

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL
IRELAND**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

WEDNESDAY 05 JULY 2023

**18.00 CONFERENCE OPENING
CHAIR DAVID WHITE**

Adoption of the Conference Agenda Committee & Election of the National Board & Conference Agenda Committee 2023

**18:15 A YEAR IN REVIEW – REPORT BACK
TO MEMBERSHIP**

A look back at 2021 with our National Board & Staff including updates on some of our key campaigns

Followed by Q&A

**19:05 TREASURERS REPORT AND
PRESENTATION OF BUDGET 2022 &
HEADLINE BUDGET 2023**

Followed by Q&A

19:30 MOTIONS & AMENDMENTS

Conference Delegates discuss and vote on the motions put forward by membership.

19:45 ACTIVISM MOMENT

20:00 FINAL CLOSING OF CONFERENCE

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE

REPORT TO 2022 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A) MOTIONS

Having examined the motions submitted for debate at the Annual Conference, the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC) finds those listed in the Order of Business to be appropriate matters for consideration by the Conference. No constitutional amendments were submitted for consideration,

B) ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends the order of business as set out in the accompanying agenda.

C) RIGHTS OF SPEAKERS

The Conference Agenda Committee recommends that during the appropriate plenary sessions of the Conference:

- i. Movers of motions and amendments be limited to a maximum of five minutes with persons seconding motions and any subsequent speakers limited to two minutes;
- ii. If in the course of the meeting it appears that the business may not be completed by the stipulated time, the Chairperson may recommend further restrictions on the time allowed to speakers for approval by the Annual Conference;
- iii. Speakers are allowed to make one contribution only on each item on the agenda, except for the mover of a motion who may exercise a right of reply limited to five minutes.

D) NATIONAL BOARD ELECTION

The National Board consists of twelve elected members – six of whom are elected in alternate years to serve a two-year term.

The AI Ireland constitution sets out the procedure for the election of the twelve ordinary members of the National Board as follows:

Article 13 (3) the twelve other positions on the National Board shall be filled by election to two panels containing six positions each. Elections to the panels shall take place in alternate years with elected members holding office for a two-year term. Elected members shall be eligible for re-election except that no elected member shall hold office for more than three terms consecutively.

As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies no ballot is required. All candidates will, therefore, be deemed to be elected. The Constitution provides that any vacancies that may arise before the next Annual Conference shall be filled by co-option to the National Board.

FIRST TIME NOMINATED FOR ELECTION

Lorraine Smyth to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Cliona O'Farrelly, Seconded by Fiona O'Connor

Graham Roe to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Fiona O'Connor

STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

Katie O' Houlihan to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Cliona O'Farrelly

Razan Ibraheem to serve a two-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Seán Mulligan

Bríd Cannon to serve a one-year term

Nominated by Razan Ibraheem, Seconded by Máille Brady Bates

Jane Anne Negi to server a one-year term

Nominated by Bríd Cannon, Seconded by Sadhbh Sheeran

E) ELECTION OF CONFERENCE AGENDA COMMITTEE 2021

Noting that:

Five candidates have been nominated for the three seats for ordinary members on the Conference Agenda Committee (CAC). Namely; Mary Quinn, David White, Tony Fitzsimons, Sadhbh Sheeran and, Fergal Kilkenny (the outgoing CAC). As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies, no ballot is required. All will, therefore, be deemed to be elected. The CAC further recommend that qualifying members put themselves forward as alternate members of the CAC so as to address any vacancies which might occur before AC 2023.

AMNESTY IRELAND NATIONAL BOARD BIOGRAPHIES

FIRST TIME STANDING FOR ELECTION

LORRAINE SMYTH

Lorraine Smyth is an e-Enablement and Digital Solutions Manager within Corporate HSE. Lorraine holds an MSc of Science from UL and a Professional Diploma in Human right and equality IPA. Lorraine has a long history as a human rights defender first joining Amnesty at 16.

Lorraine is now a member of the Wexford branch of Amnesty where she has worked on many campaigns including both Yes campaigns, the Ibrahim Halawa and the Stardust campaign. Lorraine is a public servant for the last 21 years and has worked to change culture in the HSE working on the Anti-Bullying task force. The Steering group for the National Staff Engagement Forum and the Women in Leadership Forum. Lorraine is a member of the LGBTQI+ Allies.

Lorraine has an interest in patient centred care and was project lead on the Covid Patient Monitoring App, allowing patients remain at home while monitored during the Covid Pandemic. Lorraine was also the Covid Laboratories Logistic Lead during Covid facilitating testing nationally and enabling forecasting on Lab capacity.

Lorraine has an interest in Sociotechnology, using technology for good.

Lorraine won Women in IT, Digital Leader of the Year and Innovator of the Year in 2021, she was also awarded Student Project of the Year at the Irish Healthcare Awards for her MSc Project Covid Patient Remote Monitoring.

