

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
UNITED KINGDOM SECTION**

**NOTICE OF THE
2024 ANNUAL
GENERAL MEETING**

Saturday 22 June 2024

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL UNITED KINGDOM SECTION (AIUK SECTION) to be held as a hybrid meeting on Saturday 22 June 2024 from 11:00 to 17:00 at the Pennine Hall, Sheffield Hallam University City Campus, Sheffield, S1 1WB. Members will also be able to access the meeting online.

Participating in the meeting

The AGM will be held at the Pennine Hall, Sheffield Hallam University City Campus, Sheffield, S1 1WB. Members may attend in person or online. Information on how to join the meeting electronically can be found in the Chair's letter and at www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting. Members planning to attend in person are requested to register their attendance at www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting so we can contact you in the event of any last-minute venue changes and to ensure we have adequate space at the venue.

The business of the AGM will be to:

1. receive the report of the Directors and audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023;
2. receive and, if thought fit, adopt the report of the standing orders committee;
3. consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolutions printed below, which shall be proposed as Special and Ordinary Resolutions;
4. receive the report of the Nominations Committee;
5. approve the re-appointment of BDO LLP as external auditors and authorise the Directors to approve their remuneration;
6. receive the budgetary estimates of the Directors for the current and ensuing financial periods; and
7. if an election is required, to elect the AGM Chair for 2025, members of the Standing Orders Committee and Members of the Members and Directors Appeal Committee.

All AIUK Section members are entitled to attend and vote at the AGM. A member of AIUK Section is also entitled to appoint a proxy to attend, speak and vote on their behalf. A proxy need not also be a member of AIUK Section.

A form to nominate a proxy and to vote on the AGM resolutions is, for members that are receiving this notice by post, enclosed. For members receiving this notice electronically, the form is available to download from www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting, or you can email AmnestyAGM@Computershare.co.uk for a copy, or otherwise by post from AIUK, 17-25 New Inn Yard, London EC2A. If you prefer to submit your proxy form and vote online, please go to www.amnesty.org.uk/vote. You will need to enter your Voter Reference Number and PIN. Completed forms must be returned by the means set out in the proxy form, and arrive no later than **9am on Thursday 20 June 2024**.

By order of the Board

Tim Hancock

Tim Hancock,
Company Secretary,
3 May 2024

Amnesty International
United Kingdom Section
(incorporated and registered in
England and Wales
under number 01735872)

The Human Rights Action Centre,
17-25 New Inn Yard,
London EC2A 3EA

FINANCIAL RESOLUTIONS

F1

Resolution title: Financial statements

Resolution summary: A routine resolution to receive the financial statements and reports.

Proposer: AIUK Board

Resolution text: This AGM resolves to receive the Report of the Directors and the audited accounts of AIUK Section for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Proposers background note: Receiving the financial reports is a formal part of every AGM. The audited financial statements have been reviewed by the Board and can be found on the AIUK's website <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/annual-general-meeting>.

F2

Resolution title: Appointment of auditors

Resolution summary: A routine resolution to reappoint BDO LLP as auditors and to authorise the Board to determine their remuneration.

Proposer: AIUK Board

Resolution text: This AGM resolves to reappoint BDO LLP as Auditor of the Company, to hold office until the conclusion of the next General Meeting at which accounts are laid before the

Company, and to authorise the Directors to approve the Auditor's remuneration.

Proposer's background note: AIUK Section is required by law to appoint auditors at each AGM. The Board recommends that BDO LLP be re-appointed, with the audit fee at an amount to be agreed by the Board.

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

S1

Resolution title: Special Resolution to amend the AIUK Articles of Association

Resolution summary: Special Resolution to amend the Articles of Association in order to reduce the number of Board members required to make an out-of-meeting decision of the AIUK Section Board.

Proposer: AIUK Board

Resolution text: This AGM resolves by Special Resolution that the Articles of Association of Amnesty International UK Section are altered by:

- a. In Article 45.13, deleting the words "of three quarters";
- b. In Article 45.14.4, deleting the words "at least three quarters" and replace with "a majority" and, after the words "may be taken by a majority", deleting the words "of three quarters"
- c. In Article 45.15, deleting the words "of three quarters"
- d. In Article 45.16.3, deleting the words "of three quarters"

Proposer's background note: The Amnesty International UK Section Board consists of up to fifteen members. The overwhelming majority of Board decisions are made at meetings of the Board, where decisions are made by a simple majority of those attending.

Occasionally, decisions are required which cannot (or should not) await the next scheduled Board meeting. Whilst extra meetings of the Board can be (and have been) organised, this is not always possible at short notice, given the other commitments of Board members.

