

## REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – SEPTEMBER 2019 BOARD MEETING

The AIUK Section Board receives a report at each meeting, setting out the progress in implementing AGM resolutions. These reports are posted on the website after each Board meeting to enable members to keep up to date with developments. At the September 2019 meeting, the Board reviewed the following report.

Resolution Number	Title	Update	Board member
A1 (2019)	Equalising voting rights for affiliate members	<i>This decision has been implemented.</i> The Articles of Association have been amended in line with the AGM decision.	Tom Harrison <a href="mailto:Tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk">Tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk</a>
A2 (2019)	Remote participation at the 2020 AGM and National Conference	Planning for the 2020 AGM will commence in earnest during the fourth quarter of 2019.	Daren Nair <a href="mailto:daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk">daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk</a>
A3 (2019)	Promoting AI Research to AI members and the public	<i>This decision has been implemented.</i>  Prior to the AGM, new functionality was added to the website, allowing users to sign-up for automatically generated emails providing a link to every new research report that the IS publishes.  The research report alerts functionality found at <a href="http://www.amnesty.org.uk/reportalerts">www.amnesty.org.uk/reportalerts</a> is currently used by nine people, excluding staff, and cost £1,000.	Daren Nair <a href="mailto:daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk">daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk</a>
A4 (2019)	Communicate to groups about face-to-face and private site fundraising in their areas	Local groups have been kept informed about face to face and private site fundraising in their areas – a practice that had been in place prior to the AGM decision but had not worked in a few instances (failure to recognise a group was located near to a site) and also when staff were on leave. We	Thomas Chigbo <a href="mailto:Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk">Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</a>

		will look to improve the process and ensure back up for periods of staff absence.	
E1 (2019)	'Toxic' culture and staff wellbeing concerns at Amnesty International's Secretariat	<p>At the first AIUK staff and volunteers meeting after the AGM, this decision was noted during feedback on the event. With respect to the International Secretariat, it has been somewhat overtaken by events, as shortly after the AGM, the International Board and Secretary General announced the need to identify significant savings, with an unavoidable requirement for redundancies to achieve those savings.</p> <p>In the spirit of this AGM decision, the Section's Board, management and staff have repeatedly acknowledged and expressed sympathy for the very difficult circumstances that IS staff currently face. More practically, the Section also agreed an additional donation of £250,000 to the international budget, as well as a loan of the same amount.</p> <p>Our understanding is that resources to implement the KonTerra recommendations have received significant protection from the budget cuts.</p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas  <a href="mailto:Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk">Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>
B3(2019)	A disabled peoples' activist structure	<p>We have scoped the process for developing this structure and will bring a proposal describing how to establish this structure and future similar projects and structures to the November 2019 Activism Sub Committee. This process will also describe more fully the staffing and other resources required to support the creation and ongoing work of such activist / rights-holder-led structures and projects so that we can establish a sustainable approach in the context of implementation of the Impact of the Movement strategy.</p> <p>We are now in the process of reorganising the staffing structure and other resources within the Community Organising Team in order to ensure we can support the development of this structure as well as other identity-based and single-issue based projects and structures in future as described in the Impact of Movement strategy.</p>	<p>Abigail Grant  <a href="mailto:Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk">Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>

		This work is all being done in the context of ensuring we are directing resources in a way that best supports the implementation of the Impact of the Movement strategy and we anticipate this process to be complete by the end of 2019 so that we can then start work to establish this activist-led structure.	
B4 (2019)	Abuse of immigration powers	This resolution does not call for action in the short-term but for greater attention to the abuse of alternatives to detention, in any future policy reviews or consultations. No such work has been conducted to date.	Senthorun Raj <a href="mailto:Sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk">Sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk</a>
B1 (2018)	Homelessness	We have continued to scope work on this area, and are expecting a fleshed out concept note from the ESCR team at the IS who have agreed to prioritise this project, assuming sufficient resources are available to support the delivery of the work. the concept note focuses on an initial project looking at homeless elderly people in England and Wales, with the intention to complete and then replicate the study in Scotland and NI. A decision will need to be taken at the section about how much capacity is made available to support the work.	Hugh Sandeman <a href="mailto:Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk">Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk</a>
C1 (2018)	Freedom of Religious Expression	As anticipated in the implementation report provided to the 2019 AGM, discussion on the next international strategic plan commenced during the first quarter of 2019. However, the focus in this initial stage was primarily on how we the movement work and achieves influence.  Initial discussion of the priorities for AI's work is likely in October, with opportunities for further consultation in spring 2020.	Abigail Grant <a href="mailto:Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk">Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</a>
C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	Our work to address this particular resolution was directed through the Government's Immigration Bill and supporting and helping to draft opposition amendments to that Bill. However, the Bill has been left in limbo. Whether this or a new Bill is likely to be (though there cannot be certainty) brought back or introduced after Parliament's prorogation or a	Helen Horton <a href="mailto:Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk">Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk</a>

		<p>general election – in which case we will seek to resume our work including on this objective via amendments on the Bill. For the meantime, focus remains on pre-existing campaign work concerning particularly refugee family reunion and children’s citizenship rights.</p>	
C3 (2018)	Discrimination based upon caste using the Equality Act	<p>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> <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>We are considering whether a 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. The public consultation element of this review is anticipated in 2020.</p>	<p>Sharon Lovell  <a href="mailto:Sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk">Sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>
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>Basia Giezek  <a href="mailto:Basia.giezek@amnesty.org.uk">Basia.giezek@amnesty.org.uk</a></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>The final piece of work on this resolution is a plan to support a conference with interested members of the community in the UK, community leaders and decision makers. This will happen over the next 3-6 months, and will close off our work on this resolution.</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>	
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events.	<p>We have – since the AGM 2019 – slightly reorganised the focus of the Events and Artist Relations Team and appointed a full time Events Producer with responsibility for developing and implementing an activist-led events programme. The context for this work is the implementation of the Impact of Movement strategy and the centrepiece and initial focus will be the evolution of the AGM / National Conference into an annual 'festival of human rights'. The initial proposals for this will be presented to November 2019 ASC meeting.</p> <p>The full programme will support the development of all activist-led events (Student Conferences, Regional Conferences, Youth Conferences, Prides etc) into a more connected and coherent programme focussed on supporting implementation of IoM strategy.</p>	<p>Thomas Chigbo  <a href="mailto:Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk">Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>

A4 (2016)	Review of Amnesty International's international policy on access to abortion services	Our expectation was that a finalised policy would be adopted in April 2019. However, as the International Secretariat is currently addressing other short-term priorities, this appears to have been delayed.	Eilidh Douglas <a href="mailto:Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk">Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</a>
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