

HUMAN RIGHTS - THE ONLY WAY TO DIGNITY

ANNUAL MEETING 2009

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
Aotearoa New Zealand



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD MAY 2&3 2009

AUT UNIVERSITY, AUCKLAND

ATTENDEES:

Annual Meeting Chair and Deputy Chair:

Julianne Leggott
Joanne Looyen

Special Guests:

Grant Hawke
Imrana Jalal
Sacha McMeeking
Anne Montague
Nicola Mutch

Governance Team:

Helen Campbell	helen.campbell@amnesty.org.nz	Nominee
Jo Cowie	jo.cowie@amnesty.org.nz	Nominee
Andy Greensmith	andy.greensmith@amnesty.org.nz	Treasurer
Kit Howden	kit.howden@amnesty.org.nz	
Niamh Lawless	niamh.lawless@amnesty.org.nz	
Diana Pickard	diana.pickard@amnesty.org.nz	Vice Chair
Tu Williams	tu.williams@amnesty.org.nz	

National Management Team:

Vivian Chandra	vivian.chandra@amnesty.org.nz	IT Manager
Rebecca Emery	rebecca.emery@amnesty.org.nz	Campaigns, Research, Advocacy & Communications Director
Sam Healey-Cunningham	sam.healey-cunningham@amnesty.org.nz	Fundraising Manager
Patrick Holmes	patrick.holmes@amnesty.org.nz	CEO
Margaret Taylor	margaret.taylor@amnesty.org.nz	Activism Support Manager



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Olivia Rope	olivia.rope@amnesty.org.nz	Campaigns & Advocacy Assistant

Co-ordinators & Team Delegates

Qa-t-a Amun	Dunedin North Group Delegate
Fiona Baker	Nelson Group Delegate
Sophie Black	Dunedin Hills Suburb Group Delegate
Graham Brandreth-Wills	Wellington Group Delegate
Angharad Bolland	Palmerston North Group Delegate
Jean Chapman	Wadestown Group Delegate
Jim Cross	Kapiti Coast Group Delegate
Karen du Fresne	Nelson Group Delegate
Juliet Elworthy	Karori Group Delegate
Dolores Flynn-Edge	Tauranga Moana Group Delegate
Foreman Foto	Upper Hutt GIF Group Delegate
Nick Keenleyside	Auckland Central Group Delegate
Ushi Klein	Wellington Regional Group Delegate
Maliaka Hannah	Hawkes Bay Regional Group Delegate
Alice (Ping) Li	Christchurch Central Group Delegate
Nigel Mander	Upper Hutt GIF Group Delegate
Jan Marsh	Nelson Group
Betty Mason-Parker	Dunedin North Group Delegate
Andrew North	Christchurch Central GIF Group Delegate
Wickham Pack	Kapiti Coast Group Delegate
Sabine Pahl	Hamilton Group Delegate
Brittany Peck	Victoria University Group Delegate
Renee Rushton	Wellington Regional Group Delegate
Helen Shorthouse	Christchurch Group Delegate
Brittany Smith	Motueka Group Delegate
Phillip Speary	North Shore Group Delegate
Roger Stratford	Hamilton Group Delegate



Amy Thomson
Anthony Thorpe
Joanna Wilkes
Tania Williams

Massey, Palmerston North Group Delegate
Auckland Central Group Delegate
Remuera Group Delegate
Waikato Group Delegate

Other – Networks/Groups:

Margo Baars	Human Rights Foundation
Duncan Brown	Thriving Recruitment
Jamie Fraser	Thriving Recruitment
Inga Frengley	Amnesty International Legal Network
Rowena Leavey	Thriving Recruitment
Alex Lennox-Marwick	Amnesty International Legal Network
Stephanie Lobo	Thriving Recruitment
Kylie Lonergan	Thriving Recruitment
Anne Nickless	Thriving Recruitment
Joshua Page	Thriving Recruitment
Matt Rikabi	Thriving Recruitment
Lisa Young	Amnesty International Legal Network
Caleb Zaza	Thriving Recruiement

Other – Individual Members:

Della Abcede
Marian Arif
Alex Billand
Rosemarie Billand
Christine Brett
Annal Chandra
Dylan Chandra
Janet Crawford
Roderick Davison
Anne Emery
Niall Hanlon
Wendy Holmes
Robert Glennie
Nic Miles
Bridget Pipe-Fowler
David Robie
Paul Robertson
Teresa Rope
Neville Rope
Cecil Rozuel
Alison Sheeran
Vanessa Sum
Stephen Thorpe
Elena Wrelton