Articles 45.13 to 45.16 of the Section's Articles of Association provide a mechanism for Board members to make a decision outside a meeting. They allow for a proposed decision to be circulated to all Board members with a request for votes to be returned within a timeframe specified by the Chair or their nominee. Board members must be able to communicate with each other about the decision during this time period.

Currently, the Articles require a written decision to be made by a majority of three quarters of all Board members who are entitled to vote (typically all Board members, except any who may be excluded from a vote due to a conflict of interest). The current wording means that only four Board members need to be unobtainable (due to holiday, work or other circumstances) for the Board to be prevented from making a decision outside a meeting.

The proposed changes will enable the Board to make decisions outside of Board meetings by a simple majority of all Board members entitled to participate in the decision (a higher threshold than a simple majority of those taking part in

the vote). This will reduce the risk of the Board failing to take timely decisions due to unavailability of a small number of members.

The Board remains committed to the good governance principle that the power to take decisions outside meetings should be used sparingly and that, except in the most urgent circumstances, significant or controversial decisions should be made at a Board meeting.

ORDINARY RESOLUTIONS

O1

Resolution title: Resolution to amend the AIUK Section Rules

Resolution summary: Resolution to make minor amendments to the UK Section Rules, updating job titles, references to Articles of Association, providing a definition of Standing Orders Committee and correcting a typographical error.

Proposer: AIUK Section Board

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the following amendments be made to the Amnesty International UK Section Rules:

1. In the title of the Rules, replace the reference to "Article 52" with "Article 53"
2. Under the section headed "Definitions",
 - a. Amend the definition of "Act" so that the term reads "Acts" and definition reads "the Companies Acts (as defined in Section 2 of the Companies Act 2006)"

- b. Remove the reference to “AIUK Director” and replace with “AIUK Chief Executive”
 - c. Replace the definition of the “AIUK Chief Executive” with the words “the member of staff who is the most senior paid employee of Amnesty International UK Section, also referred to in the Articles of Association as the “AIUK Director””;
 - d. In the definition of “Chair”, replace the reference to “Article 44.6 of the Constitution” with “Article 45.6”;
 - e. In the definition of “Director and Directors”, replace the word “Act” with “Acts”;
 - f. In the definition of Members, replace the word “Constitution” with the words “Articles”;
 - g. In the definition of “Standing Orders Committee”, replace the words “Standing Orders Committee” with “The Committee elected by the AGM to interpret and advise on the AGM Standing Orders”;
 - h. Replace the words “Vice Chair” with the words “Vice Chairs” throughout the Rules
 - i. In the definition of “Vice Chairs”, replace the reference to “Article 44.6” with “Article 45.6”
3. In Rule 1.1, replace reference to “Article 52” with “Article 53”
 4. In Rule 4.6, replace the word “There” with “These”.

Proposer’s background note: In 2017, the Annual General Meeting amended the Articles of Association to allow the Board to make Rules, with the consent of the Members. The intention was to remove certain provisions from the Articles that were not deemed to be essential and to allow for their

amendment by simple majority at the AGM, ensuring that members retain control of the Rules but making them easier to change.

The Board undertook a review of the Rules in September 2023 and concluded that all remained relevant for the time being but that certain updates were required.

The amendments proposed to the AGM:

- Replace the reference to “AIUK Director” in the definitions, with “AIUK Chief Executive” to reflect the job title of the Section’s most senior employee;
- Replace references to the “Constitution” with “Articles of Association” to ensure greater consistency and to use the correct title of the Section’s governing document;
- To provide a definition of the Standing Orders Committee – as no meaningful definition of the committee is currently provided;
- To update references to specific Articles in the Articles of Association where these have changed since the adoption of the Rules;
- To refer to Vice-Chairs (plural), reflecting the fact that the Articles of Association allow for the appointment of two Vice Chairs of the Board;
- To correct a typographical error in Rule 4.6.
- To correct references to the Companies Acts (so that the plural form is used, where applicable).

The Rules can be viewed and downloaded on the Amnesty International UK website at <https://www.amnesty.org.uk/amnesty-international-uk-section>. Please see the links at the foot of the page.

O2

Resolution title: Research into Indigenous Peoples Rights in Guyana

Resolution summary: Amnesty International's work on the conditions for, and rights of, indigenous communities in South America should include indigenous communities in Guyana.

Proposer: Runnymede Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the AIUK Board urges the International Secretariat to carry out immediate research into the imminent threat to Guyanese indigenous communities of the development of a large highway from Georgetown to Lethem on the Brazilian border, and for this research to focus on the Guyanese government's adherence to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in its proposals and consultations. This research should be made available for campaigning by AIUK and other national sections.

