

Branch Committees at Amnesty International Australia

A GUIDE TO REGIONAL GOVERNANCE



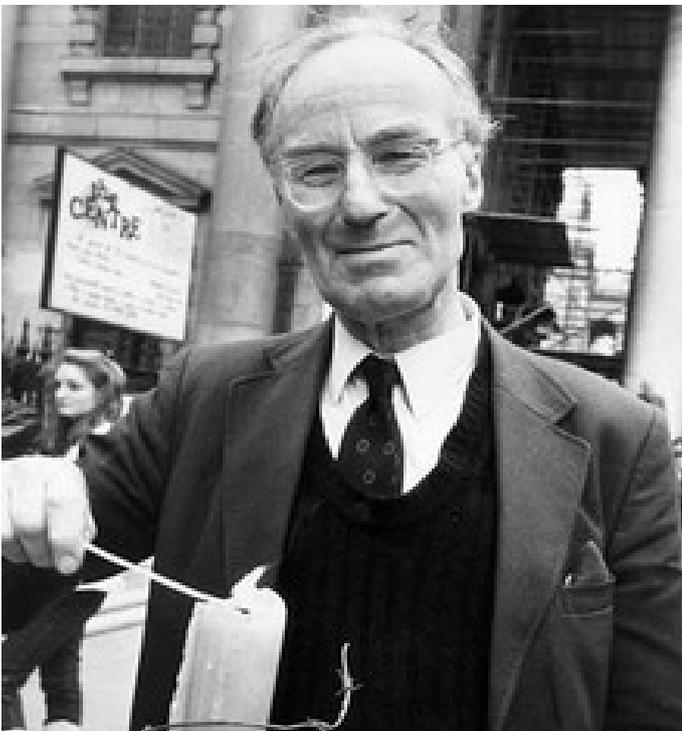
AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



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1. OVERVIEW OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL



In 1961 Amnesty International formed based on the idea that all humans have inalienable rights. That there was a need for a global movement to demand justice for victims of human rights abuses. Amnesty International exposes those abuses and we use our collective power to create change.

As of 2017, Amnesty International is the world's largest human rights organisation. A global grassroots activist movement with more than 7 million supporters in over 150 countries. In Australia we have over 300 000 supporters.

Amnesty International is a democratic movement, answerable only to our own membership. We elect regional, national and international structures to govern the movement. These structures ensure that we optimise our advocacy for human rights.

In Australia a great way to join one of these structures is by being a member of your regional Branch. You can attend Annual General Meetings and nominate to join the Branch Committee.

As a leader within the Branch Committee you can influence the direction of the movement. Your role will be to inspire activists and strengthen our presence in the region.

As a member of the Branch Committee you have many ways to contribute to the movement in your region. You will:

- help plan, develop and coordinate your regional human rights activism strategy;
- provide support to activists and action groups;
- participate in consultations on Amnesty International Australia's vision, campaign priorities and policies;
- attend, participate and vote in regional and national decision making forums, and
- have the chance to participate in national and international meetings, and to be member of sub-committees of the National Board.

2. AIA GOVERNING FRAMEWORKS

Amnesty International's Statute and Amnesty International Australia's Constitution are the organisation's governing frameworks.

Amnesty International Australia, as a section of the international movement, needs to meet the terms and conditions that are set by the International Statute.

The Statute commits sections to acting in accordance with:

- Amnesty's core values and methods, and
- any Integrated Strategic Goals, working rules and guidelines that are adopted from time to time by the International Council.

The International Statute also states that 'Sections shall take no action on matters that do not fall within the stated vision and mission of Amnesty International'.

The statute frames a two-way relationship - the movement provides an organising structure for activism, and activists commit to what makes our movement respected and effective.

Amnesty International Australia also has a Branch Charter which provides a comprehensive outline of roles and responsibilities of Branch Committees. To see a copy of the Branch Charter please ask your region's Branch President or Community Organiser.

INTERNATIONAL BOARD

The International Board's role is to provide guidance and leadership for the Amnesty International movement worldwide.

