**AI UK SECTION BOARD UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGM DECISIONS – JANUARY 2025**

**The AIUK Section Board receives a report at each meeting, setting out the progress in implementing AGM resolutions. Between Board meetings a monthly update is compiled. These reports will be posted on the website by the end of each month to enable members to keep up to date with developments. Please contact the relevant Board member if you require any further information.**

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| **Resolution Number** | **Title** | **Update** | **Board member** |
| S1 (2024) | Special Resolution to Amend the AIUK Section Articles of Association. | **Implementation of this resolution is complete**  The Articles of Association have been amended. Companies House and the AIUK website have both been updated. | Helen Horton  [Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O1 (2024) | Resolution to amend the AIUK Section Rules | **Implementation of this resolution is complete**.  The Rules have been amended and the updated version has been posted on the AIUK website. | Helen Horton  [Helen.Horton@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Helen.Horton@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O2 (2024) | Research into Indigenous Peoples Rights in Guyana | The Chair of the Section Board has written to the Chair of the International Board and is awaiting a response. | Richard Kotter  [Richard.Kotter@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Richard.Kotter@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O3 (2024) | Commitment to Individuals and Communities at Risk work by Amnesty International UK. | Individuals at Risk is one of AIUK’s 6 priority human rights issues.  Write for Rights is the flagship IAR campaign and was one of two focus areas for the final quarter of 2024. Topline results across the campaign at this stage are:   * [Following the 2024 campaign, Neth Nehara the jailed Tik Tok influencer from Angola was freed along with many fellow prisoners in a mass release.](https://www.instagram.com/p/DEh258pzhUF/) Neth was one of the three priority cases for the AIUK campaign. * <https://www.instagram.com/p/DDZrOAEJKuo/> * Over 20k people took action for Neth with AIUK * [12k people took online actions for Oqba on our dedicated Write for Rights platform](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/FreeOqba?from=issue) * [10k people took action for Professor Sebnem](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/protect-sebnem)   + <https://www.instagram.com/p/DDRXXystbwQ/?img_index=2> * 4054 copies of the hard copy [campaign booklet](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/files/2024-11/W4R%202024%20case%20booklet%20single%20pages.pdf?VersionId=yyON0Aq6lOgc93dai9.U_fKb0.mIrY2h) were ordered * We know that hundreds of local groups held events and activities and will be collecting and gathering feedback in Q1.   Write for Rights will again be a priority campaign in 2025 and be will one of two communications focus areas for the last quarter of the year.  [The Urgent Action website page](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/urgent-actions)s are updated twice a week by a staff member whose role is focussed on keeping the UA website and AIUK case management system up to date. We email members of the UA network on a monthly basis.  At AIUK-wide level, we continue to prioritise campaigning on British nationals arbitrarily detained overseas. We continue to campaign for the release of Alaa Abd El-Fattah who remains in prison in Egypt despite completing the length of his sentence. We are working to support his family to continue to put pressure on the UK government to prioritise his case. His mother, Laila Soueif, remains on hunger strike and we have amplified her continued protest at Downing Street through social media, and have been standing alongside her in person to demonstrate our support. And we continue our campaigning for Mehran Raouf who is arbitrarily detained in Iran.  <https://www.instagram.com/p/DFI1gfON_Jt/>  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/protect-uk-nationals-arbitrarily-detained-abroad>  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-family-and-campaigners-call-david-lammy-visit-alaa-abdel-fattah-jail-while-egypt>  We are campaigning for the UK government to develop a clear strategy to support individuals arbitrarily detained abroad. Please see our action [here](https://www.amnesty.org.uk/actions/protect-uk-nationals-arbitrarily-detained-abroad). This strategy should contain as a minimum:   * the Government calling for an arbitrarily-detained person’s immediate release (including publicly where requested by the family) * the Government pressing for the detained person to get access to a lawyer, to a fair trial and to medical care where relevant * the Government demanding consular access for their own consular officials * the Government insisting that UK officials be able to attend trials * and the Government regularly meeting with family members to outline the Government’s overall approach in the case.   We are also campaigning for the release of Jimmy Lai who is a British national and Hong Kong activist, recently designated as a Prisoner Of Conscience. We have been campaigning with Jimmy’s son Sebastian and using recent visits by British officials to China to raise his case. We are exploring the potential of developing our work on further British national cases over the course of this year.  <https://www.instagram.com/p/DClyfJ9NlCS/?img_index=1>  <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/press-releases/uk-chancellor-must-use-china-trip-challenge-beijing-over-brutal-suppression-human>  We run a regular case management group (every 6 weeks – regularly attended by Country Coordinators) consisting of staff and Country Coordinators through which we manage the individual cases that AIUK works on. Country Coordinators are able to propose new cases through this mechanism. There 68 active cases on the long term case portfolio that are being worked on across AIUK. | Helen Horton  [helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O4 (2024) | Increasing the scale of regional/country-focussed campaigning by improving communications between local groups and Amnesty UK members | An e-mail was sent to all AIUK national members on 28 January inviting them to become involved in long term support for Individuals and Communities at Risk work led by the Country Coordinators by joining their regional or country specific mailing lists.  Discussions will now begin on ways in which this process can become more automated through the Digital Transformation Project. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O5 (2024) | Increasing the scale and effectiveness of campaigning by improving communications between local groups and Amnesty UK members | Proposals have been submitted to the Director of Activism and Education for a process whereby new members will be given information about how to contact their local groups and networks. Initially, this will be undertaken through an administrative process but will be developed as part of the Digital Transformation project.  Work has yet to begin on how to gain the permission of new members for their contact details to be passed on to local groups to enable them to contact them and thus achieve the direct, unencumbered digital communications between local groups and local national members whilst adhering to the requirements of GDPR that was agreed by the AGM.  The Director of Activism & Education has agreed to also use a future edition of the magazine to promote recruitment to groups and networks. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O6 (2024) | Put in place a full-time Local Groups Officer, together with a system of effective monitoring of local groups | A dedicated Local Groups Administrator has been recruited and is in post. The Groups Health Audit was completed in 2024 and the results published in the Groups Newsletter in December. The output will be used to inform actions by colleagues in the Activism and Education Directorate to support local groups.  A working party to review strategies to stop the decline in local groups will be established and will report into the Building a Powerful Movement subcommittee of the Board. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O7 (2024) | Introduction of AIUK Digital Campaigning Workshops for Beginners | A survey of local groups to better understand their digital training requirements finished on 20th January 2025. The results will inform a new Digital Training approach to be launched in quarter 2. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O8 (2024) | Put in place an AIUK Training Programme | A consultation is planned in 2025 to understand the training needs of AIUK activists and local groups. The output will be fed into planning for next year’s business plan and will begin in 2026. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O9 (2024) | Support, empower and revitalise local groups to meet the human rights challenges of the present and future | A pilot for the proposed new Regional Organiser role will take place in 2025. Discussions are currently being held on the location of that pilot and its objectives, prior to recruitment. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O10 (2024) | Delay the sale of the Human Rights Action Centre until a full consultation with the AIUK membership has been undertaken | In October 2023, the Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust, the owner of the Human Rights Action Centre decided to prepare the building for sale. The Charitable Trust is a distinct legal entity, separate from the UK Section, governed by its own Board and subject to UK charity law and regulation.  Following the 2024 AIUK Section AGM, the Chair of the AIUK Section Board shared AGM decision O10 with the Trustees for their consideration.    The resolution correctly noted that the HRAC is owned by the AIUK Charitable Trust, and thus any decision on the sale is one that must be made by the Trustees, and not by the AIUK Section Board.  The Trustees noted with respect and interest the debate and decisions of the Section’s AGM. However, the decisions of the Section AGM do not instruct or bind the Trustees and the Trust. The Trustees **must** make decisions solely in the interests of achieving the charitable objectives of the Trust and fulfilling their legal and fiduciary obligations as Trustees.    In September 2024, the Charitable Trust Board decided to invite offers for the purchase of the HRAC and so instructed estate agents to put the building on the market in October 2024.    In making that decision, the Charitable Trust has considered the views of stakeholders, including the Section Board.  The building has served AIUK’s needs well for over 19 years, but with changes in working patterns and usage over the last few years, the building is no longer well used. Two of the three staff floors are not used at all, the building requires significant running costs, and would require significant investment to bring it up to the standard required to lease out sections of the building.  The Trustees decided that it would be more effective to sell this asset and invest in different ways that better support delivery against the Trust and Section’s shared human rights mission. These include investment in improved core systems and technology, and could also include a range of other potential carefully managed ethical investments that can in the future deliver better value for human rights.  Whilst understanding that this is not a decision of the AIUK Section Board, the AIUK Section Board expressed its understanding and support for this decision of the Trustees. | Andy Townend  [Andy.townend@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Andy.townend@amnesty.org.uk) |
| E1 (2024) | Reinstating two-day AGM / National Conferences from 2025 onwards | Work is now underway to deliver a two-day Amplify Summit and AGM. The meeting will take place on 5-6 July 2025, in Birmingham. Information is available on the AIUK website at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting> and we will continue to add to this as our plans develop.  The new Activist Events Committee is being established as a sub-committee of the Building a Powerful Movement committee and will be Chaired by Richard Kotter, AIUK Board member. This group will consult on planning for the 2025 event along with other events throughout the year and its Terms of Reference will include the implementation of this resolution.  Issues identified regarding activists having difficulties with online voting the 2024 AGM are being discussed with the AIUK Governance function. |  |
| O5 (2023) | Section support for local groups | The Groups Health Audit was completed and the results published in the December 2024 edition of the Groups Newsletter. The 2025 planning pack has also been issued in the same edition of the Groups Newsletter. | Stuart Penny  [Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:Stuart.penny@amnesty.org.uk) |
| O4 (2021) | Increasing youth participation in governance | Work to identify and consider the constitutional barriers to youth participation is now underway. If any proposals for change arise, these will need to be considered by stakeholders and by the Board. If agreed, they would be proposed as Special Resolutions for constitutional change to the 2026 AGM. | Helen Horton  [helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk](mailto:helen.horton@amnesty.org.uk) |