

Amnesty International UK Section

REPORT TO THE BOARD ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS

December 2017

After each of its meetings, the Board publishes an update on the progress of implementing AGM decisions. A board member takes responsibility for the oversight of each decision. Their email addresses are included in the implementation update for the convenience of members who have further questions arising from the update.

Resolution Number	Title	Board Member	Update
A1 (2017)	Body of Rules for AIUK	Ruth Breddal ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk	The AGM Review Group has reviewed the rules and had an initial discussion on required changes to our processes. Competing priorities impacted on plans to undertake further planning work during the summer but this has been picked up in the autumn and status is to be reviewed at the AGM Review Group meeting on 30 November.
B1 (2017)	Eviction of the Chagossian People from British Indian Ocean Territory	Jerry Allen jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk	<p>AIUK staff have liaised with the International Secretariat's staff, who have informed us of their position, as follows.</p> <p><i>Amnesty International does acknowledge the forcible eviction of the Chagossian people from the British Indian Ocean territory and, as a consequence, their right to return.</i></p> <p>This is an important policy position for the Chagossians as the right to return has never been publicly acknowledged by Amnesty before. It is also important to note, however, that our position does not extend to endorsing any of the campaigns or legal</p>

			<p>proceedings the Chagossians have pursued. See the second half of the statement, below:</p> <p><i>However, the organisation has not conducted its own research into the eviction and the subsequent campaigns and legal proceedings concerning the same, therefore it is not in a position to campaign on the issue and make specific recommendations about how the forcible eviction should be remedied and the right to return realised.</i></p> <p>Given competing priorities and limited resources, there are no IS plans to undertake this work at present.</p> <p>Felix Jakens, Head of Campaigns at AIUK, attended the Greenwich and Blackheath (motion proposers) meeting on 12/12/17 and updated the group on this position.</p>
B2 (2017)	The Improvement of Standards for the Detention of Asylum-Seekers in the UK	<p>Lucy Blake lucy.blake@amnesty.org.uk</p>	<p>AIUK has produced a research report, which is currently with the IS for sign off. Publication is anticipated in December, with a formal parliamentary launch in early January.</p> <p>The key focus of the research is to investigate the routine nature of its use, as this is the systemic problem that affects all groups subjected to detention, something which has long been a concern but which has had limited specific investigation. This focus was developed in discussion with NGOs and lawyers working in this area.</p> <p>AIUK has raised general concerns about the ongoing routine nature of immigration detention to Stephen Shaw who is conducting a further review, having been commissioned by Government to follow-up his report published in 2016. We continue to work with partners to seek to ensure that parliamentary focus on immigration detention is not permitted to fall away.</p> <p>We have, from time-to-time, commented in the public media on immigration detention matters. In doing so, our key messages are that detention remains routine and that calls for an appropriately short time limit and for sizeable reduction in the number of people detained urgently need to be addressed.</p>

B3 (2017)	The Freedom of the Ahmadiyya "to manifest their religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance"	Tom Sparks tom.sparks@amnesty.org.uk	This work is being led by the Country Coordinators. A new coordinator is now in place in the South Asia team. We expect work on the Pakistan element of the work to begin properly in the new year and for work on this resolution to be a priority. The new CC will be encouraged to keep in touch with other Country Coordinators with an interest (e.g. Indonesia) and to take advantage of any chance to work collaboratively.
C1(S) (2017)	Special Resolution to Amend the Articles of Association - Nominations for Elections held at the AGM	Abigail Grant abigail.tuxworth@amnesty.org.uk	These resolutions have now been implemented Updated Articles of Association have been filed at Companies House and we have updated the AIUK website.
C2(S) (2017)	Special Resolution to amend the Articles of Association - Cessation of membership on bankruptcy	Tracy Newton-Blows Tracy.newton-blows@amnesty.org.uk	
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events This resolution seeks AGM approval for exploratory work on developing AIUK's governance and activist events in order to improve how AIUK engages and inspires people in its human rights work and governance. Any resulting proposed changes would be brought to the 2018 AGM for approval.	Eilidh Douglas eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk	<p>The Activism Sub Committee (ASC) on 20th May agreed to an approach of conducting this work in the context of developing the Impact of Movement Strategy (focussing on how we maximise our impact through empowering and enabling more and different activists in communities through the UK). This work has started - with a scoping meeting in July and has continued through regional workshops and desk research through October and November.</p> <p>Following initial discussion at the May ASC meeting, we presented a list of current activist events (including AGM / National Conference), their purpose, audience and KPIs (where they exist). We agreed the objectives of the current programme focussed too much on event delivery and that they often didn't have a clear enough purpose or relate explicitly enough to the strategic plan and / or KPIs. In keeping with the May ASC</p>

