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**Activism Subcommittee**

**Saturday 20th January**

**10am – 4pm**

**Room F1**

**Human Rights Action Centre**

**17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**

**Present:**

Eilidh Douglas (Chair)

Liesbeth Ten Ham

Jamie Wheeler-Roberts

Tom Chigbo

Holly Shorey

Jenny Pollock

Piper Booth

Jerry Allen

Bob Barron

Ruth Breddal

**Staff attending:**

Kerry Moscogiuri

Andy Hackman

Jeni Dixon

Sanam Rashid

**Guest:**

NCP - Irenie Ekkeshis

**Apologies:**

Dave Beynon

Gemma Olive

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| ***Item No. 1 Agenda Topic:* Minutes and Matters Arising** |
| * 1. **Introduction**   Eilidh welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Eilidh introduced Ruth Breddal to the meeting and two new members of the ASC:   * Holly Shorey (Thematic Networks rep) * Piper Booth (Student Action Network rep)   Eilidh informed the group that this was the last meeting for Jenny Pollock as Piper is now taking over her role as StAN rep.   * 1. **Minutes from the September ASC meeting**   Minutes from previous meeting were approved with one amendment:   * the name of the VCCP guest to be changed to Hatti (under 2.2)   1. **Matters arising**   Eilidh informed the group that Resolutions are not yet confirmed and that there should be an update at the next meeting.  Jenny enquired about the StAN Terms of Reference, Eilidh informed the group that the final ToR still had to be approved by the Board. |
| ***Item No. 2 Agenda Topic:* Feedback from Constituencies** |
| **2.1 Networks Feedback**  Holly fed back on behalf of the Thematic Networks.  Holly informed the group that the Committees had elections and were now filled.  Committees and Networks currently working on a campaign to register children as British citizens.  **Action: Holly to circulate campaign paper to the group**  Holly raised some feedback from the networks:   * LGBTI network are discussing ways to maximise conference attendance. They are thinking of using network and group mailing lists to invite attendees next time. Also considering using other platforms instead of Facebook to advertise events or link Eventbrite to the Facebook invite so that attendees have to register properly * Women’s Network fed back that they would like to have a stronger relationship with AIUK Governance   Holly informed the group that there would be an available position (in 3/4 months) for the Children’s Network, with a focus on campaigning.  Ruth suggested Holly let the Nominations Sub Committee know about available positions.  **2.2 Student Action Network Feedback**  Piper fed back on behalf of the Student Action Network.  Since the last meeting, Piper was elected as the new Student Action Network rep.  Piper noted that there were student groups on Facebook that were inactive and there had  been discussions on how to create new groups or for reps to be added as administrators so that information was up to date.  **2.3 Country Coordinator Feedback**  Jamie fed back on behalf of the Country Coordinators  Jamie informed the group that there was a CC strategy meeting on January 6th. The process of CC case approval was discussed. It was highlighted that case briefings from IAR team are not always provided quickly enough. Improving this process will be an ongoing discussion throughout 2018 with the objective being ideas to make the process quicker.  Jamie informed the group that Sue Bingham has been working closely with the IAR team regarding the Shackelia Jackson Write for Rights case.  **2.4 Regional Reps Feedback**  Liesbeth reported that the RR planning pack was ready to be circulated.  Liesbeth informed the group that there had been great Write for Rights coverage in the local media.  Liesbeth also asked what information activists would receive on Brexit such as the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights so that activists were confident on speaking on behalf of Amnesty.  Eilidh agreed that activists need to be better informed.  Kerry informed the group that the Advocacy and Campaigns team are doing a lot of work on Brexit. Deadline has been set at the end of February for information to be circulated.  **Action: Kerry – end of February**  Jeni suggested that it would be good to have that information available at an AGM stall.  **2.5 Trade Union Feedback**  Bob informed the group that the TU were focusing on the following:   * The Brave campaign, in particular bus drivers and teachers in Iran. They are planning a mass mailing to members regarding a photo protest in bus stations * 40th anniversary of TU and AIUK partnership in 2019. Organising a campus collaboration to raise awareness on AI, TU and students * TU working with the LGBTI Network in supporting an event at the Amnesty UK offices on the 8th February (a book launch for Champions of Equality: Trade Unions & LGBT Rights in Britain) |
| ***Item No. 3 Agenda Topic: 3. Impact of Movement Strategy*** |