GRAHAM ROE

Graham is a passionate believer in human rights, the power of people to bring about societal and structural change, and a long time Amnesty International supporter. Graham has held multiple leadership roles nationally and internationally in the area of integrated fundraising, communications, advocacy and campaigns. These have included executive and non-executive roles with Oxfam Ireland and Oxfam International, Concern Worldwide, Action Aid, and with Amnesty International Irish section at the outset of his career in the not for profit sector. Graham is currently the Director for Marketing, Communications and Fundraising for Special Olympics Ireland, and believes in an inclusive society where sport and all other areas of society are open to all to thrive within, and contribute to.

Graham holds an undergraduate degree from Trinity College in History. As a leading practitioner for many years nationally and internationally, Graham he has been involved for many years with Fundraising Ireland – now Charities Institute Ireland – contributing on evolving fundraising regulation, and helping to develop and deliver modules for CII's education courses.

He holds a Diploma in Fundraising Management (honours) from Charities Institute Ireland, a Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance (with distinction) from the Law Society of Ireland, and an MA (honours) in Law.

STANDING FOR RE-ELECTION

BRÍD CANNON – CHAIRPERSON

Bríd has been involved in the voluntary sector for over 11 years, in organisations, including the Free Legal Advice Centres, the National Youth Council of Ireland and also the Irish Association of Youth Orchestras which she chaired for 5 years. A law graduate of TCD, Bríd is qualified at the New York Bar and also has over ten years' experience working in financial services.

She has a keen interest in the issues of corporate responsibility, and diversity and inclusiveness and the impact of financial services on the wider community. Bríd was first elected to the National Board in 2018 and was appointed as Chairperson in 2019.

KATIE O'HOULIHAN

Katie is a World Religions graduate of TCD and a MSc. in Violence, Conflict and Development Studies candidate at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London.

She joined Amnesty as a university activist, taking an active role in advocacy and fundraising as part of DU Amnesty, Trinity's Amnesty society. In 2017, she directed Jailbreak, Ireland's largest student-run charity event. Since its inception, the event has collectively raised over €285,000 for Amnesty International and St. Vincent de Paul. In 2018, she represented Irish Youth in the annual Global Assembly, Amnesty's international governance meeting.

She has a keen interest in intersectionality, grassroots solutions and inclusive approaches to development frameworks.

Katie was first elected to the National Board in 2019.

RAZAN IBRAHEEM

Razan Ibraheem is an Irish-Syrian journalist and activist. She came to Ireland to do her Masters degree at the University of Limerick. Her deep sorrow for the tragic situation and the mass displacement in her homeland has led her to volunteer in Greece to help refugees. She gave a speech with the former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in Ireland. In 2016, she was invited by the UN to a high-level meeting in Geneva on global responsibility sharing for pathways for admission of Syrian refugees.

Razan is a journalist and editor with extensive expertise in investigative journalism and verifying content from social media. She focuses on misinformation and disinformation spread online. Her work has been featured in local and international media organizations and news websites. Razan is a regular contributor to various newspaper articles and current events programmes on Irish radio and TV.

She was awarded the International Woman of the Year by Irish Tatler in 2016.

Razan was first elected to the National Board in 2019.

JANE ANNE NEGI

Jane Anne is currently an Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of Bank of Montreal Europe plc (BME).

Before taking on the role of CEO, Jane Anne was Deputy CEO at BME with oversight responsibility for Risk Management and the Lines of Business. She previously worked as BMO Head of Strategic Initiatives EMEA in London where she was responsible for providing strategic and operational leadership on key governance and business initiatives.

Jane Anne has 25 years of Financial Services experience as a senior capital markets & banking lawyer at several multinational banking institutions in London. She has specialist technical knowledge in a variety of capital markets and banking products, and has provided leadership and coordination for major business, legal and regulatory projects. She has held positions of responsibility on boards, board committees and senior management committees where she has been responsible for developing and overseeing the execution of the business's local strategy and providing strong leadership and management.

Jane Anne is committed to corporate social responsibility, chairing BME's Culture and Conduct Committee. She believes that the cornerstones of desirable, ethical behaviours are integrity, empathy, diversity and responsibility and she is committed to doing her part to ensure that social justice prevails.

Jane Anne was first elected to the National Board in 2020.

AMNESTY IRELAND ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2022

SERVING BOARD MEMBERS

MÁILLE BRADY BATES

Máille is an experienced solicitor specialising in Employment Law. In addition to her employment law practice, Máille carries out public interest legal work with a number of charitable organisations on a voluntary and pro-bono basis. Máille has a keen interest in human rights and public interest law and has worked with NGO's such as FLAC, PILA, Human Rights Defenders, the Red Cross and the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre. Máille is a member of the Amnesty HR Sub-Committee and sits as a Board Trustee on the Board of Voluntary Services International.

FIONA O'CONNOR

Fiona is a Director at Tom Smyth & Associates HR Consultancy where she provides legal advice and business risk support to both private and public sector industries. With over 15 years of experience specialising in employment law, HR and industrial relations, she has a deep understanding of workplace relations and the application of employment law.

