

## REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – FEBRUARY 2020 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 February 2020 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	Meetings with the external provider of the remote participation service have been held and a test of the system was conducted at the end of January.	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 2019 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	Implemented and ongoing.	Thomas Chigbo <a href="mailto:Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk">Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</a>

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.</p> <p>With respect to the International Secretariat, this decision was overtaken by events. 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 offer 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>The Konterra report raised a number of questions in relation to wellbeing, and we have taken these very seriously at AIUK. We have implemented a number of actions since the last AGM to ensure that we are appropriately supporting the wellbeing of all of our people at work.</p> <p>The Konterra report raised 5 questions to support Sections in thinking about how they manage wellbeing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- WHAT? Strive to establish a culture of care and respect.</li> <li>- WHO? Attend to the staff wellbeing of all staff, not only staff who engage in field work.</li> </ul>	<p>Eilidh Douglas  <a href="mailto:Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk">Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>
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B3(2019)	A disabled peoples' activist structure	<p>Amnesty UK has scoped, developed and tested a structure for developing new networks. This process describes a 3-4 year program that ensures rights-holder leadership and sustainable development of new structures. It also details staff and resourcing needs over this period, which are relatively substantial against the current capacity within the Community Organising team.</p> <p>We are now in the process of reorganising and reprioritising 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 networks in future, as described in the Impact of Movement strategy.</p> <p>This reorganisation is now agreed, and we are currently recruiting into new roles. Once staff are in place, the Disability Rights Network, along with a BAME/Anti-Racism network are key priorities. We anticipate that both projects will enter the preparatory phases of</p>	<p>Abigail Grant  <a href="mailto:Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk">Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>

		the program in Q3 of this year, and will enter 'year 1' of the activation phase at an appropriate date toward the end of 2020.	
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	<p>Following the previous update which set out the project scope and direction, here is some information on how the project is proceeding</p> <p>Following a meeting with the lead researcher, the methodology is to meet homeless people, meet homeless support orgs, meet lawyers then meet authorities in councils. She said the research on austerity in Greece that AI carried out involved 160 people. The AI research on Gun Violence in the USA involved meeting with 17 survivors and 70 other people in the USA, in part because meeting with survivors of the issue she was working on who want to talk is hard. She said that on the homelessness project that interviewing anything less than 40-50 homeless people would be insufficient and could delegitimise the research in the eyes of those it is intended to influence. She said she would definitely want to pace out the interviews not squash it all into three weeks as was necessary to do in the USA. Ideally she said it would be around 4 weeks total work over 3 months, in addition to writing up, review and set-up.</p> <p><b>New timeline</b></p> <p><b>February</b> - Plan research missions, set up meetings, organise interviews etc.</p>	Hugh Sandeman <a href="mailto:Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk">Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk</a>

		<p><b>March – June:</b> In this period, the research team will conduct research missions, meet with organisations, authorities etc and by end June we will have the first draft of the report ready.</p> <p><b>June:</b> Counsel advice on initial findings and identify areas of UK and international law that could be being breached.</p> <p><b>July - September</b> - Review process at the IS and AIUK, preparing of campaigning material etc.</p>	
C1 (2018)	Freedom of Religious Expression	<p>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.</p> <p>Initial discussion of the priorities for AI's work, originally scheduled for October was delayed. An outline strategic direction was only received from the International Secretariat at the end of November. AIUK's response included a call to include freedom of religious expression within the next strategic plan.</p> <p>In January, AIUK prepared a "proposal for a motion" to the 2020 Global Assembly on this topic. However, we decided not to submit the proposal as it became increasingly clear that the Preparatory Committee would not accept the proposal and would instead look to discuss suggested amendments to the global strategic plan through a process of amendments.</p> <p>In early February, a draft global strategic plan was received. We are currently in the process of assessing it.</p>	<p>Abigail Grant  <a href="mailto:Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk">Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>

C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	<p>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 after a long period of limbo, fell when Parliament was dissolved. It is likely that further legislation will follow in the current parliament (an immigration bill was announced in the Queen's Speech) – in which case we will seek to resume our work, including on this objective, via amendments. For the meantime, focus remains on pre-existing campaign work concerning particularly refugee family reunion and children's citizenship rights.</p>	<p>Helen Horton  <a href="mailto:Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk">Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk</a></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</p>	<p>Sharon Lovell  <a href="mailto:Sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk">Sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>



		Caste to be included in the Equality Act. The public consultation element of this review is anticipated in 2020.	
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>The final piece of work as regards the AGM resolution was a conference with members of the Ahmadiyya community, hosted by Amnesty UK and organised by the South Asia Country Coordinator team. This conference happened in the middle of January and was well attended and well received. Speakers included MPs, the regional Amnesty International researcher for Pakistan, Faith Matters and others.</p> <p>The South Asia team are keen to continue this partnership and stream of work going forward, but this is within the scope of general Country Coordinator work, and the AGM resolution should be considered to have been successfully addressed.</p>	<p>Basia Giezek  <a href="mailto:Basia.giezek@amnesty.org.uk">Basia.giezek@amnesty.org.uk</a></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’.</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	<p>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 has been delayed.</p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas  <a href="mailto:Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk">Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</a></p>