

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – MARCH 2022 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 March 2022 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 approved the 2021 business plan & budget 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 have contacted the IS with a view to establishing whether there is scope for AIUK to take forward work on this issue in the absence of IS research and plans.
03 (2021)	The climate crisis is threatening human rights globally and in the UK	Nabil Ahmed nabil.ahmed@amnesty.org.uk	The IS has now finalised the global strategy for the Right to Protest flagship campaign which includes provision for working on environmental HRDs. AIUK staff have been members of the steering group developing the campaign and have been inputting all the way through. At the regional level we have also been actively involved in developing the ERO strategy. We are now working on developing the AIUK strategy which we intend to launch late this year.
04 (2021)	Increasing youth participation in governance	Ciara Garcha ciara.garcha@amnesty.org.uk	<p>It has not been possible to complete the work required in time to submit Board resolutions to the 2022 Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>We wish to engage further with the proposer of this resolution and others, to complete a review of the Articles and to have a full Board discussion on potential options and recommendations.</p> <p>We are currently advancing work to make the required adjustments to welcome a 16-17 year-old as a member of the Board. It is possible that this may also highlight barriers for further consideration.</p> <p>Implementation of this resolution will therefore continue and any resolutions be considered necessary and desirable, these will be tabled at the 2023 Annual General Meeting.</p>
05 (2021)	Removal of membership age requirements	Tom Harrison tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk	To give effect to this resolution, the Board will need to table a resolution to the 2022 AGM. The Board will be consider this resolution at its first meeting of 2022. We will bring together a project team to develop the supporter journey for under 18s including reviewing and developing safeguarding measures for members aged 14-18 and new measures for members who are under 14.

O6 (2021)	Securing optimal International Secretariat support to maximise the impact of global campaigning	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	<p>We have shared the resolution with relevant members of the International Secretariat's senior management team and have contacted the International Board to discuss the issues raised by this resolution.</p> <p>It has been announced that this year's Global Assembly will be entirely online, which reduces the opportunity for informal discussion on the margins of the meeting and for more formal workshops.</p>
ER1 (2021)	Responding to racism at AIUK	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	<p>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 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.</p>
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 is in the process of being enacted and we are currently receiving expert advice on safeguarding and other measures that are required to welcome and support an under-18 onto the Board.</p>
O1 (2020)	Discrimination against minority groups in the UK	Tom Chigbo thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	<p>We reported the recruitment of a new Racial Justice Lead in our last report and are happy to report we have also now recruited a new role (Senior Community Organiser – Anti-Racism) in the Community Organising Team. We are currently negotiating the start date for this role and, once in post, the role-holder will consider this resolution in the wider context of developing our Racial Justice campaign proposition and how we develop and launch a</p>

			new anti-racist network and embed an anti-racism approach across the work of all activist structures.
02 (2020)	The humanitarian crisis in the Syrian city of Afrin and surrounding refugee camps	Emily Helsby emily.helsby@amnesty.org.uk	<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/Northeast 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>The work is, again, included in the IS plan for 2022 and AIUK will also include this in its plans. However, any AIUK action remains dependent on IS outputs.</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 <u>forced to cease operations in September 2020</u>.</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</p>

			first quarter of 2022. A proposal to initiate an Activist Led Campaign on Kashmir has also been submitted for consideration.
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 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	This remains a top campaigning priority for our HRUK campaign Manager. Amnesty is currently working on supporting activists to take part in the government's 'consultation' on the future of the HRA ahead of launching a major campaign to defend the Act from attempts to un-do it. we are committed to fighting tooth and nail to keep the HRA.
A2 (2019)	Remote participation at the 2020 AGM and National Conference	Sen Raj sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk	The COVID-19 epidemic radically altered our plans for the 2020 AGM, leading to its cancellation as an in-person event. A scaled down event took

			<p>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>We have now appointed a new senior Community Organiser role in the Campaigning Communities Team.</p> <p>One of the tasks this role will be responsible for is scoping and establishing a disability rights network by the end of 2022.</p>
E1 (2019)	'Toxic' culture and staff wellbeing concerns at Amnesty's International Secretariat	Tom Chigbo tom.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This resolution has been implemented and implementation will be ongoing</p> <p>The decision and actions in response to the wellbeing concerns at the IS in 2019 have been completed.</p> <p>The implementation report provided to the 2021 AGM highlighted a range of actions that have been taken to support wellbeing at AIUK, including a safeguarding framework, training on unconscious bias, anti-racism, trans awareness and mental health awareness. Further measures were introduced during the pandemic to support wellbeing and specialist support provided to teams, communities and individuals exposed to stressors, including trauma and vicarious trauma.</p> <p>Since the last AGM, a moments of resolution process has been completed and an Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Anti-Racism Plan has been developed in consultation with staff, Board sub-committees, the Board and leading activists. This is embedded in the Business Plan for 2022.</p>

