

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

BOARD BALLOT BOOKLET

ELECTIONS TO THE BOARD 2023-2026

- **Ballot notes**
- **Candidates' election statements**

Note: The candidate statements of up to 300 words are unedited

Contesting three places on the Board:

- Malcolm Dingwall-Smith
- Ramazan Jumazada
- Charlotte Waring
- Richard Wild

The names of the candidates appear in alphabetical order by surname

- **Current Board members**

VOTING ONLINE will help us to reduce postage and processing costs.
It is very quick and easy to do, and it is secure. Please consider voting online.

Please read the following notes before completing your ballot paper

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



BALLOT NOTES

1 THE BOARD

The Board is the senior committee of Amnesty International United Kingdom Section. It is made up of 15 members in total: 12 elected by the membership and three co-opted by the Board. Elected members of the Board serve normally for a three-year period of service and automatically retire. Provided they have not completed six consecutive years on the Board, those so retiring may stand again for election. The Company's Articles (38.1) require a minimum of four Board Members to retire each year. Where less than four Board Members have reached the end of their term of office Board Members either volunteer or are selected at random to retire. There are five places to be filled on the Board this year.

2 RESERVED SEATS ON THE BOARD

Under Amnesty International United Kingdom Section's Articles, the 12 elected Board members should include seven reserved seats including:

- Two members nominated by local groups
- Two members nominated by one of the following network forums: Trade Union network, Rainbow network, Women's rights network, Student network and Children's rights network
- One member nominated as currently serving as a Country Coordinator
- One member aged 16 to 17 years on the declaration date
- One member aged 18 to 23 years on the declaration date

To meet the above quota, there are **two reserved seats** available this year:

- One member aged 16 to 17 years on the declaration date

- One member serving as a Country Coordinator

As only one member came forward to fill the Country Coordinator seat there will be no contested election for this seat.

As no one came forward to fill the seat reserved for a 16 to 17 year old this seat will remain vacant and there will be no election for this seat.

3 NON-RESERVED SEATS ON THE BOARD

Under Amnesty International United Kingdom Section's Articles, the 12 elected Board members should include five non-reserved seats. To meet this quota, there are **three non-reserved seats** available this year.

4 RETIRING BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board members will be retiring in 2023, vacating their seats: Thomas Chigbo (unreserved seat), Abigail Tuxworth-Grant (unreserved). There are also three further vacant seats: One reserved seat for a member aged 16 to 17 years, one seat reserved for a Country Coordinator and one additional unreserved seat.

5 USEFUL SKILLS

The Amnesty International United Kingdom Section's Nominations Sub-Committee supports the Board with the assessment of its skills and any particular needs that would improve its effectiveness overall including nominations and training.

Following its assessment, candidates with expertise and experience in the following areas are required:

- Finance
- Risk management
- Human resources
- Campaigning
- Strategy
- Policy
- Governance

The Board always welcomes candidates with experience of Amnesty activism, especially those who will contribute to our diversity. A wide knowledge base at Board level will enable us to continue to work effectively towards the achievement of our Strategic Plan and our human rights goals.

6 THE BALLOT

a Voting method

The election will be conducted using the plurality at-large method (PAL) which allows you to indicate your preferred candidates.

b Procedure

TO VOTE ONLINE

Please go to the following website: www.amnesty.org.uk/boardballot and enter the Meeting ID: **115-969-876**. You will then be prompted to enter your **Voter Reference Number** and **PIN**.

TO VOTE BY POST

Using the enclosed form, vote by placing an X against the name of the three candidates you most strongly support. **You may select up to three preferences**, but do not vote for the same candidate more than once.

c Deadline for voting

The completed ballot paper should be posted in time for it to be received by the Independent Scrutineers no later than Thursday 22 June 2023.

d Voter reference numbers

This serves only to confirm the authenticity of the ballot paper and will be used only by the independent scrutineers handling the count. Your vote is secret and will remain strictly confidential.

