

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – DECEMBER 2021 BOARD MEETING

The AIUK Section Board receives a report at each meeting, setting out the progress in implementing AGM decisions. These reports will be posted on the website after each Board meeting to enable members to keep up to date with developments. At the December 2021 meeting, Board members agreed the following update. Members with an interest in the implementation of a decision are invited to contact the responsible Board member.

Resolution Number	Title	Board member	Update
S1 (2021)	Amend minor drafting error in the Articles	Rebecca Warren rebecca.warren@amnesty.org.uk	Completed. Articles updated and filed with Companies House.
S2 (2021)	To clarify the date resolutions must be received at the AGM	Rebecca Warren rebecca.warren@amnesty.org.uk	Completed. Articles updated and filed with Companies House.
S3 (2021)	Renaming the Regional Forum	Rebecca Warren rebecca.warren@amnesty.org.uk	Completed. Articles updated and filed with Companies House.
S4 (2021)	Change the Board Ballot to multiple non-transferable voting	Rebecca Warren rebecca.warren@amnesty.org.uk	Completed. Articles updated and filed with Companies House.
S5 (2021)	Eligibility requirements for directors and nomination of Directors	Rebecca Warren rebecca.warren@amnesty.org.uk	Completed. Articles updated and filed with Companies House.
O1 (2021)	Amnesty International UK Strategic Plan 2022-2030	Sen Raj sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk	The 2021 AGM resolution marked the formal adoption of AIUK's new strategy. At its December 2021 meeting, the Board is considering/approving a business plan setting out the key actions for implementation of the strategy in its first year. Reports on strategic progress will be provided to the AGM through the Chair's Report and Chief Executive's Report.
O2 (2021)	Forced organ harvesting from prisoners of conscience in China	Ciara Garcha ciara.garcha@amnesty.org.uk	AIUK contacted the International Secretariat to draw its awareness to this resolution in summer 2021. The IS responded by detailing its existing priorities and stating that it did not have the capacity to take on additional work at this time. We will be contacting the IS again to ascertain whether there is scope in its

			2022 plans. AIUK will not be able to take these plans forward in the absence of IS plans to work on the issue.
O3 (2021)	The climate crisis is threatening human rights globally and in the UK	Nabil Ahmed nabil.ahmed@amnesty.org.uk	Work on developing the flagship global Amnesty priority campaign on the Right to Protest and freedom of expression continues apace in the IS Global campaigns team and in regional offices across the globe. We have been actively involved in helping to shape the ECA regional strategy and the global strategy. We are now in the process of developing our UK strategy which has as a cross cutting theme the climate crisis. At the National Conference in November, we ran a panel on this issue. Additionally, we have spent the bulk of 2021 campaigning against the proposed Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which seeks to further restrict the right to protest in England and Wales; AIUK had a seat on the policing oversight group for COP26; and we have spoken out against blanket powers being used against Extinction Rebellion protestors. This work remains firmly in plans across the organisation.
O4 (2021)	Increasing youth participation in governance	Ciara Garcha ciara.garcha@amnesty.org.uk	Our plans for 2022 include reviewing and assessing the Articles of Association for barriers to participation. We hope to complete this work in time to submit relevant resolutions to the 2022 AGM but, if not, will provide an update through the Implementation Report to the AGM.
O5 (2021)	Removal of membership age requirements	Tom Harrison tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk	To give effect to this resolution, the Board will need to agree and table a resolution to the 2022 AGM. The Board will be consider this at its first meeting of 2022. The Safeguarding Committee have started to review the safeguarding implications and mitigations. We are reaching out to the NSPCC for advice. We will bring together a project team in the new year to develop how we communicate this change and encourage under 14s to join AIUK as members.

O6 (2021)	Securing optimal International Secretariat support to maximise the impact of global campaigning	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	We have shared the resolution with relevant members of the IS CLT and we are considering how to pursue the dialogue about support for global campaigning across the IS through the next global assembly cycle.
ER1 (2021)	Responding to racism at AIUK	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	The board worked together with representatives of activists, the trades union (Unite) shop at AIUK and the interim chief executive to agree the terms of reference of an independent inquiry into racism in AIUK, and the same group selected female, black-led consultancy Global HPO to conduct the inquiry. Global HPO has started its work in November 2021, and expects to complete and present its report by May 2022. The board is committed to the publication of the report and the implementation of its recommendations in full, and will be able to provide an update on that through the Chair's report to the 2022 AGM.
S1 (2020)	To create two reserved seats for youth members on the Board	Ciara Garcha ciara.garcha@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The Articles have been amended to give effect to the decision that the minimum age for a Director shall be 16.</p> <p>Following discussions, and in agreement with the proposers of this resolution, the reserved seat for the person aged 18-23 years has been enacted and is available through the 2021 Board election process. The reserved seat for the under 18 year old will be enacted through the 2022 elections to the Board. The Board's Safeguarding sub-committee is considering actions that may be required to provide additional safeguarding protection for under-18s who are involved in the board.</p>
O1 (2020)	Discrimination against minority groups in the UK	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	In 2010, the AGM adopted a decision to clarify that AGM decisions should be implemented in "the following planning year". Due to the lateness of the 2020 AGM, we were unable to incorporate plans to implement this resolution in the operational planning cycle for 2021. At the start of January, due to the impact of lockdown on staffing capacity, we rephased and reprioritised existing operational plans in order to reduce workload. We have been unable to allocate the additional staffing

