

STAN COMMITTEE 2012-13

MEETING 26th/27th JANUARY 2013



Note on Action Points:

Completed Action Points are marked in green.

Outstanding Action Points are marked in red.

ACTION POINTS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (1st/2nd December 2012)

ALL STAN to get in touch with groups/add to Facebook groups for region: DONE.

ALL STAN to get in touch with regional reps for region: EILIDH in touch with NI but no rep currently for Wales. MICHELLE in touch with Scotland Office but not yet with regional rep. JP, BRYN, EUAN, and DAISY still to do this.

DAISY to set up STAN Twitter: DONE. DAISY noted that although used 4-5 times a week and not huge amount of followers, still a useful thing to have. BRYN suggested posting Twitter link (@STANCommittee) on Facebook group regularly. **ALL STAN now to tweet from this account at least once a week.**

EILIDH to produce explanatory documents on AIUK Structure/CAPP/EGM: DONE. JP noted groups were very appreciative of these and were shared by groups on Facebook; especially useful in getting students to proxy vote. DAISY noted copies were used at the EGM so a useful thing to have for students, as many did not understand AIUK's structure previously.

EILIDH to look at improvements for Student AGM webpage: DONE. EILIDH now to write copy for a 'Have Your Say' page separate from the Student Conference webpage, to include information on writing resolutions and the AGM process. HANNAH SHAW to contact LAURA FRANCIS about moving STAN election copy to STAN Committee webpage.

UPDATE ON REGIONS

JP: Sent out introductory emails and also CAPP/EGM updates. Attempted to add people on Facebook but not always accepted. Some response from Plymouth Facebook group. Universities in the region seem to meet more intermittently for actions on big Amnesty campaigns. Bath University held a screening of "Call me Kuchu".

EILIDH: Posts in group Facebook and also sent out CAPP/EGM emails. Difficult to get responses to posts. Did have the opportunity to meet NI groups in person at Regional Conference, but the dates clashed with this STAN meeting. Welsh Facebook groups active, but more postings of links/events than discussion. Bangor sent off over 150 letters for the Write for Rights campaign, Cardiff are currently 3rd place in the Raise-Off and also organised a Women's Rights photo campaign, and Aberystwyth held a flash mob to raise awareness of the Arms Trade Treaty campaign.

DAISY: Noted that sometimes where it's difficult to get responses on Facebook, it can be best to make phone calls to individuals, especially the presidents of each group. Held first London regional conference, and London groups very active and keen for collaboration; they are planning a joint action for the following weekend. Fortnightly presidents meeting to coordinate actions organised.

MICHELLE: In touch with lecturer from Cumbernauld college, **MICHELLE to meet to discuss keeping the group going**; Glasgow have been in touch; Strathclyde have been successfully restarted with the help of the Glasgow group. Scottish student conference taking place in Glasgow. **MICHELLE to contact ELENA SOPER, to get information on how she is organising Scottish Student Conference, with a view to making a guide for other regions.**

BRYN: Has had little response from groups over Facebook.

EUAN: Sent introductory emails but not much feedback.

ALL STAN to have a 'ring round' of group presidents to establish better individual contacts.

ALL STAN to let Hannah know about any changes to contact details for groups in their region (lots of groups are having committee elections around now). Groups can update their details themselves using this online form:

<http://www.amnesty.org.uk/content.asp?CategoryID=11999>

UPDATE ON ROLES

JP working on Graduate Retention: Intends to follow the Amnesty LDN graduate group model to set up a group in at least one other city. Edinburgh suggested as a possible location for this group. **JP to speak to LAURA SHEPHERD about this; JP also to produce a survey to find out how many graduates will be planning on staying in Edinburgh after university.**

EILIDH working on Policy & Governance: CAPP/EGM documents got a good response from students and were useful in informing debate. Intending to do similar work in the run-up to AGM. Hoping that more students will want to bring resolutions to AGM/Student AGM.

DAISY working on Media: STAN Twitter up and running. Blog on EGM written; **DAISY now to type this up for uploading on website.** Lots of ideas for website. Attempted meeting with LAURA FRANCIS but this was cancelled; **DAISY to arrange another meeting to discuss ideas for new website launching in March.** Suggestion of a YouTube account for STAN, including intro videos from the STAN Committee, and videos from groups and events like Action for Change and Student Conference; **DAISY to provisionally set this up until we know about video integration in the new website.**

MICHELLE working on Groups' Development: Survey on status of groups (active/less active/new) produced as part of group support scheme, where more active groups can help those in need of it. 'Lean on Me' (LOM) suggested as a name for this. **MICHELLE to create Facebook event for group presidents linking to online survey in advance of Action for Change.**

BRYN working on Fundraising: Is working on a guide to different types of fundraising both big and small that can be used by groups. This won't be completed before Action for Change, as wanting to get contributions from groups then. **BRYN to contact Richard Glynn in Community Fundraising to let him know he's working on this guide and see if he wants to be involved. His email address is richard.glynn@amnesty.org.uk**

EUAN working on Campaigns & Activism: Had idea for activism guide/database of activist tools for campaigning. Advised HANNAH SHAW on Student Mailings, and suggested that Powerpoints would be a useful inclusion, to help groups structure meetings better.

