUK procedures when making a claim.

#### **d) Confidentiality**

Much of our information is for public consumption. However, some is marked 'internal' or 'for AI members only' and may contain sensitive information. It may not always be apparent why the information is sensitive. Such information and documentation should not be shared beyond Amnesty International members. Documents marked 'draft', 'for consultation', or similar, should be regarded as internal.

#### **e) Copyright**

Material produced by any part of Amnesty is the property of Amnesty International. Consent for its use by recognised activists can be assumed but it can be withdrawn at any time, including for inappropriate use. This also applies to logos and names.

Activists should also ensure that they do not violate copyright laws when using material not produced by Amnesty International. Attribution and acknowledgement of authorship should be made where appropriate.

#### **f) Acceptance of gifts, hospitality or donations**

Activists should not accept gifts, hospitality or donations offered as an inducement for preferential treatment, or which could be seen as exerting influence over decisions. Small gifts are permissible, as is the acceptance of a facility or service for free (a form of donation known as a gift-in-kind). It is permissible to receive donations, but activists are advised to seek advice before receiving donations of significant value. Permission must always be sought for a donation or gift in kind from a private company that exceeds £5,000. Activists should check with staff before accepting money from a governmental body (except for grants made by an educational establishment to its own student body).

Donations collected in the name of Amnesty International must be used to support the organisation's aims and activities, which usually includes the legitimate activities of our groups.

#### **g) Conflict of interest**

Very occasionally a conflict of interest may arise (or be seen to arise) between an activist's work for Amnesty and their other activities. Damage to AIUK's reputation might arise in certain unusual circumstances. Examples might include where a prominent activist role-holder becomes a legislative candidate or where an activist buys a service from their own company, or from a relation. We are not generally interested in knowing about membership of other organisations (including political parties) unless the other body is clearly seen as having values at odds with our own.

For group members any conflict of interest should be declared to other members of the group. Members of networks, committees or similar bodies should make a declaration to their chairs. For other activists the declaration should be made to the Chair of the Activism Sub-Committee, via the Head of the Community Organising, Human Rights Education and Events (CORE) team.

#### **h) Drugs and alcohol misuse**

Activists should not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that their performance or behaviour is impaired during the performance of their duties for AIUK. No activist

should consume or be in possession of illegal substances during the performance of their duties for Amnesty International or at any AIUK event.

#### **i) Health and safety**

Activists are expected to take responsibility for their own and others' health and safety when undertaking work or organising events on behalf of AIUK. Staff can advise on health and safety, including risk assessments.

#### **j) Child protection guidelines**

For AIUK's child protection guidelines see [www.amnesty.org.uk/child-protection-policy](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/child-protection-policy)

#### **k) Harassment or bullying**

Activists should treat others with respect and refrain from behaviour that may be construed as bullying or harassment, including malicious gossip. AIUK uses definitions provided by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (ACAS) – see below.

Harassment, in general terms, is 'unwanted conduct affecting the dignity of men and women...It may be related to age, sex, race, disability, religion, nationality or any personal characteristic of the individual, and may be persistent or an isolated incident. The key is that the actions or comments are viewed as demeaning and unacceptable to the recipient.'

Bullying may be characterised as 'offensive, intimidating, malicious or insulting behaviour, an abuse or misuse of power through means intended to undermine, humiliate, denigrate or injure the recipients'.

Bullying and harassment may be by an individual against an individual, or involve groups of people. It may be obvious or it may be insidious. Whatever form it takes, it is unwarranted and unwelcome.

If someone raises a concern about bullying and harassment with an activist, it is important that they try to be open-minded and see things from the other person's perspective. This can be difficult but can help to resolve problems informally.

#### **l) Privacy and data protection**

For AIUK's data protection policy see [www.amnesty.org.uk/data-protection-policy](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/data-protection-policy)

#### **m) Working in partnership with staff**

Staff and activists should work together in partnership to promote the best interests of AIUK. It is important that staff, activists and volunteers work within a culture of mutual respect and an understanding of respective roles at all levels. All communications should be conducted in a positive and constructive manner.

Differences of opinion and disputes may arise and activists may wish to complain about a member of staff. If they wish to do so, they can approach the relevant manager; they can request a network chair to raise the matter; or they can make a complaint in accordance with AIUK's feedback mechanism.

If a staff member wishes to complain about an activist, they will alert their line manager who will instigate the process for responding to complaints about activist outlined in the annex below.

## **6. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THINGS GO WRONG?**

It is preferable that problems are addressed informally. However, this is not always possible. Our formal and informal processes for dealing with issues and complaints about activists can be seen online at [www.amnesty.org.uk/coc](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/coc)

## **7. REVIEW AND COMMENTS**

Comments are welcome on this Code of Conduct. It will next be reviewed in November 2017.

We appreciate that policies and procedures can be improved and welcome suggestions. These should be sent to chair of the Activism Sub-Committee, via the head of the CORE team at AIUK.

### **Further information and advice**

AIUK's Supporter Care Team provides information and advice to our supporters and will be able to respond to queries arising from this Code, or will know where to obtain answers. The team can be contacted by phone on 020 7033 1777) and by email on [activism@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:activism@amnesty.org.uk)

Additionally, the CORE team can provide information. Experienced activists can also be a good source of advice.

# CONTACTS

## AGM CONFERENCE TEAM

For any queries about:

- Conference programme and timings
- Booking and payment queries
- Accommodation and travel

Please visit the registration desk in the foyer atrium

For any emergencies (24 hour) please call 020 8875 8734

## AIUK SUPPORTER CARE TEAM

For any queries about

- Your membership status
- Voting queries (including proxy voting)
- Membership fees

Please visit the Supporter Care Manager at the registration desk in the foyer atrium

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