



Amnesty International UK

Director's Report

March 2013 to May 2013

DIRECTOR'S ACTIVITIES

1. AGM Preparations

The period has involved the lead up to the AGM as well as the event itself. My priority between EGM and AGM was meeting members, listening to their views and understanding concerns while also explaining the impact of the global south expansion on AIUK. During this time I attended the South Midlands Regional meeting in Aylesbury, the South East Regional meeting in Canterbury, the South West Regional meeting in Plymouth, the London Regional meeting and meetings in Wirksworth, Southampton and Orpington which each involved several groups attending. At nearly all meetings Board members were also present. I estimate that across these meetings I met with about 300 members.

Board members have reported back on member meetings at Board meetings up to the AGM. I drew heavily on the conversations I had with members for my speech to the AGM. For me the conversations have reinforced very strongly the views that we picked up in the CAPP consultation meetings last summer. In broad outline;

- Members feel distant from our human rights work
- They do not feel involved in determining our campaign priorities
- They are very excited about the expansion of Amnesty in the global south, and feel they should have known more about it earlier
- They have been and continue to be shaken by the Irene Khan payments and it has caused real doubt about the way the international movement governance works.
- They feel that they should pay greater attention to how AIUK is accountable to its members and how AIUK is involved in holding the movement to account
- They want to understand the rest of the movement better than they do
- The budget decisions at AIUK (coming so soon after the 2012 AGM) left them feeling that big decisions were being taken without their involvement
- There was good will, post EGM to be forward looking in how to deal with this

Amidst all the difficulties of the past several months it has been good to have such candid conversations with members and I look forward to the new structure, the Governance Task Force and work as staff and members on taking this forward.

2. Campaign Work

Arms Trade Treaty

As the Board know I joined AI's delegation to the UN in New York for the final stages of the negotiations on the Treaty. It was an absolute privilege to be in New York with our team at this time. A celebration will be held at the FCO on 15 May 2013 to which activists have been invited and invitations are also extended to two Board members.

As I said at the AGM, the ATT is there with the best of our achievements as Amnesty over the past 52 years and AIUK can feel proud of its contribution.

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI)

The Foreign Secretary's Advisory Board, the PSVI Steering Board met in the run up to the G8 meeting in London with the UK Government in the Chair. As a member of this Steering Board I have been able to support the work that our team have done with civil servants behind the scenes in the wording and direction of the initiative. It was launched by the Foreign Secretaries of the G8 on 29 May 2012 at a launch to which I was invited. With colleagues at the IS we are now examining how we can support the initiative in its implementation and broader adoption at UN level.

3. Forthcoming Meetings/Events

- The Global Management Team meets in May for two days. The agenda includes GTP progress, global fundraising, response to hubs consultation and next steps. A day of the meeting will also be spent with an external facilitator working to build a more effective GMT. I will report to the next Board meeting.
- The Wilberforce Lecture in Hull on 24 May, where I will be accepting the Wilberforce Medal on AIUK's behalf in recognition of AIUK's longstanding work in support of human rights.
- The European Directors Forum meets in Belgium towards the end of May. My attendance and attention on Amnesty EU level has been neglected over the past year and I hope to start remedying this.
- The Media Awards take place on 11 June and all Board members will receive invitations.
- The Chair, Vice Chair, Tony Farnfield and I will interview for the Human Resources co-opted member for the Board and hope to have a candidate for co-option by the next Board meeting.