Teachers

Maria Cristina Sagarzazu Tauranga Girls College

Students

Anna Belfour	Tauranga Girls College
Henrietta Bollinger	Western Springs College
Erica Burke	Westlake Girls
Griffin Leonard	Dunedin
Cherry Li	Avondale College
Samantha Lincoln	Tauranga Girls College
Anna MacDiarmid	Tauranga Girls College
Ashton Scott	Tauranga Girls College
Helen Thompson	Tauranga Girls College
Danette Van Aswegen	Westlake Girls
Saphiya Wahib Zaza	Westlake Girls
Isabella Wilson	Avondale College

SATURDAY 2ND MAY

FORMAL OPENING

The meeting opened promptly at 10.00am.

Diana Pickard welcomed the meeting as vice-chair of Governance Team (GT) of AIANZ.

Apologies received from GT Chair, Stefanie Rixecker, for not being able to attend due to other pressing commitments.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

FORMAL DECISION 1: That the Annual Meeting elect Julianne Leggott as its Chairperson, and Joanne Looyen as Deputy Chair.

Proposed:	Diana Pickard
Seconded:	Patrick Holmes

Adopted by consensus



WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Patrick Holmes – Housekeeping & Messages

Formal Apologies

Stefanie Rixecker

Natalie Baird

Vanushi Walters

Patrick Smellie

Welcoming

Grant Hawke, from Ngati Whatua, introduced himself and formally welcomed everyone in the form of a mihi whakatau, and stated it was a privilege to open the meeting on behalf of Patrick.

Tu Williams, a member of the GT extended a welcome from everyone at Amnesty International and thanked Grant Hawke.

Julianne Leggott thanked Grant and Tu.

Helen Campbell and Jo Cowie introduced themselves as standing for governance team.

Grant Hawke lit the candle.

Patrick Holmes introduced the new staff: Rebecca Emery, Sam Healey-Cunningham, Pui-yi Cheng, Olivia Rope, and Kirsten Lowe.

He welcomed Anne Montague (AI Australia), Sacha McMeeking, General Manager Strategy & Influence at Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu as the morning's speaker and Imrana Jalal, the Human Rights Adviser at the Pacific Regional Rights Resource Team in Fiji, who joined us later in the day.

INTRODUCING THE DIGNITY CAMPAIGN CONTEXT

Patrick Holmes

The overarching theme for the AM.

See presentation at <http://www.amnesty.org.nz/annualmeeting09>

Tu Williams welcomed Sacha McMeeking.

SACHA MCMEEKING : KEYNOTE SPEAKER

“Whakatinana nga wawata, whakatinana nga ture” – ‘Embodying dreams and giving effect to the law’.

See presentation at <http://www.freedomchallenge.org.nz/AM09/Keynote-Speaker-Sacha-McMeeking.ppt>



Questions & Answers / Comments

Comment: Amnesty's involvement with seeking Maori seats in Auckland's new super city that is in formation.

Diana Pickard – Welcomed comments about Foreshore & Seabed & collaboration/partnerships with the Maori – there is a greater voice in our strength.

Comment by Rebecca Emery: gave a brief update on Amnesty's work on indigenous rights (examples include submission/consultation on Foreshore and Seabed, Andrew Erueti as the new indigenous rights coordinator at the International Secretariat (IS), who is a New Zealander, and the Universal Periodic Review submission).

Question: Can the AM endorse putting in a submission with Foreshore & Seabed?

Rebecca Emery: To be discussed later in the meeting.

Question: How could Amnesty be used with regard to the Super City & representation of Maori etc.

Answer: Sacha stated she would not like to respond because she is from the South Island so is a bit removed from whole debate.

Question: Regarding the seabed & foreshore, do you have a view on the comment that "Maori could work effectively in solving their own issues if they had their tools"

Answer: Sacha the creation of the Maori party does enrich parliament.

Question: In terms of Iwi Maori addressing own issues; to what extent does it address Maori disadvantages?

Answer: Sacha yes, but ultimately it is long-term solutions Maori are looking for, which don't work well with our electoral cycle.

There is no simple solution but it can be addressed in 2 ways – encourage service providers to work together, rather than the traditional approach, and secondly to look at Crown funding and how it is directed to service providers.

Question: The media's reporting on the Foreshore & Seabed issue.

Answer: Sacha: The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples' report on New Zealand (2005/6) challenged the media to have a more balanced approach to reporting – and expressed this in strong terms.

Tu Williams thanked Sacha on behalf of Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand, stating that her talk "presented us with some issues we can deliberate on going forward."



