****

**Activism Subcommittee**

**Saturday 10th March**

**10am – 4pm**

**Room F1**

**Human Rights Action Centre**

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

**Present:**

Eilidh Douglas (Chair)

Liesbeth Ten Ham (Regional Representatives)

Tom Chigbo (Vice Chair)

Jerry Allen (Board member)

Piper Booth (Student Action Network Committee rep)

Simon Ware (Thematic Networks Representative)

Alexis Hatto (Regional Representatives)

Dave Beynon (Individual member)

Tom Harrison (Trade Union Network Rep)

**Staff attending:**

Kerry Moscogiuri

Andy Hackman

Jeni Dixon

Kieran Aldred (Part)

**Apologies:**

Jamie Wheler-Roberts (Individual member)

Holly Shorey (Thematic Networks Representative) - represented by Simon Ware

Gemma Olive (Youth representative)

Bob Barron (Trade Union Network Rep) - represented by Tom Harrison

|  |
| --- |
| ***Item No. 1 Agenda Topic:* Minutes and Matters Arising** |
| * 1. **Introduction**   Eilidh welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Eilidh welcomed Tom Harrison to his first ASC meeting standing in for Bob Barron as the TU Network representative and Alexis Hatto who will be taking over from Liesbeth as Regional Reps Representative.   * 1. **Minutes from the September ASC meeting**   Minutes from previous meeting were approved with the following amendments:  Correct attendance and correct spelling of Holly’s name.  Correct attendance list.  Post revised minutes on the website  **Action: Kerry**  **1.3 Matters arising**  Eilidh informed the ASC that the the StAN Terms of Reference have now been approved by the AIUK Section Board. Thanks to Shane and to Jeni for their support in developing the terms of reference. |
| ***Item No. 2 Agenda Topic:* Feedback from Constituencies** |
| **2.1 Action Group Feedback**  Jeni reported positive feedback from a youth group who had attended the Write For Rights Parliamentary event  **2.2 Regional Reps Feedback - Liesbeth and Alexis**  5 new groups have been set up in the last couple of months.  Leicester new group first meeting has taken place  In East Anglia we have a new Harlow Group will have their meeting on 21st March  We have 2 new groups in Wales.  We still need a regional rep for Wales  Liesbeth and Alexis presented the results of the groups survey to the AIUK staff and volunteers meeting at the HRAC.  Liesbeth said that she felt we don’t have enough staff capacity to support the development of new groups and asked that we consider this for the future.  **Action: Andy and Jeni to consider recommendations to SMT**  Liesbeth - said how good the SouthBank box display had been but wished we had had more information about it upfront about the live stream.  **Action: Jeni to note with the campaign project groups so that we ensure we feed great campaign ideas through our activist structures.**    **2.3 Networks – Simon Ware**  Simon Ware reported from the networks. He reported how the LGBTI committee are considering presence at London Pride following Stonewall’s decision not to take part. This has also led to the committee considering how AIUK’s network improves diversity. All of the networks are looking to how they can become more diverse. Simon talked about how we can extend the report on diversity and inclusion beyond staff and to include AIUK’s activist structures too.  The LGBTI Network Committee are producing an action plan on increasing diversity following the work that they have been doing on the Pride work.  The committee are aiming to make their decision by 16th March on attendance at 2018 London Pride.  Simon asked that thanks be noted to Mike Quinn for pulling everyone together to make a good decision for Amnesty.  The Children’s Human Rights network wanted to raise concern at Amnesty’s lack of presence at the recent UN Human Rights Committee. They would have expected global Amnesty to have a presence there.  Katherine Walton, on behalf of the Childrens Human Rights Network has made contact with the IS to raise her concerns.  Eilidh asked Simon to clarify with Katherine which channels she is planning to use. Simon will ask Katherine to get in touch directly with Eilidh on this.  **Action: Simon to put Eilidh and Katherine in touch on this in order to ensure that the ASC and Board are aware of this feedback and can decide how to support.**  Eilidh said it is good to see the thematic networks using the ASC well to feedback concerns and issues.  The Women’s Action network are doing very well now, and doing very well as a committee. They have a strategic plan and have increased their social media presence. It is good to see this network gaining strength now.  Thanks from Simon to Holly for pulling all the information together for the report.  **2.4 STAN feedback - Piper Booth**  The STAN meeting was supposed to be in Glasgow but was cancelled due to snow,  The Refugee Week of Action went well.  Half of the student groups taking part were collaborating with other groups which is good.  We want to improve participation, and fed back that the toolkit would have been more useful if it had arrived earlier.  Meeting MPs is difficult for students - MPs are not responding or cancelling meetings with students.  The Scotland Student Conference is happening this weekend, themed around family reunion of refugees.  Several student groups wished to support the UCU strikes. James Farndon provided helpful guidance as to the limits of campaigning as Amnesty and our position on trade unions and strike action. Eilidh welcomed this engagement by groups with Amnesty staff to better understand and act in line with Amnesty policy.  STAN had a consultation with the training programme with Shoomi which was very positive. They are looking at a training for the beginning of the academic year on how to cement groups.  Eilidh suggested that given the most recent STAN meeting was in Glasgow ASC could consider a future meeting in the north of England or Scotland. This was warmly received by the ASC.  **Action: Kerry and Eilidh to identify a potential meeting and venue**  **2.5 Trade Union Network Feedback - Tom Harrison**  Keynote speech from Kate planned for the NSUWT Conference at Easter .  Looking forward to the 40th anniversary year of the network.  Shane’s key priority is to re-engage the TU Network and recruit additional representatives from the TU network, in particular some large unions that aren’t represented now.  **2.6 Feedback from the Country Coordinators - Eilidh fed back based on Jamie’s email**  Demonstration on Giulio Regeni at the Egyptian Embassy.  Alex Jackson (CC for Uganda and Eritrea) was able to get the Edinburgh City Council to take action on the case of a disappeared woman, Aster, from Eritrea. The photo includes members of all political parties on the council.  Sue Bingham was invited to attend a meeting of the Reading Jamaican Society regarding Shackelia Jackson, which is a new connection with that group and a good partnership to build. |
| ***Item No. 3 Agenda Topic: Global Assembly Resolutions*** |
| Eilidh introduced this item, explaining the role of the ASC in advising the Board of the membership/activism perspective on Global Assembly resolutions and guidance on whether ASC believe that further consultation is needed.  Liesbeth suggested we should look at the comments on the change.org petition on access to marijuana for medical reasons to get an insight some public attitudes on this issue.  A South West group has asked 2 years ago if there was going to a be a policy on this and had suggested an AGM resolution.  **Action: Liesbeth to ask Chris which group that was in case we were looking for activists who had thought more about this.**  Tom: raised the concern that this will lead to headlines in some way. The principles are good, and Amnesty needs to think about how activists are informed about this process, so that activists are able to answer questions if there is a media story about it.  Would be good to amend or add something about learning from other organisations and making sure we have good relationships with organisations that know and understand this issue really well – to identify how we learn from other groups.  Eilidh suggested that in addition to a policy it would be useful to have practical case studies of how the policy would work in practice to improve human rights.  We need to learn from the development of the sex work policy where we didn’t get the stories out. Activists are often best placed to tell the stories and explain policy if they have the tools to do so.  Jeni raised the question of how the policy will intersect with other parts of our work, eg on countries where drugs are supplied from and the criminal justice system.    Tom, important that the policy considers the harm that comes from drug use itself, something more explicit about the harm that is caused to people through taking drugs and from the drugs trade - this needs to be stated.  Simon said that the thematic networks would be able to feed in some different perspectives.  Alexis on the development plan noted that it had only been translated into Spanish and French. Alexis suggested it should also be translated into Arabic (fourth global language). Add the word ‘initialism’ to the list of ‘acronyms’  Eilidh asked the ASC for their advice to the board on the level of consultation appropriate for each resolution:  **Abortion resolution**  ASC agreed to advise the board that the following stakeholders should be **consulted** on the proposed policy to inform the GA delegation:  Women’s Action Network, the children’s rights network, LGBTI network, and the proposer of the original AIUK AGM resolution.  