UPDATES ON CAMPAIGNS

Arms trade treaty: Next round of ATT negotiations are taking place 18th-28th March, based on the text produced during last year's negotiations. Consensus is required on the treaty, and if not it will go to majority vote of UN General Assembly. Amnesty is campaigning to ensure that any loopholes are closed, and key clauses on e.g. ammunition remain in the treaty. Campaign action will focus on lobbying the UK to maintain its strong position going into the negotiations.

Suggestions for action for student groups included getting a surgery appointment with their local MP to discuss and ask them to lobby on their behalf. Could also do this creatively, such as staging a die-in, or posting/handing out bananas, emphasising the higher regulation on the banana trade than that of arms. DAISY pointed out that students should be told to put a valid name and postcode on anything they send, or MPs will not, and do not have to, respond.

Zimbabwe: Referendum text has been agreed and will take place in late March/early April, then at least 6 weeks before an election. The previous election resulted in violence, posing great risks to human rights defenders. When there was no conclusive election result, the South African Development Community (SADC) stepped in to broker an agreement and were listened to by the parties. Amnesty is campaigning to ask SADC to step in again, but to take preventative steps before voting commences to prevent further violence.

Suggested actions are themed around WOZA's annual Valentine's Day march, where they hand out roses to show that 'the power of love conquers the love of power'. Students are asked to write cards or send paper roses to SADC requesting action to protect human rights defenders like WOZA running up to the election. There will also be a solidarity demo on 16th February in London; students are invited to attend, or to host their own solidarity demo around the same time. And make sure to take lots of photos/videos!

Afghanistan: Continuance of campaign from Student Conference, looking particularly at women's rights in Afghanistan. Campaign focussing on writing to Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development. Creative action around the 'inky finger' used to mark voting cards in Afghanistan: suggested that students could meet their MP and get them to pose for a photo marking the pledge card with this 'inky finger'. At National Conference there will be an MP from Afghanistan speaking, it is hoped that Justine Greening may also take part in the panel. Photo exhibition on Afghan women's rights has also been produced. This campaign will continue into 2014; one of the major hooks for campaigning will be a conference in London in 2014 focussing on the future of Afghanistan.

STUDENT GROUP MAILINGS

At present, all presidents of student groups get mailings sent by post. Due to budget cuts, local group mailings will be sent out by email in future, although groups may 'opt-in' to receive a paper copy for one year only. Thereafter mailings will only be sent by email. ALL STAN agreed that this should be the case for student groups also.

EILIDH noted that the mailings include not only a guide for suggested actions, but also in some cases resources such as action cards, stickers, etc. If info for suggested campaigns are sent by email only, then timings need adjusting to allow groups to send away for any action materials they need. Groups need time to prepare an action and order materials before the key time for completing an action has passed.

DAISY noted that physical mailings are very easily lost if sent to one person; EILIDH agreed and noted that the Edinburgh group was not aware of physical mailings and only knew about the January campaign due to it being posted in the Facebook group. DAISY suggested it would be easier to cut physical mailings if digital versions were made very prominent on the website.

ALL STAN are to share each monthly mailing in their regional Facebook groups, and on the main STAN Facebook group, to make sure students (and not just presidents who receive the mailings from Amnesty) are aware of each month's campaign.

POTENTIAL CAMPAIGN: SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The International Secretariat (IS) has proposed a new campaign on sexual and reproductive rights, targeted at student and youth groups. NAOMI MCAULIFFE, Amnesty UK's poverty and human rights campaigner, asked HANNAH SHAW to speak to the STAN Committee about this and seek their views. The STAN Committee were shown mock-ups of proposed leaflets, posters, and t-shirts, with the slogan "I ♥ my body, I ♥ my rights".

DAISY noted this didn't seem something people would associate Amnesty with. Both the campaign and branding were vague and were not associated with any action apart from awareness-raising. In addition, the goal of awareness-raising did not seem relevant to a UK audience. JP suggested the branding was confusing; in fact, the exact same "I ♥ my body" is used by an eating disorder campaign.