AGREE AIMS, GROUNDRULES (PROCESS) AND AGENDA

Joanne Looyen introduced herself and tabled the ground rules (aims and processes of the AM) and outlined the Agenda.

These included the concept of “structured informality”, decisions by consensus whenever possible; debate to be reasoned and respectful; living our values in the way we conduct our meeting. Cell phones to be turned off, and our statute to be referred to in regard to formal decision points. The meeting is informal where possible, but the formal procedures will be adopted when needed.

FORMAL DECISION 2: That the Annual Meeting adopt the aims, groundrules (incl Standing Orders), and agenda.

Proposed:	Kit Howden
Seconded:	Betty Mason-Parker

Adopted by consensus

FORMAL DECISION 3: That the Annual Meeting appoint

- Juliet Elworthy as Returning Officer
- Juliet Elworthy and Elena Wrelton as Tellers for the meeting.

Proposed:	Jim Cross
Seconded:	Betty Mason-Parker

Adopted by consensus

FORMAL DECISION 4: That the Annual Meeting approve the minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting

Proposed:	Bridget Pipe-Fowler
Seconded:	Jim Cross

Adopted by consensus

THE YEAR THAT WAS

Diana Pickard

Questions for the National Leadership Team

See appendix for questions & answers submitted before the meeting.

Q. Helen Shorthouse from Christchurch – regarding the appeal letter to Fiji, now what is our position?

A. Rebecca Emery: Once Apolosi Bose (Pacific researcher) left Fiji and was safe we were able to come out publicly on the human rights situation. Imrana Jalal has asked for no

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press because she won't be able to re-enter Fiji. Communicating with Minister of Foreign Affairs, Murray McCully he welcomed our stance. AIANZ is sending out an emergency appeal on Fiji hitting postboxes Monday or Tuesday. It has been written by Apolosi Bose. Rebecca, Patrick and Apolosi are speaking out in the media - see our website. Re Fijian UN Peacekeepers we will be exploring our position on this.

Q. Dolores Flynn-Edge: Positive note from Tauranga Moana group (their MP Simon Bridges had asked for information from their group).

When will the membership database be up and running as this has been a long standing issue?

A. Patrick Holmes: Up and running May 27th 2009.

Re face-to-face recruiters, we should have let the locals know as a local approach is desirable, as we are out there in the public.

Sam Healey-Cunningham: Yes, we try to do so in the future. However sometimes it is problematic as our face-to-face teams will travel to different areas at the last minute to avoid clashing with other charities recruiting on the streets.

Q. Contacting the new recruited members – can the details be passed onto the teams?

A. Patrick Holmes & Sam Healey-Cunningham: Welcome leaflet gets sent to all new members when they join and they can tick box to join the local group.

Comment Robyn Spooner: This is ineffective way – as local team should contact the people themselves.

Q. Dolores Flynn-Edge: Also need to look after members you have as they bring members in.

A. Patrick Holmes : Completely agree

Q. Jim Cross: There is a discrepancy between national office and team's list of members.

A. Patrick will look at this system.

Q. Miriam: Gaza – looking at this issue, surprisingly there is nothing at AM regarding this.

A. Rebecca Emery: at the beginning of the year we acted immediately and were commended in human rights community for our actions (most agencies were on a summer break). We also sent out an emergency appeal letter and had a mission on the ground there, our mission report is due May 12th, and we are keeping the government informed and continue to lobby Ministers on recommendations, the use of white phosphorus, which includes a focus on children within our work. Happy to send all our work and share media with you.

Q. Renee Rushton: the reintegration of NZAID into MFAT issue – does AIANZ have a position?

A. Rebecca Emery: AIANZ have spoken out, we are included in consultations, and AIANZ are very active considering we're one of the few non-aid agencies. We have continuously written to Murray McCully, and we contributed to the set up

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www.dontcorruptaid.org.nz. We have commented from the perspective that aid work re gender, human rights, HIV/Aids runs the risk of being cut.

Julianne Leggott: response from the AM in a letter to John Key regarding the attack on the NGO Community by Murray McCully will be discussed tomorrow.

NETWORK PROFILE

Children's Rights Network by Jan Marsh

BUSINESS PLENARY CONTINUED

Agreement was reached on the following:

FORMAL DECISION 5: That the Annual Meeting receive and approve the AIANZ 2009 Annual Report, including the 2008 Financial Statements, and thank the National Leadership Team for their work during the past year.

Proposed:	Nicola Mutch
Seconded:	Jim Cross

Adopted by consensus

ON THE AUDITORS

Andy Greensmith: Due to financial reasons (reviewed auditors due to the expense).