The International Board also appoints and directs Amnesty International's Secretary General. The International Board issues the wider movement with regular reports on its priorities, deliberations and decisions and includes financial reports and budget statements.

Members are elected to the International Board on four-year terms at the International Council Meeting (ICM) that occurs every two years.

THE NATIONAL BOARD

The National Board (the Board) has the stewardship of our responsibilities as a section to the international movement.

As well as meeting all the legal requirements for operating as a public company under Australian law, the Board's responsibilities include overseeing the implementation in Australia of the global vision, mission and plan as well as decisions of the International Council and National Annual General Meetings (NAGM).

The Board set the strategic direction of AIA and consult with supporters on what our vision should be. The National Board has 14 members

- Seven are elected at the NAGM, and
- Seven are elected as Regional Representatives at Branch Annual General Meetings (BAGM).

The AIA NAGM also elects delegates to attend the International Council Meetings every two years.

AIA STAFF

AIA employs staff to work with the National Board and Branch Committees to implement the vision. Staff comprise of three business units.

The region's Community Organiser is the key point of contact on staff for Branch Committees, their main focus is the growth and development of the movement in the region in partnership with the Branch Committee.

Branch Committees also work with the Activism Support Coordinator in the region whose role is to manage the action centre and provide servicing support for activists, as well as coordinating office volunteers.

3. WHAT IS A BRANCH COMMITTEE?

Branch Committees (BCs) are elected at Branch Annual General Meetings (BAGM) and they govern one of seven regions in Amnesty International Australia.

Each Branch Committee can have up to 12 AIA members in various roles. Branch Committees help motivate, coordinate and develop local human rights activism in the region.

Key facts:

- You must be a financial member of Amnesty International Australia for at least 90 days before BAGMs to be eligible for election to a Branch Committee.
- Branch Committee meetings are held monthly and members should be prepared to attend each meeting (by phone or in person).
- You'll need to prepare for each meeting by reading any provided papers and completing any actions assigned to you.



AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL SUPPORTERS

OUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS, FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS, ACTIVISTS AND VOLUNTEERS.

ACTION GROUPS - BASED ON LOCATION/THEME/CAMPUS/TACTIC

LEAD ACTIVISTS - SUCH AS GROUP ORGANISERS & MEMBERS OF NATIONAL WORKING GROUPS

ACTION CENTRE VOLUNTEERS - SUPPORTERS THAT ASSIST STAFF IN OUR ACTION CENTRES

BRANCH COMMITTEES - THERE ARE SEVEN REGIONAL BRANCH COMMITTEES. THEY ARE ACT/SOUTHERN NSW, NSW, SA/NT, QLD/NORTHERN NSW, TAS, VIC & WA

THE NATIONAL BOARD - THE BOARD IS RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERSEEING AND IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL VISION IN AUSTRALIA. THE BOARD HAS 14 MEMBERS, SEVEN OF WHICH ARE ELECTED AT THE NATIONAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND ONE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE FROM EACH REGION.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

At every level of our operations and our governance, being involved with Amnesty brings with it a responsibility to respect the work of the movement and contribute to decisions that are in the collective best interest to ensure that we really do make a difference.

As a member of a Branch Committee you are a leader in a global community of human rights defenders.

Being on the Branch Committee means a commitment to:

- being a leader for AIA members and activists in your region by supporting their activism and inspiring people to increase their involvement;
- contributing to the strategy for growth and development of the AIA movement in your region;
- take action to promote and defend universal human rights;
- uphold the Amnesty International values of impartiality, independence, democracy and mutual respect, and
- working collaboratively to achieve Amnesty International Australia's vision and goals.

Respecting each other's rights and living up to our responsibilities enables Amnesty International members to successfully promote and support a culture where human rights are embraced valued and protected.

AIA commits to:

- respecting and adhering to Volunteering Australia's Principles of Volunteering;
- recognising the work and commitment of AIA activists and everyone engaged in AIA's work.
- providing a safe, welcoming and professional work environment;
- providing activist with the guidance, direction and development opportunities needed to achieve success in their work with AIA, and
- respecting the privacy of AIA activists and recognising their commitments and responsibilities outside of AIA.

AIA activists commit to:

- respecting the human rights and dignity of all people and working in a manner free from discrimination, harassment and bullying behaviour;
- representing AIA in good faith and consistent with the values, vision and independence of AIA;
- responsible use of AIA resources - both in the community and the Amnesty Action Centres;
- recognising the need for privacy and confidentiality;
- respecting AIA social media guidelines, and
- respecting AIA conflict resolution procedures and participating in them should conflict arise.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

BRANCH COMMITTEE ROLES

Each Branch Committee in AIA has positions required by the AIA Constitution. These roles have a range of responsibilities, but here are the key elements of these roles:

Branch President (BP)

The Branch President leads the Branch Committee, chairs the monthly meeting and works collaboratively with regional staff to develop, implement and monitor regional plans, national priorities, and in implementation of priority campaigns.

The Branch President works closely with the Regional Representative to ensure strong and consistent communication between the National Executive Committee and the regional Branch Committee.

Regional Representative (RR)

The Regional Representative is a member of the National Board and is the Branch Committee's link to the National Board. This role sits on both the Branch Committee and the National Board.

The Regional Representative works to ensure Branch Committees are up to date on national projects, planning and reporting and helps facilitate the regional implementation of national policies.

The Regional Representative reports back to Branch Committee after each National Board Meeting and has the responsibility of representing the National Board at regional events.

Both the Regional Representative and Branch President are elected for two-year terms at a BAGM. One person may hold both positions, but must be elected both times at BAGM.

Branch Vice-President

Supporting the work of the Branch President, and filling in for the Branch President when needed are the key responsibilities of the Branch Vice-President.

The Vice-President may need to chair meetings or attend events on the Branch President's behalf from time to time.

The Vice-President should be ready to step into the Branch President's role should the Branch President be unable to fulfil it (on either a temporary or permanent basis).

Branch Secretary

Branch Secretaries are responsible for the committee's correspondence and reporting. This includes taking the minutes at Branch Committee meetings, Branch AGMs and other regional meetings.

Branch Secretaries also have responsibilities for the distribution of the information needed for Branch Committee meetings - such as minutes, action points, reports and preparing meeting agendas.

Branch Treasurer

Branch Treasurers have responsibilities for the regional budget - including working with the Branch President, Community Organiser and Activism Support Coordinator on drafting the regional budget and overseeing quarterly re-forecasts.

Branch Treasurers also provide monthly reports on budgetary issues to Branch Committee.

In addition to the responsibilities set out in these specific roles, Branch Committees have two broad themes of responsibilities in each region - activism leadership and governance.

These are responsibilities that all Branch Committees members work towards achieving.

4. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

ACTIVISM LEADERSHIP

The real impact and strength of Branch Committees comes in the form of activist leadership. Branch Committees work in partnership with the Community Organiser to develop and implement the regional plan and keep track of the progress of this plan.

Branch Committees work to ensure that regional activism and initiatives are consistent with AIA's strategic goals, vision and campaign priorities.

There are many ways Branch Committee members can work to support regional activism;

Example - QLD/NNSW Branch Committee Group Support

The QLD/NNSW Branch Committee members work to support and develop regional activism by regularly attending and helping out at action group events. This is particularly important for new and developing groups.

Branch Committee members also assist to organise and facilitate Social Change Labs where they bring together leaders in the region to run through workshops, discuss regional plans and build stronger collaboration between groups.

This practice helps to ensure Action Group members are familiar with the work and membership of the Branch Committee.

It also provides Branch Committees with a better understanding of the state of activism and action groups in the regions - and allows them to identify where support and development is needed.

Branch Committees also have a leadership role to play in the organising of large and significant regional events and working with the Community Organiser to manage external relationships within the region.

Example - SA/NT Branch Committee Annual Hawke Centre Lecture

The SANT Branch Committee works with the University of South Australia Hawke Research Centre to present an annual human rights lecture.

