**Consultation on Amnesty International’s Global Strategic Goals 2016-2019**

**GUIDANCE NOTE for trade unions and global union partners**

BACKGROUND

Amnesty International’s next overarching strategy, which will shape our work and priorities, will run from 2016 to 2019. We are very keen to have the views and input of our union partners. Shane Enright (AI’s global trade union adviser) has been mandated to solicit and support your contributions. Please read this short guide before completing the questions.

There will be three phases of consultation. This questionnaire covers the first phase, which runs until the end of May 2014. At this point we want your input into the ‘big picture’ of global human rights change and where (and how) Amnesty International should contribute to human rights change. There are four questions which we would encourage you to respond to before the end of May. Between August and October this year we will be consulting on the first draft of the proposed strategic goals, including a variety of options, and there will be a further consultation between January and May of next year on a second draft of the goals. These will be adopted at Amnesty’s global International Council Meeting in August 2015. The two short internal Amnesty papers outlining the process are available on request from Shane.

CONTEXT

Our collective challenge is to develop a set of strategic goals that will provide clear direction to Amnesty International and enable us to maximise our global impact in a rapidly changing world. During the current Integrated Strategic Plan we have worked together to strengthen the global basis of the movement and develop new impact-oriented ways of working, including improved but still erratic union-Amnesty collaborations.

The next step is to agree what we should focus on achieving in the four-year the period ahead. This is an exciting process but it also means making difficult decisions about what to prioritise in order to make the best use of our finite resources – which has been a challenge in previous planning processes as well.

To ensure the right decisions are taken we need to stimulate a lively conversation that is conducted by as many people as possible across the movement and also involves a diverse range of people outside of Amnesty. We also need to move beyond a long list of issues by reflecting on how Amnesty International can best add value and achieve the greatest impact. This is one of the reasons why *we are very keen to gain from the expertise and perspectives of the trade union movement and your experiences of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities/contexts for collaboration.*

The five questions below are designed to support the broad picture that we’d like you to consider. Shane had added some pointers, and provocations to stimulate your answers; feel free to ignore or respond to these as you see fit.

Shane Enright is available to review any draft submissions that you might want to share; to answer any queries, or to talk through the process with you. I will also be doing my best to ensure that your views are reflected in the drafts, and that you have an opportunity to efficiently and effectively contribute to the future stages of the consultation. We are very keen to get your opinion and insights – we want this to be YOUR process, and YOUR conversation.

**Contact**

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Questions and tips

1. **What should Amnesty International focus on in 2016-2019? We welcome your suggestions about themes, issues, approaches or even a draft goal. Consider how Amnesty International can best ‘add value’ and achieve the most impact.**

**Tips**

* It could be good to think about the ‘big picture’: what are the main changes/trends in human rights around the globe?
* Is economic inequality increasing within and between countries and communities and is this a driver for new forms of human rights abuse?
* The public ‘realm’ (‘the commons’) is shrinking, so are non-State actors (such as corporations or employers) becoming more significant contributors and should we place greater emphasis on social rights?
* Our “People on the Move” headline priority has proved a powerful tool for up-scaling our work on the labour exploitation of migrants. Has this been successful?
* Is precarity/insecurity (in employment, in housing, in social protection) becoming a more significant issue?
* What about the intractable problem of impunity?
* What about green jobs and environmental rights?
* If human rights abuses arise from a lack of power (economic, political?); then what emphasis should Amnesty International place on ‘empowerment’ or capacity building?
* Do you have any thoughts about the *way* we work?
* Is our recent emphasis on partnership working and giving voice to rights-holders delivering for you?
* Has the AIUK-TUC MoU done its job?
* Amnesty needs to grow its income and impact to meet our commitments to the global south. Could we have new models of membership or coalition?
* We have considerable experience of Human Rights Education; should we be collaborating in union learning settings?

**What is the rationale for your suggestions above? If there is evidence to support your views (e.g. forecasts, studies, surveys, feedback from stakeholders), we encourage you to supply this or point us to any relevant evidence.**

**Tips**

It’s certainly OK to advocate for workers’ rights and/or freedom of association to have greater prominence in Amnesty’s work, but what would the rationale for that be?

Equally, you may feel that Amnesty should limit its workers’ rights activities to particular domains, such as its expertise on individuals at risk and supporting human rights defenders.

There’s plenty of evidence that union-Amnesty International collaboration has sometimes had a positive human rights impact, but how might these collaborations become more strategic and better embedded?

What can unions bring to the table?

Amnesty is ‘moving closer to the ground’. Should we be talking and acting more regionally?

What sort of resources or expertise do we need to stimulate and sustain the sort of collaborations that you recommend?

1. **Questions 3, 4, 5 – no additional prompts or guidance needed.**