FORMAL DECISION 6: That the Annual Meeting appoint UHY Hayes Norton as AIANZ auditors

Proposed:	Kit Howden
Seconded:	Graham Brandeth-Wills

Adopted by consensus

TREASURER'S REPORT

Andy Greensmith

Question and Answer session on Treasurer's Report

Q. Jim Cross: How long is the IS loan?

A. Andy Greensmith: It is a 3 year loan, which is being paid back at \$90,000 per annum as agreed with the IS.

Q. Betty Mason-Parker: Noting incoming bequests, we should consider going to rest homes to get them involved in Amnesty?

A. Sam Healey-Cunningham: Looking at this in the big picture, and form relationships etc then bequests will come. Noting that the fundraising team is only two people, the bequest programme is a low priority this year (however it may be priority next year.) Every appeal letter goes out with a tick box re interest in bequests, which are followed-up.

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- Q. Joanne Wilkes: Re face to face programme, does that mean that people recruited can't just join by paying \$20 per year; do they have to pay monthly?
- A. Andy Greensmith and Sam Healey-Cunningham: This programme is designed to sign up people to the Amnesty Foundation, however if people do want to just join with a subscription we follow this up. The objective however is to recruit monthly contributions through our process including welcome call.

Comment by Sabine Pahl: Comments regarding great number, and a positive outcome for this year.

FORMAL DECISION 7: That the Annual Meeting approve the 2009 financial strategy and budget

Proposed:	Betty Mason-Parker
Seconded:	Margaret Taylor

Adopted by consensus

PRESENTATION OF AIANZ'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Presented by Diana Pickard.

See presentation at <http://www.amnesty.org.nz/annualmeeting09>

FORMAL DECISION 8: That the Annual Meeting support the AIANZ Strategic Plan

Proposed:	Betty Mason-Parker
Seconded:	Jim Cross

Adopted by consensus

PRESENTATION OF THE INTEGRATED STRATEGIC PLAN (ISP)

Patrick Holmes

See presentation at <http://www.amnesty.org.nz/annualmeeting09>

REMITTS FOR CONSIDERATION

Juliet Elworthy explained the voting rules.

Peter Sutton (by video) spoke on the remit.

GT Comment:

Diana Pickard on behalf of the governance team – supports this remit in principle. There are a number of ways in which this could immediately be implemented

- room under the new ISP under Demand Dignity campaign
- HR strategy children included in national priorities
- Delegates to International Council Meeting (ICM) can support the resolution (practically)

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Questions/Comments:

Nicola Mutch: Attended the last ICM in Mexico and found these sorts of submissions are problematic. E.g. ICM regarding resolutions to be included in the ISP (e.g. genetic engineering should be emphasised, cluster munitions) problems created is the processes are not particularly strategic. Just to inform you of the realities of going to an ICM. Regarding the ISP is very 'high level' at the moment, but it is interesting at the next level down e.g. working with more flexible partnerships then we may be able to focus that attention to children issues. Another huge potential for children's issues in the ISP is in the 'centres of expertise' – enabling different countries to take a leadership on a particular issue and becomes the 'hub' for that issue e.g. Germany on conflict prevention work – this would be a new way of operating within the ISP.

Nick Keenley-Side: Nothing in this remit that is asking Amnesty what to do – just bringing children to the fore.

Philip Spearey: If it is just a shift of focus, then does this mean that we shift a focus away from something else?

Jan Marsh: Just to reply to these points, we actually omitted 'please direct resources to the needs of children'. The point we are trying to make is to add children so the emphasis is not just on adults, so when it says violence against women and girls (to include 'women and children') – just in the same context that women were included in the term 'men'. Behind the ISP we went through places where children should have been added as needs under each heading were different to those of adults. It is a conscious raising exercise.

FORMAL DECISION 9: This Annual Meeting strongly urges the New Zealand representatives to the 2009 ICM to advocate and support measures within the new ISP to give greater priority to campaigning for children's rights especially those contained within the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Proposed:	Peter Sutton
Seconded:	Jan Marsh & Joan Sutton

Adopted by consensus

Anthony Thorpe on his remit.

Julianne Leggott: Regarding the ICM and emergency remits; it basically has to be something that could not have been foreseen, and nothing on this subject could fall into this category, so there is no possibility to take this to the ICM in Turkey.