The wider membership should be **informed** of the process.  **Drug Control and Human Rights policy**  Liesbeth asked could we identify knowledgeable people within our activist structures, take that into account, before asking the wider membership about the UK.  The Country Coordinators may know wider diaspora groups and will have relevant country knowledge.  The reps should go to that meeting equipped with something broader than the board’s knowledge. Should we create something specific about this issue?  Concern it will feel like quick change and is controversial. We should be able to say we have had wider conversations than just the small group that go to the Board.  The ASC discussed at length the options available for consultation on this, given constraints on time and capacity.  The ASC decided to advise the board on limited **consultation** with key activists: ASC, Country Coordinators, Networks. That group should consider whether other expert advice should be sought.  The wider membership should be **informed** of this.  **Governance Reform (International Board resolution)**  ASC decided to advise the board that no further consultation would be required but that it may be of interest to the TUNC and so they could consider sharing proposals with that committee for feedback.  **New voting model (AI Canada resolution)**  ASC decided to advise the board that no further consultation is required on this and the decision on AIUK’s position can be taken solely at Board level. |
| ***Item No. 4 : GDPR Update*** |
| Jeni introduced the new GDPR compliant guide for activists which are now online.  ASC were reminded to ensure that their constituencies are aware of these guidelines and understand how it relates to their work and data they hold and use.  **Action: ASC members to champion this through their constituencies**  Jeni advised Liesbeth to contact Ben directly with her query on how to get consent and when from her Mailchimp list.  **Action: Liesbeth**  Dave asked about the clarity around how long activists should hold data for. Jeni explained that it was not precise because different activists constituencies would have different needs there.  ASC all commented on how clear and useful the documentation was.  We have had positive feedback and requests for help from other organisations. |
| ***Item No. 5 BREXIT*** |
| Kerry updated ASC on the campaign planning that is underway and drew attention to the updated blog. We haven’t had much feedback from Amnesty activists and supporters on this.  **Action: Kerry to update the ASC on Against Hate** - the appointment of the consultant and date that the Online Violence Against Women Twitter campaign will launch |
| ***Item No. Activist Political Effectiveness Project*** |
| ASC welcome Kieran Aldred to the meeting to introduce the Activist Political Effectiveness project and update on progress.  We have a wonderful Community Organising Team! Kieran  Kieran talked about the theory behind the project, and in particular about community organising theory developed by Hari Hani.  Community organising facilitates a long-term relationship building model. The project now is testing what happens when you give activists the skills and knowledge of political campaigning to decide how and on what to campaign with their MP. The first stage of training is to upskill activists and challenge some incorrect assumptions about how Parliament works. The second part is around skill sets, how to engage MPs, and how to choose a human rights topic relevant to them. How does your group work in terms of press work, fundraising, campaigning etc to engage your MP?  The training increases people’s skills, knowledge etc and it decreases their confidence that the UK parliamentary system will deliver human rights change. Now giving a more realistic viewpoint on what engagement with MPs can deliver. We are now thinking of how we can link what this training does with our IOM strategy and political strategy. We have focussed heavily on diversity of the people being trained. We have had to actively seek that diversity both by thinking about who is in the room and how the meeting is managed to ensure equality of participation.  There was a mix of activists that were invited.  Liesbeth asked about roll-out potential: Kieran said we are thinking about this as part of the evaluation now.  Eilidh thanked Kieran for his presentation and said that this work chimes very well with the work the ASC are doing on Impact of the Movement and also with her experience of how to influence politicians.  