

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
UNITED KINGDOM SECTION**

**NOTICE OF THE
2023 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday 24 June 2023

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION (AIUK SECTION) to be held as a hybrid meeting on Saturday 24 June 2023 from 10:00 to 16:00 at the Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA. Members will also be able to access the meeting online.

Participating in the meeting

The AGM will be held at the Human Rights Action Centre, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A 3EA (HRAC). Members may attend in person or online. Information on how to join the meeting electronically can be found in the Chair's letter and at www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting-2023. Members planning to attend the HRAC are requested to register their attendance at www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting-2023 so we can contact you in the event of any last-minute venue changes and to ensure we have adequate space at the HRAC.

The business of the AGM will be to:

1. receive the report of the Directors and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022;
2. receive and, if thought fit, adopt the report of the standing orders committee;
3. consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolutions printed below, which shall be proposed as Ordinary Resolutions;
4. receive the report of the Nominations Committee;
5. approve the re-appointment of BDO LLP as external auditors and authorise the Directors to approve their remuneration;
6. receive the budgetary estimates of the Directors for the current and ensuing financial periods; and
7. if an election is required, to elect the AGM Chair for 2024, members of the Standing Orders Committee and Members of the Members and Directors Appeal Committee.

All AIUK Section members are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM. A member of AIUK Section is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote on their behalf. A proxy need not also be a member of AIUK Section.

A form to nominate a proxy and to vote on the AGM resolutions is, for members that are receiving this notice by post, enclosed. For members receiving this notice electronically, the form is available to download from www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting-2023, or you can email #ukcisamnestyagm2023@computershare.co.uk for a copy, or otherwise by post from AIUK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A. If you prefer to submit your proxy form and vote online, please go to www.amnesty.org.uk/vote. You will need to enter your Voter Reference Number and PIN. Completed forms must be returned by the means set out in the proxy form, and arrive no later than **9am on Thursday 22 June 2023**.

By order of the Board

Michelle O'Keeffe

Michelle O'Keeffe,
Company Secretary,
5 May 2023

Amnesty International
United Kingdom Section
(incorporated and registered in
England and Wales
under number 01735872)

The Human Rights Action Centre,
17-25 New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3EA

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

F1

Resolution title: Financial statements

Resolution summary: A routine resolution to receive the financial statements and reports.

Proposer: AIUK Section Board

Resolution text: This AGM to receive the Report of the Directors and the audited accounts of AIUK Section for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Proposers background note: Receiving the financial reports is a formal part of every AGM. The audited financial statements have been reviewed by the Board and can be found on AIUK's website www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting-2023.

F2

Resolution title: Appointment of auditors

Resolution summary: A routine resolution to reappoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the Board to determine their remuneration.

Proposer: AIUK Section Board

Resolution text: This AGM to reappoint BDO LLP as Auditor of the Company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which accounts are laid before the Company, and to authorise the Directors to approve the Auditor's remuneration.

Proposers background note: AIUK Section is required by law to appoint

auditors at each AGM. The Board recommends that BDO LLP be re-appointed, with the audit fee at an amount to be agreed by the Board.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

O1

Resolution title: Joint Enterprise & Conspiracy Laws in the UK

Resolution summary: Calling for AIUK to investigate the ways in which Joint Enterprise and conspiracy laws, including the use of racist gang narratives are being used against communities in the UK, especially young people of colour.

Proposer: Manchester Group

Resolution text: This AGM requests that the Amnesty International UK Section Board investigates ways in which the Joint Enterprise and conspiracy laws are being used against communities in the UK, including the use of racist gang narratives in prosecutions, particularly of young people of colour. In addition, this AGM requests that the Board make representations and/or campaigns on any human rights issues identified.

Proposers background notes: Anti-racism is one of six priority issues in AIUK's Strategic Plan 2022-2030. As a local group, we are keen to develop this area of our work and look forward to engaging with specific actions and campaign aims as they develop.