This event attracts close to 500 attendees and includes a reception function at the conclusion of the lecture. A selection of Branch Committee members form a subgroup to begin planning this event early in the year and then work with Branch Committee to ensure all preparation is done.

The Branch President takes the lead in the negotiation with the Hawke Centre and works with the subgroup to ensure Action Groups are invited to participate and that there are development opportunities for interested activists.

GOVERNANCE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Governance roles and responsibilities of Branch Committees are an essential part of ensuring each region is effective and accountable.

The Branch Committee has a number of formal powers and duties, which are set out in the AIA Constitution - these include;

- ensuring the appropriate and responsible use of AIA funds and resources (each region has a different budget size and BCs can approve events up to \$5,000), and
- approving new AIA memberships.

The major governance responsibility for the Branch Committee is the Branch Annual General Meeting (BAGM). All Branch Committee members have a role to play in organising BAGM - planning and organising this event is a large amount of work and needs to be a priority in branch planning.

The National Board will also delegate governance roles to Branch Committee on occasion and Branch Committee will also undertake consultations with members and supporter on key issues such as changes to AIA policies, AIA Vision and Mission Statement.

5. BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

In 2015-2016 AIA consulted with our supporters to determine where we want our movement to be in five years - it's our 2020 Vision and Values. This is what it looks like.

AIA Values

Amnesty International stands for equality, justice, freedom, and human dignity and will uphold these values:

- **Empowerment** - we build people power
- **Persistence** - we are resolute in pursuit of our goals
- **Integrity** - we hold ourselves to the highest standards
- **Courage** - we are fearless in upholding human rights

AIA 2020 Vision

We are an independent global movement who campaign courageously for human rights for everyone.

By 2020 Amnesty International Australia will:

- protect and defend more lives
- be an unstoppable movement
- inspire outstanding passion and commitment

Branch Committees will play a vital role in achieving this vision. As a social change leader in Australia, we will continue to empower our activists to build our power and work effectively to bring about positive change.

Over the next five years we want to:

- be a large and powerful mass movement of people;
- be a diverse movement of people, welcoming all who support our vision and values, and
- have the leadership necessary to realise our Vision at national, regional and local levels.

CAMPAIGN PRIORITIES

Understanding AIA's campaign priorities will help Branch Committees make responsible and effective decisions when it comes to approving funding and resources for Action Group events, and will make Branch committee meetings more engaging, efficient and relevant.

These priorities represent the focus and direction of all parts of our organisation - the issues and work that should be a focus for us all. From these priorities - the Organising and Activism teams work with activists and action groups on selected parts of this framework.

Remember, the best way to stay informed about Amnesty's campaigns and activist resources is to regularly check the website, and regularly check out the Amnesty Leader.

Regular priorities include:

Individuals at Risk / Write for Rights

Since 1961, individuals at risk have been at the heart and foundation of our work. Amnesty International supporters around the world take action on behalf of people who are denied their rights, and let human rights abusers know the world is watching.

Write for Rights is part of Amnesty International's Individual at Risk program and is an annual program of work leading into International Human Rights Day on 10 December.

From 25 November to 10 December each year, thousands of supporters around the world take part in Write for Rights - working together to write millions of letters on behalf of these people.

5. BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

Crisis Response

Amnesty International responds immediately to human rights crises as they occur. This means, monitoring potential crisis situations in our region and ensuring that our staff, supporters and the wider community are informed, engaged and ready to act.

Our action groups and activists play a key role in this. The nature of crisis is that events happen suddenly and often without warning. To have a positive impact we need our action groups to be able to mobilise quickly right around the country - and this may mean changing our plans, and reworking our priorities.

AIA works with a Crisis Response Matrix which uses specific criteria to determine our involvement in a crisis with three levels of increasing urgency. A Level 3 Crisis will most likely shift our work and priorities.

A level 3 crisis is an emerging or worsening human rights crisis, case or situation, which meets at least three of the following criteria:

- is located in the Asia Pacific region OR
- has a particular resonance to Australia OR
- the IS has requested section support OR
- we can join a global movement we believe will have positive impact AND
- it is determined by the Crisis Response Team to be widely, deeply felt (in the public interest) and (at least partly) winnable AND
- it is strategic to engage the whole organisation.

