

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE REPORT 2025

The Standing Orders Committee has reviewed the Standing Orders, which govern how the AGM is run, and is proposing some minor changes to Standing Order 1.2, which prescribes some of the items for the agenda for the AGM. This follows questions raised after last year's AGM about the wording of the financial resolutions. The changes bring the wording of the Standing Order more into line with Amnesty UK's Articles of Association (see appendix). The wording of the Board's financial resolutions has also been amended. There is a further amendment to SO 1.2, to accord with actual practice by requiring the report on the implementation of AGM decisions to cover, as well as the previous AGM's decisions, all outstanding decisions prior to that, and not only those from the previous year. We commend the revised Standing Orders for adoption. Because we are proposing amendments, this will require a two-thirds majority.

We received 20 duly submitted resolutions this year – the largest number for some years – and are grateful to all the proposers for the constructive way in which they responded to our comments. One resolution was withdrawn, and we accepted the other 19, in some cases with minor amendments, for inclusion in the agenda. A further resolution was received after the deadline, and at the date of this report we are discussing with the proposers whether they wish to proceed with it as an emergency resolution. The oral report at the meeting will give an update. There is one special resolution from the Board – S1 – to amend the Articles of Association, which requires a three-quarters majority to pass. Otherwise, all the resolutions require a simple majority to pass.

The 2025 AGM will again be a hybrid meeting, with members being able to attend in person or remotely. Amendments to resolutions at the AGM will be allowed and will be proposed and debated in plenary session rather than through the working party process.

We made some changes to the resolution submission template, again following comments by members, and these seem to have made the process clearer.

We were pleased to welcome Claire Taylor as a new member of the Committee during the year and she has already made a valuable contribution to the Committee's work.

This is Sheila Banks's last year on the Committee, and she will be hugely missed. For once, the word 'irreplaceable' is

justified. Sheila has served on the SOC for more years than she can remember, as well as chairing the AGM for three years. Her unrivalled knowledge and experience, no-nonsense approach, and maintenance of the independence of the Committee have contributed enormously to the efficient, and fair, running of our AGMs. Thank you, Sheila.

Nick Hodgson (chair), Sheila Banks and Claire Taylor
13 May 2025

APPENDIX

Article 26.3 The Board shall present to the AGM:

- 26.3.1 a report from the Directors for the previous year;
- 26.3.2 accounts of the Company's previous financial year;
- 26.3.3 the most recent audited account;
- 26.3.4 budget estimates for the Company for the current and ensuing financial periods for ratification;
- 26.3.5 details of nominations of Directors.

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