			<p>capacity required to consider this resolution during 2021. However, we now have appointed a Racial Justice Lead and will soon start recruitment for a new role in the Community Organising Team. Once this role is appointed in early 2022, we will consider this in the wider context of developing our Racial Justice campaign proposition and how we develop and launch a new anti-racist network and embed an anti-racism approach across the work of all activist structures.</p>
O2 (2020)	The humanitarian crisis in the Syrian city of Afrin and surrounding refugee camps	<p>Emily Helsby emily.helsby@amnesty.org.uk</p>	<p>AIUK raised the issue of Afrin with the International Secretariat on several occasions, including in planning discussions. The IS were always clear that any new work would depend on their capacity and current strategy. They were considering an output on arrests & abductions by pro-Turkey armed groups in Afrin/North East Syria for Autumn 2021. However, the IS Syria team has been stretched over the past 18 months, so some work got paused or cancelled.</p> <p>Afrin work was listed in AIUKs 2021 Syria plans, and resources were allocated towards it. AIUK consulted several Syrian HRD contacts about Afrin to get on-the-ground information and contacts and has an agreement with one prominent Syrian NGO to do joint work or assist us with content should the IS develop any relevant work.</p> <p>In terms of AIUK capacity, we have been without a crisis & tactical campaigner since the end of March 2021. This has meant some work having to be dropped or postponed across our C&T plans. High-intensity Afghanistan work has also taken up a significant amount of capacity in our C&T programme. Long term commitments with partners via ongoing work has taken priority over this period over starting new work where we didn't have enough capacity to take forward.</p> <p>The focus for our Syria work remains our Justice for Syria campaign and supporting Syrian HRDs working towards our shared objectives.</p>

03 (2020)	Human Rights and the dignity of lives in Kashmir	Susan Kurr Susan.kurr@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The IS have had little to no capacity for any India research work since AI India was forced to cease operations in September 2020.</p> <p>The IS did manage to issue this piece on in October 2020, following its office closure. https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/10/india-counter-terror-raids-on-civil-society-groups-signal-escalating-crackdown-on-dissent/</p> <p>Following this press release, AIUK's Foreign Policy Adviser met with the Kashmir All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on 11 December 2020 to brief them on human rights situation including the AFSPA and PSA, as well as about reprisals against human rights defenders. The Kashmir APPG Chair, Debbie Abrahams MP, subsequently wrote to the Foreign Secretary, asking what his Department was doing about the repression of dissent in Jammu & Kashmir, and about the forced closure of AI India.</p> <p>In November 2021 we were informed that the IS were in the process of recruiting a researcher on India but the person would not be in post until the first quarter of 2022. A proposal to initiate an Activist Led Campaign on Kashmir has also been submitted for consideration.</p>
04 (2020)	Campaign to end excessive, cruel and inhuman cellular confinement in UK prisons	Owen Collins owen.collins@amnesty.org.uk	<p>Given resource constraints within AIUK and the lack of existing Amnesty policy or internal expertise, we have not had the money or capacity to implement this resolution centrally, which would require substantial multi-year investment to make an impact.</p> <p>Instead, we have decided to start work within the Community Organising team to support activists leading the development and execution of this work. A project group consisting of activists from local and student groups across the country (but primarily the Cardiff local group) has been meeting regularly for a few</p>