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Board election.

CANDIDATES' ELECTION STATEMENTS

MALCOLM DINGWALL-SMITH

Knowledge and experience

With a passion for human rights and experience in governance, strategy, public policy, campaigning and activism, I have a great mix of motivation, skills and experience to add value to the Board.

I work for Scotland's national sports agency, delivering the organisation's public policy, government and political engagement. Previously, I supported membership organisations to develop their governance and strategy.

I have significant experience in grassroots campaigning, activism and community organising within Amnesty. I have expertise in Amnesty's governance structure from AGMs, Board sub-committees and the Governance Taskforce.

Amnesty membership and experience

- Active member for 17 years.
- Local group member in Glasgow, Maidstone, Westminster and Croydon. Roles including group chair, secretary, campaigns, events and social media.
- Attended every AGM and National Conference from 2008 until the pandemic.
- 2012-2015 Activism Sub-Committee of the Board.
- 2013-2015 Governance Taskforce.
- 2017-2022 Activism Representative for Scotland, supporting local groups.

Election Manifesto

There are things that I believe separate Amnesty from other international human rights organisations. We are a grassroots, democratic, mass movement, with members at the heart of our campaigning. Our campaigning is well researched, politically

neutral, and based in law. We campaign for individuals and achieve structural change. We are an international solidarity movement. Our reputation, built on these factors, developed over decades and is hard earned. I was attracted to become an Amnesty activist by these principles and as a Board member I would act as custodian for these principles.

At times we have fallen short – poor governance, failed to protect the welfare of our excellent staff, and failed to tackle racism within Amnesty. Each time, I have been central to the grassroots members' response. I would bring this focus on being a well-run and ethical organisation to the Board.

RAMAZAN JUMAZADA

Knowledge and experience

As I was an MP and Chairman of different Committees from 2010 to 2019 in the Afghanistan parliament, I have worked a lot in human rights activities. My goal will be to develop a strategy that promotes and protect human rights, how to assess the role of Amnesty in the conflict zone and countries where human rights have been abused and violated, and to bring effectiveness, we will need to review strategy and its impact on discrimination.

Amnesty membership and experience

I moved to the UK with my family in January 2020. I got my second Master's degree in Global Governance and Sustainable development from Middlesex University of London.

It has been almost a year since April 2022 when I got a membership of Amnesty. From June 2022 I have been elected as a member of the Standing Order Committee.

Election Manifesto

I have extensive experience in human rights activities, and I served as a board member for several international organizations, from 2012-2019 I have been involved with human rights activities to fight for justice and equality and women's rights. Mainly, systemic discrimination is often directed against certain groups in society, including ethnic and religious minorities. The impact of systemic discrimination creates an uneven society and contributes to inequality and injustice. If I am elected, I will campaign for policy change to create awareness of human rights and democracy. By looking at countries where this has been achieved, by engaging with the UN bodies, International Organizations and States to stand the required support, as part of the Amnesty family, we all will be able to prevent atrocities from being committed. As a candidate, I am committed to protecting and promoting human rights, I will advocate for policies and laws that advance fairness and equality, and to ensure sustainable human rights development in the world.

CHARLOTTE WARING

Knowledge and experience

My activism on AIUK's Rise Up programme included instigating an LGBTIQ+ safe spaces campaign, initiating my own student Pride Club and maximising its impact by developing a website to share my free resources internationally. At the Children and Young People Now Awards 2022, my LGBTIQ+ youth group was highly commended for advice and consent for improving services for young queer people in Hertfordshire. I'm a young commissioner for Hertfordshire County Council, working collaboratively with diverse teams of young people, developing my advocacy and

representation skills; I meet with decision makers to shape how services for young people are developed, commissioned and delivered countywide.

