

STAN COMMITTEE 2012-13

MEETING 12th APRIL 2013



Note on Action Points:

Completed Action Points are marked in green.

Outstanding Action Points are marked in red.

MICHELLE, JP and DAISY were not present at this meeting, and so the status of some action points is TBC and marked in blue.

Action points from the previous meeting relating to Action for Change are not included.

ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (26th/27th January 2012)

MICHELLE, JP, BRYN, EUAN and DAISY to get in touch with regional reps for region: DONE by BRYN and EUAN; TBC by MICHELLE, JP and DAISY.

ALL to update the Twitter account: DAISY and EILIDH using the account most and others starting to input; ALL STAN should be doing this at least once a week.

EILIDH to write copy for a 'Have Your Say' webpage giving guidance on writing resolutions and AGM process: presently on hold whilst new website is in progress; separate guides on resolutions have been produced and are available in the meantime.

HANNAH SHAW to contact LAURA FRANCIS to get STAN election copy moved to STAN webpage: DONE.

MICHELLE to meet with lecturer from Cumbernauld College RE keeping the group going: TBC.

MICHELLE to contact ELENA SOPER for information on organising Scottish Student Conference, with a view to producing a guide on organising a regional conference: DONE; next steps to look at how to present the information provided as a useful guide. EILIDH to provide some additional contact, potential feed-in from DAISY on London conference. HANNAH SHAW to ask new volunteer TOM to pull it all together into a guide with photos.

ALL STAN to ensure groups have updated their contact details: DONE by EILIDH, BRYN and EUAN; TBC by MICHELLE, JP and DAISY.

JP to work on graduate group in Edinburgh project: TBC.

DAISY to type up EGM blog for use on Amnesty website: TBC.

DAISY to create provisional STAN YouTube account: not yet done; may not be necessary depending on date of new website launch.

DAISY to meet with Laura Francis about new website: DONE.

MICHELLE to produce LOMS Survey: DONE; next steps to launch survey to all student groups.

BRYN to liaise with Richard Glynn on fundraising guide: DONE.

ALL STAN to share the monthly mailings in their regional Facebook groups and the main STAN Facebook group: DONE by EILIDH, BRYN and EUAN; TBC by MICHELLE, JP and DAISY.

EUAN to look into creation of a Student Speaker list: DONE.

EILIDH to write guide for students on how to write resolutions: DONE.

EILIDH to write guide for students on AGM resolutions: DONE.

FRESHERS PROJECT

Freshers project has been running since 1998. Aims to identify circa 10 universities with Amnesty group potential and attempt to set up a group; also distributes freshers packs to existing groups to recruit new members, and help struggling groups maintain membership.

Supporting struggling groups: It would be useful to link up struggling groups with strong groups nearby – get the strong groups to attend the Freshers fairs and first meetings of struggling groups, as this provides a better local connection than temporary freshers project volunteers.

To get strong groups to participate, need to sell the benefits of this to strong groups – e.g. more people attending events if more than one group in a city, potential for joint actions, etc.

This could be a potential use for LOMS.

Example of struggling groups to target: Newcastle, Magee, Arts University College Bournemouth, Barnsley College, Blackburn College, Bournemouth Uni, City College Plymouth, Coventry Uni, Croydon College, Falmouth & Exeter, Glasgow College of Nautical Studies, Heriot-Watt, Hult International Business School, Institute of Education, New York University in London, Norwich University College of the Arts, Queen Margaret University, Richmond College, SOAS, Sheffield Hallam, Bedfordshire, Buckingham, Greenwich, Uni of the Arts London, York St John.

Support for freshers events: EILIDH noted that at Edinburgh University, societies have to submit proposals for freshers events 6 months in advance (in March); at this point, student groups don't know what the freshers week campaign will be, and so don't have the opportunity to organise an event around it - this is a lost opportunity. Also, student groups could benefit from suggestions for general events during freshers week.

EILIDH suggested that starting the freshers project earlier in the year would give greater support to existing/struggling groups to raise awareness on campus, by allowing them to plan before breaking off for summer. Information on campaigns, or guides to potential events e.g. film screenings, action on campus, pub quiz, would be useful.

BRYN noted that at Nottingham there are so many club nights in Freshers week that there's no point organising an Amnesty event as no-one would attend. Instead, it would be better to organise something the following week.

