

# LIBERTY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

13 MAY 2023, ONLINE

### RESOLUTIONS PASSED

#### 1. POLICING

This AGM notes with deep concern report after report of police abuse and violence that has been allowed to thrive within UK policing institutions, and condemns the consistent failures of UK police forces to prevent serious crimes and abuses being committed by serving officers.

This AGM recognises the 2021 AGM motion on non-policing solutions to perceived social harms, and the increasing work Liberty is doing in the area of alternatives to policing and the Safer Communities campaign.

This AGM affirms the movement in this country and around the world to decentre the police as the solution to social problems.

This AGM acknowledges the work of grassroots groups like Sisters Uncut and CopWatch to challenge the state's response to issues like Violence Against Women and Girls and to equip communities with tools to keep themselves safe and intervene so that police do not have to.

This AGM recognises Liberty's commitment to rolling back police powers and recognises that alternatives to policing rooted in community responses exist.

The AGM resolves to support the work of grassroots groups working for safer communities and alternatives to policing.

#### 2. RIGHT TO HEALTH

This AGM notes that the UK is facing its most dire crisis in our public health care system in recent years, with vast rights implications.

This AGM notes that mounting pressure on the NHS due to chronic underfunding, labour shortages and the compounding effect of the Covid-19 pandemic has led to long waiting lists and hundreds of preventable deaths each week, according to health

care workers who have urged the Government to address the situation as a [“humanitarian crisis”](#).

This AGM further notes that the crisis is disproportionately harming vulnerable groups who already face structural barriers to accessing healthcare including the disabled community, older people, trans people, migrants and people of colour.

This AGM recognises that health is a necessary precursor to accessing all other civil liberties, and therefore must be guaranteed and protected.

This AGM believes that the current crisis calls for strengthened efforts to fight for health care for all, and not just those who can afford it.

This AGM acknowledges that while there is currently no legal guarantee to the right to health within UK domestic law, the right to health is recognised in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the right to an adequate standard of living (art. 25) and in the 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights as “the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health” (art. 12).

This AGM also acknowledges that the right to health is also intertwined with the right to life (art. 2), right to private and family life (art. 8) and prohibition of discrimination (art. 14) in the European Convention on Human Rights.

This AGM continues to recognise the importance of equitable access to health care and resolves to support a human rights-based approach to health care by championing inclusive and equitable access to health care for everyone.

This AGM further resolves to urge the State to enshrine in law a right to basic health care, and to ensure that public health care facilities, goods and services must be available and accessible to all.

### **3. COST OF LIVING**

This AGM affirms that the cost-of-living crisis is a human rights issue that demands a rights-based response.

This AGM condemns the Government’s response to the crisis, which has left people facing a cliff-edge of support.

This AGM further condemns the Government’s continued drive to solve social issues like poverty and homelessness through criminal justice. Particularly egregious examples of these are bringing in replacement offences after the scrapping of Vagrancy Act and continued use of Community Protection Notices and Public Space Protection Orders to target people who are sleeping rough.

This AGM notes that the cost-of-living crisis is distinctly harmful to those groups already disadvantaged, marginalised and subject to discrimination.

This AGM recognises that in working towards the fulfilment of social and economic rights, there is the potential for great emancipatory change that stretches beyond providing the basic care and resources that people need to survive but rather enabling them to flourish.

This AGM resolves that Liberty should consider the cost-of-living crisis and its human rights implications within our future policy work.

#### **4. CONFERENCE AND APPEALS COMMITTEE (CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT)**

This AGM notes that Liberty's expanding membership has increased the number and complexity of disputes that are potentially subject to the jurisdiction of the Conference and Appeals Committee (CAC).

It further notes that the time-frame within which disputes are currently resolved by the CAC can be lengthy and, in that regard, its procedures do not reach the highest standards of justice and fairness.

This AGM notes that one of Liberty's core objectives is to campaign to ensure that those subject to judicial/quasi judicial proceedings are treated fairly and according to the rules of natural justice, and it asserts that Liberty's continued influence in this sphere will be compromised if the procedures associated with its quasi-judicial body falls short of the highest standards adopted by comparable bodies.

This AGM resolves to ensure that the size and composition of the CAC keeps pace with the rate of growth of the organisation and with the increasing complexity of Liberty's operational environment. It further resolves to ensure that the business of the CAC is conducted against rules of procedure that are transparent and accessible to all those subject to its jurisdiction.

Accordingly, this AGM approves the additions and amendments to its Constitution as represented in proposed clauses 19.1, 19.2, 19.4.1, 19.4.2, 19.5, 19.6, 19.9 and 19.10.

[The constitutional amendments proposed in Motion 4 can be viewed on Liberty's website here: <https://www.libertyhumanrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Liberty-Constitution-and-Rules-with-amendments-proposed-in-2023.pdf> ]

## **5. PUBLICATION OF POLICY COUNCIL MINUTES**

This AGM resolves that minutes from all Policy Council discussions will be made available on the Liberty website. This will be without accreditation to individuals to ensure privacy.

## **6. CIRCULATION OF AGM PAPERS**

This AGM resolves that all future AGM papers and Policy Council election statements will be published on the Liberty website ahead of the AGM and election respectively.

## **7. PUBLICATION OF POLICY COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS**

This AGM resolves that the full results of Policy Council elections, detailing the votes cast, will be published on the Liberty website. The results will also be made available via Liberty magazine in the form of a link. They will be available at the AGM if the election has concluded in advance of it.