| **Guest: New Citizens Project - Irenie Ekkeshis**  Andy introduced the item.  Kerry informed the group that AIUK was committed to growth and that the *IoM* waspart of the strategic plan.  Irenie Ekkeshis from the New Citizens Project explained the process of the *IoM* national workshops to the groups.  Andy explained that across the 8 national workshops, 6 consistent themes emerged:  - The Tipping Point  - Positivity & Hope  - The Power of The Act  - Better Together  - Knowing what to do and why  - Values & Purpose  Liesbeth asked if people were paid to attend workshops. Andy confirmed that some of the participants were paid to ensure maximum attendance.  Andy highlighted the importance of creating positive environments for activists as some cases were difficult and negativity can be draining for activists.  Andy also discussed the importance of AIUK being less London centric and more visible in ethnic minority communities.  Holly noted that we have a lot of activits and resources outside of London that we are not using.  Jenny said it was important that existing activists invest and communicate with potential activists.  Liesbeth noted that to support the *IoM* strategy, group culture will need to change and be more flexible to new ways of working.  Tom stated that we should use *IoM* as an opportunity to shift emphasis and resources so that Amnesty becomes a more inclusive and participatory organisation.  *IoM* will be on the next ASC agenda in March to share the piloting strategy. |
| ***Item No. 4 : Groups Survey Report*** |
| Liesbeth introduced the item.  The survey results gave an overview of local groups:   * Average number of active members per group is 12 * A supporter is someone who is on the mailing list and people that turn up to meetings   Tom thanked Liesbeth for the presentation and said it was good for us to have group data. Asked if we should set growth targets for groups?  Jamie highlighted to the group that there are ways to be engaged without attending meetings.  Jeni asked how we can make events and going to groups more ‘enjoyable’ in attracting new members.  Liesbeth told the group she would like to like to do a survey of groups every two years.  **Action – Jeni to confirm if the ToR for creating a new group is 10 members** |
| ***Item No. 6 Regional Rep role description*** |
| Liesbeth informed the group that the description left out that RR could work nationally.  Activism Code of Conduct and role of being an Amnesty ambassador added in.  Jeni confirmed RR descriptor doesn’t have to go to the Board. |
| ***Item No. 7 Events*** |
| Our National AGM is taking place in Swansea on 7th & 8th April 2018.  Eilidh reminded the group to register for the AGM.  Andy informed the group that the written update for the events pilot project will be completed by March and that it might go to AGM as a draft. |
| **Item No.8 AGM Preparation** |
| **ASC Chair speech**  Last year Eilidh presented on *IoM* aspirations and engaging people.  Eilidh asked the group of they had any key issues or themes they would like the ASC report to cover.  Suggestions:   * Looking forward, building on the research we have been doing (such as *IoM*) * Promote Trade Councils * Positive outcomes: Pride Turnout, New Groups (Coventry), Anti-Death Penalty project   **Action: ASC to email Sanam or Jeni with suggestions for Chairs speech**  Eilidh suggested the AGM might be a good opportunity to call on activists in Wales.  Ruth asked if we can make time at the AGM for Welsh activists to meet?  **Action: Jeni to discuss timetabling session for Welsh activists with Blueprint.**  **New to the AGM session**  Eilidh explained the ASC role at the AGM to the group. Eilidh asked the asked the group who would like to lead on the session to introduce new members to the AGM.  Liesbeth and Holly offered to help on this. |
| ***Item No. 9* Agenda Topic: Commitments** |
| Jeni introduced the item to the group.  Jeni informed the group that Human Resources were involved with the *IoM* so outcomes were applied internally.  Commitments is a new policy for AI staff.  Bob asked if the policy had been signed off by the Union. Jeni confirmed it had.  Feedback:   * Good for networks and groups to understand working culture and expectations of Amnesty staff * Offers a way of challenging people but appropriately * Creates behaviour culture for both staff and activists   Jeni informed the group that we can use the Commitments as a tool for modelling behaviour and to use as a framework for groups and networks if there are any issues. |
| ***Item No. 10 Agenda Topic:* GDPR Implementation** |
| GDPR will be implemented from May.  There will be an item at the AGM offering advice on the GDPR to activists.  Liesbeth informed the group that GDPR will be an item on the next RR agenda. |
| ***Item No. 11 Agenda Topic: Wrap up and close*** |
| AOB:  Jeni informed the group that fundraising guidelines for groups are being produced and will be circulated soon.  **Action: Sanam to circulate 2018 ASC dates**  Eilidh thanked Jenny for her input and effort as StAN rep.  Eilidh thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions. |