**International Issue Sub-Committee (IISC)**

**Saturday 16 November2013 10.00am-4.00pm**

**Conference Room**

**Human Rights Action Centre**

**17-25 New Inn Yard, London, EC2A 3EA**

**Attendees**: Harrison Littler (Chair), Karen Wagstaff (AIUK Staff), Fiona Anderson, Hugh Whitby, Raj Sahota, Sunit Bagree, Lucy Barnett, Tessa Lamb (minutes)

**Apologies**: Lucy Anderson, Louise Ewington, Tom Hedley (at GTF), Hannah Tigerschoild, Tim Hancock (at GTF), Kate Allen, Allan Hogarth

**1. Welcome and Introductions:**

**1.1.** Harrison formally welcomed the attendees to the meeting

**1.2.** Introductions:

**Harrison Littler**: Board member and chair of IISC, teacher head of economics and business at local secondary school, background in student union, 10 years at Amnesty, led student group at Exeter University and has chaired the Student Action Network.

**Raj Sahota**: became AI supporter at 16 inspired by article she read on Women’s rights issues in Guatemala, which carved the way for human rights work. In 2009, she went to Oxford and obtained a Masters International Human Rights law. New member of the IISC.

**Fiona Anderson**: joined IISC in July 2012, first meeting at Amnesty attended was EGM, which restored faith in democratic processes of Amnesty as a member-based movement, used to work for BBC as print journalist and producer and now works for herself, really interested in Burma, hoping to teach journalists there.

**Karen Wagstaff:** new AI member of staff representing AIUK, member of activism team for 5 years, Children’s network, constituency lobbying work, started at Amnesty as volunteer. She worked for UNHCR in External Relations , interest and experience in refugees and humanitarian issues

**Lucy Barnett:** On IISC since July 2010, Cancer support in Fundraising, chairs Leeds group, has a Masters in Post-colonial Literature and Human Rights, interested in Burma.

**Sunit Bagree:** Joined IISC in August, currently working as Advocacy Manager at Imperial College London, interest in global poverty issues, works for academic institution, worked in West Africa and South Asia, obtained two Masters degrees in Conflict Resolution (Lancaster University) and Human Rights Law (University of Nottingham), focus on Israeli Palestinian Lebanese conflict, interest in middle east.

**Hugh Whitby:** Joined Amnesty in 2003 in Hong Kong. Worked as London Regional Representative from 2008-20012 and elected to AIUK Board in 2012.

**2. Reflections on the Governance Day and the role of the International Issues Sub-Committee**

**2.1** Discussion: Outcomes and impact

* Useful in understanding work of committees, how IISC work should overlap. Need for clarification of IISC terms of reference
* Staff feedback was constructive and reassuring
* Helpful for new comers to the movement to receive more information about the structure of the movement, or glossary
* Assessment review and system was hanging over the whole day, concerns over finance presentation
* IISC not a priority on Schedule 1 (Assessment system review pg. 4) Request for feedback and clarification from Board regarding value-added by sub-committees
* Consistent message: how do we communicate more effectively with members?
* Need for clarification on how IISC works with Governance task force
* Karen to look into updating Governance pages. All to think about how to update
* Karen and Harrison to look into making organograms, flowcharts of how AIUK fits into international movement, structure of AIUK and glossaries available

**2.2.** The IISC welcomed Tom Hedley (Board member and IISC member) and Liz Mottershaw (GTF and IISC member)

* GTF divided work into 4 sub-groups: each taken on ¾ elements of overall remit
* Fifth Group for Consultation formed to pull together anything from subgroups which needs feedback from members. Importance of feedback pre and post and continuously keeping people in the loop. Perception that members are not able to participate properly because they are not aware of issues.
* Remit: oversee membership consultation on role of AIUK within international movement. Intended to ensure that:

1. Membership is happy with how AIUK role is represented
2. IS is fully accountable to AIUK about money given to IS from AIUK

* Memorandum of understanding between charitable trust and IS which codified existing practice to ensure Amnesty is within charitable law, ensuring IS is spending AIUK’s money in charitable way
* Initial feedback: MoU is good and implementation is OK
* Need to identify gaps. If feel these are considerable would look at ICM decision (AGM decision first)

3. Look at AIUK governance and International movement

-decision-making and information flow and in particular the timeframe. Members feel adequately represented and consulted

-how to inform membership about structures and decision-making processes. Want the IISC to look at this

**2.3.** Challenges to GTF at having tangible impact of governance practices

* Implementation as well as communication of MoU is crucial
* Pleased with progress of subgroups. Discussion and action points of how to take things forward.
* IISC are happy for Liz to report back to GTF
* Any questions or thoughts on how to promote awareness of international structures and decision-making please contact Liz

**3. Consultation on policy relating to sex workers**

**3.1.** Background

The Board Chair has asked IISC to conduct consultation on this policy with AIUK members. IS strongly advocating. **Note:** All to be aware that it is International focus policy, not a specifically UK issue

**3.2.** Initial Feedback:

* Clarification needed on who authored which document
* Should consult other sections doing policy consultation
* Should be aware of potential controversy (relations between IS and AIUK, religious groups who might have moral issues with this argument) **NOTE**: AI does not take position on morality
* Should be mindful of terminology especially when broadening out on international level
* Need a clear timeline
* How to ascertain distinct transaction? Issue of exchange for food and shelter is hard to track.
* Would decriminalization be sufficient to allow some of the arguments to become realized, or would it take legalization?
* Need to look into present state of law on this and the overlap between trafficking, slavery and forced labour