This AGM resolves that the AIUK Board urges the International Secretariat to also research the awarding of licences for oil exploration, mining and logging and the effects of these activities on the rights of indigenous communities, including the threat of military invasion of their traditional homelands from Venezuela.

This AGM resolves that the AIUK Board invites the International Secretariat to consider whether it would be more appropriate, for the purposes of the research, for Guyana to be treated as being within the South America region rather than the North America and English-speaking Caribbean region.

Proposer's background note: Guyana is a small country with a small population and has historical ties with Caribbean islands. Its indigenous population lives predominantly inland, nearer borders with Brazil and Venezuela.

These people face threats similar to those faced across South America, but Amnesty International is yet to conduct any research into the rights of indigenous people and communities in Guyana. This may be the result of it being included in the English-speaking Caribbean co-ordinator area.

Indigenous people in Guyana are at risk from various forces: mining pollutes their water supply, illegal loggers cross from Brazil, and Exxon Mobil are extracting oil from Guyanese waters. Most recently, a new highway from the north coast to the southern border is putting their ecosystem and way of life at risk.

The effects of these forces, or potential effects of them, appear to contravene the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including:

Article 1 by contravention of Article 25 of the UNHCR by water poisoning, Article 10, Article 19, Article 23, Article 26, Article 27, Article 28, Article 29, Article 32

The Amnesty International website states: "Amnesty works with Indigenous peoples to develop urgently needed laws to protect their lands, cultures and livelihoods.". Its calls to governments include:

"Effectively consulting Indigenous Peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent for decisions that affect them.

Having secure access to the lands and resources essential to their well-being and ways of life.”

Research and campaigning are required to ensure the Guyanese government meet these calls.

President Maduro of Venezuela held a referendum to mobilise public support for the country’s claim to part of Guyana, and the International Court of Justice has reconsidered the Venezuelan claim. A recent visitor tells us this has caused terror in the minds of indigenous communities. It is no coincidence oil has been discovered under indigenous lands.

These risks are similar to those faced by other indigenous communities across South America, but Amnesty International is yet to conduct any research into the rights of indigenous people and communities in Guyana. This may be the result of it being included in the English-Speaking Caribbean co-ordinator area, where indigenous rights has a lesser focus.

Although the country is small, the risks affecting its indigenous peoples have regional significance, specifically with regard to Brazil and Venezuela, and the country is entirely within the South American mainland.

It has been suggested that any research into the situation for indigenous peoples in Guyana would require some assistance in campaigning in support of that research; the Runnymede Group are pleased to offer this. We can also contribute to the research with first-hand experience from associates who have visited the area.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution and agrees that rights issues facing Indigenous populations in many countries, including Guyana, are of great significance. The Board notes that AIUK cannot instruct Amnesty’s International Secretariat (IS) on its research decisions and can only ask them to consider specific types of research.

Amnesty’s work to date: The IS does not have dedicated research or campaign expertise assigned to Guyana. Guyana is not a priority country for the South America Region. Campaigning work on Guyana has been limited to work on the death penalty.

The IS has a specialist Indigenous Rights Researcher role with a global remit. The IS has produced country reports and/or UN submissions on Indigenous rights in Canada, Colombia, Peru, Mexico, Chile, Honduras, Guatemala, Brazil, Cambodia, USA and Australia. The most recent UN submission was made in 2022.

Amnesty International believes that Governments must implement laws and policies that bring the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to life, particularly around:

- Effectively consulting Indigenous Peoples to obtain their free, prior and informed consent for decisions that affect them;
- Maintaining their distinct cultural identities;
- Living free from discrimination and the threat of genocide; and
- Having secure access to the lands and resources essential to their well-being and ways of life.

Amnesty’s existing plans: The International Secretariat does not have

any existing plans for specific research and campaigning on Indigenous rights in Guyana.

Amnesty International UK cannot instruct the IS on its research decision and respects the fact that the IS ultimately has to take decisions on which work to pursue consistent with the agreed Global Strategy. Should this resolution pass, the AIUK Section Chair would write to the International Board flagging that this is a matter of potentially significant human rights interest and requesting its response as to whether it will pursue research on this area.

Resource implications: This resolution would require the IS to reprioritise the time of the Indigenous Rights Researcher role which would mean that work which the IS considers a priority would need to be stopped, or to invest in bringing in additional research and campaign capacity at a cost of around £100K per year.

