



**Amnesty International Australia (AIA) National Board Report
for meetings held on 20 August 2022 & 12 August 2022**

Agenda item	Information / Report
Minutes of past meetings and report on the meeting of 12 August 2022	<p>The minutes of the meetings held on 21 June and 12 August 2022 were confirmed.</p> <p>On 12 August, the Board held an additional Board meeting to discuss the process that led to the extended press release of 4 August 2022 <i>Ukraine Fighting Tactics Endanger Civilians</i> and to make recommendations to the International Board.</p>
Management reports	<p>The Board noted the August management report, the August 2022 Financial Reports and the August 2022 Fundraising dashboard.</p> <p>Key highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Human Rights Act / Right to Protest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The global flagship campaign on the Right to Protest has soft launched, and in Australia we held a press conference with a number of civil society organisations on recent punitive bail conditions imposed on protesters. - We have also worked with a Legal Observer who was arrested and charged while observing a protest, highlighting to police that legal observers activities are protected under human rights standards. - In response to renewed attention on rights to reproductive healthcare in Australia following the overturning of Roe v Wade we have launched an action calling for affordable, accessible abortions in Australia. - Activist Campaign Strategy training has been held and we are in the later stages of campaign planning for our Human Rights Act campaign. ● Community is Everything (CIE) / Indigenous Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AIA with coalition partners in Change the Record handed over a petition signed by over 200,000 people to Attorney General Mark Dreyfuss and Indigenous Affairs Minister Linda Burney in Canberra on 4 August, pressuring the Government to Raise the Age and put into action the 'national leadership' Burney has committed too. Handovers will also be organised in each state and territory in the coming month in the lead up to the next meeting of the Coalition of Attorneys General (CAG). - Young Gomeri leader Kacey Teerman has commenced at AIA as the Indigenous Rights Campaign Associate. - AIA has worked with local and national partners to condemn The Western Australian Department of Justice moving children



as young as 14 from youth detention at Banksia Hill to the maximum security adult Casuarina prison, where the children are enduring numerous human rights abuses including shackling, solitary confinement and deprivation of education.

- **Individuals at Risk / International**

- Student Ahmed Samir Santawy was finally released from prison in Egypt after being given a presidential pardon. A women's rights and reproductive rights researcher and masters student, Ahmed was subjected to enforced disappearance for five days. Ahmed was sentenced to 4 years in prison for publishing "false news" in 2021.

- On 15 July, the Central District Court of Komsomolsk-on-Amur in Russia's Far East acquitted Tsvetkova and cleared her of all charges. She had been accused of creating and sharing "pornographic" images — including body-positive drawings of women's bodies that depict the vagina as a beautiful, flower-like symbol — on VKontakte, a Russian social media site.

- 14,000 actions were collected for the petition to stop Hoo Yew Wah's execution.

- 2,100 actions were collected for the petition to protect abortion rights in Australia in response to the overturning of Roe v Wade in the USA.

- **Refugee Rights**

- AIA participated in 21 meetings with politicians in Canberra including Immigration Minister Andrew Giles, his counterpart in the opposition Dan Tehan and numerous independents, backbenchers and senators. Issues raised included: abolishing Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) and Safe Haven Enterprise Visas (SHEVs) that we successfully advocated for to be included and kept in the ALP platform over recent years; resettlement of all people from Nauru and PNG; speeding up of the New Zealand resettlement deal (which is now expected to commence in September); study rights for people on Bridging Visas; and, the repatriation of Australian children and women trapped in Northern Syria with Kamalle Deboussy whose daughter and grandchildren are among those trapped.

- The AIA supported court case challenging the legality of Alternative Places of Detention (APODs) commenced on 19 July with extensive media coverage across all platforms. During the hearing the scope of the case was significantly expanded beyond APODs to include all Immigration Transit Accommodation facilities, raising the number of people impacted from several hundred to several thousand people detained in those facilities since 2009.



- The current quarter public focus remains on increasing the humanitarian intake in the lead up to the October budget.
- IS Afghanistan report/s released in late July and early August documented attacks on women, girls, human rights defenders and minority communities. AIA is developing a campaign to commence on 15 August 2022, commemorating one year since the Taliban took control of the country. The focus will be on bringing pressure internationally on getting girls access to education and school.
- Study rights campaign for people seeking asylum is in progress. Private advocacy with decision makers is the focus at this stage.
- Working with Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA) to promote the sponsorship of refugees into Australia, with the first family arriving under the new program on September 1st. AIA is continuing to advocate to the Government for this expanded program to be in addition to the current official humanitarian intake of refugees.
- Dr Graham Thom attended UNHCR consultations in Geneva with a delegation led by refugees from Australia, advocating for increasing the capacity for resettlement of refugees from countries such as Afghanistan and Myanmar and those trapped in Indonesia.
- Zaki Haidari featured at numerous public speaking events including with Community Refugee Sponsorship Australia (CRSA), encouraging community advocates, an Afghan community meeting on TPVs and SHEVs in addition to a refugee community forum in Parramatta with Minister Giles and local member Andrew Charlton.
- AIA supported Independents Andrew Wilkie and Kylie Tink to reintroduce a bill calling for the end to indefinite arbitrary detention for refugees and people seeking asylum.
- Many events led by activists were held across the country during Refugee Week.