			<p>months and made a decision to try to expand the number of activists involved in the group. Following on from this, a notice went out to all Activism Reps about the project asking them to share details with groups and encourage suitable activists to put themselves forward to join the group. One community organiser attends the regular meetings of the group, where group members will plan this campaign, take on tasks that they can do themselves, and ask the community organiser to feedback requests for support from AI staff. One idea that is being explored is doing a media focused mind-mapping session in which we plan ideas for how to get the media to cover this issue. The group are also in the process of drafting a letter to the Minister for Prisons and Probation outlining the ways in which UK government policy is in tension with international law on this issue. The digital team at AIUK have also allocated some time to support the group to launch social media accounts for the campaign.</p>
05 (2020)	European Court of Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act	Emily Helsby emily.helsby@amnesty.org.uk	<p>Throughout 2021 Amnesty UK has been running our ‘Stop the Rights Raid’ campaign which has focused on the combined threats to human rights combined in a slew of legislation being brought to parliament; the Overseas Operation Bill (which included elements relevant to the HRA and its extraterritorial application), the Judicial Review Bill, the Policing Crime Sentencing and Courts Bill (focusing on threats to right to protest, right to roam and stop and search) and the Human Rights Act ‘review’. AIUK submitted expert evidence to the panel and issued a press statement at the time. We have subsequently responded to comments from the new Justice Secretary Dominic Rabb that the Human Rights Act is or contains “nonsense” and seeking to restore “primacy” of the UK Courts. This is a worrying trend and we will be prepared to launch a campaign countering any attempts to weaken the Act.</p>
A2 (2019)	Remote participation at the 2020 AGM and National Conference	Sen Raj sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The COVID-19 epidemic radically altered our plans for the 2020 AGM, leading to its cancellation as an in-person event. A scaled</p>

			<p>down event took place in October to satisfy legal requirements and with minimal attendance. This was preceded by an online resolution discussion day.</p> <p>Again, due to the pandemic, the 2021 AGM almost entirely an online meeting, allowing remote participation in plenary debates and live voting on the day.</p> <p>It has been proposed to the Board that the 2022 AGM will be a hybrid meeting allowing members to participate by attending in person or by remote participation.</p>
B3(2019)	A disabled peoples' activist structure	Ciara Garcha ciara.garcha@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The establishment of a Disability Rights Network remains an explicit part of our plans. This is one of two new activist structures that we planned to establish in 2021. However, the ongoing lockdown in late 2020 and early 2021 and the resulting impact on staff capacities has required us to review workload and plans. As a result, we aim to launch an anti-racism network in the first half of 2021 and a Disability Rights Network in the second half of 2022.</p> <p>We are about to start recruitment of a new role in the Community Organising Team to oversee establishing and launching the two new networks mentioned above and anticipate this new role being in post in the first quarter of 2022.</p>
E1 (2019)	'Toxic' culture and staff wellbeing concerns at Amnesty's International Secretariat	Tom Chigbo tom.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The decision and actions in response to the wellbeing concerns at the IS in 2019 have been completed and the Board reported on AIUK's consideration of Konterra's five questions at the 2021 AGM.</p> <p>Work to develop AIUK's culture is ongoing and forms an important part of the new strategic plan. Progress will be reported through the Chair's and Chief Executive's reports to the Annual General Meeting.</p>

B1 (2018)	Homelessness	Nabil Ahmed nabil.ahmed@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This work is in progress. The IS researcher has carried out approximately 40 individual and group interviews with people experiencing homelessness in England (this is the focus of the research, we will be commissioning additional elements on Scotland and NI). The research process has taken longer than anticipated, however, we will be working to build up our campaigning on the report's findings with an anticipated launch date of late Q1 or Q2 2022. This is an interesting example of the length of time it can take for Amnesty to take up new areas of where no existing research or policy is really in place. We are heavily reliant on the IS taking this work up and moving it forwards. However, we will have a report and campaign on homelessness in the UK in 2022.</p>
C1 (2018)	Freedom of Religious Expression	Owen Collins owen.collins@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This resolution has been implemented.</p> <p>During the development of the global Strategic Framework, AIUK espoused the inclusion of freedom of religious expression in all consultation responses that it submitted.</p> <p>In January 2020, 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 (an international committee tasked with helping to prepare the Global Assembly) would not accept the proposal and intended to deal with suggested amendments to the global strategic plan through a process of amendments at the meeting itself. Due to the COVID 19 crisis, plans to approve the strategy at the 2020 Global Assembly were postponed for year.</p> <p>The global Strategic Framework was adopted at the 2021 Global Assembly. It includes two strategic priorities for the years 2022-2030: Equality and Non-Discrimination, and Freedom of Expression and Civic Space. The right to freedom of religious expression is not explicitly included under either of these priorities. A number of “flexible areas of work” were identified in the strategic framework, that the IS and Sections may work on</p>