Equalities Impact Assessment: This resolution would require AIUK to ask the IS to undertake research and campaigning on the rights of indigenous people of Guyana which would highlight and challenge systemic human rights abuses experienced by this minoritized group, but it could mean a reduction in work on another minoritized Indigenous group.

O3

Resolution title: Commitment to Individuals and Communities at Risk work (IAR) by Amnesty International UK

Resolution summary: A resolution instructing the Board of Amnesty International UK to continue to give

significant priority to worldwide IAR work as set out in the Amnesty International UK 2022-2030 strategy unless it is authorised to do otherwise by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.

Proposer: Truro and District Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board of Amnesty International UK:

1. Continues to give significant priority to Individuals and Communities at Risk work as set out in the Amnesty International UK 2022-2030 strategy and the Global Strategy For Amnesty International's Work With & For Individuals & Communities At Risk (2022-2025)
2. Must consult with Amnesty UK members and then bring an appropriately worded resolution to the AGM if at any time it proposes to downgrade the priority to be given to worldwide Individuals and Communities at Risk work by the section.

Proposer's background note:

Working with and for individuals and communities at risk (IAR) is the foundation stone of Amnesty International. From Peter Benenson's original "Appeal for Amnesty, 1961" to the organisation's statute, working with individuals and communities at risk worldwide has been, and continues to be, at the heart of Amnesty International's work. Activists working in the community see how this unique mission has been a major factor in motivating thousands of people to join Amnesty over the years.

In the Amnesty International UK Strategy document for 2022-2030 IAR work is included as Priority Issue 5 and the

document states that “This a key part of the work that local groups, country coordinators and thematic networks do with great effect and this will continue to form a key part of our work.”

As a result of statements made in the Board Q&A session at the National Conference in November there is lack of clarity as to the degree of commitment of the Section Board to worldwide IAR work. This will be a matter of concern to many members and supporters and is an issue that needs resolution as soon as possible.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution. Individuals and Communities at Risk (ICAR) work is, and will continue to be for the duration of our strategic period 2022-2030, one of our six strategic human rights priority issue areas.

Amnesty’s work to date: Campaigning (including advocacy, activism, and communications) is the primary approach AIUK takes to creating human rights change in our ICAR work.

Our work to date includes: Long-term cases which have a detailed, in-depth ‘casefile’, developed by the IS in conjunction with the individual or community, and including all relevant information about the case. They are usually emblematic of a systemic issue in a country or region and include objectives for change for both the individual and at the country or systemic level. These cases are worked on by Amnesty for years – sometimes decades – and involve a high degree of investment from the IS and sections. AIUK maintains a portfolio of around 50-70 LT casefiles (drawn from the complete IS list).

Urgent Actions are designed to be acted on over a short period, usually around six weeks.

UAs generally contain far less information than a long-term case and are focused on a single specific change for the individual, rather than systemic changes.

A big part of ICAR campaigning is the Write for Rights (W4R) annual campaign, when the global Amnesty movement comes together to work on a set of cases of individuals or communities to achieve human rights change for and to share our solidarity with these individuals.

Additionally, AIUK may work on the ‘cases’ of other individuals who do not fit into either long-term or Urgent Action categories. From innovative solidarity campaigns with victims of domestic violence, to direct support to Human Rights Defenders, we work with and for individuals in a range of ways.

Amnesty’s existing plans: AIUK’s plans include continuation of our campaign to bring home unjustly detained British nationals, including Alaa Abdel Fattah and Mehran Raouf. Write for Rights will continue to be delivered annually, providing action-taking and solidarity in support of 10 cases around the world. Activists – including local groups and Country Co-ordinators – will continue to be able to develop and deliver case campaigning on the multiple cases on the AIUK IAR case portfolio, exactly as they are now.

Resource implications: None.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No impact.

04

Resolution title: Increasing the scale of regional/country-focused campaigning by Amnesty UK activists

Resolution summary: A resolution to mobilise individual national members in order to increase the scale of regional and country-focused campaigning carried out by Amnesty International UK.

Proposer: Chris Ramsey

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board ensures that on an annual basis, commencing in 2025:

1. Individual and Family national members of Amnesty International UK are given sufficient information by direct e-mail to enable them to a) decide whether they wish to contribute to regional/country focused campaign work b) indicate which region or regions they wish to work on in the coming year;
2. The data from this annual exercise be sent to Country Coordinators so that they can contact the individual members and integrate them into their regional/country focused work.

Proposer's background note: Country Coordinators lead the country-focused campaigns and advocacy work of Amnesty UK, supported by research and further expertise from the International Secretariat. This work involves both thematic campaigns with particular resonance in specific countries (eg Protect the Protest) and work on worldwide Individuals At Risk cases.

