

**AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL**



**CANADIAN SECTION (ENGLISH SPEAKING)**

## **RESOLUTIONS GUIDELINES 2022**

**Virtual AGM**

**3, 4 & 5 June 2022**

*Only members are eligible to move and second resolutions, run for election, nominate candidates and vote. Membership must be current for 30 days prior to the AGM in order to be eligible for participation in these governance activities.*

*To learn more about Amnesty membership and how to update your status to allow for participation in governance activities, go to [amnesty.ca](https://www.amnesty.ca).*

### **Who may submit resolutions?**

Resolutions, including amendments to the By-laws or Standing Orders, may be submitted by any member of the Branch and by the Board of Directors (in accordance with Article 6.05 c of By-law No. 1). *Previously, the support of five additional members was required. This is no longer necessary according to our new By-laws.* **Movers and seconders of resolutions MUST be members according to the new definition of membership.**

All resolutions received no later than **midnight (local time) on 5 March 2022** will be posted on the AGM website 60 days before the AGM. Resolutions received after that deadline may be considered by the AGM if two-thirds of those registered for the AGM agree to accept them for discussion.

Membership is necessary for eligibility to submit and vote on resolutions. Membership must be established 30 days prior to the AGM (Article 6.07), by **4 May 2022**. All members must make a financial contribution in the 12 months prior to the AGM and have provided a written request to be identified as a member. You can get more information on our website, [amnesty.ca](https://www.amnesty.ca), about how to become a member of Amnesty.

### **How do I submit resolutions?**

Documents to be used as references when drafting resolutions can be found on the Members MyAmnesty Community. They include: the AI Statute, Branch By-laws, AGM Standing Orders, and the Resolution Guidelines. If you do not yet have a MyAmnesty account, please email [myamnesty@amnesty.ca](mailto:myamnesty@amnesty.ca).

**Resolutions must be submitted no later than midnight (local time) on 5 March 2022 by email at [ea@amnesty.ca](mailto:ea@amnesty.ca).**

## GUIDELINES FOR RESOLUTIONS

### 1. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Resolutions relating in a significant way to the activities or affairs of the Branch may be submitted by any member of AICS(ES).

- a. Because of its governance role, resolutions may be submitted by the Board of Directors.
- b. In accordance with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, resolutions will not be accepted
  - i. with the purpose of enforcing a personal claim or grievance
  - ii. that are not received within prescribed time periods
  - iii. that abuse member's rights in order to secure publicity
  - iv. that do not relate to the activities or affairs of AICS(ES).
- c. The intent of each resolution must be clear.
- d. A member who submits a resolution may include with it a statement of up to 500 words in support of the resolution and contact information to allow other members to seek further information. This statement should include, as a minimum, current policy/practice, and the mover's rationale for the resolution.
- e. Resolutions proposing to enact, repeal or amend the By-laws of the Branch must be received by the national office at least 90 days prior to the AGM. This is a non-negotiable legal requirement. By-law and statute amendments may not be considered by AICS(ES) if not submitted by this date.
- f. All other resolutions should also be submitted 90 days prior to the AGM so as to be included in the AGM mailing for fair consideration and consultation by the membership. Resolutions received after the 90-day deadline will require agreement of a two-thirds majority of those at the AGM to be debated at the AGM.
- g. Past and current policy statements and practices on relevant issues should be considered by the member drafting a given resolution so that the context of the resolution is clear. Such information will be made available by the Resolutions Committee upon request.
- h. Each resolution should address only one matter.
- i. The rationale for the resolution should be clear and concise and included in whereas clauses preceding the resolution itself. The whereas clause will get copied directly into the AGM minutes so that the context and the rationale of the resolution are preserved.
- j. The proposed action of the resolution should be included in the "Be it resolved..." part of the resolution.

- k. A statement from the mover accompanying the resolution will be distributed by the Branch alongside the resolution. Should a member requisition a list of members for further influencing of members, this will be done at the expense of the member.

## **2. STATUTE, BY-LAW, AND STANDING ORDER AMENDMENTS**

- a. Where the resolution proposes that the branch recommend a change to the AI mission or other international procedures, the wording should be in the form of a statute amendment.
- b. Where the resolution proposes a change to the AICS(ES) By-law, the resolution should be worded as a by-law amendment and must be forwarded to the National office at least 90 days before the AGM and to members of the Board, and Activist Structures at least 60 days before the AGM.
- c. Where the resolution proposes a change to any one of the sets of AICS(ES) Standing Orders, the resolution should be worded as a standing order amendment.

## **3. COUNTRY RESOLUTIONS**

NB - Resolutions which refer to the situation of human rights abuses in a particular country are not encouraged. Such resolutions give the impression that AI is more concerned about human rights violations in one country than in others.

- a. Any resolution on the human rights situation in a particular country must take into consideration AI's current position and action on that country. Such information may be obtained from the relevant country/region coordinator or co-group and should be included in the resolution. The Resolutions Committee will forward all country resolutions to the respective coordinators and the Program Director for consultation.
- b. Resolutions referring to a particular country must be written in AI style and language. This means, for example, that such resolutions:
  - i. must only express concern about human rights violations within AI's mission
  - ii. must not condemn the country or its leadership
  - iii. must not promote a particular political or religious view.

## **4. UNACCEPTABLE RESOLUTIONS**

- a. In accordance with the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act, resolutions will not be accepted
  - i. with the purpose of enforcing a personal claim or grievance
  - ii. that are not received within prescribed time periods
  - iii. that abuse member's rights in order to secure publicity
  - iv. that do not relate to the activities or affairs of AICS(ES).

- b. Resolutions which are in conflict with the mission of Amnesty International will be rejected by the Resolutions Committee (e.g.: a resolution calling for the Branch to support the death penalty for terrorists could not be considered. A resolution asking the Branch to become active on animal rights could not be considered.) Members who are unsure of current policy should consult with relevant staff or members of the Board if unsure about current policy on any given issue.
- c. Resolutions that propose action that is not within the power of the AGM to take will be rejected by the Resolutions Committee (e.g.: the AGM cannot change the international policy of Amnesty, although it can send a resolution to the International Council Meeting asking for such a change. The AGM cannot propose the creation of staff positions or the appointment of fieldworkers or coordinators – these are roles of other structures within the Branch.)

## **5. APPEAL PROCESS**

- a. Resolutions rejected by the Resolutions Committee may be appealed to the AGM and will be considered if there is a mover and seconder for the resolution and if the majority of those attending the AGM agree to consider the resolution.
- b. Resolutions received after the 90-day deadline which do not relate to the by-laws of the Branch may be brought by the submitters to the AGM but will be debated only if a 2/3 majority of those at the AGM vote to do so.

## **6. RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE**

- a. The responsibilities of the Resolutions Committee are laid out in AGM Standing Order 4.5 (iv). The Guidelines referred to there in respect to resolutions intended for the ICM are those which are distributed by the international movement. The Guidelines referred to in regard to other AGM resolutions are those contained herein.
- b. In addition to the responsibilities referred to above, the Resolutions Committee is required to determine, in consultation with relevant others, the financial implications (if any) of each resolution and ensure that this information is included in the Resolutions Package.
- c. The report which is required of the Resolutions Committee must be produced in time for inclusion in the AGM mailing to be sent 60 days before the AGM. It should include a brief description of actions taken by the Resolutions Committee, including, but not limited to
  - a. Requests to submitters which have been agreed to
  - ii. Requests to submitters which have been rejected
  - iii. Rationale for rejection of any resolution(s)