**CONSULTATION FOR LOCAL GROUPS:**

**Shaping Amnesty International’s Future 2016-2019**

May 2014

Dear Friends,

As you will be aware and as mentioned by Kate Allen at the recent AGM, the global Amnesty movement recently started the process of consulting with all AI sections and members on where to focus our collective attention and energies from 2016-19. This is the start of a process which will run until April 2015 when the final recommendation – informed by this consultation with our global membership - will be compiled in time for the 2015 International Council Meeting (ICM), where the final decision on our ‘strategic goals’ will be determined.

All sections need to make their first draft submissions by the end of May 2014 – very sorry for the tight turnaround in this first phase – and so, if at all possible, we need to hear back from all groups by **23rd May 2014**. If you are unable to make this deadline, please do still feed in to the process as soon as possible as we will continue to gather information and input this throughout the process until April 2015 and we will be regularly updating the International Secretariat on our discussions at Amnesty in the UK. All submissions from all sections will be compiled between June and August to inform the next stage which will run between August and October 2014.

In order to aid discussion we have put together this pack to inform you of the consultation process and the issues that need to be considered in order to make this an effective and rich process for local groups and members. In addition to local group feedback on the consultation, there will also be the opportunity for individual members to complete an online survey to further participate in this consultation and / or add their individual contributions. For online survey please go to:

[www.amnesty.org.uk/members-consultation-our-strategic-goals](http://www.amnesty.org.uk/members-consultation-our-strategic-goals)

The pack contains:

1. Background to consultation
2. Consultation guide
3. Questions for discussion
4. Integrated Strategic Plan 2008 – 2015 for reference

**TIPS AND SUGGESTIONS**

We strongly encourage that local group members be given the opportunity to prepare for the discussion as the topic can be quite daunting without having the chance of prior preparation.

How groups wish to facilitate their discussions is left to their discretion, however if any groups would like some advice then please feel free to contact Shoomi via phone 0207 033 1580 or email at shoomi.chowdhury@amnesty.org.uk.

We hope you will find this useful and look forward to working closely with you to facilitate a great consultation over the coming months and to gather input from as many of our members as possible.

Very best wishes

**Andy Hackman** (Head of Community Organising, HRE and Events)

**Shoomi Chowdhury** (Human Rights Education Officer)

**BACKGROUND TO CONSULTATION FOR LOCAL GROUPS: Shaping Amnesty International’s Future 2016-2019**

The global Amnesty movement is currently in the process of consulting with AI sections on how it should shape the future work we do, which will result in our global Strategic Goals 2016 – 2019, previously known as the Integrated Strategic Plan.

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.

A big part of the discussion we want members to have will be focussing around

1. **The big human rights issues** between 2016-19

2. **Organisational issues** we need to focus on in order to support us all in promoting and protecting individual human rights around the world and to make Amnesty International into a truly connected global human rights movement of people who are passionate about defending human rights for all.

We want to ensure AIUK’s contribution to this process is properly informed by the **experiences, observations and evidence** provided by the AIUK membership and so want to support you in contributing to this hugely important discussion. We also want to use this opportunity to reach out and hear from the wider membership in the UK, to hear their voices and benefit from their insights.

The next step is to agree what we should focus on achieving in the next period. 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 the movement.

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 means encouraging all participants in this discussion to present strong rationales and evidence in support of their views about what we should prioritise.

**In Summary**

* We are coming to the end of Amnesty International’s current strategic plan and looking ahead to the future with a particular focus on 2016-2019.
* We are moving into this next period from a position of strength having implemented major changes to our global operations to ensure the movement acts with greater legitimacy, speed, capacity and relevance as we stand alongside those whose rights are violated.
* In setting priorities for this next period we want to hear from rights holders, members, staff, partners, friends and critics about how Amnesty International can best focus its resources in the next period to achieve the greatest possible impact.

