

GOVERNANCE 101

GOVERNANCE AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Webinar delivered to members - 25 March 2026


AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL




DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS




HOUSEKEEPING

 Stay on mute unless you are speaking

 Have your video on if possible

 Share your name and the First Nations Country you are calling in from in the chat

 We have interactive slides today for writing down your ideas

@Matt Landy, NPN



WHAT IS GOVERNANCE?

Systems and processes → good governance and accountable decision making.

Make things fair, accountable, well-informed

Raise funds, provide expert guidance

Reach our strategic goals and maximise our impact



WHAT GUIDES OUR GOVERNANCE?

- Legislation, e.g. Corporations Act 2001 (Cth), Charities Act 2013 (Cth)
- International Section of Amnesty
 - Mandate, Structure, Human Rights Focus
 - Core Standards of Governance
- Secondary legislation, e.g. anti-discriminatory legislation, procedural fairness in common law, WHS, privacy law, insurance law, fundraising compliance etc

things we
can't change!

things we can*
change!

- Amnesty International Australia Constitution
 - a reflection of the law, good governance practices, member input
- Internal policies and procedures, e.g. travel policies for staff and activists

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

The International Secretariat (IS) is governed by the Global Assembly (GA)

What does the International Secretariat actually DO?

- Conducts research, puts together reports, provides expert legal analysis of our research data, provides campaigning material, issues media releases, participates in high level UN meetings, works with sections on their reports and submissions, supports governance.
- Conducts strategic litigation across sections
- Supports funded sections' work
- Governs how entities become sections
- Keeps us all singing from the same song sheet!

INTERNATIONAL GOVERNANCE

And what about the Global Assembly and the Board?

1

Who attends the Global Assembly?

Representatives
Members

Young people as part of a delegation (required)

Staff

2

What does the Global Assembly do?

Discuss and vote on our future direction and work. Elects the International Board

3

What are the board sub-committees?

International Nominations Committee
Membership Review Committee
Finance and Audit Committee

AIA GOVERNANCE

We are governed by a member-elected National Board!

- 8 people currently (can be 7-9)
- Board candidates 'sought' by the Nomination and Assessment Committee (NAC).
 - established under the Constitution, and entirely independent of the board.
- The board is accountable to the members, and is accountable to the Executive Leadership Team + direction of work + budget
- Board members are volunteers and not remunerated by AIA (regulated by the Corporations Act!)



AIA GOVERNANCE

Board Committees: Audit and Risk, Governance, International Issues, People and Culture and Remuneration, Activism and Membership Committee

What does the Board DO?

- Leads the organisation, promotes and ensures the effective performance of the org, is legally responsible for everything the org does and the ppl within it.
- Sets out strategic direction: objectives and standards by which the organisation is governed (other than those which are set by members at an Annual General Meeting or Extraordinary General Meeting)
- Monitors financial, ethical, legal and regulatory performance (and risks) of the org.
- Appoints National Director and holds them accountable for the org's performance
- Provides links and leadership within the AI movement.

OUR CONSTITUTION

- This is a contract between our members and the organisation.
- It regulates our purpose, relationship with the international movement, our governance structures, membership, liability and administrative requirements
- Our purpose/ objects are critical to our charitable status and parameters our work
 - we CANNOT do anything outside of our purpose.
 - For eg. we are non-partisan, non-denominational and free from any commercial agenda.
- Our Constitution can be changed!
 - General Meeting Voters can vote for change.
 - AGM/ EGM can pass a 'special resolution' if over 75% of General Meeting Voters vote for it

OUR MEMBERS



Our Members have a say in our work*, can influence our vision, attend and participate in our national decision-making forums.

We are required to have members due to the Corporations Act (and the old IS Statute) - we are a Company Limited by Guarantee (\$1 each member on winding up).

You have to be at least 16 to be a member. 16-17 year olds require parental consent (contract laws govern this).

Membership fees are non-tax deductible.

*within our bounds, and legislative constraints

GENERAL MEETING VOTERS

General Meeting Voters (GMVs) can vote in our elections!



- Each region elects those members who will vote at the AGM (or any EGM). These are called General Meeting Voters (GMVs).
- The number of GMV positions available depends on the number of members in that region.
- A GMV must receive a minimum of 5 votes to be successful.
- You need to have been a member for at least 12 months to be a GMV.

ACTIVISM AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



The Activism & Membership Committee (AMC) is a committee of the board that looks after all activism and membership matters.

It is a link between our activists and members and the board, and supports Activism Leadership Committees to do their work and follow our processes. It helps with activism strategies, and work with staff on the Activism Forum, that is held at least every 2 years.

It is made up entirely of volunteers! A mix of regional presidents (or their nominees), members, activists and board members.

OUR ACTIVISM LEADERSHIP COMMITTEES

We are divided into 7 regions - each is led by an ALC, whose members are elected by the members of that region!

ALCs help motivate, coordinate, and develop human rights activism.



They support activists, participate in our vision consultation and share our priorities.

There can be up to 12 members, with 2 year staggered terms.

You need to be a member for up to 1 year

THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

Want to join a campaign but you haven't yet? Email activism@amnesty.org.au

New to Amnesty? Visit our new module and learn more about Amnesty!

**Not on Amnesty's Online Community?
SIGN UP NOW!**



Amnesty Online Community
WhatsApp group



Scan or upload this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group

***Scan this QR
Code to join!***