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**Activism Subcommittee**

**Saturday 9th September**

**10am – 4pm**

**Room F1**

**Human Rights Action Centre**

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

**Present:**

Eilidh Douglas (Chair)

Liesbeth Ten Ham

Sana Yusuf

Holly Shorey

Jamie Wheeler-Roberts

Dave Beynon

Tom Chigbo

Rebecca Warren

Gemma Olive

Simon Ware

Kari Walker

**Staff attending:**

Kerry Moscogiuri

Andy Hackman

Jeni Dixon

Kate Allen (part)

Ben Smith (part)

**Guest**

Jo Shaw (Human Thinkers)

**Apologies**

Jenny Pollock

Katherine Walton

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| ***Item No. 1 Agenda Topic:* Minutes and Matters Arising** |
| * 1. **Introduction**   Eilidh welcomed everyone to the meeting.   * 1. **Minutes from the May ASC meeting** * Minutes from previous meeting were approved subject to minor changes * Add Simon Ware to list of attendees. * AGM review - add in a note about ongoing concerns about entryism to be raised.   **ACTION: KM** to ask Tess to amend as above, post on the website as final and share with the Board   * 1. **Matters arising**   Holly had looked at the guide to working with youth and students. She thought generally the message was good and positive. She reported that it is a good tool but not very easy to find. It needs some updating and to be made more visible.  **Action: Jeni to take forward and** Take off the outdated list of the local groups from the website  The Youth Conference ss booked in for 2018  **Action: Andy** to talk to Anne about the timings for youth conference and the AGM and report back to the next ASC. |
| ***Item No. 2 Agenda Topic:* Feedback from Constituencies** |
| **2.1 Youth Advisory Group Feedback**  This Summer YAG undertook a youth group- wide survey which had 41 replies. It was very positive and useful to see the demographics of our groups and see how they do their activism.  ASC were encouraged to read the feedback which Holly had shared via her report  Jeni informed ASC that from early next year it will be possible to make group affiliations online which is something that youth groups had been asking for for some time. ASC welcomed this news.  **2.2 Regional Reps Feedback**  Liesbeth reported that they have completed the survey of local groups and it will be ready in November. There has been a 60% response from groups. The survey is likely to be repeated every year.  **Action: Liesbeth** will report the findings at the 18th November ASC meeting.  Jeni suggested that one of the Regional Reps should come to a staff and vols meeting to present the results of the survey. ASC agreed.  **Action: Jeni/Liesbeth** to arrange  Liesbeth shared the feedback that Farshid is getting from visiting groups that the way to grow groups is to create specific teams of around 10-12 people each with a specific focus.  Liesbeth is working on a new system to share information with RMSOs.  **2.3 Student Action Network**  A new staff member has been appointed to support STAN – James Farndon. The relationship is working well. STAN were pleased that a STAN member was included in recruitment process which ASC noted was a very positive development.  Freshers Packs have been sent out to all student groups including Not Powerless, and Brave. It was noted that resources from the office are very useful here eg stickers, badges etc  Action For Change took place over the summer. The purpose is to skill up the committees for the year ahead. Attendance was up and we had a lot of repeat attendance.  Student Media Summit – collaboration with NUS also took place over the Summer. It was successful in exposing students to Amnesty. STAN reps helped there and it was a very positive experience. There was feedback that there could have been more Amnesty people on the panels to create a stronger Amnesty presence at the event.  STAN are proposing to update their terms of reference. ASC confirmed that the approval process will be STAN to the conference, conference to ASC, and ASC to the Board for final sign off.  Jerry Allen (South Asia Country Coordinator) has been working with James Farndon over the Summer to develop a pilot programme with CC’s working with student groups using social media as main communications channel. There will be an assessment of the pilot in May. This is very positive as it gives South Asia a new campaigning route where there are few if any individuals at risk cases to work on.  **2.4 Networks**  LGBTI network and WAN network are proposing a change to the terms of reference to increase capacity.  Eilidh suggested that, given the dates of the Networks Conference, the Board could review this outside of a Board meeting. Eilidh requested that the proposal be submitted to Eilidh to share with the board for approval in time for the Network Elections.  **Action: Simon and Jeni to send the proposal to Eilidh asap**  **2.5 Country Coordinators**  There was significant activity at festivals this year, with a focus on the case of Shackelia Jackson. She actually saw the pictures and she wrote back instantaneously which was very motivating.  For South America, co-hosted a visit to the UK of Esperanza Huayama, President of the Association of Forcibly Sterilised Women of Peru. They accompanied her to the FCO, Parliament and to meet other NGOs.  South Asia now collaborating with the new youth organiser for students  For North Africa, developing an art contest for youth, to create pictures of what you would want to see if freed.  Issues - CCs fed back concerns on the GTP, some CCs said that they felt that it is still being talked about more positively than it should be, and would like to know how their feedback to the ICM was used.  Standard of action on some of the IS materials - some of the press releases and USs have some grammatical mistakes.  **Action: Jamie** to compile the specific examples of the problem and share with Kerry. |