During the past year, Manchester Amnesty group has followed the case of ten young black men from North Manchester who were found guilty as a group of conspiracy to commit grievous bodily harm or conspiracy to commit murder, despite there being no murder victim in the case. The group has become known as *The Manchester 10*. The prosecution focused on racist gang narratives, identifying the young men as ‘a gang’, using their similar taste in drill music and participation in a group Telegram chat as the evidence. The young men/boys involved were all 18 years old or under at the time of their arrest. They were grieving at this time following the murder of one of their friends.

Another case occurred in Manchester in 2017 resulting in the jailing of eleven young men of colour following a murder committed by one person. There was a similar case in Battersea, London in 2018 when four young black men were jailed for murder.

The UK human rights organisation, Liberty defines Joint Enterprise in the following way, ‘*Joint Enterprise is where, if one or more people commit an offence (the main offenders) and another/ others (secondary offenders) intended to encourage or assist them to commit the offence, the secondary offender(s) can be prosecuted as if they were a main offender.*’ (Liberty – 5 things you need to know about joint enterprise 2022).

Figures are unclear but it is estimated that thousands of people have been prosecuted under Joint Enterprise laws in the UK but on many occasions the convictions are based on prejudicial evidence, including racial and inaccurate stereotypes. The 2022 report, *The Usual Suspects*, produced by the Centre

for Crime and Justice Studies states, ‘*A clear profile emerges about who has been convicted of serious violent offences in multi-defendant cases. They are predominately young men. Those from minority ethnicity communities, particularly the Black community, are consistently over represented.*’

The work proposed by this resolution builds on the research undertaken in Amnesty UK’s 2018 report *Trapped in the Matrix*, which focused on the Metropolitan Police Service Gangs Violence Matrix, which was found to be unfit for purpose and put rights at risk.

Board background notes: The Board supports this resolution as it fits with our strategic priority work on Racial Justice.

Amnesty’s work to date: Amnesty International UK, in its report into the Gangs Matrix *Trapped in the Matrix* p8 mentioned Joint Enterprise when quoting from the Lammy Review, which highlights the potential of tools such as the Gangs Matrix being used to advance charges and prosecutions in cases involving Joint Enterprise. The Lammy Review notes a survey wherein up to half of prisoners charged under Joint Enterprise identify as BAME. We noted our concerns in this area in a Joint Briefing, to the House of Lords under proposals on Serious Violence Reduction Order as part of the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill, under the section entitled ‘Compounding Discrimination’.

In response to the publication of *Trapped in the Matrix*, JENGBA (Joint Enterprise, Not Guilty by Association) wrote an article for the Institute of Race Relations welcoming our report and drawing connections between the racist depiction of Gangs and its usage

by the Crown Prosecution Service in securing Joint Enterprise conviction, disproportionately impacting young racialised boys and men. (<https://irr.org.uk/article/jengba-responds-to-the-amnesty-international-report-on-the-gangs-matrix/>)

Amnesty's existing plans: Joint Enterprise is one of our identified areas in the agreed Racial Justice Scoping and Vision Strategy for 2022-2030. We will begin scoping an area within Joint Enterprise in the third quarter 2023, with AIUK Staff, IS and external experts. By the end of the fourth quarter, we intend to agree a research proposal, commencing in 2024. An emerging area for inquiry is the usage of cultural expression (such as drill/rap music, clothing choices and colours) in court cases where Joint Enterprise is being used to secure convictions of groups of young racialised men. If we choose to adopt this proposal, it will bring together our Racial Justice and Freedom of Expression priority areas.

Resource implications: As this work was already in our Scoping and Vision agreed in 2022, considerations for its resource have already been made in AIUK's 2023 business plan. At this time, extra considerations towards resource beyond 2023 have not yet been planned. Resource from individual staff capacity is expected primarily from the Racial Justice Lead and is already built into outline plans for 2024 and beyond.