During a level 3 crisis AIA staff are directed to stop other work and focus all their energy on this crisis. We will ask ALL of our activists, our action groups and supporters to take part in activism for the crisis.

Tactical Campaigns

A tactical campaign is a highly-focused, time-bound, and winnable project which is strategically planned, coordinated and communicated to achieve explicitly defined goals and objectives.

A campaign:

- uses a range of tactics (research, communications, advocacy, mobilisation), with a high concentration of human and operational resources;
- may be global, regional or national (depending on the target and the best strategy to influence that target);
- will require various levels of well-coordinated movement-engagement (depending on its strategy and level of priority);
- is established when there is a clearly identifiable opportunity to have human rights impact; and
- is run within a limited timeframe (usually between 6 months - 2 years)

Sometimes we will work on international campaigns that are prioritised by the International Secretariat such as Arms Trade Treaty, Stop Torture and My Body, My Rights.

But we can also work on local human rights issues like changing Australia's abusive refugee policies and reducing the incarceration rates of Indigenous kids in Australian detention.

We request activists to make these campaigns their main focus to maximise our impact, but they can be removed as a priority in times of crisis.

5. BUILDING THE MOVEMENT

REGIONAL SNAPSHOT

Each region has its own pathways for supporters to get more involved as activists. Below are some examples that you will find in every region, but as a member of a branch committee you can contribute to plans to help people get active at AIA.

Action Groups

Action Groups are the community face of Amnesty International in cities and regional centres across the country. Action Groups work in their local area to share Amnesty International campaigns and actions with their community.

Amnesty International Australia currently has over 200 Action groups who host over 1000 community events every year, attracting tens of thousands of people and building our movement and our impact.

Action Groups need support from Branch Committee to ensure that activism in the region is effective, successful and builds our movement. They need support to understand their role as part of AIA and know how to ensure their voices are heard.

Branch Committees work alongside and support Action Groups in a number of important ways, including;

- approving and monitoring events proposed by Action Groups;
- attending Action Group events and meetings;
- assisting Action Groups to participate in training and development opportunities;
- supporting Group Convenors and Action Groups to participate in regional planning, BAGM, policy consultations etc, and
- working to resolve any conflict between activists, between activists and staff and activists and AIA.

Group Organising Program

The Group Organising Program (GO Program) assists Amnesty International action groups across the country to achieve greater human rights impact.

Group organisers (GOs) are the volunteers who deliver the program, working one-on-one with action groups for 12 to 18 months. Each GO supports 2-3 current action groups or starts new groups.

Youth Advisory Group (YAG)

The AIA Youth Advisory Group works with the National Board and Branch Committees to ensure AIA engages clearly, proactively and sustainably with young people and to increase the participation, skills and voice of young people within AIA.

Each region has two representatives on the YAG who serve a two-year term. YAG representative report to BAGM and attend Branch Committee meetings once a quarter.

Action Centre Volunteers/Interns

Action Centre volunteers/interns play a vital role in the day-to-day work of AIA. These are activists who spend time in the Action Centre working alongside and supporting staff and other activists to ensure that AIA is a strong presence in communities everywhere.

Action Centre volunteers usually have a regular time that they are available and in the Action Centre.

6. COMMUNITY ORGANISING

Our power lies with our Amnesty supporters and it's our responsibility to support and guide their work to ensure it is strategic, has goals and will contribute to change.

AIA uses an organising approach in this work. What this means in practical terms is that we build strong relationships with individuals and collectives, we offer training and mentoring on an ongoing basis, we plan strategically and in ways that increase our chances of making lasting change.

The Community Organiser (CO) in each region works with a large network of volunteers and activists within an organising framework that is streamlined across the country whilst still maintaining its regional specificity.

The Branch Committee (BC) has a unique role in working with the CO to strengthen, grow, and inspire across the region. Working together within an organising framework sees the BC strengthening the region by connecting to existing structures - asking questions like:

- Does it build our unstoppable movement through recruiting new supporters, members or strengthening community partners.

