

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

## 2021 AGM RESOLUTIONS

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## FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

### F1: FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2020

**Summary:** A routine resolution to receive the financial statements and reports.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution text:** This AGM to receive the Report of the Directors and the audited accounts of AIUK Section for the year ended 31 December 2020.

**Proposer Background Note:** Receiving the financial reports is a formal part of every AGM. As soon as the audited financial statements have been reviewed by the Board, they will be posted online at [www.amnesty.org.uk/agm](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/agm).

### 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 Section Board

**Resolution Text:** This AGM to reappoint 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.

**Proposer Background Note:** AIUK Section is required by law to appoint auditors at each AGM. The Board recommends that BDO LLP be re-appointed, with the audit fee at an amount to be agreed by the Board.

# SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

## S1: AMEND MINOR DRAFTING ERROR IN THE ARTICLES

**Summary:** To amend a minor drafting error by changing the word <county> to <country>.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by deleting the word “county” and replaced with the word “country” in Article 1.1.3.

**Proposer Background Note:** The meaning of the term “Affiliate members” as set out in Article 1.1.3 is “organisations based in the UK which are not political parties, solidarity groups or single interest county groups .....” The word “county” should read “country” referring to single interest country groups. This is a drafting mistake which needs to be corrected as AIUK Section does not have county groups.

## S2: TO CLARIFY THE DATE RESOLUTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE AGM

**Summary:** To add clarity to the Articles by making it clear that resolutions must be “received by” the Company Secretary as opposed to being “sent to” the Company Secretary at least 90 days before the meeting.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by deleting the words “sent to the Company Secretary in writing” and replaced with the words “in writing and received by the Company Secretary” in Article 26.2.2.

**Proposer Background Note:** It is important that there is a clear cut off date for Members submitting resolutions for consideration at the AGM. The Articles currently state that the cut-off date is the date that the resolution is sent to the Company Secretary. If a resolution was delayed by the postal service and arrived after the 90-day cut-off date AIUK Section would still have to accept the resolution. This could prove problematic if the other resolution had already been considered by the Standing Orders Committee and Board or the notice of AGM had already been sent to the printers. By making it clear that resolutions must be received 90 days before the date of the meeting, it ensures that everyone is clear when the deadline falls.

## S3: RENAMING THE REGIONAL FORUM

**Summary:** To amend the Articles by renaming the “Regional Forum” and “Regional Representatives” to “Activism Forum” and “Activism Representatives” respectively.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of Amnesty

International United Kingdom Section are altered by: deleting the words “regional forum” and replacing with “Activism Forum” and deleting the words “regional representatives” and replacing with the words “Activism Representatives” in Article 46.1.1. and adding the words “Activism Forum” the Activism Representatives’ quarterly meetings held to discuss issues relevant to their work” and “Activism Representatives” volunteers who are elected by Local Groups to support Local Group activities” as Article 1.1.2 and 1.1.3 respectively and renumbering the remainder of Article 1.

**Proposer Background Note:** It has been recognised by the Regional Representatives that the term “region” is only appropriate for some parts of the United Kingdom. For example, the representatives of Scotland and Wales represent nations rather than regions of the United Kingdom. Conversely the term “nations” is not suitable for the other 11 regions, including Northern Ireland where it is seen as a unionist term, as it asserts that Northern Ireland is one of the four UK Nations.

To avoid the complexities of using different terms for the regions it is proposed to move to the terms Activism Forum and Activism Representatives.

This change is in line with the Impact of the movement strategy, which seeks to transform our activism by bringing it closer to the ground, while allowing for future revision of the current size and scope of existing regions.

To avoid dissonance between the local practice and the wording of the Articles a resolution is required to amend the terminology. Definition of these terms has also been added to the Interpretation clause for clarity.

## S4: CHANGE BOARD BALLOT TO MULTIPLE NON-TRANSFERABLE VOTING

**Summary:** Replace the single transferrable voting system in the board election with multiple non-transferable voting.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by deleting the words “transferable vote” and replacing with the words “plurality at-large vote” in Article 38.14.

**Proposer Background Note:** AIUK uses the Single Transferrable Vote (STV) voting system for its annual Board elections. The system has several rounds of vote counting.

Voters rank their preferred candidates in order. In the first round, votes are given to the voter’s first choice candidate. The minimum number of votes a candidate needs varies at each stage, depending on the number of voters and candidates in each round.

Each time the votes are counted, the candidate with the fewest votes drops out. Votes for that defeated candidate are then re-allocated to the voter’s next preference. The process repeats until there is a winner.