			<p>outside the main priorities. Included in these areas is “Combatting discrimination against specific groups – In addition to intersectional work under the Global Priorities, Amnesty International will work to combat discrimination faced by specific groups based on their identity. This will include, for example, work for the protection of religious or ethnic minorities from systemic violence, criminalisation or harassment.”</p>
C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	Tom Harrison tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk	<p>Our work to address this particular resolution focused on the Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination (EU Withdrawal) Bill. In the 2017-2019 session of Parliament, we briefed in relation to an amendment to a Government Bill of that name and assisted parliamentarians and campaigners to draft a suitable amendment to be brought back in response to Ministers’ objections to the amendment that was debated in Committee. The Bill ultimately fell with the dissolution of Parliament for the 2019 general election.</p> <p>In 2020, we again briefed to an amendment tabled to a Government Bill of the same name. However, the Bill’s narrow scope was a barrier to progress. It received Royal Assent in November 2020.</p> <p>Our parliamentary advocacy on refugee and migrant rights during the pandemic focused on the need to ensure people’s rights and wellbeing were not put at risk - either by measures taken in response to Covid-19 or by the pandemic’s impact on existing immigration policy and practice. Whereas this did not focus solely or specifically on the rights of spouses and civil partners to live together, aspects of that advocacy (such as in relation to No Recourse to Public Funds conditions) related to matters that have undermined the right to respect for family life between spouses and civil partners where one or other partner is subject to immigration controls.</p>

			<p>It has not been possible to make further progress on this resolution. The Government's immigration and asylum agenda has been so dramatically harmful to human rights, particularly in relation to people seeking asylum and survivors of human trafficking, that we have had to focus on this in our legislative and policy work in this area. Whilst we do wish to work on the area addressed by the AGM resolution, we foresee that it will be necessary to maintain our present focus, given the legislation and plans that the Government appears intent on pursuing.</p>
C3 (2018)	Discrimination based upon caste using the Equality Act	<p>Julia Pata julia.pata@amnesty.org.uk</p>	<p>The implementation report provided to the 2020 AGM noted that following a consultation that generated 16,000 responses (in which the majority rejected legislation), the government concluded that including the term 'caste' in legislation would be unnecessary (as it is already addressed in case law) and divisive.</p> <p>We noted that AIUK had co-signed a letter to MPs and Lords to support the inclusion of caste in the Equalities Act. This was an initiative of the Dalit Support Network.</p> <p>We also noted that we were considering whether a Law Commission of review of hate crime law presented an opportunity to further this work. In the event, the Law Commission's consultation paper concluded that "we are not currently persuaded that a different approach should be taken for the purposes of hate crime laws.</p> <p>Developments on this have been impacted by the Covid crisis. We've been supporting the work of the Dalit Solidarity Network who have been leading the advocacy and campaigning on this. They had planned a letter to MP's and Select Committees. However, in October 2020, they contacted us to explain that it had not been possible to run the campaign in the way initially envisaged but shared the letter (with our support) with select MPs and Peers through the All-Party Parliamentary Group on</p>

			<p>Dalits. They also shared the details of their new campaign <i>Everyday Casteism</i>.</p> <p>We also contacted the IS who had recruited a researcher who was looking caste issues in West and Central Africa and South Asia. They were also planning some work on caste in 2021 to mark the 20th anniversary of Durban conference on racism.</p> <p>The IS now have a dedicated person covering 'Work and Descent-based Discrimination', and they have a number of initiatives launching next year including an online Human Rights Education course on descent/caste-based discrimination and they are also looking at issues of caste in jurisdictions other than Asia and South Africa.</p>
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events	Abigail Tuxworth-Grant abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This work is ongoing. During the Covid Pandemic staff and activists alike have delivered a range of online events and we have learned a lot.</p> <p>We have just (November 13th, 14th, 15th 2022) successfully produced our first largish scale face to face events for over 20 months (National Conference, Student Conference, Children's Festival) with approx. 350 – 400 people attending. Budget and Covid constraints meant we had to run these events at the Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC) in London as well as at Protein Studios (next door to the HRAC). Elements of the National Conference and Student Conference were also live-streamed.</p> <p>We will now evaluate the successes of those events along with considering issues and elements we need to change so that we incorporate lessons into our events programme for 2022 and beyond. We are clear that there is real value in facilitating face to face events and meetings with and for the activist movement and also need to balance this with the need to operate and develop a new events programme with reduced budgets. We</p>

			anticipate developing a programme in 2022 incorporating some face-to-face events, some online events and some 'hybrid' events with both face-to-face and online elements. This approach will be designed to meet the terms of this resolution and we will continue to develop the programme within the context of the strategic plan.
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