

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UK SECTION

## BOARD ELECTIONS 2026

### APPLICATION & NOMINATION PROCESS GUIDANCE

#### INTRODUCTION

My name is Rebecca Warren and I am the Returning Officer for Amnesty International UK Section. The 2026 election cycle for the UK Section Board is now open. This guidance document is intended to clarify the application / nomination process.

This document is intended to complement the information available at [www.amnesty.org.uk/board-elections](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/board-elections). There may be information contained on that webpage and in the documents you can download from that webpage, which I do not mention in this guidance. Please 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 Monitoring Form* by the nomination deadline, which is **5pm on Friday 27 February 2026**.

If you, any other member, or any group within Amnesty is uncertain over membership status, please contact the Supporter Communications Team at [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:returningofficer@amnesty.org.uk)

I hope that you find this guidance helpful.

Rebecca Warren

***Returning Officer***  
*Amnesty International UK*

## The 2026 Election

This year there are three seats available for election:

- 2 unreserved seats;
- 1 seat reserved for a Country Coordinator.

In this guidance I will set out the process for applying for each type of seat on the Board.

Before addressing each type of seat available for election this year, there are some eligibility criteria and general points about the application / nomination process to clarify.

### **1. Eligibility criteria**

- 1.1 In order to stand for election to the Amnesty UK Board there are two basic eligibility requirements that apply to everyone:
  - (a) Candidates must be aged 16 or over by Friday 16 July 2026 (the formal date of election); and
  - (b) Candidates must have been fully paid-up Amnesty UK Section members for at least six months immediately preceding the deadline for nominations (which this year is ***Friday 27 February 2026***).
- 1.2 Additionally, to be elected to the Country Coordinator reserved seat, you must be a serving country coordinator.

### **2. The application / nomination process – general points**

- 2.1 It is 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 in total 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 International UK Section. Under the UK Section 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, Student Group, Youth Group, or Affiliate;
2. to be nominated by ten Individual Members / Family Members

You **do not need to complete both of the nomination papers**. Just complete the nomination paper for your chosen method of nomination.

2.9 Please note that those individuals or family members who are nominating you must also be fully paid-up members of the AIUK Section for at least six months immediately preceding the nomination deadline (27 February 2026). Groups or affiliates who are nominating you should also have been fully paid up for six months prior to the nomination deadline. You, or they, can check this by contacting our Supporter Communications Team at [sct@amnesty.org.uk](mailto: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 Section 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* and the *Board Member Nomination Papers*. These must be returned by the nomination deadline.

#### **4. Applying to stand for the seat RESERVED FOR A COUNTRY COORDINATOR**

4.1 Note the eligibility criteria set out at paragraph 1.1 and 1.2 above.

4.2 If you plan to stand for this seat, you do not need to be nominated by other Country Coordinators but you yourself should be a serving Country Coordinator. You still 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).

4.3 You need to complete and return the *Board Member Application Form* and the *Board Member Nomination Papers*. These must be returned by the nomination deadline.

#### **5. Final point for candidates standing for any RESERVED Seat**

5.1 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 – 27 FEBRUARY 2026**