



Amnesty International UK
National Conference and AGM 2010
DECISIONS

RESOLUTIONS CARRIED BY THE 2010 AGM

A1 PROSTITUTION

In light of the Integrated Strategic Plan's (2010-2016) long term perspectives, in particular, the need to integrate gender and women's rights, international justice and the exploitation of children throughout the perspectives, AIUK believes the time is now right to ask the International Secretariat to undertake a review on the issue of prostitution and human rights.

PROPOSER: Paisley Local Group

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

A2 REPORTING STATES' EXTRA TERRITORIAL HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACTS

This AGM notes

- that the Demand Dignity Campaign is a global priority for Amnesty in the new Integrated Strategic Plan
- and that securing the full enjoyment of all rights of people living in poverty, but particularly economic, social and cultural rights, is an important goal of the Demand Dignity Campaign
- and that states have extra-territorial obligations to respect the rights of people living outside its territory and who are not citizens of the state in question. As a consequence of these obligations states may be held to account for actions they take which fail to respect the rights of such people
- and affirming that Amnesty should use all possible human rights arguments to highlight state failures to respect human rights,
- and that states have corporate citizens that also violate human rights and the state in which that corporation resides should be held to account for regulating their citizens.

Instructs the Board of AIUK to highlight the subject of extra-territorial obligations with the IEC and other fora in Amnesty with a view to including extra-territorial human rights impacts as often as possible when reporting on states' human rights performance, and to include such reports in Amnesty's Annual Report

PROPOSER: Dave Plumb, Individual Member

SECONDER: Sue Walley, Individual Member

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

A3 CLIMATE CHANGE

This AGM notes:

- The Demand Dignity campaign is a global priority for Amnesty
- That climate change has and will continue to have a disproportionate effect on people living in poverty, especially in respect their economic, social and cultural rights
- And that human rights provide an internationally recognised moral and legal framework against which to measure these effects

- That human rights language is frequently absent from international negotiated texts on climate change, including, notably, the Copenhagen accord.

Instructs the Board of AIUK to ensure that Amnesty's global organisation develops understanding of human rights issues associated with climate change and considers ways in which human rights campaigners can support the efforts of those campaigning for climate justice.

PROPOSER: Sue Walley, Individual Member
SECONDER: Dave Plumb, Individual Member

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED COMFORTABLY

A4 LGBT RIGHTS

This AGM instructs the Board of Amnesty International UK to use the appropriate national and local media to highlight, during the Papal visit to the UK in 2010, human rights concerns related to the Roman Catholic Church, including the obstruction of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people by the leadership of the Catholic Church as exemplified by their:

- i) Failure to support the motion to decriminalise homosexuality throughout the world at the United Nations in 2008
- ii) Opposition to anti-discrimination and equality legislation for LGBT people in many countries across the world by both political campaigning and financial support;
- iii) Use of homophobic statements and language about LGBT people which perpetuate a climate of discrimination and intimidation and, in many instances, are the causes of human rights abuses.

PROPOSER: Bournville Local Group

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED COMFORTABLY

B1 SINTI AND ROMA COMMUNITIES

Within the last year widespread discrimination and violence against Sinti and Roma communities has intensified in a number of European countries, which Amnesty International has published within respective country reports. As discrimination and racist attacks against Roma are happening in a number of European countries, and the attacks are often linked to racist and inflammatory rhetoric by far-right political parties and organisations, we feel the need for a public awareness campaign on the plight of the Roma in Europe across several countries. This AGM calls on the Board to take on work on behalf of the Sinti and Roma at a national level, to involve all constituencies of AIUK (national members, groups, students, youth groups, networks) and to use all available AIUK media to raise awareness and challenge discrimination and persecution of Sinti and Roma within Europe and the prejudice that foster these abuses.

PROPOSER: Waltham Forest and Islington & Hackney Local Groups

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

B2 PAPUA PROVINCE

Following the overwhelmingly carried resolution at 2008 AIUK AGM in Nottingham, and noting the 2009 AI ICM references to International Justice, this AGM instructs AIUK now to

. Highlight the many and various human rights infringements perpetrated in Papua Province and West Papua Province (the two areas comprise the entire area of what was formerly known as Netherlands New Guinea, and which is still known collectively by the indigenous population as West Papua), in campaigning awareness and resources, through the membership, to enable them to lobby the UK government as to the current internal refugee crisis in the province, and to demand that the UK government pressurises Indonesia to allow international monitors into the Papua Provinces to properly assess the human rights situation.

. Through AIUK's Dignity Campaign, in parallel with the obligations placed upon UK corporations by the 'Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights Agreement', to challenge UK Corporations to acknowledge, record and report the human rights infringements that impact on the indigenous people of the Papua Provinces in terms of safety, freedom, the impact of pollution on health – cholera/HIV, deforestation, environmental impact, and impoverishing eviction, which occur in the area of their businesses within the Papua Provinces – in respect of AIUK's focus on Economic, Cultural and Social rights.

. Reflect on the fact that the indigenous people of the Papua Provinces have never been allowed a legitimate act of self-determination as guaranteed to all by Covenant of the United Nations, and to note Decision 9 of the 2005 ICM: Serious Violations and the Right to Self-Determination, wherein 'The International Council decides without declaring itself for or against demands for self-determination of any particular group, that Amnesty International stresses that a number of human rights violations it denounces take place in the context of demands for self-determination, and that the failure to find a peaceful solution to such demands is at the origin of many human rights violations.' ; to highlight, to allow the membership to be ever vigilant towards, the many human rights violations perpetrated by the Indonesian Government on the indigenous people of the Papua Provinces in this specific context.

