

Amnesty International UK
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE
AND AGM 2017



DECISIONS

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NOTE:

Special Resolutions (C1S and C2S) required 75% majority to pass.

Ordinary Resolutions required 50% majority to pass.

Resolutions to amend Standing Orders (A3 and A4) required two thirds majority to pass.

CARRIED 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'.

Votes FOR: 1,597 (99.75%)

Votes AGAINST: 4 (0.25%)

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: 1,564 (98.68%)

Votes AGAINST: 21 (1.32%)

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 mission 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 Members' and Directors' Appeals 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 skills and experience shall be referenced in any call for nominations, together with any other skills thought to be desirable by the Board.
 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.

Votes FOR: 1,564 (97.69%)
Votes AGAINST: 37 (2.31%)

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 instructs the AIUK Board to request that the International Secretariat conduct research to inform Amnesty International's policy on the Chagos Islanders. In particular, the AIUK Board requests the International Secretariat to research its policy position on the human rights issues faced by evicted Chagossian communities currently living in poor conditions in the United Kingdom, Mauritius, the Seychelles and elsewhere. This AGM notes that this research must balance with and not detract from Amnesty International's other priorities.

Votes FOR: 1,319 (85.15%)
Votes AGAINST: 230 (14.85%)

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 whilst opposing the routine use of detention in such circumstances

To campaign for the British Government to implement 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
- 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

Also

- End the practice of indefinite detention by setting a limit on the length of time detainees can be held for immigration purposes

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

Votes FOR: 1,866 (99.10%)

Votes AGAINST: 17 (0.90%)

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.

Votes FOR: 1,605 (97.93%)

Votes AGAINST: 34 (2.07%)

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".

Votes FOR: 1,556 (98.67%)

Votes AGAINST: 21 (1.33%)

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.

Votes FOR: 1,613 (97.76%)

Votes AGAINST: 37 (2.24%)

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.

Votes FOR: 1,426 (97.81%)

Votes AGAINST: 32 (2.19%)

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 or regionally based staff alongside regional representation, or other options. The review should include consultation with local Amnesty activists.

Votes FOR: 882 (65.19%)

Votes AGAINST: 471 (34.81%)

RESOLUTIONS NOT CARRIED

A2 - ISSUE OF AMENDED RESOLUTIONS

Proposer: Ipswich Amnesty International

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

1. That the AGM can amend ordinary resolutions so that anyone they have mandated to vote on their behalf in advance of the AGM 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 AGM 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.

Votes FOR: 586 (39.70%)

Votes AGAINST: 890 (60.30%)

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 AGM 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 AGM 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 AGM shall not begin until at least two weeks after the information in paragraph 1 has been sent out.
4. From the 2018 AGM the AGM 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 AGM 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 or by election if possible. In all future years the committee shall be elected at the AGM.
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 AGM. The method for joining this online group is to be sent out with the AGM papers.

Votes FOR: 643 (42.22%)

Votes AGAINST: 880 (57.78%)

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.

As Resolution A3 was not carried, Resolution A4 automatically fell.

B4 - MAKE THE COMBATting OF HOMELESSNESS A PRIORITY CAMPAIGN

This resolution was withdrawn prior to the Working Party.

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.

Votes FOR: 479 (34.39%)

Votes AGAINST: 914 (65.61%)