Every year local groups are invited to sign up to become involved in the work on one or more regions. However currently there is no administrative

process for inviting individual national members directly to contribute to this work. Implementation of the proposals in this resolution has the potential to significantly increase the scale, and therefore effectiveness, of country-focused work by Amnesty UK.

Offering a direct connection to this regional/country focussed work will enhance the value of membership and may help to retain members at Amnesty UK. By engaging with lead activists, members will be encouraged to join an activist team, whether it be as a member of a Local Group, regional or thematic network or as a prospective country coordinator.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution as it reflects plans that AIUK has to improve how we provide activists with more timely information on global, regional, and country specific human rights issues and campaigns via a transformed AIUK website and technology capabilities.

Amnesty's work to date: In 2023 AIUK established a new Activism & Education Directorate to provide better focus for the organisation's support for activism. The new Director of Activism & Education has been recruited and is expected to start in post in summer 2024. Since autumn 2023, the Country Co-ordinator's Handbook has been updated to provide Country Co-ordinators more autonomy and authority in their activism. This has been alongside other reforms to simplify the Activist-Led Campaign Framework and provide activists with more flexibility in the campaigns that they want to pursue, and the provision of significantly greater budget to a number of lead activist groups including the Country Co-ordinators group.

Amnesty's existing plans: AIUK has plans to update IT systems to deliver more automated information to activists for them to take up activity on more country specific and/or regional issues worldwide. The Board supports the aims of greater data sharing of interested individuals and groups with Country Co-ordinators, noting that this would have to be implemented consistent with relevant data protection regulations and will be best enabled by the updated technology platform(s) AIUK will be delivering as part of a significant technology updating project.

Resource implications: There are significant resource implications, as the necessary updating of AIUK's tech infrastructure will be one of the largest capital infrastructure projects in the next few years.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No impact.

O5

Resolution title: Increasing the scale and effectiveness of campaigning by improving communications between local groups and Amnesty UK national members

Resolution summary: A resolution setting out two simple initiatives to improve communications between local groups and national members

Proposer: Launceston Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board of Amnesty UK:

1. Puts in place software/systems so that newly-joining National Members are automatically given details about their nearest local group, to be implemented fully by the 2025 AGM.

2. Within 2 months of the AGM, sets up a working party to comprise representatives of the following activist groups (2 Board members, 1 activist each from 2 local groups that support this resolution, Country Coordinators' representative, 1 other thematic network representative) to devise options for straight-forward, direct, unencumbered digital communications between local groups and local national members whilst adhering to the requirements of GDPR.
3. Ensures the working party meets online only and reports back to local groups on progress every two months via the monthly local groups' newsletter, and issues a final report on options no later than two months before the deadline for submission of resolutions for the 2025 AGM, in order to provide an opportunity for resolutions to be submitted to that AGM to resolve the matter.

Proposer's background note: One of the key strengths of Amnesty International has always been its ability to mobilise large numbers of activists to campaign on specific IAR cases or on thematic campaigns. Key to the effective mobilisation of activists to work together is good communications.

Over the last few years the number of local groups has decreased significantly. Despite this trend Amnesty UK does not inform national members about the location or the contact details of their local group. Neither has Amnesty UK put in place simple, straightforward, unencumbered arrangements for local groups to contact national members who live in their areas, either to invite them to join the group or, even if they do not wish to belong to a group, to take part in specific campaigns/activities.

The current arrangements whereby e-mail contacts with local national members have to go through hard pressed staff at HRAC are not satisfactory, as they lack flexibility and can be subject to nationally imposed time constraints. GDPR is usually invoked as the reason for not introducing a much more effective means of local groups communicating with national members. Amnesty UK has not looked creatively at ways in which individual national members could give permission for their details to be passed to local groups, or provided any options to the AGM.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution. The Board also notes that the AIUK Community Organising team do facilitate communication between members and local groups currently, to the best of their ability, and within the limitations of AIUK's increasingly outdated tech platforms.

Amnesty's work to date: In 2023 AIUK established a new Activism & Education Directorate to provide better focus for the organisation's support for activism. The new Director of Activism & Education has been recruited and is expected to start in post in summer 2024.

Amnesty's existing plans: The creation of the new Activism & Education Directorate in AIUK in 2023, alongside the recently started project to significantly improve AIUK's technology platforms have, in part, been pursued to support the aim of encouraging and better enabling local activism, including more automated direction of members to be able to contact local groups and vice-versa.

