

LIBERTY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

14 MAY 2022, ONLINE

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

1. CLIMATE CRISIS

This AGM asserts that the climate crisis is a human rights issue.

This AGM notes that the climate crisis has harmful impacts across many different rights and freedoms, including the right to life and the right to family life, as well as rights to adequate housing, health, food, water, employment and a healthy environment.

This AGM further notes that climate change is harmful to all of us, but that those harms are not and will not be felt equally across society. The greatest burden falls on those already disadvantaged, marginalised and subject to discrimination.

This AGM resolves that Liberty should consider the human rights implications of the climate crisis within our future policy work, as well as Liberty's own environmental impact as an organisation.

2. EXPANDING HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTIONS

This AGM notes that many countries, including within the UK, are advocating and achieving enhanced rights protections through the incorporation of international human rights treaties such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, into domestic law.

This AGM also notes that many disability rights groups are campaigning for the UK to incorporate the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) into domestic law to better protect their rights, and that Liberty's Policy Council has endorsed this position.

This AGM asserts that the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) provides an important base line for the protection of rights and freedoms.

This AGM resolves that Liberty should consider ways in which our rights can be enhanced and built upon beyond the European Convention, including but not limited to the incorporation of UN human rights instruments into domestic law.

3. ANTI-OPPRESSION VALUES (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)

This AGM notes that the current climate is one in which human rights claims are pursued by powerful groups and individuals and/or groups and individuals who are inimical to the rights of others – making it imperative for Liberty to reassert its commitment to pursuing the human rights of the most marginalised in society.

This AGM resolves to encourage and support members, affiliates and groups to place the need to improve the lives of the most marginalised at the forefront of their activities and interactions at Liberty. Accordingly, this AGM approves the insertion of an anti-oppression values statement in its Constitution – consistent with Liberty’s existing work and reaffirming Liberty’s commitment to upholding human rights for society’s marginalised members – as represented in proposed clause 3 – which will form part of Liberty’s guiding principles. This AGM further approves corresponding amendments as represented in proposed clauses 5.1.1, 6.1.1, 7,2, 14.1, 15.1 and 19.1.

4. OVERSIGHT OF LIBERTY COMMITTEES, MEMBERS, AFFILIATE ORGANISATIONS AND LIBERTY GROUPS (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)

This AGM notes that current principles relating to membership, including membership on Liberty committees and other forms of association with Liberty, are not consistent with best practices of good governance and highest standards of fairness, transparency and substantive equality. In particular, it notes the absence of transparent criteria against which eligibility for membership of the Council or Executive can be assessed and that Council and Executive membership are currently unlimited in term.

This AGM further notes that principles governing termination of membership and other forms of association with Liberty are not consistent with best practices of good governance and highest standards of justice, fairness and transparency. In particular, it notes the absence of a power to issue a warning to a member or other associate prior to termination and the absence of principles specifically relating to the termination of membership on the Council or Executive.

This AGM asserts that Liberty’s continued influence in the human rights field depends on it applying the best practices of good governance and consistent standards of fairness, justice, substantive equality and transparency in relation to principles governing its members and associates that it demands of the many organisations it monitors.

This AGM resolves to ensure in the future that its Constitution includes mechanisms for establishing criteria governing eligibility for committee membership and termination of membership or other association with Liberty which are fully transparent and fully promote the principles of justice, fairness and substantive equality. Accordingly, this AGM approves the additions and amendments to its Constitution as represented in proposed clauses 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 14.9.2, 14.10, 14.11, 15.11.2, 15.12, 20.1, 20.1.2, 20.1.3, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.6, 20.7 and 21.

5. LIBERTY'S FUTURE OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)

This AGM notes the increasingly complex networks through which Liberty is able to secure its funding and conduct its legal, advice, communications, policy and campaigning, and journalism work, which, in particular, calls for greater levels of specialist knowledge and skills from members of the Executive Committee responsible for the overall management of Liberty.

The AGM further notes that the current size of its Executive Committee is not consistent with best practices of good governance and reduces its ability to ensure that it can harness appropriate expertise via the co-option process, whilst retaining Liberty's fundamental nature of a membership organisation.

This AGM further notes that Covid-19 restrictions have fundamentally changed how staff and members are able to pursue Liberty's objectives. In particular, it notes the increasing need for hybrid meetings.

This AGM resolves to keep under review the principles governing its meetings and the composition and operating practices of its Executive Committee. In particular, this AGM resolves to learn from and incorporate the best practices of comparable organisations. Accordingly, this AGM approves the additions and amendments to its Constitution as represented in proposed clauses 11, 14.4, 15.6, 15.9.1 - 15.9.6, 15.10, 16, 17, 18 and 23, and resolves to adopt Standing Orders for Electronic Meetings.