HANNAH S to encourage all groups to think about Freshers events now and get them booked in with their SUs, so their events are featured in Freshers guides. HANNAH S to include some guidance in the May mailing.

Suggestions for new unis to target in 2013 (don't currently have Amnesty groups):

- **University of the West of England** (*could work with Bristol Uni*)
- **Surrey** (*Bryn can help*)

- **University of Wales, Newport**
- **Kingston**
- **Brighton** (*could work with Sussex Uni*)
- **Aston** (*could work with Birmingham Uni*)
- **Wolverhampton** (*could work with Birmingham Uni*)
- **Canterbury Christ Church** (*could work with Kent Uni*)
- **University for the Creative Arts** (*could work with Kent Uni*)
- **Goldsmiths** (*several students interested in joining an Amnesty group*)
- **University of East London** (*a student, Nazneen, is interested in setting up a group*)

Campaign focus for Freshers materials: Zimbabwe would be a good campaign. Campaigns need to be non-controversial and easy to explain - compared to Reggie Clemons campaign, which was about a controversial issue (death penalty) and had quite complicated facts to explain. Simple campaigns about political prisoners in Burma in previous years worked well, as it was easy to explain and had a clear action to do.

Materials for Freshers packs: Amnesty branding looks good, however materials need to link to Amnesty and not just be picked up for the freebie e.g. pens.

Customisable poster templates online would be useful for groups - professional-looking, and can fill them in with event details.

Noted that some existing Amnesty leaflets too text-heavy, won't be read. Also, the next meeting postcards are separate from 'About Amnesty' leaflets. Should incorporate a Q&A about Amnesty with next meeting postcard – eye-catching, but include only key facts.

Flyers that have an additional use are more likely to be kept than other flyers picked up. Amnesty bookmarks (like in the Burma campaign) might be a good idea.

EILIDH suggested combining Amnesty beer mats with the 'next meeting' postcards to make 'next meeting beer mats' - beer mats are easy to get seen around campus and a bit more substantial than flyers.

Suggest that students do shout-outs about first meetings / events in lectures (politics lectures etc).

GRADUATE RETENTION

Amnesty LDN was set up to provide an Amnesty group for graduates and young professionals in London. Potential to replicate the Amnesty LDN model elsewhere - cities where graduates stay after university.

HANNAH SHAW to contact outgoing committee members to inform them about Amnesty LDN, encourage them to get in touch if they want to set up their own graduate group.

EILIDH suggested that in places without a large graduate community, but an existing local group, student groups and local groups should organise joint meetings towards the end of the semester to encourage a transition for those staying on in their university towns into local groups.

Graduate careers information in charity/activism work was discussed as a useful resource for student. **HANNAH SHAW to explore options for an online careers chat/Q&A.**

EILIDH suggested that Amnesty should work with the CSR departments of businesses, identifying firms that could fundraise for Amnesty. Although not part of the EST remit, this could be something for the 'Innovations' person in the new structure to lead on.

HANNAH SHAW to look into graduate membership upgrades, and check the process is working as it should.

SPEAKERS LIST PROJECT

EUAN had been looking into compiling a list of speakers, such as experts, journalists, authors, activists, etc. similar to the school speakers network list, which student groups could use when arranging events. However, after seeking suggestions from students, received only 1 response.

Suggested that rather than getting information from students, STAN should do the legwork for looking up speakers and their preferences for visiting universities.

ALL STAN to send suggestions to EUAN.

EUAN to contact speakers directly to check if they're happy to be on the list.

HANNAH SHAW to send EUAN a list of speakers from previous Student conferences etc.

UPDATE ON WEBSITE

Public launch of the website should hopefully be towards the end of May.

EILIDH suggested it would be very useful to have integration for group websites, like that for local group websites in the current set-up, for all types of group. This would be useful to ensure websites don't become disused when committees change, as it would take away the need for someone with in-depth IT knowledge, and paying for website hosting, each year. This has proved a problem for the Edinburgh University group in the past. HANNAH SHAW noted that this has been discussed, but not prioritised.

HANNAH SHAW to speak to LAURA FRANCIS about the potential for student groups to have website support, like local groups do.

Meeting to take place on 22nd April with LAURA FRANCIS, HANNAH SHAW, and DAISY to discuss the website.

HANNAH SHAW to get STAN's feedback on the new website when screen-shots are available.