Diana Pickard: The GT does not support this motion and it is not talking to the 'substance' of the motion, but the process. The Sexual and Reproductive Rights (SRR) policy was reached after two years of extensive consultation movement wide, and it was a consensus process. In this section at the 2006 Annual Meeting, the majority supported that this section took to the ICM to bring the SRR policy to a more of a middle-ground to focus on grave abuses, whilst we acknowledged your sincerely held beliefs that give rise there is no appetite to revisit the policy and debate at the movement level at present. To that extent there is actually a resolution from Sweden which is a move towards greater abortion rights. I understand there has been a request to Sweden to take this off the floor by the International Executive Council (IEC), demonstrating that there is no appetite to revisit that policy. However, all policies are monitored and evaluated over time and we will have an opportunity to contribute at this consultation point. Thus, at this point in time we don't support the motion.

Questions/Comments

Robyn Spooner: Applauded what and support what Amnesty is doing already.

Robert Glennie: From observations in Christchurch area, I support what Diana said.

Dolores Flynn-Edge: Raised concern in regard to Sweden, worked long & hard accepting that there are two lives – mother and child. I have accepted that maybe this is where Amnesty is at – I know AIANZ fought hard to hold this, and asking them to do that again, to make sure policy doesn't go any further.

Alison Sheeran: Comment that we are speaking about two lives here, however there are only two life forms and life forms are not lives.

Elena Wrelton: Regarding abortion in these situations, must talk about abortion /health/illegal abortions – very dangerous.

Nicola Mutch: support what Diana says. I fought very hard to have an abortion policy that was in line with human rights law. There is no international appetite to go there at all. Are you asking for NZ to have this position – as NZ can't have a distinct position from an international position – can't have our own independent policies and reasons for this should be obvious as must move in same direction and work within policies.

Reply from Anthony Thorpe: Remit is to consider the human rights of the unborn child, and if this group considers that important then I hoped a committee could be set up to do some consultation within the NZ section with a view to making a remit to the international body.

Steven Thorpe: Reply to comment that there is no international movement and a lot of members are leaving AIANZ because of this policy. Also a movement in Ireland to repeal the policy, and of course a NZ group can have a separate belief.



Anthony Thorpe: It is about the energy within AIANZ that wish to work on making a change to that policy.

Tania Williams: Realise that the unborn child a living wairua and agree with the remit; it is a human person.

Anthony Thorpe: Numbers about 40 that have left Amnesty – waving a ‘red flag’ to relook at this policy. Interesting that Amnesty’s new office has the three wombs artwork and the leadership did not support this remit.

FORMAL DECISION 10: Amnesty International member, Antony Thorpe, would like to present the motion that Amnesty International considers the human rights of the unborn child equal to that of the born human being

Proposed:	Antony Thorpe
Seconded:	Nigel Mander

Motion not adopted by majority

The Meeting expressed its concern about the Swedish Section's remit to the 2009 ICM, which aims to extend our work on abortion. Our delegates to the 2009 ICM were asked to note the Meeting's opposition to such a change to existing SRR policy, although there was no remit to give formal expression to this opposition.

NETWORK PROFILE

Environmental Defenders Network (EDeN) by Nick Keenleyside and Kit Howden

STREAMED SESSION A

Split into two different workshops

A. How Amnesty could work with the Tangata Whenua (Tu Williams)

Building relationships with Tangata Whenua was the theme of the 2009 AM Treaty of Waitangi discussion. The discussion included a definition of tangata whenua and mana whenua and the role of kaitiakitanga (guardianship). Some practical steps for building the relationship were outlined and the meeting was informed of the steps the national office had taken to engage with the mana whenua in Tamaki Makaurau. The meeting called for the government to become a signatory to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and it supported AIANZ making a submission on the review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act. The discussion also made a link with the Dignity Campaign and the Treaty of Waitangi, inasmuch as the Treaty is an overarching agreement that acknowledges the rights of all citizens and calls for those rights to be respected and upheld.

B. Freedom Week (Sam Healy Cunningham) and The future of the Annual Meeting (Joanne Looyen)

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The Freedom Week workshop was more about feeding back to teams on the survey conducted after FW08. We discussed the improvements they suggested and how the Fundraising team plans to incorporate these in FW09.

The future of the Annual Meeting looked at survey results and gave some ideas on how the annual meeting could be better organised in the future. These will be circulated more widely after the AM.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS : IMRANA JALAL

((CLOSED SESSION))

SUNDAY 3RD MAY

OUTLINING THE DAY AHEAD

Joanne Looyen

Housekeeping announcements

Introductions

Dove awards – Maria Cristina Sagazazu, Nick Keenleyside, Wellington Regional Team.

Day ahead

ELECTION OF GOVERNANCE TEAM

Juliet Elworthy

Statute provides that the GT is elected for a 2 year term.