STV is:

- Complicated and costly: a dedicated balloting organisation and software are needed to process such complex results. We pay over £1000 for processing, and results can be delayed

- Confusing: 30% of last year's votes failed verification because voting intention wasn't clear or ballot papers were spoiled
- Resource intensive: ballot papers need detailed instructions and space for voting preferences
- Sometimes redundant: within AIUK's voting system, candidates may be elected to reserved seats regardless of ranking
- Open to interpretation: the various ways of counting votes under the STV system can give slightly different results.

We therefore propose adopting the "plurality at-large" voting system, also known as block vote or multiple non-transferable vote (MNTV) for the Board election.

In a MNTV election, voters have a given number of votes (e.g. 4 votes for the 4 vacant board seats) to vote for their favourite candidates. They don't rank their choices and can only vote once for each candidate. Candidates with the most votes overall are elected through one round of voting, with any reserved seats being filled first.

MNTV is:

- Cheaper and faster: results can be calculated quickly without costly contracts or computers
- Simpler: ballot papers are less complex, resulting in fewer spoiled ballots

Members will be aware of the recent decline in voting numbers for AIUK's Board ballot. Evidence suggests STV itself may be a factor. MNTV simplifies the voting process, hopefully leading to more votes. It's easier to understand than STV and reflects the election system we have more widely in the UK. It is how most people are used to voting.

Due to the nature of our voting process, where reserved seats are allocated before unreserved seats, results would be comparable, in most cases, with either system.

For more information, please see 'Process for allocating elected candidates to the AIUK Board' (April 2021): <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/elections/board-2020-2023>

## S5: ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DIRECTORS AND NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

**Summary:** To make it clear that only current members may apply for nomination as a director or nominate board members.

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM hereby resolves by way of Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK are altered by adding the word "immediately" following the words "unless they have been an Individual Member for at least six months" in Article 37.3 and adding the word "immediately" following the words "who have been members for at least six months" in Article 38.9.

**Proposer Background Note:** Article 37.3 states that "no person shall be elected .... as a Director .....unless they have been an Individual Member for at least six months before the deadline for nominating Elected Directors". Nominations are sometimes received from candidates who have been members of the company for a period of at least six months, but not the six months immediately preceding the nomination deadline. Based on a strict literal interpretation of the Articles, a candidate could have last been a member for a period of

at least six months in 1983 and still be eligible to stand for election (as they would have been a member for a period of at least six months prior to the nomination deadline). The Board believe that this was not the intention of the Articles and that article 37.3 was intended to ensure that only those with a current membership can stand for election. In order to clarify the position, the board seeks to amend the wording to make it clear that only current members who have been members for at least six months immediately preceding nomination may stand for election.

Similarly, Article 38.9 states that "nominations for elected directors must be made by Members entitled to at least 10 votes in accordance with Article 29.5 who have been members for at least six months before the deadline for nominating elected directors". Nominations are sometimes received from members who have been members of the company for a period of at least six months, but not the six months immediately preceding the nomination deadline. The Board believe that article 38.9 was intended to ensure that only those with a current membership could nominate a director. In order to clarify the position, the board seeks to amend the wording to make it clear that only current members who have been members for at least six months immediately preceding the nomination date may nominate board candidates.

# ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

## 01: AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2030

**Summary:** Resolution to adopt the AIUK Strategic Plan 2022-2030, as circulated in the AGM background papers

**Proposer:** AIUK Section Board

**Resolution Text:** The AGM adopts the Amnesty International UK Strategy 2022-2030; instructs the Board to develop plans to put the strategy into operation and to report on progress to each Annual General Meeting.

**Proposer Background Note:** Our new Strategy sets a clear direction for AIUK's work from 2022 to 2030.

The Strategy was developed through consultation with activists, partners, staff and Boards. Through 19 activist consultation sessions, 8 individual responses and 3 submissions from local groups, we received feedback from at least 101 staff and 105 activists. Their insights helped us assess the global context, analyse our current effectiveness, evaluate previous campaigns and develop a new theory of change, setting out how we can best deliver change for human rights in the coming decade.

The Strategy complements Amnesty International's Global Strategic Framework for 2022-2030.

Despite the advances that Amnesty International has secured since 1961, human rights today remain under threat and marginalised in public discourse. Global challenges including climate change, digital technology, corporate power, poverty and racism are driving human rights abuses around the world.

