

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – DEC 2019 BOARD MEETING

The AIUK Section Board receives a report at each meeting, setting out the progress in implementing AGM resolutions. These reports are posted on the website after each Board meeting to enable members to keep up to date with developments. At the December 2019 meeting, the Board reviewed the following report.

Resolution Number	Title	Update	Board member
A1 (2019)	Equalising voting rights for affiliate members	<i>This decision has been implemented.</i> The Articles of Association have been amended in line with the AGM decision.	Tom Harrison Tom.harrison@amnesty.org.uk
A2 (2019)	Remote participation at the 2020 AGM and National Conference	Meetings with the external provider of the remote participation service has been held and a test of the system scheduled for December.	Daren Nair daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk
A3 (2019)	Promoting AI Research to AI members and the public	<i>This decision has been implemented.</i> Prior to the 2019 AGM, new functionality was added to the website, allowing users to sign-up for automatically generated emails providing a link to every new research report that the IS publishes. The research report alerts functionality found at www.amnesty.org.uk/reportalerts is currently used by nine people, excluding staff, and cost £1,000.	Daren Nair daren.nair@amnesty.org.uk
A4 (2019)	Communicate to groups about face-to-face and private site fundraising in their areas	Local groups have been kept informed about face-to-face and private site fundraising in their areas – a practice that had been in	Thomas Chigbo Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk

		place prior to the AGM. Responsibility for this sits with the Community and Event Fundraising team.	
E1 (2019)	'Toxic' culture and staff wellbeing concerns at Amnesty International's Secretariat	<p>At the first AIUK staff and volunteers meeting after the AGM, this decision was noted during feedback on the event.</p> <p>With respect to the International Secretariat, it has been somewhat overtaken by events. Shortly after the AGM, the International Board and Secretary General announced the need to identify significant savings, with an unavoidable requirement for redundancies to achieve those savings.</p> <p>In the spirit of this AGM decision, the Section's Board, management and staff have repeatedly acknowledged and expressed sympathy for the very difficult circumstances that IS staff currently face. More practically, the Section also agreed an additional donation of £250,000 to the international budget, as well as a loan offer of the same amount.</p> <p>Our understanding is that resources to implement the KonTerra recommendations have received significant protection from the budget cuts.</p>	<p>Eilidh Douglas Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk</p>
B3(2019)	A disabled peoples' activist structure	<p>We have scoped the process for developing this structure and will bring a proposal describing how to establish this structure and future similar projects and structures to the November 2019 Activism Sub Committee. This process will also describe more fully the staffing and other resources required to support the creation and ongoing work of such activist / rights-holder-led structures and projects so that we can establish a sustainable approach in the context of implementation of the Impact of the Movement strategy.</p>	<p>Abigail Grant Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>We are now in the process of reorganising the staffing structure and other resources within the Community Organising Team in order to ensure we can support the development of this structure as well as other identity-based and single-issue based projects and structures in future as described in the Impact of Movement strategy.</p> <p>This work is all being done in the context of ensuring we are directing resources in a way that best supports the implementation of the Impact of the Movement strategy and we anticipate this process to be complete by the end of 2019 so that we can then start work to establish this activist-led structure.</p>	
B4 (2019)	Abuse of immigration powers	<p>This resolution does not call for action in the short-term but for greater attention to the abuse of alternatives to detention, in any future policy reviews or consultations. No such work has been conducted to date.</p>	<p>Senthorun Raj Sen.raj@amnesty.org.uk</p>
B1 (2018)	Homelessness	<p>Following the AGM resolution Campaign Manager Tim Gee prepared a 'Research Options Paper' outlining three possible areas where AI could focus its attentions for research and campaigning on homelessness in the UK. The paper was based on desk research and conversations with five UK homelessness organisations. Discussions on the Research Options Paper between AIUK and the IS (ESCR team) led to a general agreement that both from a research and a campaigning perspective, AI would be best placed to focus option 2 in the paper which proposed looking at homelessness policy and practice in the UK from a human rights and discrimination lens.</p> <p>Aware that we didn't have the in-house knowledge and experience to deliver a piece of research into homelessness we sought support from the IS ESCR team to work with us in the delivery of this project. They were enthusiastic and agreed. They produced a 'draft concept note' which identified two areas of work on which they felt it would</p>	<p>Hugh Sandeman Hugh.sandeman@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>be feasible for us to consider. They were, 'homelessness and single women' and 'homelessness and elderly people'.</p> <p>Whilst we felt that both options warranted further research, following consideration we felt that there was already significant work being undertaken by other organisations on 'homelessness and single women'. The possibility of focussing on older people has been received positively by AGE UK who have already done some work with the, All Party Parliamentary Group in this. The number of older homeless people is also increasing and whilst the numbers aren't enormous, this rise does demonstrate that there is a serious rights impact that needs to be exposed and addressed. We also felt that in the broad scheme of things, the experience of older people has received comparatively little attention from homelessness researchers.</p> <p>We agreed that any research we did would want to explore the intersectional nature of the issue, including through a gender analysis. We also recognise that a focus on older people, would include older women, migrant women and survivors of domestic abuse amongst others. The research will begin with a broader exploration of the issue of homelessness before focussing elderly people.</p> <p>Below are the draft aim, outcomes and objectives for this work, all of which will be refined and further agreed over the next 4 months.</p> <p>Aim: The policies of government and local authorities are amended or adapted to ensure that they are compliant with domestic and international standards and action is taken to address the situations that are forcing elderly people into homelessness.</p>	
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C1 (2018)	Freedom of Religious Expression	<p>As anticipated in the implementation report provided to the 2019 AGM, discussion on the next international strategic plan commenced during the first quarter of 2019. However, the focus in this initial stage was primarily on how we the movement work and achieves influence.</p> <p>Initial discussion of the priorities for AI's work, originally scheduled for October was delayed. An outline strategic direction was only received from the International Secretariat at the end of December. At the time of writing, this had yet to be considered by the Board.</p>	<p>Abigail Grant Abigail.tuxworth-grant@amnesty.org.uk</p>
C2 (2018)	The right to live with your spouse or civil partner	<p>Our work to address this particular resolution was directed through the Government's Immigration Bill and supporting and helping to draft opposition amendments to that Bill. However, the Bill after a</p>	<p>Helen Horton Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>long period of limbo, fell when Parliament was dissolved. It is likely that further legislation will follow the general election – in which case we will seek to resume our work, including on this objective, via amendments. For the meantime, focus remains on pre-existing campaign work concerning particularly refugee family reunion and children’s citizenship rights.</p>	
C3 (2018)	Discrimination based upon caste using the Equality Act	<p>On the final day of parliament in July 2018, the Government Equalities Office published the results of the six-month public consultation (March 2017 and finished in September 2017) on Caste in Great Britain and Equality Law, determining whether ‘caste’ should be included in the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>After over 16,000 responses - well above the average - the government have concluded that ‘caste’ is already covered under ‘ethnic origins’ and that including the term in legislation is both unnecessary and divisive.</p> <p>In all, 8,513 respondents favoured relying on case law, 2,885 were in favour of legislation and 3,588 rejected both options; 1,113 respondents didn’t know or were not sure which option would be most appropriate.</p> <p>We are considering whether a review all hate crime law (in response to the Stella Creasy debate on recognising misogyny as a hate crime on 6 September) would present another opportunity to lobby for Caste to be included in the Equality Act. The public consultation element of this review is anticipated in 2020.</p>	<p>Sharon Lovell Sharon.lovell@amnesty.org.uk</p>
B3 (2017)	The Freedom of the Ahmadiyya "to manifest their religion in teaching, practice, worship and observance"	<p>This work is being led by the Country Coordinator team for South Asia.</p>	<p>Basia Giezek Basia.giezek@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		<p>At the 2018 AGM, we noted that the new Country Co-ordinator had produced a blog on the issue to raise awareness and that we expected work on the Ahmadiyya to be a priority for 2018 for the south-Asia team and the Pakistan Coordinator.</p> <p>Letters have been sent by Kate to key UK politicians. The Country Coordinator have met with an advocacy representative alongside Jeni Dixon, Michael Quinn and others, and have worked out a plan going forward which is deliverable by the CCs, and has sign off by staff at Amnesty UK. This includes further contact with advocacy targets, members of the diaspora and others.</p> <p>The final piece of work on this resolution is a plan to support a conference with interested members of the community in the UK, community leaders and decision makers. This will happen over the next 3-6 months, and will close off our work on this resolution.</p> <p>Note: Country Coordinators are volunteer activists who lead on Amnesty UK's country campaigning alongside our Individuals at Risk and Priority Campaigns team (where relevant) and lead on other country campaigns. They work closely with the research teams at the International Secretariat. They are asked to dedicate an average of 5-7 hours per week, which they fit in around their own employment and other commitments.</p>	
C3 (2017)	AIUK Events.	<p>We have – since the AGM 2019 – slightly reorganised the focus of the Events and Artist Relations Team and appointed a full time Events Producer with responsibility for developing and implementing an activist-led events programme. The context for this work is the implementation of the Impact of Movement strategy and the centrepiece and initial focus will be the evolution of the AGM / National Conference into an annual 'festival of human rights'.</p>	<p>Thomas Chigbo Thomas.chigbo@amnesty.org.uk</p>

		The full programme will support the development of all activist-led events (Student Conferences, Regional Conferences, Youth Conferences, Prides etc) into a more connected and coherent programme focussed on supporting implementation of IoM strategy.	
A4 (2016)	Review of Amnesty International's international policy on access to abortion services	Our expectation was that a finalised policy would be adopted in April 2019. However, as the International Secretariat is currently addressing other short-term priorities, this appears to have been delayed.	Eilidh Douglas Eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk