

AGM Decisions Implementation Report

Latest update: September 2014

After each of its meetings, the Board will post an update on the website that describes the progress in implementing decisions. If AIUK members wish to make further enquiries about the implementation of a decision, they should feel free to contact the relevant Board member through the email address provided below.

All other enquiries should be directed to the Supporter Care Team sct@amnesty.org.uk

A1 Sex Work – Decriminalisation

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Harrison Littler, Harrison.littler@amnesty.org.uk

Members of Amnesty UK considered a series of options on policy towards sex work at its AGM. The result of that vote was inconclusive. There was support for the decriminalisation of activities related to the buying or selling of consensual sex between adults (A1), but delegates also voted in favour of taking no formal position on the issue (A3). The views of Amnesty UK have been conveyed to the International Board of Amnesty International who will be considering the responses from all the Amnesty sections around the world. We also now understand that a policy position will not be adopted by the International Board later this year as originally planned. It will be considered at the International Council Meeting (ICM), Amnesty's highest decision-making body, in August 2015. We are also expecting that further consultation with sections will take place in 2015 in advance of the ICM.

A3 Sex Work – No Position

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Harrison Littler, Harrison.littler@amnesty.org.uk

As above

B1 Human Rights Act

Proposer: Wirksworth & District Local Group

Board member: Ruth Breddal, ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

We have prepared a draft briefing on the Human Rights Act that we intend to provide to activists as part of our wider plans leading up to the General Election. Materials will be distributed later this year.

B2 Garment workers in Asian countries

Proposer: Jerry Allen

Board member: Rona Keen, rona.keen@amnesty.org.uk

Following the AGM, the Bangladesh and Cambodia country coordinators and the AIUK trade union community organiser began to scope opportunities for collaboration. A fruitful teleconference was held in early June with *Labour Behind the Label*, the UK arm of the Clean Clothes Campaign, who are keen to work with us. In September, the Bangladesh Country Coordinator and the Trade Union Community Organiser met with a representative of the TUC. The conclusion of this meeting was that Amnesty International has potential to add value on rights to freedom of association and rights to organise, rather than on more specific labour issues (like the Bangladesh Fire and Safety Accord of minimum wage targets in Cambodia). AIUK are currently analysing a number of materials with a view to approaching colleagues at the International Secretariat.

B3 Guantanamo

Proposer: Canterbury Local Group

Board member: Hugh Whitby, hugh.whitby@amnesty.org.uk

The IS issued an internal briefing to mark the 12th anniversary of Guantanamo, which we used for media work. We took forward activity to mark the anniversary through our Country Coordinator, Noa Kleinman, which focused on the Global Day of Action to close Guantanamo on May 23rd, 2014 and we did a feature in Groups News. We are continuing to liaise with the IS and AIUSA.

B4 Guatemala

Proposer: Tom Sparks

Board member: Tom Sparks, tom.sparks@amnesty.org.uk

On 31 May AIUK hosted a significant international conference on impunity in Guatemala at the HRAC. This was jointly organised with the TUC, Guatemala Solidarity Network and other NGOs including the ITUC, Banana Link, PBI, CAWN and LAAMP. The highlight was the contribution of three Guatemalan speakers who had come to London specially for the event; Yolanda Oqueili, an environmental activist (and long-term AI HRD case); Jose Cabrera, General Secretary of SITRAGUA, the Trade Union of the Workers of the Municipal Water Company of Guatemala; and Maya Alvarado representing the *Covergencia de Derechos Humanos*, the coalition of Guatemalan Human Rights Groups. Maya is also currently Executive Director of UNAMG, the National Union of Guatemalan Women. The plenary sessions were chaired by Georgia Booth, AIUK Guatemala country coordinator, and Shane Enright, AIUK trade union community organiser. Over 80 delegates attended, and a series of workshops explored practical solidarity. The event was crucial in building relationships in the UK for future activism in line with the resolution and in coordination with the secretariat.

Future work will be led by the Country Coordinator, working to priorities established by the International Secretariat, although AIUK is also scoping potential casework to be conducted in partnership with the trade union movement.

B5 Sri Lanka Human Rights

Proposer: Kingston Local Group

Board member: Hugh Whitby, hugh.whitby@amnesty.org.uk

We have raised this with the UK government and parliament. It has been discussed in meetings with the FCO Minister, Hugo Swire MP and in meetings with members of the Shadow (Labour) Foreign Affairs team. The IS researcher joined us at the Foreign Secretary's conference to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, raising the relevance of this in the Sri Lanka context.