Tom also thanked Kieran and said the work is great and important that we spread this throughout the activist community. At the very least every group should be engaged with building relationships with their MP. Tom asked what the barriers are to this – Kieran said that when you devolve decision-making to a more local level you get more fractured outputs and might not deliver for a number of years. It takes time and resource. The resistance will come from what objectives are set towards the top of the organisation. There is a balance to be struck between short/medium and long term.  As well as staff resources, we need to think about the systems that can support it eg Nationbuilder.  The ASC thanked Kieran for his work and very pleased with the direction this work is taking.  Tom asked whether supportive MPs might help us with this project. |
| **Item No.8 AGM Preparation** |
| Jeni talked through all of the activist meetings that are set up around the AGM including the planned meeting on Amnesty in Wales.  Tom Harrison expressed disappointment that the TU reception was no longer part of the AGM schedule. Kerry explained that if the TU Nework were willing to get an event sponsored that everyone could attend then that would be welcomed eg sponsoring the quiz. Jeni reminded everyone that events must be inclusive, so not focussed around alcohol.  Eilidh talked through the plans for her speech as Chair of the ASC and invited any further ideas from ASC members by the 14th March. |
| ***Item No. 9* Risk Audit** |
| Andy informed the ASC about the upcoming risk audit that will be undertaken by Stephanie Lee, AIUK’s Internal Auditor. The focus will be on:   * financial management and fraud * safeguarding, * GDPR * brand and reputation   Andy will confirm the timing for this work and will let the ASC know.  **Action: Andy** |
| ***Item No. Training consultation update*** |
| Andy updated the ASC on the training consultation which is focussed on how we better connect the training network with all of our activists. Liesbeth reported that we have lost focus on skills training for groups and some of the training has been lost. Tom suggested that the bulk and the focus of the training should be on skills. A plan will be produced at the end of this consultation which Andy will present to the ASC when it is ready.  **Action: Andy to confirm the timeframe and bring the plan to the ASC** |
| ***Item No. Safeguarding and wellbeing*** |
| Kerry introduced the purpose of this item which is to seek advice as we take stock on what we have now, and make improvements to our policy and practice  Eilidh noted the feedback from the WAN that this should not be a one-off exercise.  Simon fed back from the Children Action Network - paper on engaging young people - include the network name as a way of engaging children  Eilidh suggested that –the way that the DP guidelines have been pulled together is a useful way of giving guidance, in the way that it uses examples and we can use that as a model eg what do we do if a 14 year old attends a local group meeting? As part of this we need to ensure we consider intersectionality?  Practical advice, on how to ask questions around age respectfully?  Any safeguarding or other policies that we have should be grounded in practice.  Tom - no specific comments, some of the papers are public facing and some are internal. Tom would like to see what is the schedule for when these are looked over and reviewed.  The board might want to think about keeping track of what happens on the management response to Liam’s report.  Action: Kerry  Eilidh asked how do we know when it is being done right? We find out when it goes wrong, how do we know that we are getting it right?  Jeni said that the child protection review pointed out when we are doing really well. So are regular reviews a way of doing this?  The other issue for groups - has to be around taking pictures and posting pictures eg an Iran photo action with Iranians in the room. So we may have to give more guidelines so that groups can make people aware of any potential risks of taking part in public campaigning. It also relates to the people you ask to come and speak, and how you promote them.  Jeni suggested that we could we put all of this together as an activist handbook? Where it can be updated regularly.  **Action: Jeni/Kerry**  Kerry encouraged ASC members to keep feeding any thoughts in as we pull all of this together.  Kerry will report back to the next ASC.  **AOB**  The next ASC meeting will take place on the revised date of 12th May  Kerry informed the ASC that there is now a vacancy on the CISC for the activism role and that Nomcom will seek candidates for this including at the AGM.  Eilidh and all of ASC thanked Liesbeth for her incredibly valuable contribution to the ASC. |