Equalities Impact Assessment: This resolution could have a positive impact on equality in relation to race, gender and age because these are all protected characteristics adversely impacted by the UK's Joint Enterprise Laws.

O2

Resolution title: UN: visibility and engagement

Resolution summary: This resolution is aimed at establishing an activist network for engagement with the UN human rights process.

Proposer: Oxford City Group

Resolution text: This AGM calls on Amnesty International UK:

1. to establish an activist network for engagement with the UN human rights process;
2. to put in place appropriate support for such a network in terms of education/training, delivery of regular information, and the mechanics of activist engagement.

Proposers background notes: Amnesty International's work is based in international law, specifically in the human rights (HR) instruments of the UN, and in our campaigning we refer to the commitments countries have made by ratifying various HR treaties.

Amnesty has had consultative status with the UN since 1964, which has enabled Amnesty to play a significant role in shaping developments in HR. Amnesty continues to push for universal ratification and implementation of HR treaties and standards.

At present, Amnesty's work within the UN has near to no visibility with activists. Greater visibility would:

- deepen understanding of the legal underpinning of Amnesty's policies
- expose beyond the UN the mismatches between what some countries claim within the UN to be

doing to protect HR and the reality in their countries
- which could feed into campaigning.

Amnesty activists have little or no engagement with the UN process. A network of activists, informed about and engaged with the UN HR process, could contribute to and help invigorate the process, including raising its profile with the broader public.

The UN HRC's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UK is just one process into which activist involvement could be built: by incorporating consultation with activists into the process schedule.

Research would be needed as to what training on the relevant areas of the UN would benefit interested activists, what ongoing information activists would need, and how best to deliver both the training and ongoing information. For example, a regular network newsletter (like the Children's Network newsletter) might be launched in an Amnesty magazine article, inviting subscribers; and its first issue could include surveys and invitations to events where the shaping of the network could be discussed directly with activists. If resources are short, consideration could be given to involving activists in the production of a regular newsletter, or appointing an activist to liaise or help with such tasks, perhaps in a role similar to a country coordinator.

Other ways of increasing activist awareness of HR at the UN include:

- talks and workshops at AI UK AGM and other conferences
- articles in Amnesty magazine
- publication of the results of the UPR, particularly when the UK is its subject, highlighting the key themes,

as well as a timely campaign, involving activists, to pressure the UK government to take the necessary action to address areas in which the UK falls short of its HR obligations.

Board background notes: The Board opposes this resolution as the creation of a new activist network will divert resource from other priority areas and we do not think it would be the most effective way to strengthen AIUK's UN advocacy work.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK does important and often successful work with the UK Government in progressing human rights standards and their implementation with the UN mechanisms. This is mainly through direct advocacy to government, rather than public campaigning. Activists have not been regularly engaged, with the notable exception of the successful international campaign for an International Arms Trade Treaty (agreed in 2013).

AIUK has five thematic networks and plans to create a new Disability Rights Network. These require significant investment of staff time.

Amnesty's current plans: AIUK's UN advocacy priorities will be principally delivered by direct advocacy with the FCDO and Government.

Where a UN process or potential treaty could play a role in achieving human rights change in one of AIUK's six priority areas, public campaigning with and by activists will be developed where that is likely to have a positive impact. For example, the potential UN treaty on less lethal weapons as part of the Protect the Protest campaign and the work currently

being done by activists (and particularly student groups) on killer robots.

AIUK has no plans for a general activist network engaging directly with UN processes, as this is not how we believe change will be most effectively made in these spaces. In addition, given AIUK's focus on building diverse and impactful activist structures, we do not believe such a network would likely assist in growing our movement.

AIUK encourages activists to develop their own campaigns on matters which are not a priority but fit with the organisation's policies and values. The established Activist-Led Campaigns Framework could be used by members to deliver education, awareness and publicity to members on UN processes. We invite the Oxford City Group to pursue their interest via this method instead.

