

AMNESTY UK BOARD ELECTIONS 2023

APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS GUIDANCE

INTRODUCTION

My name is Lloyd Thomas, the Returning Officer for Amnesty International UK. The 2023 election cycle for the Amnesty UK Board is open and I thought a guidance document might help clarify the application / nomination process.

This guidance document is intended to complement the information available at www.amnesty.org.uk/board-election-2023. There may be information contained on that webpage, and in the documents that you can download from that webpage, which I do not mention in this guidance. Please do take the time to look through everything available 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.

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 24 February 2023**.

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 or at sct@amnesty.org.uk

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

Returning Officer
Amnesty International UK

The 2023 Election

This year there are four seats available for election:

- 1 seat **reserved for a member aged 16 – 17**;
- 1 seat **reserved for a Country Co-ordinator**;
- 2 seats that are **unreserved**.

In this guidance I will set out the process for applying for each type of seat on the Board. There is overlap between them, but some requirements are slightly different 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 22 September 2023 (the Declaration Date / formal date of election); and
- (b) Candidates must have been fully paid-up Amnesty UK members for at least six months immediately preceding the deadline for nominations (which this year is **Friday 24 February 2023**).

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 this section.

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 add up to 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 just 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 immediately preceding the nomination deadline (24 February 2023). 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 the seat RESERVED FOR A MEMBER AGED 16 – 17

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

4.2 To stand for this seat you must be aged 16 or 17 on 22 September 2023 (the formal date of election).

4.3 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).

4.4 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.

5. Applying to stand for a seat RESERVED FOR A COUNTRY CO-ORDINATOR

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

5.2 To stand for this seat you must be a COUNTRY CO-ORDINATOR.

5.3 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).

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 *any* RESERVED Seat

6.1 Candidates standing for ***any*** reserved seat are assumed also to be standing for an Unreserved seat. There is a box you should tick in the '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.

NOMINATION DEADLINE – 5pm on Friday 24 February 2023