			<p>The 2021 AGM also approved an eight-year AIUK strategy, which places the diversity and development of Amnesty's staff, governance and activities, and the development of a rights-respecting culture as important enablers of success. Work on culture will therefore be ongoing and in 2022, we will develop a value and behavioural/competencies framework to support how we work together. The Chair's and Chief Executive's reports to the future AGMs will set out the Section's progress in implementing the strategic plan.</p>
B1 (2018)	Homelessness	Nabil Ahmed nabil.ahmed@amnesty.org.uk	<p>We now have a copy of the draft report from the IS ESCR which runs to 80 pages and takes in a wide range of housing and homelessness issues across England only. We are planning to launch the report and subsequent campaigning in April 2022. We will be following up the England focused report with briefings on Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales later 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. These are topics that the IS and Sections may work on</p>

			outside the main priorities. Included in these areas is "Combatting discrimination against specific groups". This will include work for the protection of religious or ethnic minorities from systemic violence, criminalisation or harassment."
C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	Tom Harrison tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This resolution has been implemented to the extent possible</p> <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 parliamentarians on an amendment to the Bill and provided assistance in drafting a suitable amendment to be brought back in response to Ministers' objections to the raised in Committee. The Bill ultimately fell with the dissolution of Parliament for the 2019 general election.</p> <p>In 2020, we again briefed on 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</p>

			maintain our present focus, given the legislation and plans that the Government appears intent on pursuing.
C3 (2018)	Discrimination based upon caste using the Equality Act	Julia Pata julia.pata@amnesty.org.uk	<p>This resolution has been implemented to the extent possible.</p> <p>During 2017, prior to the adoption of this resolution, the UK government ran a consultation on the question of protection against unlawful discrimination on the basis of caste. The consultation generated 16,000 responses, with the majority opposing legislation to include caste-based discrimination within the Equality Act. Following the consultation, the government concluded that inclusion of the term 'caste' was unnecessary (as it is already addressed in case law) and divisive.</p> <p>AIUK had co-signed a letter to MPs and Lords to support the inclusion of caste in the Equalities Act in support of an initiative led by the Dalit Support Network.</p> <p>The government's response to the public consultation left limited opportunities for change. However, we considered whether a Law Commission of review of hate crime law presented a chance to further this work. However, this consultation paper concluded (with respect to caste) that "we are not currently persuaded that a different approach should be taken for the purposes of hate crime laws.</p> <p>Further developments on this resolution have been impacted by the Covid crisis. We have continued to support the work of the Dalit Solidarity Network who have been leading the advocacy and campaigning on this issue. 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 Dalits. They also shared the details of their new campaign <i>Everyday Casteism</i>.</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> <p>We welcome the additional IS resource for this work and remain willing to explore any suitable opportunities to work with them on caste-related issues. However, with regard to the specific measures referred to in the AGM resolution, we feel that no further progress is likely for the foreseeable future.</p>
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events	Abigail Tuxworth-Grant abigail.tuxworth- grant@amnesty.org.uk	<p>Prior to the Covid Pandemic the Activism Sub Committee (ASC) approved proposals for evolving our events programme in line with AIUK's strategic direction (and specifically in alignment with the Impact of the Movement strategy). This included proposals to evolve the National Conference and AGM into an annual Human Rights Festival as well as developing a new activist events programme designed to recruit, diversify, connect and empower our activists.</p> <p>Before being able to bring any revised proposals to an AGM, we were forced to rethink this work due the constraints imposed by the pandemic – as well as a substantially reduced budget.</p> <p>At the January 2022 ASC we presented an evaluation of the successful 'hybrid' events (combination of face to face and streamed online) we ran in November 2021 (National Conference, Student Conference, Children's Festival). The ASC approved recommendations to use lessons from these events to reconsider how we develop a new activist events programme in the context of our new strategic plan and in the new context of ongoing Covid considerations. This work will include looking again at evolving the AGM / National Conference into a Human Rights festival.</p>

			<p>For the first two quarters of 2022 the Events team will recruit and work with a group of lead activists and relevant staff to develop these proposals and recommendations for the ASC.</p> <p>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 anticipate developing a programme in 2022 and beyond incorporating some face-to-face events, some online events and some 'hybrid' events. 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 new (2022-30) strategic plan.</p>
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