- is the campaign a priority or an AIA issue?
- what is the impact of their event and have the group set goal/s or targets for their event?
- will it allow the group to collect campaign actions (targets are helpful) which will may well lead to positive human rights outcomes.
- will it raise money for AIA? is it value for money?
- Will it help to achieve our Vision?
- How will they evaluate activities at the end to measure the above?

As a Branch Committee, you are also in a great position to assist groups to strategically plan in line with national campaigns when event proposals come to you for approval.

For Branch Committees, organising at AIA is about seeing the region in its entirety. It's about working with all of the activist structures and staff to build capacity by investing in relationships. It's about planning and taking action strategically, and strengthening everybody's ability to have the greatest human rights impact possible.



7. NATIONAL & REGIONAL PLANS

AIA Planning involves all areas of our movement. Active participation from as many people and structures involved in our movement is so important in developing the best plans possible and a program of work that people feel connected to.

Overview of AIA Annual Planning

Around August each year, AIA begin a series of consultation processes to identify the campaigns for the coming year. Consultation is sought from as many AIA groups and structures as possible - Action Groups, members, Branch Committees and volunteers and staff.

This feedback is considered by the National Board who agree on priorities at their September meeting. Between September and November staff develop budget proposals and basic plans for each of the campaigns - which are then agreed to at the November National Board meeting.

The plans are then further developed collaboratively with staff and activists.

Activist Involvement

Activists and regional leaders have a big role to play in developing the AIA campaign plans. For many of AIA's campaigns, AIA's national Activism Coordinators run national activist networks.

The purpose of these networks is to facilitate a mechanism for lead activists to feed into the development, roll-out and evaluation of effective activist engagement and mobilisation strategies for priority campaigns. They also provide an opportunity for activists from across the country to come together to share activism ideas, brainstorm tactics and overcome common challenges.

Known as advisory groups, tactics networks and catch-ups, these work differently depending on the needs and timeframe of the specific campaign. Activists participating in these groups have different responsibilities in AIA's planning work.

For example;

- Activist Advisory Group Member-role includes advice on planning, monitoring and evaluation of the campaign.
- Tactics Network Member - role includes advice on local activism tactics and strategies.

Branch Committees need to have a working relationship with activists participating in these structures, particularly the advisory and tactics groups. By working with these lead activists, Branch Committee can keep up to date with plans as they develop and feed in regional ideas and concerns.

Regional Planning

A strong regional plan is an important part of Branch Committee's responsibilities, and a big part of the work that happens each year. These plans need to measure Growth, Development and the collective culture of the movement in the region.

Regional plans need to be a way for regions to help achieve AIA's national campaign goals, and at the same time, be relevant to the work and community of the region. This can be difficult - there are often changes/delays in the roll out of the national plans.

An example of how Branch Committees could develop plans that are relevant and achievable for regions is to create a six month plan. Newly elected Branch Committees could plan in July for August to January - this would allow anything from NAGM to be incorporated into the plans. Then, in January, the Branch Committee could plan for February to July.

Quarterly Plans

The Branch President, Community Organiser and Activism Support Coordinator meet quarterly to review plans for the next quarter and see how they are tracking against the regional plan.

8. COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY

Branch Committees work best when everyone is on the same page. Although there is always a lot happening at AIA - there are some great ways to ensure you are across all that is happening, both regionally and nationally.

Amnesty International website

Our website is an essential resource for everyone, including Branch Committee members. It is a great site that comprehensively covers the campaign information and resources activists need. The website has news updates about AIA campaigns, resources you can download and print including petitions and fliers, posters and letters.

The website also includes training resources used by activists - including how to lobby an MP, write media releases, use social media, run a successful meeting or event, plan a campaign or approach people on the street with a petition.

The website also includes the Event Proposal Form used by Action Groups and activists. Branch Committee are responsible for approving funding and resources for events submitted through this process.

Amnesty Leader Bulletin

A fortnightly bulletin sent to group conveners and lead activists, the Leader Bulletin gives the committed and hard working leaders in AIA movement an extra helping hand to continue their fantastic work and achieve even more impact.