Amnesty membership and experience

I've been an Amnesty member since I was 15. In 2022, I composed a section on LGBTIQ+ safe spaces in the AIUK LGBTIQ+ education pack sent to schools, as well as being selected to represent AIUK youth activists at a Parliamentary reception for 50 years of Pride in the UK. Additionally, I attended the Children's Conference (2022) and Student Conferences (2022+2023), participating in online campaigning, and direct action to highlight the STAN network's right to food campaign. During my Rise Up young activist training, I successfully pitched for funding, securing further development of my pride club website.

Election Manifesto

Being part of such a powerful movement of human rights defenders is exhilarating and I am forever inspired by the core values that drive AIUK, such as justice and freedom. I strive to create a positive impact and am standing as a candidate to enthusiastically promote advancements in human rights. I will bring energy, dedication and passion to this position to ensure AIUK continues to be a leading force for human rights. I am a proud representative of Generation Z and will bring a modern perspective to the Board, bringing contemporary issues to the forefront.

RICHARD WILD

Knowledge and experience

I am an academic criminologist and activist with 30 years experience in research. I have some experience in strategy development and risk assessment through my work in a university setting but also through voluntary work in war zones and on human rights.

I have some fund raising experience in terms of research, project funding and also supporting voluntary activity. I am branch chair of my union and work in all these areas with employers and members, locally and nationally, for example around climate change.

Amnesty membership and experience

I have supported Amnesty since I was a student and my mother has always been a member. I myself worked for International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH), a francophone sister organisation, as a volunteer charge de mission for 15 years so only became a paying member of AI more recently. In 2002 I was part of an FIDH anti-death penalty mission to Japan and spend 10 years supporting this action including leading missions to Uzbekistan, Uganda, Russia, Botswana. I also supported their action on anti-Muslim discrimination in anti-terrorism legislation and the role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation producing reports on all of these for circulation to the UN, EC and various other governmental and NGO. Most recently I am on the board of ETAC an international NGO working against forced organ harvesting.

Election Manifesto

I have always supported the vital work of Amnesty International and volunteered in the area of international human rights, criminology and justice through research, organising and actions. After 30 years, as an

academic, activist and researcher now feels like the right time to step back slightly from the front line and work more around strategy, support and fund raising all the important groups and actions all around the world. Please give me the opportunity to use my experience in support of this.

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

The following are current elected and co-opted Board members.
For more details, see www.amnesty.org.uk/board

DR SENTHORUN (SEN) RAJ Sen is Chair of the board. He is an academic human rights lawyer who teaches and researches at Manchester Law School. Sen is passionate about glitter, community building, and social justice. His academic and activist work takes an intersectional approach to the rights of LGBTI people and people who seek asylum. Sen was previously a Lecturer in Law at Keele University, UK and a Scholar in Residence at New York University's Center for Human Rights and Global Justice, USA. He has also worked as the Senior Policy Advisor for the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby in Sydney, Australia. Sen is currently the chair of the AIUK Section Board. He has been a member of Amnesty International for 15 years and served on the AIUK Board since June 2018. Prior to moving to the UK, Sen served on the Board of Amnesty International Australia. Sen will serve on the Board until 2024. ■

CIARA GARCHA Ciara is a History student and writer from Manchester. She first got involved in Amnesty International UK as a youth activist, setting up her school's group and serving on the National Youth Strategy Steering Group. Ciara was elected to the Section Board in 2020, becoming Vice-Chair the same year. She also sits on the Nominations Subcommittee, and the Campaigns and Impact Subcommittee Subcommittee. Ciara is also part of AIUK's Youth Collective. Ciara will serve on the board until 2024. ■

HELEN HORTON Helen is Vice-Chair. Helen was elected to the Board in June 2019. Helen is a long-term grass roots member, having been chair for 7 years of her local group in Lancaster. She joined the

board in 2019. She is currently a member of the Safeguarding Committee and chair of the Campaigns and Impact Sub Committee. She is also a school speaker. Helen spent many years as a teacher of teenagers with Special Needs and then as a Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader (MA Education) in the School of Education at the University of Sunderland. After holding this role for 14 years she retired to take up a placement with the Voluntary Service Overseas. She is particularly passionate about Human Rights Education and strengthening campaigning with local groups. Helen will serve on the Board until 2025. ■