Resource implications: Creating this network would require a new Community Organiser role, costing approximately £40,000. It would also require work from the Programme Director - Foreign Policy and management support. This would distract focus from delivery of our strategic priorities.

Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no significant direct impacts on inclusion, diversity, equalities or anti-racism but creating this network risks diversion of resource from plans to build a more powerful, inclusive movement.

03

Resolution title: UN: limiting the use of the Security Council veto

Resolution summary: AI support for voluntarily refraining from use of veto in

case of atrocities to be incorporated into activist campaigning.

Proposer: Oxford City Group

Resolution text: This AGM calls on AIUK to:

1. bring to the fore its support for the ACT Code of Conduct, specifically its call for voluntary suspension of the veto by permanent members of the UNSC in cases of atrocities – by the following means:
 - a. issuing press releases following each egregious use of the veto
 - b. mounting an ad hoc action or campaign in cases of inappropriate use of the veto
 - c. encouraging member campaigns to make reference to the veto point in the Code of Conduct, where appropriate
 - d. permitting activist campaigns in support of non-use of the veto in cases of atrocities.
2. propose to the AI International Secretariat to task Amnesty at the UN in New York in connection with the Liechtenstein initiative adopted in 2022 (by which UNSC members who exercise their veto can be invited to submit themselves to questioning by the General Assembly as to why they made use of their veto) to press countries that have vetoed resolutions relevant to HR, and also declined to be scrutinised on those actions by the General Assembly, for the reasons behind their vetoes.

Proposers background notes: Amnesty, in addition to its advocacy for adherence to HR treaties and standards, supports institutional reform to achieve a stronger and more effective UN. This includes

reform of the UN HRC and of the Security Council (UNSC).

In 2015, a Code of Conduct was launched by a small group of UN member states seeking to improve the accountability, coherence and transparency of the UNSC, now known as the ACT Group. It calls upon all members of the UNSC to not vote against any credible draft UNSC resolution intended to prevent or halt mass atrocities, including voluntary suspension of the use of the veto by the five permanent members in cases of atrocity crimes. It currently has 123 supporters: 121 state signatories, including the UK and France, and 2 UN observer states (Palestine and the Holy See).

Amnesty supports the aims of the ACT Code of Conduct.

The UNSC has repeatedly been impeded in performing its vital role of protecting the world from war – and the atrocities that so often ensue – by the wielding of the veto by one or more of the five permanent members of the UNSC. Action aimed at addressing wars and atrocities has often been blocked when permanent members are directly involved in committing the violations of international law in question themselves, or have national interests they consider would be detrimentally affected by the application of international law. For example, Russia has repeatedly used its veto in resolutions connected to its war of aggression in Ukraine. Reform of either the veto rights or permanent membership of the UNSC is virtually impossible within the rules laid out in the UN Charter, which give the permanent members the right to veto such changes. For this reason, the growing pressure from various quarters for the permanent members to

voluntarily refrain from using their vetoes in the case of atrocities is of great value. It is being called for, in addition to the ACT Group, by France and Mexico in a separate initiative, Together First (an international network of NGOs, activists, parliamentarians and business leaders) and the NGO UN Association.

Efforts to reform the UN, and specifically calls around limiting the use of the veto, have near to no visibility outside UN circles. Amnesty's support for voluntary suspension of the veto by the permanent members of the UNSC in cases of atrocities deserves greater publicity, including incorporation into activist campaigning.

Board background notes: The Board recognises this work is happening at the International Secretariat already and AIUK will support the IS' work as and when appropriate. The Board supports activists who wish to campaign around this issue as it fits within existing Amnesty International's policy.

Amnesty's work to date: The Accountability, Coherence and Transparency (ACT) Group is formed by a number of small and medium-sized states who seek improvements to the functioning of the UN Security Council. Amongst their objectives, they call on the permanent members of the Security Council not to use their veto in cases of atrocities, such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Amnesty International has publicly supported this call since at least 2015, including in the Foreword to the 2014-15 Amnesty International Report.