The Board notes that its Building a Powerful Movement Sub-Committee already contains representatives of the groups specified in the resolution's proposed working group, and so believes that sub-committee should determine how it, or any additional working groups it convenes, can best contribute to the delivery of the aims of this resolution.

Resource implications: There are significant resource implications, as the necessary updating of AIUK's technology infrastructure will be one of the largest capital infrastructure projects in the next few years.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No impact.

06

Resolution title: Put in place a full-time Local Groups Officer, together with a system of effective monitoring of local groups.

Resolution summary: A resolution to put in place a full-time Local Groups Officer, together with a system of effective monitoring of local groups.

Proposer: Sutton Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board:

1. Puts in place a full-time Local Groups Officer, whose primary job is to support AIUK local groups, but also to assist with the development of flexible regional networks as needed.
2. Ensures that all local groups know who is the Local Groups Officer
3. Puts in place a system of effective monitoring of local groups, with the introduction of 6-monthly Group

Report forms and annual Financial Assessment forms

4. Implements all of the above fully by the 2025 AGM
5. Urgently sets up a working party comprising former and current regional / activism representatives, former and current experienced activists of local groups, a representative from a flexible regional network, and Community Organising team members, including the AIUK Local Groups Officer. The function of the working party, through collaborative working, is to look at strategies to stop the dramatic decline in local groups and to consider the best ways of starting new local groups or other local activist entities. The working party to report its findings back to the 2025 AGM.

Proposer's background note: The AIUK Board claims the number of local groups is a key performance indicator. There has been a big drop in the number of AIUK local groups over the past few years. Yet the Board have done very little to implement the 2023 AGM Resolution O5 Section Support for Local Groups. Local groups comprise a very important constituency of activists in the AIUK section.

We have been told by the chair of the Building a Powerful Movement sub-committee that 1.75 FTE of staff time (out of approximately 126 FTE employees) is allocated to supporting local groups, but that is split between a number of members of staff, each of whom have a range of other duties.

In the past, a Group Work Sub-committee (GWSC), comprising the Local Groups Officer, a Board member and two experienced Regional / Activism

Representatives, used to monitor all local groups by using 6-monthly Group Report forms and annual Financial Assessment forms, then flagging up those that were struggling. These groups were supported with visits by the Local Groups Officer and / or their respective Activism Rep, plus an AIUK trainer where required. None of this monitoring happens now.

Supporting the local groups with a full-time Local Groups Officer, a full complement of Activism Representatives, and a system of effective monitoring of local groups would contribute significantly to a stronger, more active and diverse movement that the Section is trying to achieve.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution, as it reflects plans AIUK has to better support local activism.

Amnesty's work to date: The AIUK Community Organising Team already has a role solely dedicated to supporting local activism. That role is, in addition, supported by more senior community organising management input and support. In 2023, AIUK established a new Activism & Education directorate to provide better focus for the organisation's support for activism. The new Director of Activism & Education has been recruited and is expected to start in post in summer 2024.

Amnesty's existing plans: AIUK's new Director of Activism & Education will work with the designated staff member in the Community Organising Team focused on support for local groups to determine how best to monitor the health of local groups, whilst avoiding

the necessity to complete information that groups may find over-onerous in terms of its content or frequency.

The Board's Building a Powerful Movement sub-committee already contains representatives of the groups specified in the resolution's proposed working party, and that sub-committee is best placed to determine how it, or any additional working groups it convenes, can best contribute to the delivery of the aims of this resolution.

Resource implications: No implications beyond resource already dedicated to supporting local activism in AIUK's existing business plan and budget.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No implications.

07

Resolution title: Introduction of AIUK Digital Campaigning Workshops for Beginners

Resolution summary: A resolution to help those in AIUK local groups and other AIUK activist structures learn how to campaign digitally if they are not already doing so

Proposer: Sutton Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board put in place an online basic digital campaigning training programme for AIUK local groups and other AIUK activist structures that currently do not use social media or the AIUK website, such basic training to be carried out by the AIUK Digital Campaigning Team. This to be implemented fully by the 2025 AGM

Proposer's background note: The Digital Campaigning Team currently offers online advanced digital campaigning workshops for country coordinators and activists, but not a basic digital campaigning workshop for complete beginners, and in particular for local groups that currently do not use social media or the AIUK website. A series of basic workshops would help these groups raise their profile in the community and likely encourage new, younger members to join them. These groups could also use their new digital campaigning skills to put additional pressure on their respective MPs and foreign government officials.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution. The Board notes that improvements in the consistency, and range, of training offered by AIUK to support activism will be one of the focuses of the new Director of Activism & Education and their directorate as part of AIUK's business plan.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK delivers a range of training, including digital training for activists. Recently this has been focused more on delivery of training on using digital techniques in campaigning and not the provision of basic digital training.

