

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS - DECEMBER 2018 BOARD MEETING

The AIUK Section Board receives a report at each meeting, setting out the progress in implementing AGM resolutions. These reports will be posted on the website after each Board meeting to enable members to keep up to date with developments. At the December 2018 meeting, the Board reviewed the following report.

Resolution Number	Title	Update	Board member
SR A1 (2018)	Removal of the requirement to reappoint co-opted Directors Annually	These AGM decisions have now been implemented. The Articles have been updated and filed with Companies House and are displayed on the AIUK Section website.	Ruth Breddal Ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk
SR A2 (2018)	Extending the maximum term of office of co-opted Directors		
SR A3 (2018)	Correction of the Article which implied that the Chair and Vice-Chair can be a co-opted Director		
SR A4 (2018)	Clarification of the requirement to select four elected Directors for retirement each year		
SR A5 (2018)	Clarifying the maximum length of term where a Board member joins the Board between declaration dates		

SR A6 (2018)	Remote participation at AGM		
B1 (2018)	Homelessness	<p>We have now met with Shelter and Crisis, two NGOs very active in this space. We are planning further meetings with St. Mungo's and Centre Point to continue to undertake information gathering on the current lay of the land on Homelessness and where those organisations might see a value add from a piece of Rights-Based research. We have also been in regular contact with the International Secretariat's ESCR team as to whether they are or would consider a piece of research on this or a related issue. At the moment it doesn't seem like they are interested, but we will continue to ask.</p>	<p>Hugh Sandeman Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk</p>
B3 (2018)	Human Rights and International Trade	<p>AIUK made a written submission (Sept 2018) to the Home Affairs Committee Inquiry into implementation of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 making the case for strengthened enforcement powers against corporations, including criminal liability. A similar submission was made to the Independent Review of the Modern Slavery Act led by Frank Field.</p> <p>AIUK's work on trade is currently focussed on the Trade Bill that is passing through Parliament. AIUK has sent briefings to MPs and Peers at various stages of the passage of the Bill calling for amendments to enable greater Parliamentary scrutiny and accountability, and to require human rights impact assessments to be undertaken for each trade agreement to ensure compatibility with the UK's human rights obligations.</p> <p>AIUK launched a cash appeal (Sept 2018) revolving around AI's work on child labour in cobalt mining in DRC. The appeal was accompanied by an action targeting Microsoft – one of the laggard companies identified in AI's report. Microsoft subsequently</p>	<p>Lucy Blake lucy.blake@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>published a report with more details about its sourcing policies, but these still fall short of international standards.</p> <p>AIUK participated in the OECD's Peer Review of the UK National Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines, reiterating concerns raised in AIUK's 2016 report about the NCP's inadequate handling of complaints against UK companies.</p> <p>In the context of the murder of the Saudi Journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, and the bombing of civilian targets in Yemen, AIUK has emphasised to the UK Government and to the media the need for trade and investment relations with Saudi Arabia to be conducted with regard to human rights, and under no circumstances to be used as a pretext for glossing over Saudi's human rights record.</p>	
C1 (2018)	Freedom of Religious Expression	In July 2018, the Global Assembly decided to extend the current set of Strategic Goals by one year. This means that discussions about the content of the next international strategic goals will not get underway in earnest until 2019, with opportunities for section influence likely to emerge from the end of the first quarter and continuing for approximately twelve months. We therefore expect to take this resolution forward during 2019.	<p>Abigail Grant</p> <p>abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</p>
C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	Since the AGM, we have continued to prioritise the strategic objective of child family reunion, supporting the campaign on child citizenship fees, led by AIUK's Children's Rights Network, and responding to the Windrush Generation scandal.	<p>James Lovatt</p> <p>james.lovatt@amnesty.org.uk</p>
C3 (2018)	Discrimination based upon caste using the Equality Act	On the final day of parliament in July 2018, the Government Equalities Office published the results of the six-month public consultation (March 2017 and finished in September 2017) on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law, determining whether 'caste' should be included in the Equality Act 2010.	<p>Sharon Lovell</p> <p>sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>After over 16,000 responses - well above the average - the government have concluded that 'caste' is already covered under 'ethnic origins' and that including the term in legislation is both unnecessary and divisive.</p> <p>In all, 8,513 respondents favoured relying on case law, 2,885 were in favour of legislation and 3,588 rejected both options; 1,113 respondents didn't know or were not sure which option would be most appropriate.</p> <p>The timing of the announcement left little opportunity for legislators to respond in a timely manner, although Dawn Butler MP, Labour's Shadow Minister for Women and Equalities, said: <i>"It is very disappointing that the Government has performed a U-turn on the decision to bring caste discrimination under equality law. Caste-based prejudice and discrimination is a gross violation of human rights and must not be tolerated. All individuals have the right to protection against discrimination on the basis of their caste or perceived caste, in the same way that they do on the basis of race or gender."</i></p> <p>We are considering whether a government concession to review all hate crime law (in response to the Stella Creasy debate on recognising misogyny as a hate crime on 6 September) would present another opportunity to lobby for Caste to be included in the Equality Act.</p>	
A1 (2017)	Body of Rules for AIUK	<p>The main changes within the rules adopted at the 2017 AGM concerned the process for the nomination of candidates to positions elected by the Annual General Meeting. These changes were successfully implemented at the 2018 AGM.</p>	<p>Ruth Breddal ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		We are continuing to monitor the process in the lead-up to the 2019 event.	
B3 (2017)	The Freedom of the Ahmadiyya "to manifest their religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance"	<p>This work is being led by the Country Coordinator team for South Asia.</p> <p>At the 2018 AGM, we noted that the new Country Co-ordinator had produced a blog on the issue to raise awareness and that we expected work on the Ahmadiyya to be a priority for 2018 for the south-Asia team and the Pakistan Coordinator.</p> <p>Letters have been sent by Kate to key UK politicians. The Country Coordinator have met with an advocacy representative alongside Jeni Dixon, Michael Quinn and others, and have worked out a plan going forward which is deliverable by the CCs, and has sign off by staff at Amnesty UK. This includes further contact with advocacy targets, members of the diaspora and others.</p> <p>Note: Country Coordinators are volunteer activists who lead on Amnesty UK's country campaigning alongside our Individuals at Risk and Priority Campaigns team (where relevant) and lead on other country campaigns. They work closely with the research teams at the International Secretariat. They are asked to dedicate an average of 5-7 hours per week, which they fit in around their own employment and other commitments.</p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</p>
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events	<p>Since the Board's approval of the Impact of Movement strategy we have been working with staff teams and eg at the Activism Sub Committee to begin to shape a proposed new events programme designed to support the implementation of the impact of Movement strategy. We are prioritising this work in the lead up to the 2019 AGM.</p>	<p>Tom Chigbo tom.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</p>