LAURA FRANCIS will attend the July STAN meeting to discuss the website further.

FUNDRAISING

BRYN and RICHARD GLYNN are working on a fundraising guide over summer with a view to launch around Freshers and Student Conference. **BRYN to ensure the guide is finished over the summer. HANNAH SHAW to include the guide in Freshers packs and promote it at Student Conference.**

BRYN suggested including a fundraising survey in the raise-off, making it mandatory to fill in when money is submitted. **BRYN to speak to RICHARD GLYNN about this.**

There was potential for other Amnesty sections to provide some inspiration for fundraising. **BRYN to check out the websites of other Amnesty sections to find fundraising ideas.**

Liaison with Student Unions was also thought to be necessary for successful fundraising, and also providing ideas. **HANNAH SHAW to put BRYN and RICHARD GLYNN in touch with NUS contacts to discuss this.**

MEETING WITH HANNAH PERRY, AIUK BOARD

Problems at the International Secretariat (IS):

HANNAH P recommended that STAN read the Global Transition Plan. **HANNAH SHAW to email this to STAN.** Pages 4-9 outline current problems with the IS and its relationship with sections.

HANNAH P summarised the 3 main problems as: (1) Timeliness of IS work, (2) Not being strategic in campaigning, (3) Lack of coordination.

HANNAH P explained that it's not just AIUK that has concerns – lots of other sections do too.

HANNAH P explained that some steps have already been taken to tackle these problems:

- A Global Management Team has been set up – AIUK is represented by Kate Allen; this gives Kate a lot of access to Salil Shetty, the Secretary General of Amnesty
- A Fundraising Management Team has been created - AIUK is represented
- A Campaigns Management Team has been created - AIUK is represented
- Extra investment in support services at the IS, e.g. IT and HR

Communications between STAN and the Board:

Concerns were raised about lack of student and youth disengagement with governance issues, in particular AGM resolutions. That the 2013 Conference was predominantly AGM business, including governance- rather than campaign- heavy resolutions, is likely to blame for low student attendance.

EILIDH noted that her summary of resolutions was available for use, but providing this sort of thing should not be the responsibility of individual STAN members. EILIDH suggested that providing a summary of AGM resolutions could fall within the remit of the Standing Orders Committee. **HANNAH P to look into this.**

Currently, students do not have a direct point of contact with the Board, so would be unsure as to who to contact with concerns or queries. This ought to be fixed. **HANNAH P to identify a direct point of contact on the Board for students.**

EILIDH suggested that students are likely unaware what the Board does. Some Student Union sabbatical officers write blogs available to students in order to make them more accountable and transparent; this sort of update, potentially in the monthly mailings, would be a good thing to improve awareness among students about the Board. Can the Board contribute content for the monthly mailing? If so, who is the Board member responsible? **HANNAH P to look into whether the Board can contribute updates to monthly mailing, and identify a Board member responsible for this.** Guidelines and content will be discussed at next AMSC/ STAN/ Board meeting. However, content should definitely be kept short and clear.

It was noted that the governance task force, if the resolution is passed, will involve a lot of work on better engagement with governance. STAN to keep an eye on the governance task force - make sure we get a student rep on it! **ALL STAN and HANNAH P to keep an eye on this, and hopefully ensure a student representative is part of the task force.**

It was also noted that timings of various meetings make cooperation between STAN, the AMSC, and the Board difficult. **HANNAH SHAW to organise a session with AMSC student representative, STAN, and Board member, potentially at the July STAN meeting.**

PROTEST SONG COMPETITION

HANNAH SHAW outlined the Protest Songs competition for schools which has run for the first time this year; see here for info: <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=12277>.

ALL STAN members were keen for the competition to be expanded to university students next year, as this would give potential for Amnesty to reach new audiences/new students.

It was agreed that the categories should remain the same - lyrics and performance. The name 'Protest Songs' should also be kept.

For students, the prize should be studio time (i.e. a professional recording of the winning song) + the opportunity to perform at Student Conference.

Promotion methods: target music departments, use social media to reach student bands.

FEEDBACK FROM ACTION FOR CHANGE

Overall: feedback was overwhelmingly positive; rated either 4/5 or 5/5, and everyone said they would recommend the event to others.

Catering: 60% rated 5/5. However, better labelling of vegan etc. options was needed. For post-action chocolate, remember to have non-milk chocolate for vegans!

