

Manchester Amnesty International Group
Annual General Meeting, 10th March 2025, 7pm. Online meeting.

Minutes

Present: 20 members Hazel Errey, Alison Wearden, Sean Dunne, Rebecca Shaw, Anne Walker, Kathryn Fletcher, Mike Reed, Lima Al-iskalachi, Danny Jones, Joanna Hill, Gunn Grande, Caroline Glendinning, Margaret Calvert, Pamela Galloway, Judith Kramer, Fynn Kawe, Mary Gibbs, Thomas Milnes, Mariam Hussain, Oliver Fitzgerald, Robyn Montano, Rose Okojie.

Apologies: Steve Roman, Monica Bolton, Liz Carter, Zoe Song

Election of Officers

As noted in the agenda, Hazel Errey, our Chair for many years, stepped down. No new nominations for the Chair role had been received, and none were forthcoming at the meeting. We understand that from AIUK's point of view, there is not a requirement to have a Chair, as long as they have a named contact (in our case, the Communications Secretary). Rebecca Shaw, our vice-chair last year, was unable to commit to the full chair role for personal reasons. She did agree, however, to become the "acting chair," meaning that she would chair meetings, with the promise of help from the coordinators group to share out other aspects of the chair role. The other officers were happy to stand again and were unanimously re-elected.

Officers	2024-5	2025-6
Chair	Hazel Errey	Rebecca Shaw Acting Chair (see above)
Vice-chair	Rebecca Shaw	Vacant
Communications Secretary	Alison Wearden	Alison Wearden
Treasurer	Sean Dunne	Sean Dunne
Membership Secretary	Anne Walker	Anne Walker

The whole group expressed its thanks to Hazel Errey for all her work over the years. Other officers were also thanked for their contributions.

Treasurer's report

Sean Dunne's treasurer's report (which had been circulated with the meeting agenda) was presented and accepted by the group.

The meeting agreed that the donation we give to invited speakers at our meetings should be raised from £30 to £50.

Three issues arose from the Treasurer's report and were noted for future discussion:

1) Future plans for donations to other organisations (e.g. Medical Aid for Palestinians) and more generally how we want to use donations received at the vigil;

For discussion at an Israel/Palestine subgroup meeting?

2) The low rate of payment of voluntary subscriptions by group members was noted. Some members pay to AIUK but not to our group. It was suggested that a dedicated email be sent round to members (***Alison to draft in conjunction with Sean and Anne***) and suggestions were also made as to how to frame our fundraising.

After Sean had left the meeting, an in principle decision was made to make a donation to the Human Rights Festival in Liverpool on 7th June, subject to confirmation with Sean. ***Alison to contact Sean.***

Review of the Year

Alison Wearden presented a review of our many activities over the last year. Thanks to all those who took part in our activities last year, as well as to our social media leads, Steve Lindsay (X), Sara Baptista and Lucy Downing (Instagram). A copy of the Annual Review presentation can be found on our website.

Campaign Planning and coordinators roles

Hazel Errey briefly presented the priorities contained in the AIUK priority campaign document. These are: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Anti-racism; Freedom of Expression; Human Rights Crises (including Israel/Occupied Palestinian Territories); Human Rights Frameworks; Individuals & Communities At Risk. Our group is actively involved in all of these areas except perhaps Economic Social and Cultural Rights.

Tom Milnes spoke briefly about his plans for the Prevent Campaign, which will form the focus of the April Group meeting, and to which he would like to invite members of the wider Scrap Prevent working group.

It would be useful to have someone to produce flyers for the Prevent and other campaigns. Fynn Kawe kindly agreed to take on this role.

Coordinators for each campaign had been contacted prior to the meeting. The table below shows coordinators as agreed at the meeting and in post-meeting discussions.

	Co-ordinator 2024-5	Co-ordinator 2025-6
Israel/Palestine	Mike Reed	Mike happy to continue
Anti-Racism/Racial Justice	Umbareen + Hazel	Umbareen + Hazel
Scrap Prevent campaign	Group set up at launch in April	Tom Milnes appointed as coordinator
Refugees	Caroline Glendinning and Whatsapp group	Caroline happy to continue, with back up of Whatsapp group members
UAE (incl. Mohammed al-Roken & Ahmed Mansoor)	Kathryn Fletcher	Kathryn happy to continue
Individuals at Risk (including Write for Rights)	Anne Walker (wished to stand down at end of 2024)	Two recently-joined members expressed an interest and Anne in the process of handing over to them.
Press Freedom/Julian Assange	Lima Al-iskalachi + Danny Jones	Lima and Danny confirmed after the meeting that they are happy to continue
LGBT+ (Pride + WB)	Zoe Song. Zoe can no longer act in this capacity.	Fynn Kawe expressed an interest after the meeting and has since agreed to be "Acting LGBTQ+ coordinator"
Human Rights in the UK	Iona Bruce for part of the year.	Vacancy
Craftivism	Lima Al-iskalachi for part of the year	Informal group, with coordinators to suggest projects as and when needed.
Digital Design coordinator	-	New role. Fynn Kawe
Women's Rights (watching brief)	Mary Gibbs	Mary Gibbs
Europe (i.e. Turkey+)	Fatih Segmen	tbc
Children's Rights (watching brief)	Fatih Segmen	tbc
MP co-ordinator	Rebecca Shaw	Do we need to continue this role?

Group Meetings for the forthcoming year will take place on the second Monday of each month
 Online zoom meetings all at 7pm in May, September, November, January 2025, March 2025
 Face-to-face meetings all at 6pm in April, June, July, August, October, December, February 2025.
 Face to face meetings at Manchester Central Library except for October's, venue to be confirmed.

Notice was given of the forthcoming Human Rights in the UK Festival, 7th June, Liverpool, at which we will have a stall, and of the MMU Sustainability day on 6th June.

Alison Wearden, Communications Secretary
 March 2025