B6 Sri Lanka and the UN

Proposer: Kingston Local Group

Board member: Hugh Whitby, hugh.whitby@amnesty.org.uk

This has been raised in above mentioned meetings.

C1 Special Resolution - Nomination Committee co-option

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Ruth Breddal, ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

The Memorandum and Articles of Association of Section are in the process of being updated with Companies House to reflect this amendment.

C2 Nominations Committee Terms of reference

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Ruth Breddal, ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

The Nominations Committee are revising membership and applications processes for the Board Sub-Committee, the Board itself and AGM Working Party Chairs. They are liaising with Sub-Committee Chairs to see how recruitment can be improved. They will be visiting Regional Conferences and contacting Regional Representatives to publicise future elections. Information sent in the magazines and placed on the website is being revised.

C3 Governance Training Budget

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Sarah Ward, sarah.ward@thomsonreuters.com

Funding provision of £35,000 is now available for governance training. We will earmark a specific Governance Training budget line in July/August as we review budgets following approval of the 2014-15 Operational Plan.

C4 Governance Task Force Extension

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Hannah Perry, hannah.perry@amnesty.org.uk

The Governance Task Force is continuing to meet, in line with the decision of the AGM to extend its term until July 2015.

C5 Location of AIUK Annual General Meetings

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Ruth Breddal, ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

Warwick University will host the 2015 AGM, 18-19 April. A longer-term host venue has yet to be selected, as we are broadening our search for suitable venues that meet our requirements.

D1 Secret Policeman's Ball

Proposer: Canterbury Local Group

Board member: cris.burson-thomas@amnesty.org.uk

Any work to start exploring the next steps for the SPB will take place in the context of the development of a wider integrated communications plan. Work on this will commence once key staffing changes have settled down.

D2 Secretary General's Global Council

Proposer: York and Bury St Edmund Local Groups

Board member: Hannah Perry, hannah.perry@amnesty.org.uk

We have met with the coordinator of Secretary General's Global Council and agreed a timetable and plan of action in order to provide the Board with a draft supportive proposal for discussion at the November 2014 AIUK Board meeting.

D3 Linking Members with Local Groups

Proposer: Penzance Local Group

Board member: Ruth Breddal, ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

We have begun reviewing our communications with members – and the systems and processes that support these communications. We are prioritising the implementation of this resolution as part of this work and will have plans in place in early 2015.

D4 Scottish Independence

Proposer: Malcolm Dingwall-Smith

Board member: Eilidh Douglas, eilidh.douglas@amnesty.org.uk

The Scotland office of AIUK has carried forward its campaign work around promoting a human rights agenda in the referendum debate through political advocacy, supporter activism, outreach events and the use of media and social media. As part of this work, it examined the draft constitution for an independent Scotland published by the Scottish Government in June 2014. On 18 September, the referendum resulted in a 'no' vote, meaning Scotland will remain part of the UK.

D5 Strategic Goals Consultation

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: hannah.perry@amnesty.org.uk

We have completed Phase 1 of the consultation process and Phase 2 has just commenced. Phase 1 was an initial opportunity for activists and staff to contribute ideas for potential goals for 2016-2019 and conduct some external trends analysis. AIUK provided a formal response to the International Secretariat in June. Phase 2 proposals were discussed at the September Governance Day and staff will have the opportunity to contribute through team discussions at a working later in the month. Staff in the Community Organising, HRE and Events Team have worked with the Governance, Strategy and Planning Officer to provide a pack of materials and events for activists that are now being rolled out. Once again, timelines are tight but are geared to ensure sufficient to time for analysis and governance consideration at the international level. A final phase of the consultation will begin in the New Year, based around the proposals to be tabled at the ICM.

D6 Global Transition Program

Proposer: Caroline Butler

Board member: richard.cryer@amnesty.org.uk

Given the different flows of information concerning the global transition programme, we need to establish systems for collating and synthesising information about the GTP. We expect to do this ahead of the Autumn sub-committee and Board meetings.

2013 AGM Decisions

During 2014, the Board will continue to monitor the implementation of a number of decisions from previous AGMs.

A5 Disability and Human Rights

Proposer: Rick Burgess

Board member: Hugh Whitby, hugh.whitby@amnesty.org.uk

Since the WOW Petition achieved its target of 100,000 signatures in December, there had been little contact with proposers of the resolution until July, when they contacted AIUK seeking support for a new campaign on the Work Capability Assessment, which we were unable to provide on this occasion.