Friday Social: rated at least 3/5. Many suggested that negotiating a better curfew would have improved this.

Crash Pad: received mixed reviews but mostly 3/5. Crash Pad got cold at 5AM, although mats were provided. Showers were bad - doors didn't lock; no cubicles for boys; cold water. For next year, students should be warned to bring warm pyjamas to sleep in. Potential to

give students the option to book a Youth Hostel bed at their own expense, as an alternative to the Crash Pad (but still offer the Crash Pad).

Organisation: rated either 4/5 or 5/5. However, much of this relied on having long breaks which could be cut short to account for things overrunning.

Plenaries: ATT session rated either 4/5 or 5/5. However, session overran. Suggested that the Chair should play a more proactive role, asking particular questions to the panel - like Hannah interviewing Dan. This would prevent speakers covering the same content, and would help prevent overrunning.

Interactive Zimbabwe session rated either 4/5 or 5/5. Interactivity was good where it was Amnesty staff rather than a wider range of speakers.

Delegates loved hearing from a WOZA member and David Grimason – not just Amnesty staff. Activists and survivors are really compelling speakers, and should be included wherever possible.

Campaign action: rated either 4/5 or 5/5. This was great for getting lots of media coverage, and this really motivated the delegates. It was suggested that an even better reaction could be achieved by doing the action in a more public place (i.e. away from HRAC/BoxPark/Shoreditch), but due to time constraints this sort of bigger action would be more appropriate for Student Conference.

Some delegates were demotivated by the petitioning part of the action, as members of the public were rude, and some locations were not as busy as others. More emphasis should perhaps be placed on the action, which was more exciting and motivating. Some suggested a petitioning workshop, with skills that could be used back on campus, would be preferred.

Other suggestions: potential for A4C to be on Saturday/Sunday in future years, as this would be easier for students. However HANNAH SHAW noted this might be difficult to negotiate with Amnesty staff!

HANNAH SHAW/LAURA FRANCIS to keep A4C page/Storify live throughout the year, on the new website, similar to the page for Student Conference.

STUDENT CONFERENCE PLANNING

This will be the first two-day conference and so cuts to the programme will need to be made, and rather than people arriving the day before to be there for the Saturday morning, people will need to arrive for a Saturday morning start.

Suggested that the best start time would be 11AM, as most English/Welsh students could arrive at the HRAC by this time, travelling on the day. Scottish/NI students travelling further could be able to stay in youth hostels the night before. HANNAH SHAW to look into this.

It was suggested that the interactive plenary from A4C, and workshops, should be used to break up plenaries. Otherwise, people are likely to zone out, from being in the same room for a long time!

STAN elections should be put before the AGM business, as this prevents students bringing motions from having an unfair advantage in getting longer 'stage time' than other candidates.

Draft agenda:

Saturday 9th May

- 11am Welcome
- 11.30 Plenary
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.15 Plenary (interactive if possible!)
- 14.15 Break
- 14.45 Campaign Action Briefing
- 15.15 Leave for campaign action – in a prominent place, aim to generate media coverage
- 18.00 Arrive back at HRAC; break
- 18.30 Plenary
- 19.30 Dinner, social, Raise-Off awards

Sunday 10th May

- 9am Plenary
- 10.15 STAN elections
- 10.45 Break & voting
- 11.15 AGM
- 12.30 Lunch
- 13.15 Workshop
- 14.45 Break
- 15.15 Plenary
- 16.30 Wrap-up
- 17.00 Finish

JULY STAN MEETING PLANNING

Meeting to take place at some point between 3rd and 15th July. This should coincide with a Board meeting / AMSC meeting if possible. If not, the meeting will be mid-week rather than at a weekend.

Things to cover: Student Conference speakers, updates on STAN projects from all STAN members, student groups working with Country Coordinators.

HANNAH SHAW to check if the AMSC/Board are meeting in July, and set the July STAN meeting date accordingly.

ADDITIONAL ACTION POINTS

HANNAH SHAW to send STAN members updated contact details for groups in their regions; indicate which groups have recently updated their details; ask STAN to contact all the others to remind them to update details online.

HANNAH SHAW to ask new volunteer TOM to do Powerpoints to accompany monthly mailings.

HANNAH SHAW to check how much STAN have spent so far this year.