Amnesty's existing plans: In 2023 AIUK established a new Activism & Education directorate to provide better focus for the organisation's support for activism. The new Director of Activism & Education has been recruited and is expected to start in post in summer 2024. When in post the new Director will be looking to restart basic digital training, however noting that this may best be delivered by specialist digital training capability/support, rather than by AIUK's own

digital team who predominantly need to focus on delivering the digital elements of AIUK's national campaigns.

Resource implications: Some implications for budget to pay for necessary training resource.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No implications.

08

Resolution title: Put in place an AIUK Training Programme

Resolution summary: A resolution to put in place an AIUK Training program, to enable local groups and activists to campaign efficiently, recruit new members and fundraise effectively.

Proposer: Mayfair & Soho Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board puts in place a comprehensive programme of training for local groups and activists, in consultation with Activism Representatives, Country Coordinators, theme networks and experienced AIUK trainers. This to be implemented fully by the 2025 AGM.

Proposer's background note: The AIUK Training programme officially folded in June 2021, with little explanation. Training workshops should cover campaigning, use of social media, recruitment, community mapping, local publicity, fundraising and parliamentary lobbying, among other topics as needed. Well-trained local groups and activists are more likely to campaign efficiently, recruit new members and fundraise effectively.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution. The Board also notes that AIUK does offer a range of training and human rights education for activists, but that training in organisation, leadership, etc can be valuable and should be properly reflected in future enhancements of AIUK's training offer to activists.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK offers a range of training programmes in activism skills and human rights education, targeted at activists to learn skills in organising and campaigning. These have been provided digitally, but also in face to face environments such as conferences and other events.

Amnesty's existing plans: Improvements in the consistency, and range, of training offered by AIUK to support activism will be one of the focuses of the new Director of Activism & Education and their directorate as part of AIUK's business plan. AIUK recognises that any improvements would benefit in their design from engagement with a range of activists, including Activism Representatives, Country Co-ordinators, activists in thematic networks and other activists who may want to take up such training.

Resource implications: The budget for activism and education was increased in 2024 in part to support the further development of effective training programmes for activists. Appropriate resourcing will also be considered as part of AIUK's budget planning for 2025.

Equalities Impact Assessment: No implications.

09

Resolution title: Support, empower and re-vitalise local groups to meet the human rights challenges of the present and future

Resolution summary: The AGM requests that urgent measures are taken to support, re-vitalise and increase the number of local groups.

Proposer: Ulrike Schmidt

Resolution text: The AGM resolves that the Board of Amnesty UK takes urgent measures to support local groups to sustain them, make them more effective and expand them through:

1. Training programmes for Amnesty activists to prepare them to take organisational and leadership roles.
2. The appointment of 5 Regional organisers (at least part-time paid) to support groups, organise inspiring regional conferences, help coordinate large-scale protests, stunts and campaigns.
3. Maintaining and growing the participation of national members, local groups and other grassroots entities in the democratic decision-making process at Amnesty UK

Proposer's background note: Local groups have been the lifeblood of Amnesty for many years. Through local groups we can reach deep into communities to shape the local narrative and make the case for Human Rights. Local groups can carry, spread, and expand Amnesty campaigns and win MPs as well as communities throughout the country for our causes. They are also the key building blocks from which other new and welcome activist entities such as regional networks have been

built. Recently though many groups have been shrinking, many have closed and Amnesty UK has taken little specific, targeted action to reverse this. While there are vibrant and active student groups, there seems to be a widening gap emerging between local groups in towns and cities and student groups. We believe urgent measures need to be taken to reverse this trend.

In some other national sections, e.g. Sweden and Italy there are paid regional coordinators to support local activists, and these are seen as crucial in maintaining the vitality of local activism.

Board background note: The Board supports this resolution, noting that AIUK wants to renew the growth in membership and create stronger links for new members with involvement in Amnesty activism including in local groups. The Board agrees that training in organisation, leadership, etc can be valuable and should be properly reflected in future enhancements of AIUK's training offer to activists.

Amnesty's work to date: AIUK does offer a range of training and human rights education for activists, but has not for some time supported growth in membership. In 2024, AIUK is working with Activism Representatives to update the role description for that role and revitalise recruitments to those roles. AIUK has also increased the staff resource and budgets for supporting activism representatives.