The organisation has periodically reiterated the call for veto restraint,

has criticised its use on a number of occasions and has also supported proposals at the UN General Assembly aimed at holding permanent Security Council members to account for their use of the veto. See, for example: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2022/04/un-veto-resolution-is-a-vital-step-towards-accountability/> and, <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2017/02/un-russia-and-chinas-abusive-use-of-veto-shameful/>.

In 2021, Amnesty International UK adopted a framework for activist-led campaigns, enabling activists to develop and carry out their own campaigns on issues that are consistent with organisational policy and values.

Amnesty's existing plans: All work concerning the United Nations is led by Amnesty's International Secretariat, including the responsibility for determining policy lines and issuing press releases.

Whilst Amnesty International remains supportive of voluntary veto restraint, we are not aware of any International Secretariat plans to call for, or prioritise, campaigning on this issue.

Amnesty International UK has no plans to campaign on this issue, as we consider it unlikely that AIUK could, on its own, achieve any significant impact on this issue. The UK government supports the ACT Group's position on veto restraint and has not exercised its own veto since 1989.

We expect that the International Secretariat will continue to issue press releases that criticise the use of the veto in situations of grave human rights abuse. AIUK will continue to amplify those calls to UK media.

Amnesty International members remain free to propose campaigns on this issue under the Activist Led Campaigns Framework.

Resource implications: There are no significant resource implications.

Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no significant impacts on inclusion, diversity, equalities or anti-racism.

O4

Resolution title: The A.I.U.K. Section website

Resolution summary: A resolution designed to improve the Section's website.

Proposer: Mayfair and Soho Group

Resolution text: This A.G.M. instructs the Board to work with the Director and staff to ensure that

- i the A.I.U.K. Section website is easy to navigate, and
- ii the information within is kept consistently up to date recognizing that it is a vital portal into our human rights work for members and non-members alike.

Proposers background notes: [No background note submitted]

Board background notes: The Board is committed to improving the AIUK Section's website to make it accessible and current.

Amnesty's work to date: The existing website was launched in 2012 and is subject to a regular programme of technical updates and improvements every year.

Amnesty staff and activists have several routes for website requests and/or updates:

- **Web Developer inbox:** Requests emailed to webdeveloper@amensty.org.uk are reviewed and responded to by the Digital Team within 5 working days.
- **Communications Brief:** For bigger projects that require development work, a Communications Brief can be submitted. These are reviewed by the Communications & Engagement team on a weekly basis.
- **Staff access:** Amnesty colleagues across the organisation have the ability and access to update website content. A training programme to refresh staff, across all departments, on how to update content is being rolled out this year.

Amnesty's current plans: AIUK is in the process of updating its homepage layout and content in line with industry best practice. We also have a regular development programme of optimisation that takes a test & learn approach across the website's campaigning and fundraising pages.

We regularly audit pages across the website, providing us with information that helps us to prioritise the pages that must be reviewed and updated, as well as a steer on those that may need to be removed. This activity will continue throughout 2023.

Currently two areas of the website that have been accelerated for development are: the Governance section, and pages related to our Community Organising and Activism work, which will reflect the goals and objectives identified for the current strategic period.

AIUK is also embarking upon a Technology and Digital Transformation programme of work in 2023. This will include a review of our website and its aims against the goals and objectives of our organisational strategy. The review will deliver a roadmap for a programme of change to address areas that the website has to deliver on.

Resource implications: Maintaining and improving the website already receives a significant amount of resource. Further resource requirements will be identified through the Technology and Digital Transformation project.

The development called for by this resolution can be delivered through existing plans and therefore there are no additional resource implications.

Equalities Impact Assessment: This resolution could have a positive impact on equality if the work to improve navigation on the website includes accessibility considerations. This is in AIUK's existing plans.