The issues in the campaign were also highly controversial, which would be very problematic for an Amnesty campaign. EILIDH noted that the Edinburgh group had held a discussion on sexual and reproductive rights, which produced heated debate and not even Amnesty members were in agreement. A campaign like this by Amnesty had the potential to be divisive. In addition, it would look like Amnesty was 'spreading itself too thin', where this does not seem Amnesty's traditional territory. BRYN noted that there are many university societies who focus on these issues already. Whilst there might be opportunities for collaboration, these groups may see it as Amnesty trying to 'muscle in' on their campaigns, and where these groups do effective work already, there is little value in Amnesty taking a stance.

On the issue of using this campaign with youth groups, ALL STAN were concerned that it would be inappropriate. There would likely be issues with parents, especially where youth groups range from 11-16 years old. DAISY noted it would not make sense to have some campaigns only suitable for an older age range within youth groups. EUAN suggested that youth groups probably wouldn't be interested, as the campaign did not seem relatable.

Overall, ALL STAN were in agreement that there were very big flaws with the proposed campaign, and would not recommend it for use by either student or youth groups.

POTENTIAL SPEAKER FOR STUDENT CONFERENCE: DR JAWAD

The Edinburgh group held a screening last semester of the film 'Saving Face', about acid burn victims in Pakistan, and had the plastic surgeon who operated on the women in the documentary, Dr Jawad, speak about his work and his wish to raise awareness of this violence against women. He was very keen to get many other UK Amnesty students involved in his awareness raising campaign. EILIDH was asked to speak to the STAN Committee about whether this could be a potential speaker for Student Conference. Although it is too early to decide on speakers, it was suggested that Dr Jawad could be a 'student speaker' whose details groups could request, as part of a wider 'speaker list', similar to that used for school speakers. **EUAN is to lead on looking into this.**

'NO' FILM SCREENINGS

A film called 'No', based on the 'No' campaign in the Chilean referendum about whether Pinochet should stay in power, and nominated for best foreign picture at the Oscars will be showing around cinemas in the UK in February. Picturehouse cinemas will be hosting screenings on February 12th and have allowed interested Amnesty groups to have a stall at these screenings, and relevant groups have been contacted about this. When released on DVD, this will also be made available to Amnesty groups to hold screenings.

STAN HOODIES

Zip hoodies were agreed on. Two colour choices discussed: blue or pink. All seemed keen on either option, although pink would have clashed with EUAN's hair, so blue chosen. **HANNAH SHAW to arrange ordering these in time for Action for Change.**

EGM/RUN-UP TO AGM

EILIDH was leading on engaging students with the debate over the CAPP and the EGM proposals. The three documents produced to assist student with understanding CAPP and EGM were a useful resource for students, with some information otherwise not available e.g. a direct comparison of AIUK now and post-CAPP.

DAISY, JP, and BRYN all attended the EGM. Student attendance at the actual EGM was low; this is likely because of difficulties in getting transport etc. at short notice, unless the students lived in London. However, students could still proxy vote.

STAN Committee were mandated at the 2012 Student AGM to lobby to preserve a Student Manager. Following discussions with the Board, such a role is present in the new restructure plans, and so STAN Committee were required to vote in a way which preserved this.

The National AGM will now be the next opportunity for students to participate in debating AIUK's future. The STAN Committee needs to ensure students are able to engage in this debate at national level, including proposing resolutions themselves, as it was clear from Student Conference that students have very mixed views.

The deadline for resolutions for the National AGM 2013 is 11th February. **EILIDH is to put together a guide for students on how to propose resolutions. ALL STAN are to post this in Facebook groups and send by email to their regions.**

ACTION FOR CHANGE (A4C)

Campaign action: Two options were available for A4C's campaign action; Zimbabwe, or the Arms Trade Treaty. STAN Committee decided on the Arms Trade Treaty as the focus for the campaign action. As at previous A4Cs the action had focussed around a photo action, a flash mob 'die-in', something big and visual where all participants at A4C could get involved together, was chosen for this year. **HANNAH SHAW is to draw up a list of potential locations for this action, and discuss with STAN Committee.**

Workshops: Key workshops usually delivered at A4C include lobbying, media, fundraising, digital media, and how to run a good group. DAISY suggested that the digital media workshop could be a good way of getting content for the new website; EILIDH noted that it would be good to come away from a workshop having created something, whether this is a video, blog entry, etc. and suggested some being able to perhaps produce a video of the campaign action. EILIDH proposed a workshop relating to getting involved with Amnesty policy. **EILIDH is to produce an outline for this workshop and send to HANNAH SHAW by 21st February.**