To achieve deep, lasting positive change for human rights, we need to take a long-term approach and focus on the root causes of human rights abuses.

To this end, we have set three Strategic Goals for 2022-2030:

- By 2030, human rights will be better understood, valued and defended by increasingly large sections of the public
- By 2030, more people, especially people or groups who currently have less social power, are able and willing to stand up for their rights and those of their communities
- By 2030, Amnesty International UK and our allies have won key human rights victories on the way to long-term sustainable change in the UK and around the world.

We will focus on six priority issues:

- Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- Anti-racism
- Freedom of expression
- Human rights frameworks
- Individuals and communities at risk
- Human rights crises

Our work on these issues will reflect three cross-cutting themes:

- Climate justice
- Digital technology
- Corporate power

This Strategy is the most comprehensive and forward-looking plan that AIUK has ever produced. We will become more accessible and decentralised, distributing power more equally across the movement. Activists will be more empowered to organise, campaign and fundraise for human rights. People and communities impacted by human rights abuses will take a leading role in our work. Our movement will become bigger, more diverse, welcoming and anti-racist. We will broaden our fundraising base to maintain our financial resilience.

We will work with activists, staff and partners to deliver the Strategy and ensure Amnesty International UK is organised in the most effective way to do this.

## O2: FORCED ORGAN-HARVESTING FROM PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN CHINA

**Summary:** This AGM urges AIUK to campaign against organ-harvesting from Chinese prisoners of conscience; for UK legislation on organ tourism; and for sanctions.

**Proposer:** Oxford City Central Group

**Resolution Text:** This AGM urges Amnesty International UK to campaign against organ-harvesting from Chinese prisoners of conscience; for UK legislation on organ tourism, and for sanctions against individuals and groups in China profiting from this crime against humanity.

**Proposer Background Note:** The China Tribunal 2019, concluded 'unanimously and sure beyond reasonable doubt' that the forced harvesting of organs from prisoners of conscience in China, notably from Falun Gong Practitioners and Uyghurs, has been state organized and undertaken on a huge scale. World reaction has been muted as China has so far been successful in demonizing Falun Gong, claiming it is a sinister 'cult'. As yet, Amnesty UK has not publicized, nor campaigned on, this grave crime against humanity.

There has been an enormous growth of Chinese transplant system since 2000. Transplant hospitals increased from 91 in 2000 to around 1000 in 2006. Hospitals advertise transplants on demand with waiting times of between one and four weeks (compared to 3-5 years in USA, Canada, Japan and Korea). Transplant figures are officially secret. Government claimed a steady annual rate of 10,000 a year 2000-2016. The China Tribunal estimates 60-90,000 per year.

Some organs are from executed prisoners. Death penalty figures are secret, but were 12000 per year in 2000, and dropped to about 2000 by 2013. Amnesty has campaigned against the use of such organs on consent grounds.

There is no tradition of organ donation in China. The system is not transparent. In 2015, 2000 organs were donated. In 2017 Exactly 25000 donors were added to the register in a single day, suggesting data manipulation.

The Chinese account of organ sourcing does not explain the observable growth in the system.

The expansion started soon after the anti-Falun Gong campaign begun in July 1999. Although subject to mass incarceration, torture, and thought reform, Falun Gong prisoners are given detailed medical examinations consistent with transplant cross-matching. Inmates often disappear after the tests. Investigators posing as relatives of potential patients or doctors are often told the organs come from Falun Gong. Persecution and incarceration of more than 1 million Uyghurs makes them vulnerable too.

There is strong evidence that organs are taken from prisoners who, if not already dead, then die.

The UK government is proposing secondary legislation to permit sanctions against individuals involved in human rights violations. It is important that any such legislation covers illegal organ trafficking.

### Sources

Kilgour, D; Gutmann, E; Matas, D. (2016) Update to reports 'Bloody Harvest' and 'The Slaughter'

<https://endtransplantabuse.org/an-update/>

Freedom House (2017) 'The Battle for China's Spirit'

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/china-religious-freedom/falun-gong>

China Tribunal (2019) Final Judgement Report.

<https://chinatribunal.com/final-judgement-report/>

Lecture at Gresham College, Geoffrey Nice (Chair of China Tribunal and Martin Elliot, Panel Member

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xDLtMYazlmc>

**Board Background Note:** The Board oppose this resolution, as the UK Section is unable to campaign on the issue in the absence of verified research from the International Secretariat.