05

Resolution title: Section support for local groups

Resolution summary: A resolution to strengthen support provided by the Section to local groups.

Proposer: Mayfair and Soho Group

Resolution text: This A.G.M. asks the Board and the Chief Executive of the Section to resource as appropriate in order to

- i cultivate a more vibrant local and regional presence, including local groups across the UK,

- ii assist groups which acknowledge they are struggling, and
 - iii strengthen the work and outreach of existing groups,
- with progress to be reported to the 2024 A.G.M.

Proposers background notes: During the 1990s there were more than three hundred local groups in existence all over the country, whereas today this figure is less than one hundred and fifty. These groups having been the backbone of the Amnesty movement since its inception, they do not in any sense compete with individual members or existing networks, but unless the Section takes active and timely steps to help and revitalise them we risk losing a valuable resource in terms of both campaigning and fundraising.

Board background notes: The Board supports this resolution as cultivating a strong local and regional human rights presence is consistent with AIUK's Strategy.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK's local groups are one of the important ways that people can get involved to create change for human rights. There are currently 129 active local groups. AIUK also has a number of other key activist structures that support human rights work (including thematic networks, student groups, regional networks, and country coordinators).

AIUK employs a specialist Community Organising Team whose role is to develop and support activism for Amnesty International. It includes dedicated support for local activism and local groups. They work with volunteer Activism Reps and directly with local groups to provide support and help improve their reach and impact.

We have seen a decline in local groups, partly exacerbated by lockdown and also caused by changes in the way people want to take part in activism.

We have seen success in developing new ways of organising at a local level including through the Kent network, a new regional organising structure that has significantly increased AIUK's activism in the county and our presence across parliamentary constituencies. This is providing a good model for potential growth of activism elsewhere.

We have also seen growth in new and different ways of organising across AIUK in recent years, including through partnership initiatives such as Football Welcomes.

Amnesty's current plans: One of the three goals of AIUK's strategy is to build a more powerful movement, so that by 2030 more people, especially people or groups who currently have less social power, have the connectedness, access, protection, resources and will to stand up for their rights and those of their communities.

Our focus in delivering this strategy is to create new ways of organising, building communities around specific human rights issues, increasing youth activism and leadership, and building new partnerships and networks.

Local groups remain in our plans, with continuing dedicated support from staff. However, we do not plan to focus resource on creating significant growth in local groups, rather to build a range of ways in which people can organise to take action for human rights, in order to create a more inclusive, diverse and powerful movement.

Resource implications: This work is planned as part of our work on Building a Powerful Movement (Goal 2).

Equalities Impact Assessment: There are no adverse impacts on inclusion, diversity, equalities or anti-racism.

06

Resolution title: Arbitrary age limits

Resolution summary: This AGM instructs Amnesty UK not to create, promote and/or participate in spaces which arbitrarily exclude under-18s.

Proposer: Eilidh Lynn

Resolution text: This AGM instructs Amnesty International UK to:

- Stop creating, promoting and/or participating in events, spaces and programmes which arbitrarily exclude under-18s.
- Acknowledge that arbitrary age-limits on participation violate children’s human rights.

Furthermore, this AGM instructs Amnesty UK to produce:

- Guidance for all staff, governance and members on how to ensure safe and inclusive participation of children at all Amnesty events/spaces.
- External communications messaging to explain that Amnesty International UK will no longer be participating in events/spaces/programmes which arbitrarily exclude under-18s because arbitrary age-limits on participation violate children’s human rights.

This guidance and messaging will be developed in collaboration with the Children's Human Rights Network. The Children's Human Rights Network

Committee will be consulted from the outset to ensure Amnesty's interactions with children and its operations are rights-respecting. The Board will seek the approval of the Children's Human Rights Network Committee, and subsequently publish both the guidance and messaging on the website and send it to all relevant stakeholders by the AGM-2024.