C4 (2017)	AIUK Regional Reps	<p>As above, since approval of the Impact of the Movement strategy, we have started working with lead activists to review these roles, their focus, their relationship to each other, any gaps in required roles etc so that we can better connect them and support them over the next months and years. As with the review of the events programme, we will work with lead activists and key staff between now and AGM 2019 to share plans.</p>	<p>Tom Chigbo tom.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</p>
A4 (2016)	Review of Amnesty International's international policy on access to abortion services	<p>This decision is in the process of being implemented and a further report will be provided to the 2020 AGM.</p> <p>Following discussions with several sections, AIUK submitted a resolution to the 2017 International Council Meeting that was co-sponsored by AI Ireland, AI Sweden, AI Argentina, AI Paraguay, AI Uruguay, AI Peru, AI Tunisia and AI Israel.</p> <p>It drew widespread support at the ICM and the following decision was adopted (as Decision 15).</p> <p><i>The International Council</i> INSTRUCTS the International Board to conduct a review of AI's policy on 'Select Aspects of Abortion' with an intent to ensure that the policy: <i>Aligns with current international human rights law, norms, and standards;</i> <i>Aligns with AI's policy on 'Sexual and Reproductive Rights' and other related policies, for the purpose of policy coherence;</i> <i>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 and others who seek access to abortion;</i> <i>Provides a mandate for the AI movement to campaign for full realization of sexual and reproductive human rights.</i></p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p><i>FURTHER INSTRUCTS</i> the International Board to conduct the review and present the findings and key principles for the update of the policy to the Global Assembly no later than in 2018, with the final decision made by the International Board no later than February 2019</p> <p>In July 2018, the Global Assembly (which replaces the ICM) adopted a further this decision. This establishes eleven principles to guide policy on abortion. These include the principle of adopting a comprehensive approach to abortion, rather than focussing solely on selected aspects and ensuring that “no-one’s status as a rights holder and equal subject of the may be suspended, diminished or mandatorily set aside because of pregnancy or having had an abortion”.</p> <p>Our current expectation is that a final policy will be adopted in April 2019 and that it will meet the expectations set out in AIUK’s AGM decisions from 2015 and 2016. A further report will be provided to the 2020 AGM.</p>	
A5 (2016)	Climate change is a human rights issue	<p>Amnesty International UK Section partnered with AI New Zealand to submit a resolution on climate change to the 2017 International Council Meeting. It received overwhelming support and was adopted as ICM Decision 18. The text was as follows:</p> <p><i>The International Council</i> <i>DECIDES</i> that the International Board shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure by the 2018 Global Assembly the delivery of a draft strategy to effectively safeguard human rights in the face of climate change and other environmental degradation that includes:</i> 	<p>Tom Sparks tom.sparks@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – <i>Defending the rights of people who are disproportionately affected by climate change and other forms of environmental degradation, especially Indigenous people, communities living in poverty, women and girls; including non-discrimination, equal access to public services, and protection of their rights in measures and initiatives designed to address climate change and other forms of environmental damage;</i> – <i>Researching and communicating the impact of climate change and other environmental degradation on human rights;</i> – <i>Addressing relevant gaps in international laws and standards;</i> – <i>Highlighting the obligations of states, corporations and other organizations by using the human rights framework;</i> – <i>Establishing what action is needed from a human rights perspective to hold states, corporations and others effectively to account, and;</i> – <i>Supporting initiatives that empower local communities to develop their own solutions for environmentally sustainable lives that respect human rights;</i> • <i>Consider the protection of human rights in the context of climate change and other forms of environmental degradation when developing global priority campaigns.</i> <p>At the 2018 Global Assembly, a draft policy was circulated, receiving wide support from the international movement. It envisages a focus on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and awareness-raising to communicate the impact of climate change • Research, campaigning and action aimed at increasing actions to mitigate climate change and ensuring consistency with human rights 	
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B3 (2016)	Use of Live Streaming and online voting at the AIUK AGM	<p>“Live streaming” was tested at the 2017 Annual General Meeting and repeated in 2018. It has yet to command substantial viewing figures but this is not a concern as the primary purpose has been to test the process.</p>	<p>Daren Nair daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>Since 2016 we have researched options on how to move beyond live streaming to enable members to vote in real-time, which requires providing the means for members to participate remotely. This included substantial legal discussion that led to the Board proposing and the AGM adopting a decision in 2018 that substantially changes the articles and clears the route for future AGMs that include an element of remote participation.</p> <p>In November, we ran a small-scale test of remote participation technology and are now in the process of considering the results of the test.</p>	
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