### Work to date:

To date, Amnesty International has not been able to verify claims about organ harvesting and so have been unable to undertake significant work on this issue, other than commenting after the release of the China tribunal's findings. Amnesty has however covered the issues of detention and imprisonment to religious minorities, including Falun Gong practitioners and Uyghur Muslims, both at the systemic and individual levels. In 2021, Amnesty released a report on Uyghur children being separated from their families. We have also campaigned on the cases of: Yilyasiji Rehman, Ilham Tohti and others.



As a matter of international policy, Amnesty only calls for sanctions in very limited circumstances: where they would be targeted, multilateral, imposed in order to prevent or end grave human rights abuses and can, in AI's judgement, reasonably be assumed to contribute substantially to that end, while not disproportionately harming at-risk groups.

#### **Amnesty's existing plans:**

Amnesty is preparing to launch a major new report and campaign on the issue of systematic discrimination against Uyghur Muslims in Xinjiang province in 2021. This is the primary focus of the China team and focuses on Amnesty collected testimony and evidence, from across the region and internationally.

The UK Section has no existing plans to work on organ harvesting. To campaign on the issue, including for UK legislation on organ tourism, we would require verified research from the International Secretariat.

#### **Resource implications:**

The resource implications would be at the International Secretariat; we cannot originate this work without the support of our colleagues at the Secretariat (the China team in particular).

### **O3: THE CLIMATE CRISIS IS THREATENING HUMAN RIGHTS GLOBALLY AND IN THE UK**

**Summary:** AIUK should raise the profile of the climate crisis in its actions by upholding the right to protest, supporting publicly and actively all forms of just or legitimate protest.

**Proposer:** York Local Group

**Resolution Text:** This AGM instructs AIUK to:

- (i) raise the profile of the Amnesty movement to strengthen and protect the right to just protest in all its forms.
- (ii) approach the International Secretariat to take action in the wider international movement and within the UK section to address the climate crisis in their campaigning and actions

**Proposer Background Note:** The right to legitimate non-violent protest to protect the lives of peoples affected by damage to the environment has a long and courageous history. We remember among others Berta Cáceres, a member of La Via Campesina from 2006, killed in defending the rights of the Lenca people against the building of the Agua Zarca dam. More recently Marinel Vbaldo, in the Philippines whose persistent and inspiring activism led to the Philippines Commission on Human Rights announcing that companies including BP, Shell and ExxonMobil could be held legally responsible for human rights violations caused by the climate crisis.

In the UK the persistent and successful protests taken against fracking companies, Third Energy and Carillion, where protesters experienced kettling, physical force, destruction of property and arrest in Preston New Road, Lancashire and Kirby Misperton, North Yorkshire. Three protesters from Preston New Road were sentenced to jail and freed by the Court of Appeal which said that greater leniency should be shown in non-violent civil disobedience. This does not take account of the physical and psychological pressures placed on them.

**Board Background Note:** The Board supports this resolution

#### **Work to date:**

Amnesty's work on the right to protest and on the cases of environmental HRDs is as old as the organisation itself. This work has taken many forms, from the support for high profile prisoners of conscience, through to the recent Brave campaign, which focused securing increased recognition and protection for HRDs. Globally the IS has produced ground-breaking reports on violations of the right to protest, including (recently) on Myanmar, France, Iran, Iraq and the US. In 2020, the IS documented the increased use of tear gas against protestors in countries across the world. In the UK, we have recently taken action on the Policing and Crime Bill, issued comment on the illegal banning order against Extinction Rebellion and worked in solidarity with the Stansted 15 (non-violent protesters tried on terrorism charges, whose convictions were recently overturned). Last summer our Belfast Office wrote to policing authorities over treatment of BLM protestors and, in 2019, we helped support the School Strikes for Climate.

The International Secretariat is already working on the climate crisis and supporting the right to protest for HRDs especially those working on climate change and environmental defenders. The individuals listed in the proposer's note have all been Amnesty cases.

#### **Amnesty's existing plans:**

The rights to protest and freedom of expression will be a major focus of Amnesty's campaigning over the next 8 years. Climate change is identified as a cross-cutting lens of both the international and AIUK strategic plans, so we anticipate significant work on this issue as well.

#### **Resource implications:**

This work is in existing strategic plans.

### **O4: INCREASING YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNANCE**

**Summary:** To review the Articles of Association to remove existing barriers to youth participation in governance.

**Proposer:** Queens University Belfast Student Group

**Resolution Text:** This AGM instructs the Amnesty UK Section board to review the Articles of Association to remove existing barriers to youth participation in governance, including but not limited to, the current membership requirements for section Board elections.

