

Amnesty International UK
NATIONAL CONFERENCE
AND AGM 2019

DECISIONS

RESOLUTIONS CARRIED

F1 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2018

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 2018.

This resolution was OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED.

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 re-appoint 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.

This resolution was OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED

SPECIAL RESOLUTION A1: EQUALISING AGM VOTING RIGHTS FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERS

Summary: Amends the AIUK Articles of Association to give Affiliate equal voting rights to Local, Student and Youth Groups.

Proposer: Battersea and Wandsworth TUC.

Resolution Text: It is hereby resolved by way of Special resolution that the Articles of Association of AIUK Section are altered by:

After the words "Affiliate Member" in 29.5.3 delete "One vote for the first 5,000 members and a further one vote for each further 10,000 members or part thereof up to a maximum of ten votes;" and replace with "Ten votes;"

Consequential changes:

Amend 26.2.1 (b) to include Affiliate members so that the article reads: "A Youth Group, Local Group, Student Group or Affiliate Member."

Delete 26.2.1 (c) "An Affiliate Member entitled to exercise at least five votes in accordance with Article 29.5 or"

Delete 26.2.1 (d) "An Affiliate Member who is entitled to exercise fewer than five votes in accordance with Article 29.5, together with the support of such other Members as are necessary to create at least five additional votes in total."

Amend 26.2.2 to include Affiliate Members so that the Article reads: "A Youth Group, Local Group, Student Group or Affiliate Member."

Delete the words in Article 26.2.3: "An affiliate member which is (a) entitled to exercise at least six votes in accordance with Article 29.5 or; (b) entitled to exercise fewer than six votes in accordance with Article 29.5, with the support of such other Members as is necessary to create at least six additional votes in total."

Votes for 1194 = 86.9%

Votes Against 180 = 13.10%

The resolution was **CARRIED**.

A2 - REMOTE PARTICIPATION AT THE 2020 AGM AND NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Summary: Seeks advice from members on whether to proceed with a trial of remote participation and on-line voting in 2020.

Proposer: AIUK Section Board.

Resolution Text: The AGM calls on the Board to trial remote participation and online voting at the 2020 AGM and National Conference.

Votes for; 1124 (81.16%)

Votes against; 261 (18.84%)

The resolution was **CARRIED**.

A3 - PROMOTING AI RESEARCH TO AI MEMBERS AND THE WIDER PUBLIC

Summary: Requires AIUK to promote research published by Amnesty International to members and the wider public.

Proposer: Blackheath & Greenwich Group.

Resolution Text: This AGM instructs the AIUK Board to actively promote the research carried out by AI to its membership, the media and the public.

The resolution was **OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED**

A4 - COMMUNICATE TO GROUPS ABOUT FACE-TO-FACE FUNDRAISING IN THEIR AREAS

Summary: Requires AIUK to notify Local Groups of any centrally organised face-to-face fundraising.

Proposer: Kirklees Local Group

Resolution Text: This AGM calls on AIUK to ensure that regional fundraising team activities which will result in a presence in a Local Group's area are communicated formally at least one week in advance to the appropriate group. This communication must comprise the date(s) and location of the event and further include contact details of the event organiser.

The resolution was **OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED**

EMERGENCY RESOLUTION

E1- 'TOXIC' CULTURE AND STAFF WELLBEING CONCERNS AT AMNESTY'S INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT

Summary: A response to the KonTerra review of staff wellbeing at Amnesty's International Secretariat which concluded there is a 'toxic' working environment.

Proposer: Malcolm Dingwall-Smith

Resolution Text: This AGM instructs the Board to:

- Communicate to staff at AIUK and the IS a solidarity statement of support for all staff members throughout Amnesty from AIUK members (as represented by this AGM), that we value and respect them as individuals and as a democratic membership organisation, we take seriously our role in ensuring staff are able to work in an environment that prioritises staff wellbeing as highly as the vital human rights work they undertake;

- Consider and address, the KonTerra wellbeing report’s “Five Questions Amnesty Sections Should Ask As They Also Seek To Improve Staff Support” in relation to AIUK, and to publish a response, communicating it to members;
- Consider whether AIUK can provide further practical support to the IS to support implementation of the relevant reports’ recommendations;
- In line with the recommended timeline for action, provide updates to members on the IS’s progress to implement the KonTerra wellbeing report recommendations;
- Consider the significant emphasis the KonTerra wellbeing report places on staff being overworked, and in AIUK’s future planning and in contributing to Amnesty’s international planning consider that this may require hard decisions to stop some areas of work or not move into some new areas.

The resolution was **OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED**

B3 - A DISABLED PEOPLES’ ACTIVIST STRUCTURE.

Summary: Requests AIUK to create a disabled peoples’ activist structure.

Proposer: Worcester Local Group

Resolution Text: This AGM requests that the Board of AIUK create an activist structure to facilitate campaigning for the rights of disabled people.

The resolution was **OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED**

B4-ABUSE OF IMMIGRATION POWERS

Summary: Strengthen AIUK's position on the abuse of immigration powers.

Proposer: Cambridge City Group.

Resolution Text: This AGM asks AIUK to pay greater attention to the abuse of alternative detention practices in any future policy reviews and consultations relating to immigration powers.

The resolution was **OVERWHELMINGLY CARRIED**.

RESOLUTIONS NOT CARRIED

B1 - PROTECTION AND JUSTICE FOR PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Summary: Amnesty to focus on its original concerns, which are the release of prisoners of conscience and justice for human rights defenders.

Proposer: Sutton Coldfield Group.

Resolution Text: This AGM calls on Amnesty UK's Board to work with the International Board and International Secretariat to focus on the concerns which initially led to the establishment of Amnesty International i.e. the welfare and release of prisoners of conscience and justice for human rights defenders. Further the AGM calls on Amnesty UK's Board, while recognising other social issues, to leave these issues to the NGOs which are already well established specifically to address these issues.

Votes for; 370 (28.20%)

Votes against; 942 (71.80%)

The resolution was **DEFEATED**.

B2 - TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN AI POLICY ON SELF DETERMINATION

Summary: Seeks a Resolution to the Global Assembly to develop a policy on self-determination.

Proposer: Sean O'Leary

Resolution Text: This AGM instructs the AIUK Board to take a Resolution to the Global Assembly, requesting the formulation of a specific policy on self-determination (SD).

Amnesty should formulate such a policy, allowing it to support SD claims in circumstances of grave abuse of this right, in accordance with its Statute.

The resolution was **COMFORTABLY DEFEATED**.