PROPOSER: Robert Melvyn Corn, Individual Member

SECONDER: Carol Rosemary Tarrant, Individual Member

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

B3 CHILDRENS HUMAN RIGHTS

Preamble

Amnesty works for human, not adult, rights and defending the rights of the 27% of the population of the world which is made of up children is a core responsibility of this organisation.

The 2009 AIUK AGM resolved to undertake more action to prioritise work on children's rights. In the spirit of this previous AGM decision we prompt AIUK to take concrete steps to increase work on children's rights and to urge the International Council Meeting and the International Secretariat (IS) to do likewise.

We understand that the IS intends to cut or merge the only post with specific, named responsibility for children's rights. Further, we understand that the IS is pursuing a policy of 'mainstreaming' work on children. We fear there may not be sufficient resources earmarked for children's rights work.

Specifically, we are concerned that the employment of insufficient numbers of specialist workers in the area of children's rights will lead to these rights being overlooked within larger campaigns

such as 'Demand Dignity'. We feel strongly that it is essential to have at least one designated post with responsibility for child protection issues in order to protect children's interests during research and also in Amnesty's marketing, publicity and campaign material where children are regularly and frequently featured.

Resolution

This AGM instructs AIUK to request that the International Secretariat promotes vigorously work undertaken in the areas of children's rights and provides evidence of plans for the development of this work in the future. We request that at the 2011 AGM, at the latest, the membership receives a detailed report on this action, with interim reports to the Children's Human Rights Network.

This AGM also instructs AIUK to increase its focus on the human rights of children, as part of the 'Demand Dignity' campaign and as a core part of this Section's Operational Plan. We urge it to support the AIUK's member-led campaign (the Children's Human Rights Network) with actions and resources.

PROPOSER: Cambridge City Local Group

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

B4 1984 SIKH MASSACRE: HUMAN RIGHTS AND IMPUNITY IN INDIA

This AGM notes

- The passing of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the 1984 Sikh massacres in India in which at least 2,733 people died, mainly men, boys and babies, in just three days in Delhi alone, the heart of the world's largest democracy, with scores of women and girls gang-raped, and property systematically looted and destroyed
- The allegations of the involvement of elected politicians and police in Delhi in orchestrating these atrocities
- The lamentable condition of the surviving widows and their families in Vidhva (Widow) Colony, Delhi, the paucity of the compensation given, and the stigma they and their children face, resulting in unemployment and social exclusion
- That despite eleven enquiries only some 25 convictions in as many years have resulted, with none of the main accused conspirators, including senior politicians, having been tried
- That for such crimes to largely go unpunished for over a quarter of a century has set a terrible precedent for further violent suppression of minorities in India, including Gujarati Muslims in 2002, impunity for the perpetrators and a distortion of India's democratic constitutional foundations

Calls on AIUK

To include the case history of the 1984 Sikh massacre, as part of AIUK's existing campaign resources, in order to:

- raise awareness amongst members, the media, UK politicians and government about 1984 and the wider issue of human rights and impunity in India

- help secure justice for the victims of the 1984 massacre
- help secure an end to impunity in India and justice for all victims of ethnic and communal violence
- raise awareness of the needs of survivors and their families including meaningful compensation, rehabilitation programmes, and employment opportunities

To request the IS includes the case of surviving widows and families in its portfolio of 'individuals at risk' cases for further consideration in the next greeting card campaign and to raise awareness of this issue by inclusion on the website, in Amnesty Magazine and other campaign materials and formats

To request the International Secretariat take up the issue of justice for the 1984 victims within a broader context of impunity and human rights in India with the Indian government and any relevant international forum.

PROPOSER: Kingston Local Group

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

C1 DEVELOPING STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS FOR AIUK

This AGM calls on the Board to develop a paper setting out AIUK's Strategic Directions for the period 2011-2016.

In developing these Strategic Directions, the Board will ensure conformity with the current global Integrated Strategic Plan and provide an opportunity for input by AIUK members and activists into the paper's development.

The Board will organise membership involvement in the final draft.

Following approval by the Board, final approval of AIUK's strategic directions will be sought from members in the form of a resolution at the 2011 AGM.

PROPOSER: AIUK BOARD

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED OVERWHELMINGLY

C2 IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS

This AGM:

NOTES Decision 15 of the 2009 International Council Meeting, which calls for all Amnesty International entities to move to a common accounting year end of 31 December:

NOTES that AIUK will complete implementation of this decision by 31 December 2010;

NOTES that as a consequence, future AIUK AGMs will take place approximately 4-5 months after the section's annual plans and budgets have been approved and, as a consequence, it will be difficult for AGM decisions that impact on plans to be implemented until the following planning year;

DECIDES that AGM resolutions are tabled with a view to implementation by the end of the following planning year (January-December), except where they are special resolutions, or relate to a scheduled meeting, or an emergency situation or will not impact on operational plans. Standing Orders Committee will propose new Standing Orders to facilitate this at the next AGM 2011.

PROPOSER: AIUK Board

THE RESOLUTION WAS CARRIED