Four of the current GT members automatically running for another year

1. Stefanie Rixecker (Chair)
2. Diana Pickard (Vice Chair)
3. Niamh Lawless
4. Natalie Baird

Three positions to be filled at this Annual Meeting

1. Treasurer (held by Andy Greensmith who is standing down)
2. Role of GT member (held by Tu Williams who is standing for reelection)
3. Role of GT member (held by Kit Howden who is standing down)

Tu Williams

It is a pleasure to stand again for another two years, looking forward to doing so with the support of the membership. A lot of work to be done, and for those at the session yesterday I am keen to develop those relationships with tangata whenua and the Treaty of Waitangi, and the rights of indigenous peoples – how these intercept with human rights. Look forward to guiding the GT to provide advice and to assist AIANZ to take on board those issues and as a consequence develop a lens on human rights as a lens that is specific to our section, and to



use when we go into the international arena. Looking forward to making that contribution, as well as a general contribution in the role of governance. Kia Ora.

Jo Cowie

Feel very privileged to be nominated and thank you. I came to NZ as a 9 year old from Scotland, and went away for a long time (Australia and the UK). Have come back home and consider myself a Kiwi. I don't claim to be an expert in human rights and was a member of AIUK. Believe in fighting the injustices globally, and am keenly aware that many haven't had the opportunities I have so want to do something to help with my skills and expertise – which is fundraising – work in the Not for profit sector with background in marketing. Fundraiser for eight years, and three of those in NZ. Fundraising consultant, and am currently development manager at neurological foundation. Most supported movement is the hospice in NZ, followed by cancer society, heart foundation, the Royal foundation for the blind. NZ is compassionate, but seem to be focused regionally or locally. Challenges ahead include– competition in charities, declining membership, pressure on fundraising resources and relevance for AIANZ to New Zealanders – the latter the biggest challenge. Would like to work to help AIANZ to face that challenge.

Helen Campbell

I wanted to play a small role to speak up for people who couldn't. Joined a local AI group. Call myself a “frustrated campaigner.” Trained as chartered accountant, joined AI Australia 7 years ago and felt I had come home – passionate about human rights. At AI Australia I was the Director of Finance introducing some new budgeting systems and ethically invest our reserves etc. Paid tribute to Andy and looking forward to working with some of the people I have met this weekend.

A single nomination was received for each of these three positions and so the Statute does not provide for an election in these circumstances, so therefore please welcome Helen Campbell as new Treasurer, Jo Cowie as a new member, and welcome back Tu Williams to the GT - all for a two-year term.

All welcomed as GT members.

LETTER TO JOHN KEY RE NZAID & MINISTER MCCULLY'S SPEECH

Diana Pickard

The letter comes from AIANZ 2009 AM and expresses the following:

- That we are heartened by the strong Pacific focus for aid and a commitment to increase the aid amount but;
- We are highly concerned by the equating of aid that alleviates poverty to a 'handout' or to a 'lazy focus for aid'.
- Instead these professional organisations with aid and development workers engaged tirelessly to address these grassroots human rights issues – an aim of eliminating poverty offers a hand up (not a hand out) to the world's poorest people.

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- We are also concerned by the indiscriminate criticism of all NGOs involved in Pacific aid and implication that they inappropriately dip into donations.
- Finally, we reiterate the concerns by AIANZ's CEO in his April letter that this was never a 'review' in any recognisable form. There wasn't a terms of reference nor any consultation.
- It is important that this process is not a precedent for policy decision making in foreign affairs and aid in the future.

Rebecca Emery

As part of dignity campaign, the IS has asked sections to monitor their government's aid budget, with a view to see whether aid budgets cover human rights, gender issues etc. We have done some work on this as human rights programmes etc are under threat with this change. E.g. The Fiji Women's Rights Movement receives NZAid money at the moment; this change indicates that Murray McCully has ideas not to continue this type of funding.

Comments

- Letter to be made open to media and will be on our website
- Call them on their UN MDGs
- With a press release
- Go out in public to push a response.
- Will make a question with each point, requiring a response

Supported by the Annual Meeting

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Patrick Holmes

Summary of resolutions received.

All resolutions will be on website on Tuesday 5th May. Welcome feedback by Friday 5th June to enable GT to debate how AIANZ will respond to these/proceed.

Comments:

Nick Keenleyside: I suggest the ISP is sent back to the IS requesting a useable form. As the ICM will not be able to address issues.

Patrick Holmes: Wording in each resolution has an explanation which is straightforward. The way we communicate and greater accessibility is a good point as internally it is difficult to interpret information coming out. Whether there is sufficient time to get beneath the resolutions to debate the issues as have not attended ICM before.

Nicola Mutch: Spoke about the upcoming ICM as being a significant one, in regard to the IEC work and its interrelation etc.



Helen Campbell: Explained the 'assessment distribution' concept. Rather than spending the money where we can raise the money, (e.g. USA) let's look at where we can have a greater human rights impact. However, the problem is with the details of this system and the movement is struggling with this.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Elena Wrelton introduced Dev-zone and their resources

Category of films to hire

Library

Just Change magazine

www.dev-zone.org.nz

NETWORK PROFILE

Parliamentary Network Mela Masser – Advocacy Intern

DEMAND DIGNITY PRESENTATION

Rebecca Emery and Campaigns, Advocacy & Communications team (CAC) present their strategy and campaigning plans, including introduction to the Demand Dignity Campaign. (Bec/Viv insert link here?)

BIRDS OF A FEATHER MEETINGS

How to meet, brief and influence your MP

Olivia Rope and Mela Masser ran the BOF on 'How to Lobby your MP' to a workshop of 12 people. The BOF covered what lobbying is; how to contact your MP via telephone and email/letters; what to prepare before the meeting; what to do during the meeting and how to go about following up the meeting with your MP. The BOF included a short role play by each group who were given a lobbying task to take to their MP regarding the death penalty. By the end all the attendees had grasped the 'golden tips' on advocacy and were ready to lobby their MPs! It was a very successful BOF with many of the participants commenting that they had learnt so much and felt far more confident to lobby their MPs in the future.

How to find new activists and donors

From the Floor

New members needed to support growth of Human Rights in Pacific Action and Research.

Would like to see more people recruited in our area using Face 2 Face street recruitment

Do we have an AI presence in University – Yes-



Recommendations:

Use Stylus and Tablet PC for C2A so details are entered on site electronically. Introduce Letter Writing in Prisons and retirement villages, people with time on their hands.

Why did we Join?

Relevance with and personal connection to the issues; Wanting to be involved with H.R. at Uni; War in Iraq, atrocities at Guantanamo - Sense of outrage and injustice; Speaking for those who can't speak for themselves; Empowerment at all ages and schools; Able to make a REAL contribution – be role model for your kids; Social responsibility to act on unfairness of society – equality for all.

Vehicle for making a difference - Justice, fairness; Getting jobs within Amnesty International; Interested in conflicts in the 60s, Northern Ireland, Vietnam, meeting people at march.

Living in Africa and wanting to gain information about conflict in home country and wanting to help neighbours.

Because of awareness of how fortunate NZers are therefore wanting to help those who are not as fortunate; After travelling and wanting to help – joined through advertising.; Gained knowledge through the news.

Why others might join?

Because we ask them; Out of responsibility/social obligation; We have made it relevant to others and accessible for others to understand; Tangible messages; Displayed past accomplishments; Understand the difference that their joining can make; Focus on personal/ Individual stories; Overwhelming need; Told stories that have touched hearts and lives; Seeing successes.

What do you need at events stalls etc?

People; Visibility; Short easy leaflets – Every leaflet should have all three contacts, www email and telephone; Specific membership email for enquiries i.e membership@amnesty.org.nz; Simple/effective language otherwise can be overwhelming; A selection of campaign specific leaflets for use at campaign specific stalls; Positive new dignity materials.

Introducing our friends - what works

'Activist' unpopular connotations aggressive etc... 'Campaign' is better softer; Personal Stories & Personal point of view re issues; Highlighting local HR defenders in Flame and on website; Respect different supporters needs & Screenings of films to highlight issues.

Amnesty Events from Woe to Go! – Ideas, Planning and Action

IDEAS

1. Quiz night
2. Concert
3. Theme Party-1960's
4. 50Km walk, bike, swim

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5. AI history exhibition
6. Create NZ Postal Stamps
7. Name a newly created flower for AI
8. Candle in growing flowers
9. Reunion of AI members
10. create a new AI card to sell
11. Get AI logo into big events-hot air balloons, rock concerts
12. Create a new AI quilt
13. Exhibition of Political Cartoons
14. Competitions: create AI advert for tv, poetry, song, poster, stories,
15. 50: new members, \$50 donations, 50cent trails
16. 50: candles on cake
17. 50th anniv= gold
18. Photo with 50 people aged 1-50
19. internet/video: electronic postcard to send, a viral campaign, AI theme for a short film festival, revisit the “toast to freedom” advert with famous NZers, Facebook, & continue to make video clips of talking heads about AI

CAMPAIGNING - have 50 targets for the year - 50 new members, 50 new collectors for FW, 50 letters/person

MEDIA

1. Get articles in magazines - Womens mags, The Listener, School journals: “In Education”
2. Radio interviews - Kim Hill, Chris Laidlaw, 9-noon, Happy b-day announcements on local radio, Community , Student radio
3. Newspapers: Featured articles
4. TV - Close-up, Sunday, 20/20, Q&A, Community tv: special, news, notice boards for events

Introducing the Environmental Defenders Network (EDeN)

The EDeN group resolved that there is urgency in the need to act on the environment within the Amnesty human rights framework. Just as human rights are indivisible so humans are indivisible from the environment.