The AGM requests that the Amnesty UK Section Board should work with youth activists, including the Youth Strategy Steering Group, in this review, and bring any amendments of the Articles of Association to the 2022 AGM.

**Proposer Background Note:** Goal 4 of the Amnesty UK National Youth Strategy is that 'Young people are enabled to play a leading role within Amnesty's decision-making structures.' Amnesty UK has recently introduced two youth reserved seats for the UK section board which has increased interest in governance amongst youth activists. This is a great first step but there are still barriers to youth participation in governance structures within the Articles of Association such as current membership requirements.

Many youth activists commit to Amnesty UK through their time and energy campaigning, organising events and fundraising. Not all youth activists are able to give financially to the

organisation, through either membership or a donation to the charitable trust, and membership amongst youth activists is not always seen as priority. Some Amnesty youth activists have been unable to run for Section Board elections due to an insufficient membership, despite campaigning with the organisation for years.

In the Amnesty UK National Youth Strategy it is acknowledged that “Whilst Amnesty staff value inclusion of youth voices in governance, fundraising and activism, young people are not able to fully participate in Amnesty’s decision-making structures”. To enable young people to fully participate we must work with the board and youth activists to review these current barriers in order to actualise the principles of Article 2.2i of the Global Youth Strategy. Article 2.2i of the Global Youth Strategy states that “Decision makers at all necessary levels will allocate adequate financial and staff resources as required to remove barriers to young people’s participation in decision-making at all levels of Amnesty International”. This would enable AIUK to meet the targets as set forth in National Youth Strategy “one third representation of young people on all decision-making spaces within AIUK.”

Both the AIUK National Youth Strategy and the AIUK Impact of the Movement Strategy strengthen the will within Amnesty UK to ensure youth activists represented at all levels of the organisation. To empower young people to fully participate in these positions they must have “have appropriate training and ongoing mentorship to fulfil their role to the best of their abilities” as set out in the AIUK National Youth Strategy.

**Board Background Note:** The Board support the Youth Strategy, and are happy to undertake a review, in collaboration with youth activists, of barriers to youth participation in governance and how these could be addressed.

#### Work to date and Amnesty’s existing plans:

AIUK now has two reserved seats for youth members on the Board and a youth observer role to encourage young people who are thinking of applying to the Board to attend board meetings as an observer and shadow a current board member. The Nominations Sub-Committee and Returning Officer are actively working on improving diversity and inclusion in all governance roles and working with the youth and student groups to encourage young members to stand for governance positions.

#### Resource implications:

For a review, low - mostly staff and board time to meet and research possible ways of addressing the concerns raised in this resolution. Should a decision be taken to further subsidise youth membership (currently £12 per annum), this will have financial implications unless subsidised by raising the price of other memberships.

## **O5: REMOVAL OF MEMBERSHIP AGE REQUIREMENTS**

**Summary:** This resolution calls for the removal of an age restriction to be an individual member of Amnesty International UK.

**Proposer:** Serena Jemmett (this resolution has been appropriately seconded)

**Resolution Text:** This AGM instructs Amnesty International UK to develop a membership offer for people under the age

of 14, that as a minimum allows equal voting rights to other individual members, and therefore abolish the age restriction on membership by the next AGM (2022). Amnesty UK should then encourage other sections to do the same.

**Proposer Background Note:** When membership was extended to under 18s, the previous resolution introduced the arbitrary age limit of 14 years old. This was a positive step from the AGM, but there are now a significant number of under 14s involved through school and youth groups (e.g. climate strikes and citizenship campaign). Under 14s also cannot be lead activists, which should be looked into further following the change to minimum membership age.

This age restriction is a form of discrimination and hence should be dissolved. The Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 12 provides a right for a child to express their views freely in all matters affecting them, and for those views to be given due weight.

People as young as 11 can become members of Amnesty youth groups. This does not apply to those who are home schooled or those in schools that do not have the ability or capacity to have an Amnesty group. Many primary schools also have youth groups, providing evidence of children under 11 who are engaged and interested in Amnesty, denying them the opportunity to participate in the movement is wrong.

Lowering the individual membership age will make governance more accessible. Amnesty UK has increasingly debated youth engagement and active participation. Lowering the membership age would be a huge step, showing youth activists that we want them to be involved. Individual membership rates are dropping by 4% each year, which is of huge concern to the future sustainability of Amnesty UK. Young people are vital in the movement and significantly benefit Amnesty.