Proposers background notes: “Children have the right to freely express their views on all matters... that affect them, and to have those views taken into account at all levels... It is the right of every child, without exception” (CRC/C/GC/12).

Amnesty UK proposed to exclude under-18s from applying for the 2020 Global Assembly Youth Delegate role. When the Children’s Human Rights Network (CHRN) challenged this, Amnesty UK admitted that “[Amnesty International] did not have in place, and was unwilling to put in place, measures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of an under-18 delegate”. After discussion with Senior Management Team, safeguarding advice was reviewed, and the Board approved the proposal that, “whilst involving additional staff resource”, under-18s could apply for the role and if selected, could participate safely.

Amnesty UK invited CHRN to recommend a youth human rights defender to participate in a roundtable discussion at Wilton Park Conference 2022 despite the 18+ age requirement on conference participants. CHRN declined the invite on the basis that any U18 platformed at the roundtable would be “a tokenistic nod” to inclusive and equitable participation of young people. To our knowledge, Amnesty

UK participated in the conference nonetheless.

Amnesty's International Secretariat's "Power Up" project (2023) was advertised to membership as an opportunity for "youth activists" to "identify, develop and implement practical ways to build youth people power". The project declared itself an "open, encouraging and supportive environment... dedicated to diversity, inclusion and participatory approaches." This programme enforces an 18+ age restriction.

Amnesty's Global Youth Strategy (2022-2025) highlights the importance of "creat[ing] an environment in which [children] actively contribute to human rights impact and play an integral role in achieving our vision ...". The strategy recognises that "age should not be a barrier to children and young people's active participation" and that "age-based discrimination compounds the oppression that children and young people face".

In an AGM Feedback letter sent to Amnesty UK staff and the Board, a 17-year-old CHRN activist details how they have "fe[el]t guilty" for applying for Amnesty UK activism roles, as well as feeling "undervalued" and "patronised". In 2020, the former Chair of the CHRN wrote to Amnesty UK raising "serious concerns", expressing feelings of "heartbreak" and "helplessness", and being constantly "let down" by the organisation's "empty words".

Board background notes: The Board supports this resolution as it strengthens our work on the rights of children and young people. The Board notes

any guidance produced as a result of this resolution will be subject to the Board's final approval, which cannot be delegated to another activist structure.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK encourages and facilitates the participation and leadership of people under 18 in Amnesty's work.

The membership of AIUK is open to anyone aged 14 and above. The AIUK Board supported a resolution in 2022 to remove any age barrier to membership of AIUK but this was defeated by the 2022 AIUK AGM.

The AGM passed a resolution in 2020 to create a reserved seat on the board for a person aged between 16 and 18. UK company law means that it is not possible to serve on a Limited Company Board under the age of 16.

For many years, under-18s have participated in the governance of AIUK through membership of the Building a Powerful Movement Sub Committee of the Board (previously known as the Activism Sub Committee).

There is no age restriction on participation in the Children's Human Rights Network Committee nor to be involved in other activities as an activist under 18.

AIUK has developed safeguarding policies and guidance to support activists, staff and under 18s to work together safely.

Amnesty's current plans: AIUK has a team of three people whose role is to support and develop youth activism, including the participation and leadership of under 18s.

AIUK's strategy to build a more powerful movement includes the commitment:

We will increase the way in which young people can lead and participate in Amnesty International and how they are able to shape the ways in which they continue their participation throughout their lives.

This includes developing leadership and participation of under 18s in AIUK's work.

AIUK does not create spaces which arbitrarily exclude anyone based on age or any other protected characteristic.

We do not have plans to develop external messaging on this, however AIUK can do this within our existing resources. AIUK welcomes the input of Children's Human Rights Network in the development of any relevant guidance but responsibility for its sign off remains with staff subject to Board approval.

Resource implications: None.

Equalities Impact Assessment:

This resolution could have a positive impact on equality because it directly addresses discrimination of under 18s based on age.

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