**CONSULTATION GUIDE FOR LOCAL GROUPS:**

**Shaping Amnesty International’s Future 2016-2019**

**BEFORE THE SESSION**

**FACILITATOR**

Establish who in your group is happy to facilitate the session. Their role will be to establish the ground rules and guide the discussion in order to keep focus and cover as much of the discussion areas as possible. This person may also act as the scribe unless it is agreed for another member of the group to do this. The facilitator will also be responsible for explaining the nature and background of the consultation (refer to: “**BACKGROUND TO CONSULTATION FOR LOCAL GROUPS”**)

**PRIOR PREPARATION**

We strongly encourage that local group members be given the opportunity to prepare for the discussion as the topic can be quite daunting without having the chance of prior preparation. Ask members to have a think about and research the following

* Important **trends** that are taking place in the world?
* What areas Amnesty can **add value**?
* Are there areas we should **focus on less**?

**DURING THE SESSION**

**TIMINGS**

Allow for a 40 minute to an hour session.

**GROUND RULES**

It is important to emphasise that

1. This is a big ask and people will hold different views allow for a wide range of input.
2. The consultation process is about thinking about what’s the best for the global Amnesty movement
3. To be sensitive and respectful to the views shared
4. Encourage the use of evidence
5. Remember the context is focusing on a post 2016 world

**UNDERSTANDING THE TERMS**

***‘Big picture trends’*** *–* Wider global patterns taking place in areas where AI can add value.

***Amnesty Added Value*** *–* What would happen if AI stopped doing such-and-such? Are there other NGOs doing this work (better)?

***Evidence*** *–* Support for view shared, using current affairs, recent reports and documentation (multimedia: print, audio, visual, etc.), etc.

**ANSWERING THE QUESTIONS**

**Question 1. ‘Big picture trends’ that are shaping the world.**

**Start with the micro**

Your group might want to start with people’s everyday experiences, as a concrete way of thinking about trends. For instance:

* What are you noticing now in and around your work with AI that you wouldn't have noticed 4 years ago?
* How has this change developed over time…. where might it go next?
* What are you noticing in the world beyond your work with AI? e.g. other groups you are involved with, or changes in your community, or changes in the social, political world around you?

You can then ask your group to review the examples discussed and build out to identify broader trends / dynamics: what are the bigger patterns reflected in the examples shared?

**Breaking down trends**

We often find it can help to break down trends into specific areas. You could ask you group to think about the different levels on which trends occur:

* + Social, Technological, Environmental, Economic, Political
* What changes are occurring on each level?
* How are changes on the different levels interacting with each other - e.g. technological influencing political, environmental influencing economic? How might this interaction develop?

**Question 2. Where should AI focus/focus less in its work?**

There is a potential for strong feelings here.

To help your group focus on the future, it might be useful to ask people to think a bit more forward thinking about the question.

For instance:

* Imagine the world in 2018: Imagine it first of all as you ***expect*** to be….then as you'd ***hope*** it to be.
* What are the key issues that will need to be tackled to achieve the latter vision?
* Which of these can Amnesty influence most effectively / which might other people influence better?

**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION FOR LOCAL GROUPS: Shaping Amnesty International’s Future 2016-2019**

Name of Local Group:

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Name of Group Facilitator (if one is allocated):

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Number of members in session: ­­­­­­­­­­­­­

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*Please refer to the 2-page* **CONSULTATION GUIDE FOR LOCAL GROUPS** *for guidance on each question and definition of terms. Below you will find the strategic goals from the previous Integrated Strategic Plan 2008 – 2015. Please use the space provided to answer the question. If the space is insufficient please feel free write on additional paper.*

1. What does your Local Group think are the ‘big picture trends’ that are shaping the world? What evidence is there to support your answers?
2. A) What does your local group think Amnesty International as an international movement **should focus on** between 2016 and 2019?

B) What does your local group think Amnesty International as an international movement **should focus on less** between 2016 and 2019? Where will AI add most value?

What evidence is there to support your answers?

**AMNESTY SHOULD FOCUS ON LESS….**

**AMNESTY SHOULD FOCUS ON….**

1. If there anything else that you want to add that has not been mentioned in this consultation?

**INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 -2015**