Name recognition is also declining - people are less inclined to join Amnesty in the long term.

As the International Secretariat leaves membership rules to each Amnesty section entity, there is no requirement for a 14+ age range.

**Board Background Note:** The Board supports this resolution.

#### Work to date:

AIUK Section is a company limited by guarantee. Members have an important constitutional role, controlling changes to the constitution and other fundamental decisions relating to the company. Members must pay an annual membership fee and are liable for the company’s debts on liquidation, limited to the sum of £1.

A person who is under the age of 18 may by law become a member of a company. The contract of membership is voidable at the option of the minor before their 18th birthday. Until then, they have all the same rights as other members under the articles and company law. The company may by law place an age limit on membership and/or require the minor to produce parental consent.

AIUK membership is currently limited to those aged 14 years and over. The UK Section welcomes young supporters to participate through their schools, youth groups and other activities.

**Amnesty's existing plans:**

Youth movements are leading social change like never before, at the forefront of calls for a safer climate, for fair education and against racism and white supremacy. As the world faces interconnected crises, young people are playing an ever more visible role in leading action. Amnesty International UK has much to gain from young people's passion, creativity and vision for human rights.

The Board approved a new Youth Strategy in 2020, committing to:

- Ensuring that youth perspectives are at the centre of our work
- Enabling young people in all their diversity to actively participate at all levels
- Creating effective ways to keep young people engaged over their lifetime
- Growing our movement so that young people make up a third of our support base.

The Youth Strategy identified the need to protect the wellbeing of young people in their activism for Amnesty, ensuring they experience a safe, supportive and appropriate environment.

**Resource implications:**

Safeguarding and wellbeing implications will need to be carefully considered, risks assessed and addressed. Should the resolution pass, the Board would work with young activists and safeguarding specialists to implement the resolution in a safe and enabling way. Membership categories and joining routes may need to be revised. A membership offer will need to be developed. The costs of this are not known, may be significant and the work could take time. However, it corresponds to our intended direction.

## **O6: SECURING OPTIMAL INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT (IS) SUPPORT TO MAXIMISE THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL CAMPAIGNING**

**Summary:** Requests AIUK to initiate discussions with Sections to explore how the international research, campaigns and actions produced by the International Secretariat (IS) are aligned with effective global campaigns.

**Proposer:** Jeremy Paul Allen (this resolution has been appropriately seconded)

**Resolution Text:** This AGM resolves that AIUK initiates a dialogue during 2021-2022 with a group of Amnesty Sections around the world to explore how effectively the international research, campaigns and actions produced by the International Secretariat, both centrally and through its hubs, are aligned with the campaigning objectives, energy, and capacity of activists within Sections. This dialogue will consider:

- (1) whether the capacity available for international campaigning within the different Sections involved is effectively served by the International Secretariat, centrally and through its hubs;
- (2) whether the resources allocated to research work at the IS are adequate to support the work of international campaigning by Sections;
- (3) the views of Sections on the development of global campaigning;
- (4) developing Terms of Reference, including indicators, to ensure effective implementation and consistency.

AIUK, together with the Sections participating in this dialogue, will share their conclusions formally on these issues with other Sections and with the senior management of the International Secretariat at the Global Assembly in 2022.

**Proposer Background Note: –**

**Board Background Note:** The Board notes the resolution and looks forward to discussion at the AGM on how we can best support our colleagues around the world.

**Work to date**

From 2013 to 2018, the International Secretariat undertook its Global Transition Programme. This process redistributed a significant number of International Secretariat posts from London to a series of regional hubs distributed around the world. The purpose of the change was to ensure that Amnesty International was more relevant and responsive to local human rights situations by being “closer to the ground”.

**Existing plans**

The global movement (like the UK Section) is about to embark on a new strategic plan, due for approval at the 2021 Global Assembly. This plan identifies research as a priority to be strengthened over the eight-year strategic period. The Board welcomes and supports this direction. The adoption of a new strategic plan may be an opportune time to open a dialogue to build understanding of the approaches and priorities of the regional hubs, and how international activism can best support them in those approaches and priorities to achieve local human rights impact.

**Resource implications**

The principal resource required to implement this resolution is likely to be staff time. As the work is not currently in plan, conducting it in time to formally raise the matter at the 2022 Global Assembly may require the displacement of planned activity. The AGM should note that whilst AIUK can request an item to be on the formal agenda of the Global Assembly, the decision ultimately rests with the assembly's Preparatory Committee.

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