

Amnesty International UK Section
Board Meeting

2 March 2013
3rd Floor Seminar Room
Human Rights Action Centre

Present:

Ciarnan Helferty, Chair
Tom Hedley, Vice Chair
Brian Landers, Treasurer
Cris Burson-Thomas
Brian Gilda
Sharmila Kar
Rona Keen
Harrison Littler
Peter J Murray
Sarah O'Grady
Hannah Perry
Hugh Whitby

Attending:

Kate Allen, Director
Tony Farnfield, Corporate Services Director
Kerry Moscogiuri, Marketing Director
Tim Hancock, Campaigns Director
Tom Fyans, Head of Campaigns
Suzie Daniels, Head of Digital
Selma Shirazi, PA to the Director

Apologies;

Katie McSherry
Collette Crill

1. INTRODUCTIONS

1.1 Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed Board members to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies

The Board received apologies from Katie McSherry and Collette Crill.

1.3 Announcements

AIUK Board Ballot

The Chair informed Board members that the call for the Board ballot yielded three completed applications, not enough to trigger a ballot leading the Returning Officer to declare the candidates elected unopposed. The candidates are Louise Ewington, Sarah O'Grady and Ruth Breddal. The Chair

congratulated Sarah O'Grady on her re-election onto the Board and looked forward to welcoming Louise Ewington and Ruth Breddal to the Board in May.

Staff Representative

Kate Allen, Director informed the Board that the deadline/call for a staff representative on the Board has been extended, there was one expression of interest which has been withdrawn (for personal reasons). The Board will be updated on any further developments.

2. PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1 Draft Minutes 02.02.2013

The Board deferred approval of the draft minutes of the 2 February Board meeting until their next meeting on 23 March.

3. PLAN 2013

The Board noted paper B/2648, Organisational Plan: AIUK Priorities 2013. The paper details the UK context and our external environment, the four priorities, organisational enablers and monitoring and reporting checks for the organisational plan.

Tom Fyans, Head of Campaigns presented the priorities and outcomes for the Section are as follows;

- (i) Arms Trade Treaty; A reduction in the transfer of weapons where there is a substantial risk of fuelling armed conflict, poverty or serious violations of human rights or international human rights law.
- (ii) Women in Afghanistan; Sustained and continued improvements in Afghan women and girls' lives, particularly ensuring that women's rights are protected in reconciliation and transition, progress is made to tackle violence against women, and women activists are supported and protected.
- (iii) Zimbabwe; An improved environment in which human rights defenders exercise their rights to association, assembly and expression and are strengthened to withstand violations which may continue to be perpetrated against them.
- (iv) Growth; At the global level, and particularly in the global south and east, more people will defend, promote and protect human rights

The Board discussed the priorities and raised these issues;

- To amend the growth priority, changing the target to an actual number (not percentage)
- How did the organisation choose its priorities, was there any input from activists? Tim Hancock, Campaigns Director stated that the Governance Task Force might want to consider planning as one of the areas to look at and give recommendations on how to approach prioritising in light of IS outcomes and membership expectations.
- MENA/Syria and the strategy from the International Secretariat, the UK Section felt that the strategy was not substantial enough to build a campaign around. The Board will discuss this in relation to the role and structure and implications of relying on the IS for strategies, content, research and materials – in preparation for the AGM.
- Enablers; the Board would like the website to enable governance engagement from members, to better highlight governance and the functionality of how the section functions to our members.
- Gender Mainstreaming; this post comes to an end in May, the Gender Mainstreaming Manager is writing up a report on how the Section can take this work forward. The Board discussed whether this work could go to the Human Resources Sub Committee and whether the work on diversity could include age profiling, of our staff, governance structures and members.

The Board approved the 2013 Plan.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

4.1 2013 Budget

Brian Landers, Treasurer informed the Board that the Auditors completed their work on 21 February; there were no adjustments to the accounts of the Section. The Trust accounts were adjusted for legacy accrual and income deferral – at our suggestion. The Treasurer thanked Tony Farnfield, Director of Corporate Services and the Finance Team in preparing the accounts and facilitating the audit.

The Board discussed the Marketing Budget; the Treasurer pointed out that Marketing expenditure grows by 5% while income grows by 2%, the Board discussed the validity of the 2% growth target and what needs developing in the modelling that will help visualise the 2%. Kerry Moscogiuri, Marketing Director explained that income lines are being monitored, it is not easy to predict Face2Face and legacies income making the long term forecast especially difficult.

Tony Farnfield, Director of Corporate Services to circulate to the Board figures showing the recent grant and legacy income, CAPP1 savings and the effect on 2013 budget.

5. REPORT AGAINST PLAN

The Board noted paper B/2650, discussed progress against the 2012 plan and thanked the Leadership Team and their teams for their hard work. The Board asked if there is an update on any work done to counter the negative attitudes of the general British population to human rights issues, something that was highlighted during the last planning cycle. Tim Hancock, Campaigns Director informed the Board that the Section does not have the resources to start this work at the moment. He will circulate to the Board a report done as part of public attitudes to human rights in the UK, a report done by the Equality and Diversity Forum coalition for Board members' information.

6. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair updated the Board on the Chair's Assembly, which was a very positive meeting with most of the Sections eager to see the Global Transition Programme (GTP) start. The Chairs and Directors attending lent their support to the UK Section and were grateful for the role the Section is playing in helping to realise the GTP.

The Chair informed the Board that Greg Marsh has formally requested the UK Section's nomination for him to the Finance Audit Committee (FAC). The Board accepted to nominate him, the Chair will co-ordinate this process and update the Board on the results.

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kate Allen, Director reported on her activities since the February Board meeting, she has had meetings with Alistair Burt, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the Arms Trade Treaty, in preparation for the UN conference in March. The Director informed the Board that Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development will be speaking at an event in the HRAC, the Section hopes that her speech will contain commitments on improving human rights for women in Afghanistan.

The Director thanked the Board for their support in preparation for the AGM.

8. REPORTS FROM SUB-COMMITTEE MEETINGS

8.1 Reports from the Active Members & International Issues Sub- Committee

The Board noted the minutes of the AMSC & IISC meetings held 16 February.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

International Council Meeting

The Director informed the Board that the ICM Preparatory Committee has suggested taking the UK Section's resolution on sporting organisations to a working party (instead of discussing it in plenary). AIUK will continue to discuss this with the Preparatory Committee.

Communications

The Board agreed that communications (to activists) is still an issue, there needs to be regular, inexpensive updates to activists giving them information on the UK Section and the International Secretariat.

10. CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair of the Board thanked the Senior Management Team for all their hard work and the Board members for attending the meeting and declared the meeting closed.

Upcoming Board Agenda Items

<u>23 March 2013</u>	2013 AGM/National Conference (Board Preparation)
<u>10&11 May 2013</u>	Election of Board Officers 2013 AGM Decisions Implementation 2013 ICM Preparation
<u>13 July 2013</u>	Q2 Report Against Plan Nominations Committee Report (Appointments to Sub-Committees)

STANDING ITEMS

Chair's Report
Treasurer's Report
Director's Report
AGM Decisions Implementation
Reports from Sub-Committees
Board Development Review