She has advocated before the Equality Tribunal, EAT, Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) as well as the Labour Court. While working with the Citizens Information Service she provided information, advice and advocacy on a broad range of public and social services and is committed to improving equality & social justice in all aspects of society.

Fiona is a graduate of the Law Society of Ireland (Employment Law) and UCC (Government & Public Policy and later Human Resource Management). She is a member of the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) where she was a member of the Southern Regional Committee.

SEÁN MULLIGAN

Seán has significant experience in leadership and governance roles and has been Finance Director with Tayto Snacks since 2014 having previously held similar positions with PepsiCo Ireland and Valeo Foods. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants, a Chartered Director and holds a degree in International Business and Languages from TU Dublin. Seán has a keen interest in social justice and the defence of human rights.

MOTIONS

MOTION 1 - OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2022*

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2022 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: Seán Mulligan (Finance & Audit Committee)

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

MOTION 2 – HEADLINE OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2023*

Conference approves the high-level outline budget for 2023 and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2023 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: Seán Mulligan (Finance & Audit Committee)

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

* See [Annual Report 2021](#) for Operational Budget 2022 & the Headline Operational Budget 2023

MINUTES OF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Conference was held virtually over two 90-minute sessions on April 07 & 08 2022. Due to the on-going impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not possible to hold an Annual Conference(AC) in 2021. AC 2021 was held within the 16-month timeframe as is permitted under the AI Ireland Constitution.

Plenary sessions included: a report to membership from our National Board focused on the work by both AI Ireland and the wider AI movement, our ongoing work on the global campaigns for greater vaccine access and equity, and on our on-gong work to end Direct Provision and our work on sex workers rights, and inputs on our dynamic programmes supporting our activists, including youth and student activism.

Our Honorary Treasurer, Tiarnan delivered a presentation on our finances and presented our 2021 Operational and our 2022 Headline Budget.

Conference heard powerful testimony from speakers with personal experience at our plenary sessions, namely:

Saleh Higazi, Head of AI's Jerusalem office and **Senator France Black**, long time campaigner on the rights of Palestinian people.

ELECTIONS

There were a total of seven positions open for election to the National Board. All seven positions were filled.

The following members were elected to the National board:

Niall Cowley, elected to serve a two-year term.

Razan Ibraheem, elected to serve a two-year term.

Sadhbh Sheeran, elected to serve a two-year term.

Katie O'Houlihan, elected to serve a two-year term.

Máille Brady Bates, elected to serve a two-year term.

Sean Mulligan co-opted since AC 2020, formally elected to serve a two-year term.

Fiona O'Connor, co-opted since AC 2020, formally elected to serve a two-year term.

Conference also elected four members of the Conference Agenda Committee, which will oversee Annual Conference 2022. They are Mary Quinn, David White, Tony Fitzsimons and Fergal Kilkenny.

MOTIONS AND CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

On Thursday 07 April Conference considered a range of motions that had been put forward by membership. Conference decided as follows:

MOTION 1 - OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2021

Conference endorses the decision of the National Board to approve the organisational budget for 2021 as presented to conference.

Proposed by: Tiarnan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

This motion was passed by consensus

MOTION 2 – HEADLINE OPERATIONAL BUDGET 2022

Conference approves the high-level outline budget for 2022 and mandates the National Board to finalise and approve an operational budget for 2022 in line with this overall budgetary framework.

Proposed by: Tiarnan O'Rourke

Seconded by: Bríd Cannon

This motion was passed by consensus

MOTION 3

Annual Conference supports those involved in peaceful protest against the military takeover of Sudan since October 2021 and remembers those who have lost their lives during the peaceful revolution in Sudan.

Conference endorses Amnesty International's calls for a prompt, independent, and impartial investigation to ensure accountability for the killings and other serious human rights violations allegedly committed by security forces. Authorities must investigate the fatal shootings of unarmed protesters, allow for this investigation to be internationally monitored, and hold those responsible to account.

Conference also endorses the call for all those who have been arbitrarily detained, following peaceful protests, to be immediately released.

Proposed by Mary Ryan,

Seconded by Niamh Brennan

This motion was passed by consensus

MOTION 4

Amnesty International - Ireland Section runs an internship programme that offers work experience to those interested in a career in human rights. Currently, the internships are unpaid, although Amnesty offers a small stipend to cover travel and lunch costs. Internships are not an additional resource or an alternative to paid staff roles, rather they provide meaningful development opportunities for candidates who wish to pursue a career in human rights work.

However, an unpaid internship programme can mean that some candidates are unable to participate in the programme as they cannot afford to be without an income for six months. This is problematic on several fronts, but particularly from a diversity and inclusion perspective.

Conference requests that the National Board carry out a review of the current internship programme and examines the feasibility and desirability of introducing a paid internship programme at Amnesty International Ireland.

Proposed by: Giulia Vilone

Seconded by: Elena Wrelton

This motion was passed by consensus