- **LGBTQIA+**

- The Darwin Group participated in the Rainbow Family Day - celebrating with the Darwin LGBTQIA+ community and connecting 20 potential activists to Amnesty International's work, and the Rainbow Network very quickly and courageously responded to the 'Manly Jersey Drama' by handing out Amnesty Rainbow Badges at a Manly NRL Game.
- The June Get Active was LGBTQIA+ rights themed and was run in collaboration with the national LGBTQIA+ Network.
- Called on the SA and WA governments to end conversion practices: 1018 emails sent to elected officials and 3 membership sign ups.



- **Anti Racism**

- In June-July, we promoted the new Anti-Racism Allyship guide 'How to Raise an Anti-Racism Ally' alongside the original ally guide, 'How to Be an Anti-Racism Ally'. During this period, the campaign had a reach of 550,401. Overall, 2,300 new allies showed their support for the movement by signing up for the Anti-Racism Ally Guide and Young Ally Guide.

- Another Anti-Racism training session for staff and activists was held in order to ensure our emerging leaders are aware of our Diversity Inclusion and Wellbeing plan and skilled up in being an anti-racism ally.

- **Diversity, Inclusion and Wellbeing**

The following plans and strategies are now final and available publicly:

[Engagement Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, organisations and communities](#)

[Engagement Strategy for culturally and linguistically diverse people, organisations and communities](#)

[Mental Health and Wellbeing Plan](#)

- **Membership:**

- The total number of members including new members since the last Board report is 4,924, an increase of 133 new members since May 2022.

- Youth Membership has been launched and is now live.

- Work is underway to review and enhance new member onboarding and retention, and to increase the engagement with the Members Only Platform.

- **Activist Leadership**

- As of August 2022 there were 196 Core Activist Leaders.

- Three webinars were conducted as part of our Activism Leadership Essentials Program delivering activism skills to our core activist leaders - a Digital Organising session, a Theory of Change session and an Anti-Racism Training session.

- Staff is working with the Activism Membership Committee to co-create two exciting projects in the coming months: Activism Strategy Design Group, and Activist Face to Face (15-16 October) which will bring 35 activist leaders together, face to face for the first time since 2019.

Media coverage:

- During this period there were 3470 pieces of coverage (print, online and broadcast), with a 72% share of voice.



	<p>- Key topics of coverage included</p> <p>Proactive stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moz's court case - NSW anti-protest laws - Torture in Myanmar - Raise the age petition handover <p>Reactive stories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Roe V Wade and the local implications of the decision - Report on executions in Myanmar <p>There were approximately 273 pieces of print and broadcast coverage which mentioned the negative reaction to the release regarding Ukraine troops putting civilians at risk.</p>
<p>Mid-year review of 2022 workplans and budget</p>	<p>The mid year review of the 2022 work plans identifies that whilst most KPIs are tracking well, attention is needed in the areas of audience strategy, building activists base, Human Rights Education and building organisational capacity.</p> <p>The board reviewed and approved the financial projections for the full year, which had been previously scrutinised by the Audit and Risk Committee. They show some income challenges in the second half, but a strong cash position and obligations towards the International Secretariat will be met.</p>
<p>Return to Growth discussion</p>	<p>The Fundraising and Philanthropy Director updated the Board on the outcomes of a recently-held fundraising strategy workshop. Innovative ideas and new strategies were discussed to increase sustainability over the longer term. Directors provided their insights on the economic outlook and fundraising challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>This useful discussion will inform the 2023 budget, which will be presented to the Board for approval later this year.</p>
<p>Risk register and risk appetite statement</p>	<p>Directors reviewed the risk register and the risk appetite statement.</p>
<p>IT Roadmap</p>	<p>Current priorities are the transition from Google to Microsoft, as well as an upgrade of the IT infrastructure in a number of Action Centres.</p>
<p>Human Rights Impact presentation</p>	<p>Zaki Haidari, Campaigner (Refugee Rights) and Sahar Ghaseimi shared their personal experiences of being refugees in Australia.</p> <p>Refugee rights have been undermined for two decades in Australia, where there has been a policy focus on offshore processing and indefinite detention. Hearing a first hand account of Zaki's and Sahar's personal experiences shone a light on the impact that the deprivation of</p>



	<p>rights has on refugees who are on temporary protection visas.</p> <p>Directors acknowledged the cruel treatment imposed on them by the Australian government and congratulated them on their work, which will be beneficial to others as well.</p> <p>As for all quarterly human rights impact updates to the Board, all external Board Committee members had been invited to this human rights impact segment.</p>
Identification of new auditors	New auditors for appointment by a General Meeting were confirmed following an exhaustive selection process.
Appeal Committee appointment	Nicole Lees was appointed to the Appeal Committee as a casual vacancy until the 2023 Annual General Meeting.
International Matters	The Board noted the key outcomes of the Global Assembly held on 30 - 31 July 2022.
Nomination and Assessment Committee report	<p>Directors noted the report from the Nomination & Assessment Committee (NAC) regarding the Directors' elections at the July Annual General Meeting, and thanked the NAC for their excellent work.</p> <p>They delegated to PrepCom the review of the questions raised by the NAC for Board consideration in February 2023.</p>
2023 Governance dates	<p>The Board approved their 2023 meeting dates, the Census Date and the Annual General Meeting date.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 February 2023: Census Date, at which the number of General Meeting Voters for each Region will be calculated. • 3 June 2023: Annual General Meeting.
Board committee minutes	The Board noted the latest minutes of the Activism and Membership Committee, International Issues Committee, Audit and Risk Committee and IT Roadmap Steering Group meetings.
Next meeting	The next Board meeting will be held on 4 October 2022.