**AIUK Registration as a Non-Party Campaigner: Statement**

AIUK has commenced the process of registering with the Electoral Commission as a “non-party campaigner”, as defined by the Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Registration Act 2014 (more frequently known as the “Lobbying Act”).

We have taken this step in order to ensure that Amnesty International UK remains able to campaign on all issues that it wishes to during the election period.

We are concerned that the act of registration may lead some people to believe that Amnesty International UK is campaigning to influence the outcome of the General Election period. We want to state, unequivocally, that this is not the case.

Amnesty International is required by its own governing Statute to act with political impartiality. We do not, never will and never have sought to procure the success of a one political party over another. Our actions are always intended to secure greater enjoyment of human rights and to prevent their erosion, in the UK and abroad.

Whilst Amnesty International UK accepts the importance of electoral transparency, we regret that the Lobbying Act is so broadly drawn that some of our long-standing work can fall under the definition of “regulated campaign activity”.

Whilst we could have established internal rules to prevent us from undertaking such activity, the implication would have been to say nothing about proposals to repeal the Human Rights Act or to allow homophobic discrimination. Since we have supported the Human Rights Act and equalities legislation for decades, it would be unconscionable for AIUK to remain silent when proposals are floated that would erode hard-won rights.

AIUK has criticised the current government. We have also praised it. The same applied to its predecessors. We decide our stance issue by issue, policy by policy and not because we want to see a government of one complexion or another.

We hope to see a general election campaign that features informed and constructive debate about human rights. We look forward to working with the MPs who are returned at the next election and with the next Government, whoever forms it.

Tim Hancock

Director of the Chief Executive’s Office

Amnesty International UK