MEREDITH COOMBS A supporter of Amnesty International since his student days. Meredith has extensive experience of finance and accounting in both the commercial and charity sectors. He was latterly Director of Finance and Shared Services at St. John Ambulance for eight years before retiring in June 2015. He was appointed Treasurer in 2015. Meredith is a co-opted Director and will serve on the Board until 2024. ■

ABDUL ABID Abdul holds a Masters degree in Economics from Government College Lahore Pakistan. He worked for 5 years in a foreign bank and later as Deputy Chairman of the Banking and Finance Union. Abdul spent 20 years in retail businesses and 25 years in property management. He also served as DL Deputy Lieutenant Lanarkshire from 2012 to 2021 and served as President and Regional President Scotland of Ahmadiyya Community for 35 years. He has been a member of Rotary International for 24 years, and received the Paul Harris Fellow Award from the Rotary Foundation in 2017. Abdul will serve the board until 2025. ■

CURRENT BOARD MEMBERS

NABIL AHMED Nabil retired from the Board in March 2023. ■

SARAH BOND Sarah was co-opted onto the Board's Human Resources sub-committee (HRSC) in 2019 and joined the Board as Chair of HRSC (now the People Culture and Inclusion sub-committee) in 2021. She is a consultant on organisational development and change, with over 25 years' experience working with organisations in the corporate, not-for-profit and humanitarian sectors, and is passionate about diversity, equity, inclusion and the creation of inclusive workplace cultures. Sarah will serve on the Board until 2024. ■

THOMAS CHIGBO Tom was elected to the Board in 2017 and chairs the Building a Powerful Movement Sub Committee. He has been a member of Amnesty since 2006 and has been actively involved as a fundraiser in London, student group member at Cambridge University and local group member in Leeds. Tom is a Community Organiser with Citizens UK, a national charity uniting over 300 faith, education and civil society organisations for social justice. He joined the Board to help Amnesty strengthen our local campaigning and support local groups to build more active participation from members. Thomas retires from the Board in 2023. ■

OWEN COLLINS Owen was elected to the Board in June 2021 as a member nominated for a local group reserved seat. Since his election he has served on the Finance, Audit and Risk Sub-Committee and currently sits on both the Building a Powerful Movement sub-committee and Feedback and Oversight Panel. Owen has been Chair/Vice-chair of

the Cardiff Amnesty International Group for a decade, winning AIUK's Human Rights Activism Award in 2019. Alongside Amnesty activism, Owen has held voluntary governance roles in two other charities. At the start of 2019 Owen joined the Senior Management Team of the Archdiocese of Cardiff. His wide-ranging role includes fundraising and project development. Owen previously worked for the Heritage Lottery Fund in Wales. A former Visiting Lecturer at the University of East London and History Tutor at Cardiff University, Aberystwyth University, and the University of South Wales, he holds a PhD in history. Owen will serve on the board until 2024. ■

ABIGAIL GRANT Elected to the Board in 2017. Abby joined her Local group at 13 before starting and chairing a youth group at her school for 4 years. Abby was also on the Youth Advisory Group from 2013/14. Abby has a degree in Politics and Applied Economics and a keen interest in International Human Rights Law. Abby has also worked with time2change, Young Kent's Me2 as well as giving talks about social services and the foster care system. Abigail retires from the Board in 2023. ■

JULIA PATA Julia has been elected to the Board as of June 2021, for the seat of Youth Representative. Starting out her work with Amnesty back in 2016, she has worked as an intern, been elected as the Queen Mary University of London's AI society's Co-President and as a STAN representative at AI UK. Her activism focuses on youth advocacy, intersectionality and accessibility. Continuing from her LLB, she will now be pursuing an LLM in Human Rights this autumn. Julia retires from the board in 2024. ■