| **2.6 TUNC**  TUNC are organising a review of the network, looking at Trades Councils as well as Unions to develop more cooperative action and how we can look at the international elements we are focussing on.  In campaigning terms the network has a new campaign on 3 particular trade unionist cases : Esmail Abdi, Ebrahim Madadi and Reza ShahabiIran.  Also working on Indonesian Palm Oil workers and Chechnya, as well as Trump and the travel ban - making contact with US airport unions  **Action: Bob** will send the update to ASC |
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| ***Item No. 3 Agenda Topic:* International Council Meeting (ICM) Debrief** |
| **Kate Allen** debriefed ASC on the 2018 ICM in Rome  The delegation was Ruth Breddel, Tom Sparks, Meredith, Kate, Tim Hancock, Patrick Corrigan,  Kate reported that:  The ICM was marked by the fact that the Chair and Director of AI Turkey not there . The acting Chair and Director were there and their courage was felt very strongly. There was significant focus on Turkey and the need to do all we can as a movement to secure the release of Taner and Idil. There are also pressures on other sections - Venezuela, Philippines, Hungary, Nigeria and our office in Russia. Kate reported a feeling of pressure on Amnesty that we have not felt so strongly before.  AIUK had proposed 2 resolutions: abortion policy review and climate change. Both were carried with very good support. They are now in the hands of the IS to take forward.  The meeting agreed some other policy reviews including elections and military occupations.  There was an extensive decision on gender and diversity - how we report and share good practice as a movement. It will involve us as a section making sure we carry that forward well.  The International Board is elected at the ICM. Greg Marsh from the UK was elected, he had previously been on the global Finance and Audit Committee.  There has been an extensive review of governance and key decisions were taken at this ICM to complete that work:  The ICM decided to change the whole nature of the ICM. It has been changed to an annual meeting, with 3 delegates per section. One question was how do you achieve diversity if you have to take the Chair and Director plus one other – room for manoeuvre is limited. A compromise was reached whereby every 3 years the delegation must also include a youth delegate (under 25).  One Section one vote was overwhelmingly decided to be the new voting model for the movement. There was a real sense of relief that decisions have now been made on this.  Global Transition Programme (GTP) - there was an evaluation of the Global Transition Programme which has been a huge programme of change to create a movement that is truly global, bringing people in from the global south as well as the global north. The evaluation was very thorough and critical in places. It was good to have the very detailed feedback from Country Coordinators on the GTP which reflected what other Sections were saying too. Kate fed this into the discussions at the ICM.  Kate reported that she can feel and see the difference that the GTP has made in making us a truly global movement.  There is a new Regional Director for South Asia. The AIUK delegation had dinner with him one evening to talk about how we as a section can link up with more effectively. This will start with his deputy coming to AIUK as part of his induction.  The AI France resolution on proposed review of sex work policy did not get passed.  Kate reported that, as ever, it was inspiring to meet people from across the movement.  Simon asked if there might be any potential role for the networks on the gender and diversity decision.  Kate replied,yes. The decision has a lot in it and we’ll think about how the networks can help deliver that.  Bob welcomed the idea of a youth delegate and the definition of youth as uder 25 (ie not older)  Liesbeth asked about concerns for other Amnesty staff in Turkey. This is the first time we have had both Chair and Director in prison, and with charges of association with terrorism and espionage. The stakes are very high.  Kate reported that our job as sections was to encourage our governments to make public calls for their release and many had achieved that. Work is happening behind the scenes. We are building up to going more public in October. It is a key focus for the movement.  Jamie asked if there will be a wider review of safety and risk assessment for staff and activists involved in high-risk work. Kate replied that they are putting significantly more resources into this area. Kate asked if you hear anything where staff or others express concerns, please let Kate know so she can raise it directly with the IS for action to be taken.  **Action: ASC members to keep Kate informed via Kerry if safety concerns are heard.**  Liesbeth expressed her view that it was vital that we are able to secure the release of Idil and Taner and not see more Amnesty people arrested as it is such a threat to our global operating model as well of course to the lives of those people  All agreed.  Eilidh expressed thanks from ASC to Kate for the feedback and to ASC members for considering the decisions so thoroughly.  Eilidh asked ASC members to take Kate up on her offer of a member of the delegation feeding back to constituencies.  **Action: ASC members as appropriate** |
| ***Item No. 4 NomCome Update*** |