As noted in the implementation report presented to the AGM, we were able to provide a supportive statement to the WOW petition, based on a limited amount of research of the issues. However, we have previously lacked the staffing resources required to assess the potential for public campaigning or stronger statements and interventions in the debate.

Whilst recruitment to the Chief Executive's Office staffing structure has enabled us to identify a member of staff to lead on scooping out this work in the second half of 2014, we have experienced a number of competing priorities that have prevented the

recommencement of this work. These priorities include work with the IS on litigation concerning UK mass surveillance, scoping out potential work on the Human Rights Act (see above) and advising on the “Lobbying Act”.

Perhaps more positively, we understand that the International Secretariat may be preparing a policy note on “austerity”. We will assess whether this fills some of the many policy gaps the impact on the implementation of this resolution.

A6 Reporting on AGM Decisions

Proposer: Paisley Local Group

Board member: ruth.breddal@amnesty.org.uk

AIUK staff are continuing to report on the progress of AGM decision implementation to each Board meeting. From May 2014, all implementation updates have been posted on the AIUK website, enabling proposers and other interested individuals to monitor progress and provide feedback to Board members.

B1 AIUK Finances

Proposer: Paul Gadd

Board member: richard.cryer@amnesty.org.uk

1. The Finance sub-committee (FSC) continues to actively review AIUK’s financial management. Plans are in place to incorporate a risk management review into the ongoing financial strategy work, which will be completed later this year.
2. A report was made by the Treasurer to the 2014 AGM and a further update will be provided to the 2015 AGM.
3. Quarterly reports for members have been provided on both AIUK and IS finances.
4. The above reports have incorporated illustrative examples to 2021, as did the 2014 AGM report.
5. Ongoing developments in the IS’s financial and risk management are scrutinised by the FSC, with considerable engagement from the staff of AIUK and the IS.
6. AIUK is fully involved with ongoing work on how sections and the IS cooperate to ensure clarity and consistency of financial and risk management. This manifests as membership of several international working parties, good communication between staff and particular governance oversight at the FSC and Charitable Trust.

C6 Transparency and Accountability of the IS

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: richard.cryer@amnesty.org.uk

AIUK is playing a full role in the International Accountability and Transparency (Intrac) working group. This has also been discussed with representatives of the GTF, reported to the 2014 AGM, with a further update to be given to the 2015 AGM.

E2 Regional Trade Union networks

Proposer: NI Public Service Alliance (NIPSA) (Affiliate)

Board member: tom.hedley@amnesty.org.uk

The launch of the Northern Ireland AI Trade Union Network took place in Belfast on Thursday 8 May, called jointly by Amnesty and the Irish Congress of Trade Unions. Speakers included Mariam Abu Dheeb (via Skype from Bahrain), daughter of Mahdi Abu Dheeb, imprisoned President of the Bahrain Teachers' Association, and Tom Hedley, chair of Amnesty International UK Trade Union Network. Subsequent to the meeting, the Irish National Teachers Organisation voted to affiliate to AIUK and NIPSA passed a resolution at its AGM in support of Mahdi Abu Dheeb and engaged its membership in a campaign action.

Further joint campaign activity is planned and progress will be reviewed to test if this is a TU Regional Network model which could be replicated elsewhere in UK.

E4 and E5: AIUK Governance and 12-Month Governance and Role Task Group

Proposer: Michael Reed,

Proposer: AIUK Board

Board member: Hannah Perry, hannah.perry@amnesty.org.uk

Decision E5 established a Governance Task Force. Its remit is comprised of all points raised in Decisions E4 and E5. The GTF continues to meet, following the extension of its term until 2015.

In April 2014, AIUK's AGM adopted two decisions to develop the remit of the Nominations Committee and enable it to co-opt up to two specialists to help it in the discharge of its duties. These decisions go some way to addressing two of the actions identified in Decision E4.

The GTF has continued to meet since the AGM and continues to discuss recommendations for the Board and next year's AGM.

E6 Consultation on Material Reorganisation

Proposer: Liesbeth ten Ham

Board member: Hannah Perry: hannah.perry@amnesty.org.uk

The resolution requires that a consultation shall be conducted prior to any material reorganisation of the company. The Board has included the task of defining "material reorganisation" in the remit of the Governance Task Force, which continues to meet.

No changes to AIUK's vision, mission, values or role are currently envisaged. However, the Senior Management Team are planning a project to develop a common understanding amongst staff of AIUK's existing values and how they apply to the workplace. The GTF have also undertaken a consultation on whether a role statement proposed in 2012 is a reasonable summary of the Strategic Directions agreed by AIUK's AGM in 2011.