			<p>meeting, ASC asked us to redefine the objectives of all activist events in the context of the completed Impact of Movement strategy so that the programme clearly supports strategic objectives (and particularly supports the recruitment, retention, training and support of lead and key activists as well as meeting governance requirements). This means we won't be in a position to present any proposed changes to the 2018 AGM / conference and instead propose that we run a workshop on plans to implement Impact of Movement strategy – which could include looking at how we evolve AGM / National Conference.</p>
C4 (2017)	<p>AIUK Regional Reps</p> <p>This AGM instructs AIUK to undertake a review of the role of Regional Reps and, in the light of current problems of recruitment, retention and performance, to consider offering remuneration to all Regional Reps proportional to their responsibilities and workload or regionally based staff alongside regional representation, or other options. The review should include consultation with local Amnesty activists.</p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</p>	<p>The Impact of Movement Workshops have been completed which explored many ideas of Amnesty activism structures.</p> <p>We will use the Impact of Movement Strategy to develop an activism strategy in 2018 which will include reviewing the Regional Rep roles.</p> <p>In the meantime, we have updated the Regional Rep role descriptor to make it easier and clearer to understand the role and what is expected and what is suggested.</p> <p>We have also worked with the Regional Rep in the West Midlands (where the resolution originated) to support a very successful conference on 4th November.</p>
A2 (2016)	<p>Human Rights in Eritrea</p>	<p>Jerry Allen jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk</p>	<p>At the AGM in April 2017, we set how AIUK was now working on a second Eritrean case in the international portfolio of individuals at risk. Since then, staff have been working with the Country Coordinator to support enhanced activist-led campaigning, to provide materials and other assets that will help to visualise and build support for the work on Eritrea. These assets will help to improve the impact of our work for Eritrean individuals at risk on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Amnesty UK has also supported a significant event, both financially and logistically, centred around Dawit Issac, who this year won the UNESCO world press freedom prize.</p>

			<p>The event celebrated Dawit’s contributions to journalism and renewed calls on the Eritrean Government to release him.</p> <p>Country Co-ordinator-led work on Eritrea is ongoing, and both IAR cases continue to receive significant attention. Recent work includes an “I am ASTA” campaign that has included pictures of MSPs holding titular placards being sent to the Eritrean embassy, attendance at a summit on disappearances in Eritrea in Brussels, a proposal to Westminster Council that they rename the road the Eritrean embassy is on as “Dawit Issac Road”.</p>
A3 (2016)	Western Sahara	Jerry Allen jerry.allen@amnesty.org.uk	<p>In July we noted that outputs from the International Secretariat were extremely limited. However, project proposals from the North Africa IS team suggest that work on the shrinking civil space in Morocco and the Western Sahara will begin next year, allowing Amnesty UK to access content to more meaningfully tackle this resolution. The Country Coordinator team is in touch with the IS regarding this work.</p>
A4 (2016)	Review of Amnesty International's international policy on access to abortion services	Tom Sparks tom.sparks@amnesty.org.uk	<p>Following discussions with a number of sections, AIUK submitted a resolution to the 2017 International Council Meeting in January 2017. The resolution was co-sponsored by AI Ireland, AI Sweden, AI Argentina, AI Paraguay, AI Uruguay, AI Peru, AI Tunisia and AI Israel.</p> <p>It drew widespread support at the ICM and the following decision was adopted (as Decision 15).</p> <p><i>The International Council</i> INSTRUCTS the International Board to conduct a review of AI’s policy on ‘Select Aspects of Abortion’ with an intent to ensure that the policy: Aligns with current international human rights law, norms, and standards; Aligns with AI’s policy on ‘Sexual and Reproductive Rights’ and other related policies, for the purpose of policy coherence; Responds to AI’s research and other international evidence on the impact of restrictive abortion laws, policies, and practices on the human rights of women and girls and others who seek access to abortion;</p>

			<p><i>Provides a mandate for the AI movement to campaign for full realization of sexual and reproductive human rights.</i></p> <p><i>FURTHER INSTRUCTS</i> the International Board to conduct the review and present the findings and key principles for the update of the policy to the Global Assembly no later than in 2018, with the final decision made by the International Board no later than February 2019</p> <p>AIUK will monitor the implementation of this ICM and feed into the review.</p>
A5 (2016)	Climate change is a human rights issue	Tom Sparks tom.sparks@amnesty.org.uk	<p>AIUK and AI New Zealand submitted a resolution to the 2017 International Council Meeting. This was broadly supported and the following decision was adopted as ICM Decision 18:</p> <p>The International Council DECIDES that the International Board shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure by the 2018 Global Assembly the delivery of a draft strategy to effectively safeguard human rights in the face of climate change and other environmental degradation that includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Defending the rights of people who are disproportionately affected by climate change and other forms of environmental degradation, especially Indigenous people, communities living in poverty, women and girls; including non-discrimination, equal access to public services, and protection of their rights in measures and initiatives designed to address climate change and other forms of environmental damage; – Researching and communicating the impact of climate change and other environmental degradation on human rights; – Addressing relevant gaps in international laws and standards; – Highlighting the obligations of states, corporations and other organizations by using the human rights framework; – Establishing what action is needed from a human rights perspective to hold states, corporations and others effectively to account, and;