Making an impact in the media

- Aim was to encourage Amnesty local teams/groups to become more engaged with their local media.
- Presentation explained the importance of the media in Amnesty’s campaigning, gave tips on how to build relationships with journalists, how Amnesty events could make news, how to write good media releases and letters to the editor, and examples of Amnesty’s use of social networking (e.g. Twitter and Facebook).
- Activity – participants practiced giving media interviews based on local events/actions held by Amnesty teams last year.



WRAPPING UP ANNUAL MEETING

Julianne Leggott

Message from Maria Cristina Sagazazu (Dove award recipient).

Reminder to complete review questionnaire.

Julianne Leggott thanked

- Interns for all their work
- Rebecca Emery and CAC team
- Kirsten Lowe
- Fellow members of steering committee
- Vivian Chandra for the technology
- Olivia Rope for minute-taking
- Margaret Taylor for work with the activism and students
- Patrick Holmes for his support
- Special guests: Anne Montague from AI Australia, Imrana Jalal and Sacha McMeeking – and noted that both of them said “we need your help”
- Diana Pickard for standing up at last minute
- Joanne Looyen for being deputy chair

To be my last year as the Chair; have really enjoyed the challenged and thanked for all the support.

Diana Pickard

Great couple of days with a room full of people passionate about human rights.

Much to inspire us from key note speakers, much to focus our efforts with demand dignity and the Pacific, and from Patrick - who confirms the section is in a good pair of hands.

Sincere thank to Patrick, Rebecca, all the staff & interns for a smooth running AM.

Further thank you to

- New GT members for willingness to step up
- Completing GT members – Andy and kit

Message to Andy Greensmith from Stefanie Rixecker

The Governance Team, and the Section as a whole, owes Andy Greensmith an immense ‘thank you’. Andy has been instrumental in securing a sustainable path for the Section’s finances – he arrived at a precarious time with much to do and no additional resources from the Section to do it with. He has tirelessly and consistently worked for the good of the Section –working days, evenings and weekends – because he believed in Amnesty and he wanted to see it become a healthy, financially sustainable NGO. Andy has created such a platform and with ongoing good management and stewardship we will be in a better, more robust place because of his skills – including that passion for numbers the rest of us couldn’t always muster!

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Seriously, Andy is not just a “numbers man.” He also cares about people, and he’s committed to justice and seeing human rights flourish in the world. He’s been a special and valued GT member and will be missed – thank you, Andy, for all of your contributions! Kia kaha.

Message to Kit Howden from Stefanie Rixecker

Kit was already a GT member when I was first elected onto the GT. I recall from that early time that he held two passions. The first, and unfathomable one, was his absolute desire to ensure that AIANZ would have a new statute. His tenacity for this endeavour was unrivalled, and we all owe him a great debt of thanks for helping to secure our new statute at last year’s Annual Meeting. Thank you, Kit; we literally could NOT have done it without you! The second passion that Kit held, and shared consistently with the GT, was his utter loyalty to the membership. He always hailed the power of the activists, the strength of the membership and the need to stay true to Amnesty’s heart – that we are a movement of human rights activists...NOT just an NGO that needs to complete a budget or statute!! Kit, your dedication and your passions – both of them – will be missed. I thank you for your many years on the GT – for your leadership, sound advice and yes, for the statute discussions. Most importantly, for me, though – I thank you for your love of the people that make up Amnesty and for keeping us true. Best wishes for your future activism – may Amnesty continue to benefit from it! Kia kaha.

- Joanne for work as deputy-chair and willingness to take on the Chair’s role at the next AM.
- Julianne for work as Chair

Formal closing

Tu thanked Diana Pickard for picking up Stefanie’s role throughout the meeting and applauded her for it. Also passed on thanks from Grant Hawke and sent apologies for not being able to attend this afternoon.

Tu extinguished the candle.

These minutes approved by Joanne Looyen, Deputy Chair, 1st July 2009