| Kari Walker gave a report from the work of NomCom.  **4.1 Board Sub Committee Member Role Description**  NomCom are planning to write a generic role description for sub committee members. Kari requested feedback from ASC members on the kinds of things ASC would like to see in the role of ASC members.  There is an existing CC role description that can be shared with ASC.  **Action: Jeni** to share the CC ASC role description  Verbal feedback: Jamie fed back that there is a perception that people need many years of experience before you can get involved with governance. How can we make it more friendly and accessible so that it is clear that you don’t have to have many years of experience.  Tom: said it was important that we as members of the committee take some responsibility for encouraging people to get involved and thinking about in in terms of the trajectory of the people that we work with and spot people who have the potential for this.  Kari said once we have the role descriptions nom com are thinking of ways that make it less dry and more diverse.  Simon: suggested that we could offer people the opportunity to come and observe the meetings to build understanding of what is involved  Bob shared the concern that the time commitment is quite demanding and the potential need for the deputies for the role.  **Action: ASC members to feedback to Kari by email on suggestions for the ASC role description**  **4.2 Recruitment for the next Board cycle**  Kari reminded the ASC that the AGM had decided that the networks should work with NocCom to have a process in place to identify potential board candidates for the networks position.  TUNC meet on the 22nd Sept - Bob can arrange for Kari to attend that meeting  **Action: Bob/Kari**  Eilidh asked Kari to send her some text to send to ASC members for ASC members to respond to.  **Action: Kari/Eilidh** |
| ***Item No. 5 Agenda Topic*****: Improving the impact of the movement strategy** |
| Eilidh welcomed Jo Shaw to the meeting to talk through the work that she is developing with Andy and team on the impact of the movement strategy (Being Amnesty)  Five working sessions are being planned for activists and others as follows:  Manchester  Bristol  London  Glasgow  Birmingham  ASC members are encouraged to let Jeni and Andy know if there are organisations doing very good community participation work that we can learn from.  **Action: ASC members**  Jo fed back on the work of the New Citizenship Project - move from the idea of the consumer to the citizen and how this is relevant to the work we want to do. There are examples of grass roots movements emerging and starting to make a difference. Amnesty has a huge advantage in that this is already our operating model and we already have people working in this way.  Jo introduced ASC to the theory of change that we are working to:  Purpose: Focus on **‘why’** we do what we do rather that what we do, and how.  Platform: Create on ongoing discussion, space, that allows people to participate and be heard  Prototypes: Start doing things and learn as we go  Joe will capture the feedback from the workshop and feed into the preparation for the working sessions.  **Action: ASC members** are encouraged to talk about this work with their constituents.  **Action: Andy** will update the ASC on this project at the next meeting. |
| ***Item No. 6 GDPR and activists*** |
| Ben Smith joined the ASC to introduce the GDPR to the ASC and its implications for activists. It replaces the data protection act and comes into force in May2018. The GDPR strengthens and adds to individual rights, it has potential implications for our ability to speak to people and requires us to be more transparent and accountable to people. Ben briefed ASC on the work being done to prepare for compliance with GDPR by 2018:   * Consent project * GDPR action plan * Working group on activists and GDPR * Safeguarding work – includes children and other vulnerable groups   Ben is producing a guide for activists that will go online and be updated when needed. It will be available very soon,.  Ben and Jeni are working on ways to try to prevent key activists accidentally opting out of communications by making the requirement to receive specific key communications part of leading activist roles eg Groups Secretary must consent to receiving groups emails from the Groups Community Organiser.  Liesbeth raised the concern around how we ensure that groups are collecting and storing data in compliance with GDPR.  Eilidh sought to clarify what we are required to do to as ASC to ensure that groups are compliant. Ben clarified that we have to provide training and resources and we should also proactively help groups to comply.  To what extent are we expected to monitor what the groups are doing? Rebecca suggested that we should plan for worst case which was agreed.  Tom suggested looking at a system which we could make available to activists to use – so that it it is possible for us to monitor.  Andy said that we are piloting Nationbuilder as a first step to this with the HRE programme.  **Action: Jeni** to let ASC know when the activist guidance goes online and ask for feedback for the next iteration  **Action: Ben/Jen**i Include a call to encourage groups to share what they are doing to comply with Ben for feedback and to share best practice |
| ***Item No. 7 AGM and Events Development*** |
| Andy reported that he and the team are putting together a list of all the different activist events that take place now, clarifying the objectives and audience for each.  This will come to the November ASC to start thinking about how we create better links between them.  Jeni shared the new AGM flyer and encouraged ASC members to share it with their constituencies. |
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| ***Item No. 7* Agenda Topic: Upcoming ASC Dates 2017** |
| **18 November 2017**  **2018 Dates**  January 20th  March 10th  (Liesbeth’s last meeting!)  AGM April 7th/8th  May 19th  Sept 8th  Nov 17th |
| ***Item No. 8 Agenda Topic: AOB*** |
| Liesbeth reported that she is very pleased with the anti-death penalty event that is taking place and that it will lead to an anti-death penalty project. A great example of member-led campaigning.  Bob reported that there is an upcoming rally in Trafalgar Square on EU migrants rights. Encouraging AIUK to have apresence there.  **Action: Kerry to find out and let ASC know**  Ensure the website is updated with all sub committee names  **Action: Kerry** to ensure the website is correct with all ASC names on it  Give A Home: SOFAR sounds music events on 20th September - tomorrow is the last day to enter the draws for tickets  Eilidh thanked Holly for her contribution to the ASC as this was her last ASC meeting. The survey and work put into the youth update is a great example of the great work Holly has done. Thank you to Holly from all of the ASC.  Eilidh thanked everyone for coming. |