The Leader Bulletin provides up-to-date campaign information, useful documents and materials and information about new opportunities in the movement. The Amnesty Leader Bulletin is released fortnightly and subscription is via email.

Emails

Branch Presidents, Regional Representatives and Branch Treasurers are provided with an @amnesty.org.au email account.

Information and correspondence from the National Board, AIA Senior Management Team and other staff and governance groups is sent to these email addresses.

It is important that office bearers use these email addresses rather than personal email addresses.

AIA also stores a lot of information on Google Docs or Google Sites and access to this requires @amnesty.org.au email addresses.

There are also continuity and succession benefits for using an @amnesty.org.au address - using the address that belongs to the office bearer means that there is a record of correspondence for the next person who has that role.



9. MEETINGS & PROBLEM SOLVING

Effective Branch Committee Meetings

Meetings are a necessary part of working in a group environment - they are the best way to make plans, reach decisions and share information and updates.

Attending Branch Committee meetings is a big part of your role on the Branch Committee and should be a priority for all members. Meetings don't need to be boring or arduous - a great meeting can leave you feeling energised, informed, effective and included.

However, great meetings don't happen by chance. They require preparation and active participation from all participants, an effective facilitator and a shared understanding of acceptable behaviours and respect.

Facilitating Meetings - Make it Easy is a great AIA guide that covers the skills and tactics that will ensure Branch Committee meetings run well. You can find it on the website.

Resolving Conflict

For the most part, things run smoothly at AIA. But when problems arise it's important to know that there are structures in place help people deal with and resolve them.

Branch Committee members need to be aware of the options available to help solve conflict or problems that may develop. AIA strives to be a safe, inclusive and welcoming space for all people to participate in.

In the first instance, where possible it is best to attempt to address any problems directly with the people involved. If it's a problem between a member of the Branch Committee, the Branch President is a good person to take your concerns to.

AIA has Grievance Procedures that help progress conflict through to a resolution. Further information and copies of the AIA Grievance Procedures are available from the Community Organiser.

If the problem involves a member of staff - these concerns can be escalated to the Line Managers of the Community Engagement and Media Unit. The Organising Manager and Activism Manager are both able to help Branch Committee address and resolve problems or conflict regarding staff.

Conflict between activists that cannot be resolved can also be escalated to the Organising Manager and the AIA Human Resources team are also in a position to assist in these cases as well.



10. WHEN BRANCH COMMITTEES WORK

Branch Committees are working well when we start to see:

1. Action Groups submitting strategic event proposals
(when your event proposal feedback to groups is strategic)

2. Action Groups are participating in regional events
(because you are talking to activists about the key events)

3. Action Groups are engaging their media and MPs on our priorities.

4. Action Group members know who is on the BC
(because you know them and make yourself known)

5. Action Groups are working together where strategic
(you can help to identify connections between the work groups)

6. BCs know who is contributing to the region and are identifying and providing development opportunities for leaders

7. BCs are investing in and supporting each other as activist leaders

8. BC members attend BC meetings and actively contribute during and between meetings

9. BCs are excited about meeting together and genuinely contributing to the progress of the region

10. BCs assist in networking with appropriate local organisations and groups in building mutually beneficial relationships.

Only through strong leadership, teamwork and passion will we become the powerful grassroots movement we strive to be.

11. TIME COMMITMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Stepping up your involvement in Amnesty International and joining the Branch Committee will involve more of your time.

While each Branch Committee will vary in the level of activity and projects, you will need at least 6-8 hours a month for your role as a Branch Committee member.

The breakdown of those hours might look like:

- Two hours per month attending Branch Committee meetings.
- One hour per month for meeting preparation.
- Two hours per month to meet with and support Action Groups.
- Two hours per month for Branch projects (BAGM, policy consultations, regional events etc.)



Need more info?

If you're keen to know more get in touch with your Branch President. If you have any feedback for the AIA Training Group about this guide let your Community Organiser know.

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**AMNESTY
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