Evening social: It was suggested that this would be a good opportunity to encourage regional groups to mix with each other and with their STAN reps. EILIDH noted a series of challenges related to human rights that were used on an Edinburgh University group pub crawl, which could be used during the social. **EILIDH is to write these up by 21st February.** For the social, last year's model of a pub quiz was going to be followed, with each round having a human-rights theme question at the end. Each STAN Committee member was assigned a round to write: BRYN – music round; MICHELLE – picture round; JP – film round; EILIDH – art/literature round; EUAN – geography/history round; DAISY – current affairs round. **ALL STAN to send their questions, including powerpoint slides, to HANNAH SHAW by 21st February.**

Music: **EUAN is to compile the STAN playlist for A4C.**

Crash pad: Crash pad is located near King's Cross station. Delegates are to take the tube there on the Friday night, accompanied by ALL STAN. On Saturday morning, a coach will collect delegates and take them to the HRAC. STAN Committee will decide among themselves on the day who is to remain at the crash pad and who will go with those who wish to go out. At least 2 STAN Committee should be on hand at the crash pad.

STAN phone: Not used often. JP and EUAN to take responsibility for this during A4C.

Pubs etc. around crash pad: Any members of STAN Committee around on Thursday night to scope out pubs etc. around the crash pad, so delegates aren't wandering around looking for somewhere on Friday night!

Menu: STAN Committee reviewed the menu options given by the catering company. It was decided that the 2 dishes chosen were to be quite different, and one should be vegan/without nuts. Dessert options still to be decided upon.

Bar for Friday night social: Beer, red/white wine, cider, and some form of spirit plus mixers to be made available. Drinks should only be sold per glass and not (in the case of wine) by the bottle. Some snacks should also be available.

Amnesty shop: The Amnesty shop is to be open during A4C. EILIDH suggested it would be good to feature any books etc. specifically on the theme of the plenaries taking place.

Delegate numbers & registration: Previously the number of delegates per university group has been capped. DAISY suggested that this can often be off-putting and groups may not want to send as many people as they do not wish to take places away from others. HANNAH SHAW noted that A4C does not usually sell out, unlike Student Conference. It was decided not to put a limit on places. However, delegates are to pay a £5 deposit, returnable on attendance, to prevent delegates from signing up but not attending.

Delegate pack: Rather than individual pictures of STAN members, the STAN intro page should use the group photo taken at Student Conference. **EUAN is to write the introduction from STAN and send this to HANNAH SHAW by 21st February.** As well as the STAN intro to A4C, a note on what each member of STAN is doing was suggested as useful, to make STAN more visible. **ALL STAN are to send a short blurb to DAISY by 21st February, who will put this page together.** A regional note should also be included so groups can easily get in touch with other groups in their region and also their STAN representative. **HANNAH SHAW is to draft this.**

Twitter hashtag: #amnestya4c is to be used as the Twitter hashtag throughout the event. This should be mentioned in opening speech, encouraged throughout the weekend, and put on all Powerpoint slides. EILIDH suggested having tweets display on the screens around the HRAC. At the end of the weekend, STAN should choose the best tweets of the weekend to close the event.

Publicity: MICHELLE suggested that in future, fliers would be a good inclusion for refreshers' weeks packs. DAISY noted that not as many people had heard of A4C as Student Conference, so publicity really needed improving. It was agreed that ringing round the presidents of groups in our regions was necessary, as well as publicising on Facebook. **ALL STAN to do a ring-round of group presidents and publicise on Facebook when A4C booking put online.**

Photo slideshow: **ALL STAN to find photographs from groups in their region** going to A4C to be displayed on a slideshow.

Welcome speeches: It was felt that the intro to the speech should focus on what A4C is about. **EILIDH and EUAN are to write this part.** STAN should also introduce themselves and what they're doing – **ALL STAN to write their own piece for this.** **BRYN is to write the health and safety speech.** **MICHELLE is to write the part on the practicalities of the weekend** – workshop signups, crash pad, etc. **JP is to write an overview of the weekend** – workshops, plenaries, etc. **DAISY is to conclude the speech**, giving an inspirational lead-in to a speaker from Amnesty. ALL STAN were keen to have Dan Jones deliver a speech at some point during the weekend, either on the Friday night or Saturday morning. **HANNAH SHAW is to look into this.**

Evaluation: As well as traditional feedback forms in delegate packs, it was suggested that flipchart paper in the foyer of the HRAC would be a good way for groups to add feedback throughout the weekend. JP also suggested a 'diary room' style set-up, where comments could be made by video.