

**Amnesty International Australia National Board Report  
for meeting held on 21 September 2021**

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings	The minutes of the meetings held on 21 August and 10 September 2021 were confirmed.
Board evaluation action plan	In late 2020, the Board conducted an evaluation into its effectiveness, efficiency and overall performance. An action plan was subsequently developed. Progress against the plan was reported and it was further refined at this meeting.
August Management Report	<p>The monthly management update, finance report and fundraising dashboard were tabled. It had been another busy month, with the Afghanistan crisis dominating our work in the second half of August.</p> <p>Key highlights included:</p> <p><b>Advancing Human Rights</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Inaugural AIA <b>Human Rights Barometer</b> was launched establishing a benchmark which will frame our campaign approach and development. An initial ad was developed to raise awareness around violence against women and a petition asking new audiences to call on the Government to commit to systemic change.</li> <li>• AIA with the Australian Human Rights Institute (UNSW) led and coordinated an open letter securing the support of more than 80 of Australia’s most prominent human rights leaders questioning the <b>appointment of Australia’s new Human Rights Commissioner</b>, and calling for a legislated independent process for future appointments.</li> <li>• The campaign to <b>Raise the Age</b> of criminal responsibility is gaining momentum, with multiple events, meetings, campaigns and fundraising activities taking place and being planned for Western Australia, Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales.</li> <li>• In August our movement mobilised in full force for the <b>Afghanistan crisis</b>.</li> <li>• <b>Individuals at Risk</b> - the cases of two young Egyptian women influencers imprisoned for "indecentcy" and adverts calling for Swedish-Iranian doctor Ahmadreza Djalali have resonated strongly with the public, with many people taking action and signing petitions.</li> <li>• We worked closely with representatives from the <b>Afghan community</b> and the sector towards:</li> </ul>



- a one off humanitarian response for unaccompanied and other vulnerable individuals;
- safety for those from Afghanistan in Australia on Temporary Protection Visas; and
- expansion and improvement of the community sponsorship program for refugees.

Initial high level access to the Foreign Minister's office assisted in at least 90 cases being repatriated to Australia and at least 135 humanitarian visas. Working with partner group Asia Pacific Network of Refuge (APNOR), we delivered \$20,000 from our Afghan crisis appeal to deliver emergency shelter and food to families in safe houses, and assist with movements to third countries, in addition to the funds supplied to the IS Global Crisis Fund.

- Our sustained advocacy through **Game Over** resulted in a further 33 refugees being released from immigration detention in mid August.
- AIA brought together a national coalition of more than 35 organisations aimed at developing a consensus on principles for the adoption of a national **anti-racism** strategy.
- Anti-racism training has been delivered to all staff and will be rolled out to the broader movement in the coming months
- In August, phone calls to people who requested to download the anti-racism ally guide inspired 15% of them to become regular supporters.
- We have been coordinating with the Rainbow Network to collaborate on campaigns including **Religious Discrimination** with Equality Australia, ACT Anti-Discrimination with Intersex Human Rights Australia, Kakuma refugee camp with the Forcibly Displaced People's Network and working in consultation with trans-parents groups on One Nation Education Bill.
- **Wear it Purple Day** was celebrated by staff and shared on socials with a calling action to Senators for Religious Discrimination, generating dozens of direct lobbying actions.

#### **Building People Power**

- An interim **membership** acquisition and engagement plan has been developed with a new target of 8000 members for 2021.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Activism Forum</b> on 12-13 September was a great success and demonstrated People Power in action. It was activist-led for activists. Initial feedback was positive regarding the platform, session design, content and delivery. The sessions on a Human Rights Act and Raise The Age campaign were the most popular. Other sessions well attended were those on anti-racism and growing a people powered movement. Holding the forum virtually allowed new people to attend and participate. The Board acknowledged the excellent work and thanked everybody involved, in particular activists Carol King and Katrina North and staff member Amanda Atlee.</li> <li>• The Organising Team has been supporting Activism Leadership Committees to develop <b>regional plans</b>, which will be used to help inform the Movement team plan alongside the Vision / Activism Strategy and to build a bottom up approach to the organising program for 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Growing sustainably</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good results in August closing the gap on budget. September results as at 21 September were on track to exceed the budget for the month.</li> <li>• Critical new technology is being brought in to replace existing platforms and systems as we move into new ways of working.</li> </ul>
<p>Review of all policies</p>	<p>A stock-take of all Board policies owned was conducted and a review plan and timeline was presented and discussed.</p>
<p>Board committee minutes and reports</p>	<p>The Board noted the draft minutes of the Activism and Membership Committee meetings held on 12 August and 9 September 2021, the minutes of the Governance Committee minutes of 27 May 2021, as well as the International Issues Committee minutes of 30 June and 8 September 2021.</p> <p>The Board also noted the minutes, as well as the motions passed and successful international candidates from the 2021 Global Assembly hosted on September 11 and 12, 2021.</p> <p>The Board recorded their thanks to Sarah Faulkner, International Issues Committee Chair, for all her work in the lead-up to and during the Global Assembly.</p> <p>Camille Furtado was appointed as external member of the Activism and Membership Committee for a two-year term.</p>
<p>Next meeting</p>	<p>The next Board meeting will be on Tuesday 19 October 2021.</p>