**3.3.** Response from IISC:

* Broadly supportive of decriminalization
* Decriminalization of both demand and supply side are part and parcel of achieving whole objective
* Suggest consultation with other similar sections.
* Karen to consult other sections. Lucy to ask Swedish section.
* Fiona to ask about autonomy issues

**3.5.** Consultation and resolution:

* Objective: consulting in order to be able to feed back to IS (deadline end of March to be discussed at Chair’s forum). This will lay ground for support of potential AGM resolution to go forward to 2014: giving board mandate to pave way for AIUK support. Deadline for Resolution: 10th Feb
* IISC members to take responsibility for getting in touch with key stakeholders (Youth Advisory Board, Student Groups
* Wider membership:
* Give info in advance, with clear documents with a few points to consider
* Something will go out in advance to groups in New Year (Will keep Paisley group informed.)
* Look at ways to engage with existing parts of the structure
* Flag up that it may be on agenda at AGM
* Get additional fringe meeting built into AGM to add debate. Pre-working party working party

- incorporate *10 Reasons to Decriminalize Sex Work*

*-* give people access to further reading

*-* give two sides to story, but clear question whether they support Amnesty developing a policy on decriminalization of sex work

* Main question: ***Do you support Amnesty International adopting a policy to support the decimalization of Sex Work?***
* Group mailing to be done centrally. Staff time allocated to this
* Karen to work out doc and q and a. Fiona to help in editing. Agree draft Pre-Christmas approve it Ready to send out mid-January
* Karen to talk to Liz to identify external stakeholders for risk analysis
* Karen to do mapping and send round to allocate responsibility (Karen: Women’s action network, Fiona: Disability rights groups, Raj and Fiona: Women’s’ organizations). Staff to help where possible

**4. Follow-up to the 2013 International Council Meeting**

**4.1.** ICM Decisions requiring priority governance oversight

* Tom Hedley gave report back about ICM
* Decision 1D: beneficial for IISC to be involved in Assessment system review
* To feedback at next Board meeting that IISC has role to play in all matters relevant to assessment
* Restricted giving: Amended resolution was passed. Pilot which will be assessed after 2014
* Need to look at criteria of issues, work required and urgency

**4.2.** Role of IISC with regard to specific decisions

* IISC should appear more (i.e. Decision 3)
* Weekly mailing of internal and external documents has stopped because of restructure
* Karen to look into reinstating and access to IS Intranet for IISC members
* Harrison to apportion responsibility to IISC
* Harrison to take feedback to Board

**4.3.** Section feedback from ICM

* Positive feedback from section: excellent results in particular because of restricted giving thanks to work of Kerry and Cris
* Sporting resolution passed
* Resolution from AGM about rights of staff which also went through
* Importance of finances: notable lack of debate and discussion about finances. Major concerns over financial cliff of 2017
* Information and communication about Amnesty and the global movement. IISC and GTF integral to this

**5. Strategic Goals and IISC Work Agenda 2014-2015**

**5.1.** Strategic Goals

* What do you want the world to look like in 2020? What do you want Amnesty to look like? Could have stall at AGM. IISC feeding back to board
* How do we manage consultation overload 2016-2021
* Broadening global development issues
* Members need to understand strategies and big goals of organisation
* Taking stock of what we have achieved in a global sense (global growth, activism and membership) Justification for putting resource into that (IEC with big support from staff). Discuss and put ideas into until March 2015. AGM will be first moment to launch

**5.2.** Timeline running up to 2015:

* Key time: 1st quarter 2014
* Karen to look at schedules to double check no clashes for March meeting
* Karen to talk to Tim about strategic goals and start mapping out and get idea of staff support.
* Regular report back on Watching brief of ICM decisions

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| **Nov 2013** | **Nov:** Board Meeting | ICM Watching Brief  Jan -Feb: Q and A : Sex Worker Consultation  AGM Resolution Deadline  External discussions  Strategic goals plan  ICM docs |
| **2014** | **Jan:** Teleconference (end of the month)  **March:** IISC Meeting (GTF Feedback)  Board Meeting  **April:** AGM  **June:** IISC (to include ICM watching brief update  and GTF feedback)  Chairs Assembly |
| **2015** | **March:** IISC (Teleconference) Before Board Meeting  Strategic goals feedback  ICM Resolution deadline  **April:** AGM  **June:** IISC pre-board and Chairs assembly)  **August:** ICM |

**6. ATT Evaluation**

**6.1.** Apparent conflict between AIUK and IS

* Should be discussed and fed back to Board and SMT
* Not a balanced contribution from the IS. Need to look into whether this is this a pattern or an isolated case in that AIUK had a lot of the expertise on this issue
  1. All to feedback any further comments feedback before 30th

**7. AOB**

**7.1.** Message from Louise Ewington: recently took up post as head of Country for Oxfam in Papua New Guinea. Attending Board Meetings via Skype and can do the same for IISC. Potentially not sustainable but could ask her for contribution

**7.2.** All to let Karen know if they require any further support

**7.3.** IISC Meeting Papers to be in post/email 2 weeks before the meeting

**7.4.** Minutes/Matters arising. June minutes?

* Karen to look into this