Amnesty's existing plans: AIUK recognises the valuable role of volunteer Activism Representatives, who support groups on a regional level, AIUK is willing to consider the potential benefits of such activity being provided by paid

roles; however recognising that AIUK would both want to consult with local groups on views before any change from volunteer Activism Representatives working regionally to the appointment of paid regional organisers. The creation of any such paid roles may need to be dependent on the securing of new funding to support that. The Board is committed to maintaining and growing the participation of members, and renewing growth in the number of members, and supporting local groups and other grassroots human rights activists in AIUK's democratic processes.

Resource implications: There would be resource implications of salaries were there to be any paid activism representative roles.

Equalities Impact Assessment: Paid roles could support an extension of accessibility for some people from different socio-economic backgrounds who may find barriers to being able to participate in a volunteer role.

O10

Resolution title: Delay the sale of the Human Rights Action Centre until a full consultation with the AIUK membership has been undertaken.

Resolution summary: The resolution seeks to delay the sale of the Human Rights Action Centre (HRAC) until a full and transparent consultation has been undertaken with the AIUK membership.

Proposer: Watford Group

Resolution text: This AGM resolves that the Board of AIUK:
Urges the Board of the Charitable Trust to delay the sale of the Human Rights

Action Centre (HRAC) until a full and transparent consultation has been had with the AIUK membership, their views and opinions sought and these options voted on at an AIUK AGM.

Proposer's background note: The Human Rights Action Centre is one of AIUK's biggest, if not the biggest asset and when originally purchased 20 years ago was envisaged as a venue to bring together human rights activists and act as a hub for activism. As such the conference function was deemed both crucial and necessary for the function of human rights activism and a great many events have been held there.

Last October, the Charitable Trust Board of AIUK, who owns the HRAC, made the decision to sell the building. This was supported by AIUK management and the Section Board. Yet this was a decision that was taken without any sort of consultation with the membership of AIUK, lead activists or rights holders. So far there has been no attempt to consult the membership of AIUK about the decision to sell the HRAC and what the plan for the future AIUK HQ would look like.

It is understood that ways of working since the Covid-19 pandemic mean that the use of such a large office space is no longer needed, and that the HRAC is under-utilised and rather costly to maintain. However, before the building is sold, this motion seeks for the membership to be consulted on what they want the future of AIUK HQ to be. For the health and viability of activism, it is essential that AIUK have their own conference venue so that activists, rights holders and other actors can hold events without having to pay out large sums of money to hire external venues.

In the absence of AIUK owning a conference venue, external venues would need to be hired to host all activist and rights holders events currently hosted at the HRAC.

Whether this takes the form of finding a different venue with conference facilities in another part of London, having a series of smaller venues across the country or even keeping the HRAC and investing in it to make it more suitable, these are options that the membership should be able to discuss, debate and most crucially vote on at an AIUK AGM.

Board background note: The Board opposes this resolution as it relates to a substantive decision already made by the AIUK Charitable Trust, which is a separate legal entity.

Amnesty's work to date: In October 2023, AIUK Section made an in-principle decision to support the Amnesty International UK Charitable Trust in selling the HRAC. This decision stemmed from recognising the under-utilisation of the asset, particularly evident since the onset of the Covid pandemic, leading to low occupancy rates of staff and under-utilisation of events space.

Existing Plans

Selling the HRAC aligns with our goal of deriving value from our assets to maximize our human rights impact, while also improving the workplace experience for our staff. It's important to note that the building requires investment (estimated at between £2 million to £4 million to meet current day standards (including our desired sustainability and accessibility standards).

Our strategy still emphasises the availability of venue space for human rights work. Therefore, we are commissioning a needs analysis to explore how AIUK can continue to provide this support post-sale and welcome feedback from our activist structures on the kinds of spaces they might require. In line with our values, this analysis will consider factors such as geographic diversity, accessibility, sustainability, and financial efficiency.

Resource implications: The decision to sell the HRAC was made by a separate legal entity, AIUK Charitable Trust. As the leaseholder of the HRAC, AIUK Section has a fiduciary duty to ensure the optimal use of assets for our objectives. Supporting the AIUK Charitable Trust's decision to sell is in line with this responsibility, as it will ultimately benefit both organisations. The Section stands to gain from the sale by accessing a higher-standard workplace in the future. The improved financial position of AIUK Charitable Trust following a sale will benefit the AIUK Section, due to the financial support (such as grants) the Section receives from the Trust.

Delaying the sale of the HRAC for a further year could cost up to £500,000 (the annual running costs of the building).

Equalities Impact Assessment: This resolution would have no impact, as our needs analysis being commissioned takes account of best practice.

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