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Supporting initiatives that empower local communities to develop their own solutions for environmentally sustainable lives that respect human rights; • Consider the protection of human rights in the context of climate change and other forms of environmental degradation when developing global priority campaigns. <p>It was not possible to call for the resourcing of the human rights and climate change working group (as called for in the AIUK AGM decision) as this would have been considered too operational a matter for the ICM.</p> <p>AIUK will monitor the implementation of this decision.</p> <p>The process for agreeing and planning the next set of global campaigns is still some way off.</p>
B2 (2016)	Closure of Human Rights NGO Accounts by the Co-op Bank	N/A	<p>This decision has now been implemented</p> <p>Throughout 2016 AIUK engaged with the Co-op bank and other groups (including a working-level meeting with the “Save our Bank” group) in pursuance of this AGM decision.</p> <p>In June, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) decided to revise its problematic Recommendation 8 (concerning NGOs) to clarify that not all NGOs are high risk with respect to money laundering and terrorist financing and that not all are intended to be addressed by Recommendation 8. The FATF has also said that the revision is intended to align the implementation of Recommendation 8 with risk-based approaches. This was a positive development but we continue to monitor the situation.</p> <p>On 6 July 2016, AIUK-hosted a seminar with external bodies to discuss the impact of bank closures. The International Secretariat participated also in this meeting.</p> <p>Follow-up work included close co-operation with financial crime experts at the Royal United Services Institute to assess the regulatory environment in which the Co-op has</p>

			<p>been operating and to assess their actions in this context. This culminated in AIUK commissioning a report, which was published on the AIUK website on 20 April.</p> <p>The report noted that “the global anti-money laundering and counter-terror finance architecture....and the position banks have had imposed on them as the ‘frontline’ in the fight against financial crime has fed a general trend for banks to de-risk”.</p> <p>The report found that the bank had failed in its communication with account holders and had not lived up to its ethical policy. The report also noted some positive actions taken by the Co-op since the account closures.</p> <p>Throughout this process, the Co-op has engaged positively with AIUK and those we commissioned to produce the report. They provided a response which acknowledges failures of communication and expressed commitments to follow through on a number of recommendations.</p> <p>To view the report, the Co-op Bank’s response and an accompanying commentary from AIUK’s Director, please visit https://www.amnesty.org.uk/blogs/campaigns/co-operative-bank-rethinking-civil-society-account-closures.</p> <p>AIUK has limited resources and a full portfolio of campaigns. We are not, therefore, planning to conduct a campaign on the impact of regulation at this stage. However, staff continue to monitor this issue, including through contact with relevant civil society networks.</p> <p>AIUK’s banking arrangements are subject to periodic review. Should there be any material changes these will be communicated through the Board’s report to the 2018 Annual General Meeting.</p>
B3 (2016)	Use of Live Streaming and online voting at the AIUK AGM	James Lovatt james.lovatt@amnesty.org.uk	<p>“Live streaming” was tested at the 2017 Annual General Meeting. We do not believe that there was a substantial number of viewers but this is not a concern as the primary purpose in 2017 was to test the process.</p>

			<p>We are currently expecting to build “live streaming” into plans for the 2018 AGM and will be discussing the specifics later in the year.</p> <p>During 2016 we talked to our solicitors about moving beyond live streaming to enable members to vote in real-time. To achieve this, we need to be able to provide the means for people to participate remotely. This means providing for two-way communications and ensuring access to all parts of the AGM (not only plenaries). We are continuing to take legal soundings on how parameters for how this might be achieved.</p> <p>Further work is required to establish if suppliers are available to meet our needs and, if so, to establish costs and technical feasibility.</p> <p>It has not been possible to complete this work during 2017 but, in the meantime, we are considering changes to the Articles of Association and AGM Standing Orders to support implementation of this AGM decision once feasibility has been established.</p> <p>Should suppliers be available at reasonable cost and should the AGM accept any changes to procedure that might be required, we <i>may</i> be able to facilitate remote participation and real-time voting in 2019.</p>
C2(2015) C4 (2015)	Asylum detention in the UK AIUK will undertake research into the wrongful detention of torture and trafficking victims in British detention	Lucy Blake	See Decision B2(2017) above for reporting on these topics.