

GUIDANCE ON THE APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS FOR THE AMNESTY UK BOARD ELECTIONS 2021

INTRODUCTION

My name is Lloyd Thomas, the Returning Officer for Amnesty International UK. The 2021 election cycle for the Amnesty UK Board is open and I thought a guidance document might help clarify the application / nomination process for the Board elections.

This guidance document is intended to complement the information available at www.amnesty.org.uk/board-elections-2021-2024. There may be information contained on that webpage, and in documents you can download from that page, which I do not mention in this guidance. Please do take the time to look through everything on that webpage.

I will be referring specifically to two downloadable documents from that webpage, listed under the 'to fill in and return' section. These are the **Board Member Application Form** and the **Board Member Nomination Papers**. I recommend you look through both these documents before reading this guidance further.

Please complete and return the *Board Member Application Form*, the *Board Member Nomination Papers* and the *Equality & Diversity Questionnaire* by the nomination deadline, which is **5pm on Friday 26 March 2021**.

If you, any other member, or any group within Amnesty is uncertain over is membership status, please contact the Supporter Communications Team on 0207 033 1777.

If you have any queries regarding the application / nominations process, please do not hesitate to contact me at returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk

I hope that you find this guidance helpful.

Lloyd Thomas

Amnesty International UK Returning Officer

The 2021 Election

This year there are five seats available for election:

- 2 seats that are ***unreserved***;
- 2 seats ***reserved for Networks***;
- 1 seat ***reserved for a Local Group***.

In this guidance I will set out the process for applying for each of these different types of seat on the Board. There is overlap between them, but there are a few additional requirements if you intend to stand for *reserved* seats as opposed to *unreserved* seats.

Before addressing each type of seat available for election this year, there are some eligibility criteria and general points about the application / nomination process that it would be helpful to clarify.

1. Eligibility criteria

1.1 In order to stand for election to the Amnesty UK Board there are a couple of basic eligibility requirements that apply to everyone:

- (a) Candidates must be aged 16 or over by Friday 24 September 2021 (the official date of election); and
- (b) Candidates must have been fully paid-up Amnesty members for at least six months prior to the deadline for nominations (which this year is ***Friday 26 March 2021***).

2. The application / nomination process – general points

2.1 It will probably be easiest to address these general points with reference to two of the three forms you will need to fill in. These are the Board Member Application Form and the Board Member Nomination Papers.

The Board Member Application Form

2.2 This form includes sections for you to set out your relevant expertise, your Amnesty membership & activism experience, and your election manifesto. What is written in these sections of the form will be replicated word for word on the ballot notes and on the website. Please note the word limit of 300 words for these sections.

2.3 The form contains clear instructions on how you complete it and I will add nothing further here.

The Board Member Nomination Papers

2.4 The ‘Nomination’ part of the process is a bit more complicated, and I hope what follows helps make it clearer. Please look through the *Board Member Nomination Papers* before reading further.

2.5 In order to stand for election to the Board you need to be nominated by other members of Amnesty UK. Under the Amnesty UK Constitution, you need to be nominated by the equivalent of “10 votes”.

2.6 Different entities in Amnesty have different voting rights. These are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Individual Amnesty Member | 1 vote |
| Family Member | 1 vote |
| Local, Youth and Student Groups | 10 votes |
| Affiliate Member | 10 votes |

2.7 So, if you were applying to stand in the Board elections, one way you could proceed is to gather 10 nominations from Individual or Family Members (as that would equal the 10 required votes). Alternatively, you could secure the nomination of a Local, Youth or Student Group **or** an Affiliate Member. If you were nominated by one of these entities, you would automatically get the 10 required votes on account of the voting rights set out above.

2.8 If you look through the *Board Member Nomination Papers*, you will note that there is a specific nomination paper depending on whether you intend:

1. to be nominated by a Local Group;
2. to be nominated by a Student or Youth Group;
3. to be nominated by an Affiliate Member or ten Individual Members / Family Members.

You **do not need to complete all three of the nomination papers**. Just complete the nomination paper for your chosen method of nomination.

2.9 If you chose to gather nominations from Individual, Family or Affiliate Members then please note that they must also be fully paid-up members of the AIUK Section for at least six months before the nomination deadline (26 March 2021). You, or they, can check this by contacting our Supporter Communications Team on 0207 033 1777 or at sct@amnesty.org.uk.

I will now address applying for the specific seats on the Board.

3. Applying to stand for an UNRESERVED seat

3.1 Subject to the general eligibility criteria set out at paragraph 1.1 above, any Amnesty UK member can apply to stand for an unreserved seat.

3.2 You need to be nominated by the equivalent of “10 votes”. You can secure these votes by being nominated **either**:

- By a Local Group (automatically gets you 10 votes);
- By a Student or Youth Group (automatically gets you 10 votes);
- By an Affiliate Member (automatically gets you 10 votes); **or**
- By ten Individual or Family Members (each Individual or Family Member gets you 1 vote).

3.3 You need to complete and return the *Board Member Application Form*, the *Board Member Nomination Papers* and the *Equality & Diversity Questionnaire*. These must be returned by the nomination deadline.

4. Applying to stand for a seat RESERVED FOR NETWORKS

4.1 Note the eligibility criteria set out at paragraph 1.1 above.

4.2 To stand for a seat reserved for Networks you **must** be a member of a recognised Network.

4.3 You **must** secure a nomination from the Network of which you are a member. You should use Nomination Paper 4 in the *Board Member Nomination Papers* for this purpose.

4.4 Your nomination by the Network stands, in effect, as endorsement for you to stand for a reserved seat. It is important to note however that Networks **do not carry voting rights**. Therefore, **in addition** to your nomination from the Network, you need also to be nominated by the equivalent of “10 votes”. You can secure these votes by being nominated **either**:

- By a Local Group (automatically gets you 10 votes);
- By a Student or Youth Group (automatically gets you 10 votes);
- By an Affiliate Member (automatically gets you 10 votes); **or**
- By ten Individual or Family Members (each Individual or Family Member gets you 1 vote).

4.5 You need to complete and return the *Board Member Application Form*, the *Board Member Nomination Papers* and the *Equality & Diversity Questionnaire*. These must be returned by the nomination deadline.

5. Applying to stand for the seat RESERVED FOR A LOCAL GROUP

5.1 Note the eligibility criteria set out at paragraph 1.1 above.

5.2 To stand for the seat reserved for a Local Group you **must** be a member of a recognised Local Group.

5.3 If you plan to stand for this seat, your nomination should be from a Local Group, using Nomination Paper 1 in *Board Member Nomination Papers*. A nomination from a Local Group will secure you the 10 required votes as well as providing, in effect, an endorsement from a Local Group for you to stand for the Local Group reserved seat.

5.4 You need to complete and return the *Board Member Application Form*, the *Board Member Nomination Papers* and the *Equality & Diversity Questionnaire*. These must be returned by the nomination deadline.

6. Final point for candidates standing for RESERVED Local Group or Network Seats...

6. Candidates standing for a Local Group reserved seat or Network reserved seat are assumed to also be standing for an Unreserved seat. There is a box you should tick in 'Candidate Declaration' section of the *Board Member Nomination Papers* if you do not wish to stand for an Unreserved seat in addition to a reserved seat.