

LIBERTY

AGM 2024

MOTIONS PASSED

MOTIONS PASSED

Motion 1

Proposed by Ruth Breddal and seconded by Patricia Tuitt.

This AGM notes that the current version of the Rules of Elections, Postal Ballots and the Annual General Meeting was approved in 2004. Since then, substantial changes to the Constitution were approved in 2022 and 2023 – aspects of which impact on the arrangements surrounding/conduct of elections and AGMs.

This AGM resolves to revise the Standing Orders governing elections, postal ballots and the AGM to bring them in line with recent constitutional developments.

Accordingly, this AGM approves:

- (a) The additions represented at proposed Rules 1.3, 1.12 (e) and 3.3. It asserts that these additions are appropriate and balanced ways of supporting the anti-oppression values which were approved by this AGM in 2022;
- (b) The additions represented at proposed Rules 5.1 and 5.2. It asserts that these additions support the constitutional changes approved in 2023 by making appeal rights to the Conference and Appeals Committee more transparent; and by appropriately balancing the principles of justice and fairness against the need to ensure that elections/AGMs are held annually in accordance with the expectations of the wider membership.

This AGM further resolves to update these Standing Orders with minor amendments designed to address errors, anomalies, inconsistencies and gaps in the earlier version. Accordingly, this AGM approves amendments to Rules 1.2, 1.5, 1.9, 1.10, 1.12 (c), 1.12 (j), 1.14, 2.3, 2.7, 2.8, 4.1, 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5.

The full Standing Orders document can be found [here](#).

Motion 4 as amended

Original motion proposed by Mazin Zeki and seconded by John Blackburn.

Amendment proposed by Clive Baldwin and seconded by Ruth Breddal.

This AGM recognises that the current political climate is one in which organisations and individuals who strive to advance human rights are increasingly open to attack from various constituencies, including government ministers. Without diluting its core mission to defend the most marginalised in society and consistently with the principles that guide Liberty in its approach to human rights matters, which have been endorsed by the Policy Council, this AGM resolves to stand publicly in support of such organisations and individuals.

Motion 5 as amended

Original motion proposed by Mazin Zeki and seconded by John Blackburn.

Amendment proposed by Nicholas Mercer and seconded by Abraham Eiluorior.

This AGM recognises the need to ensure the highest level of participation of members at the AGM as possible. It believes that this is best achieved by ensuring that arrangements governing AGMs are as flexible as costs and administrative resources will allow. Accordingly, this AGM resolves, through its Executive, to conduct a bi-annual reviews during which consideration will be given, among other things, to the appropriate timing and other practical arrangements relating to the AGM. The results of that review will be shared with members at the first AGM following the completion of the review.

Motion 7

Motion proposed by Nataly Anderson and seconded by Chris Reynard.

The institutional abuse of children and their parents, primarily mothers, in child custody cases, was raised at the UN Human Rights Council on 23 June 2023. The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women found egregious miscarriages of justice reflecting systematic violations of human rights. This has also been repeatedly raised in the UK Parliament.

Liberty urges Parliament to formulate an urgent response to the deepening crisis in the family courts, including an emergency package of measures to redress miscarriages of justice.

Motion 8

Motion proposed by Nataly Anderson and seconded by Chris Reynard.

This AGM notes that law and government policy are influenced by a range of factors, including the lobbying activities of Think Tanks, NGOs, private companies, and powerful individuals.

Whilst it does not oppose such lobbying activities per se, this AGM asserts that they should be constrained by the principle of democratic accountability and by the obligation of the powerful to uphold the human rights of the most vulnerable in society.

Accordingly, this AGM resolves to take appropriate steps to hold to account lobbying groups whose activities are not carried out openly/transparently and/or are designed to bring about laws and government policies which act to the detriment of the human rights and well-being of the most marginalised.

Motion 9

Motion proposed by Nataly Anderson and seconded by Chris Reynard.

This AGM notes the declining respect for the principle of judicial independence in the UK and worldwide. In particular, it notes an increasing tendency of governments to evade judicial scrutiny, including by limiting avenues for judicial review.

Consistent with Liberty's defined areas of campaigning and strategic litigation, this AGM resolves actively to defend the principle of judicial independence, including by advocating for the justice system to be transparent, fair, navigable and accessible to all.

THANK YOU

Thank you for taking part in the 2024 AGM and for supporting Liberty's work.

This February Liberty turned 90 – a milestone we could never have reached without the backing of our amazing members and supporters.

Over the last 90 years, Liberty has achieved incredible things – from fighting cases of injustice and abuses of power, to standing up to governments when they try to erode our freedoms. Together we have successfully campaigned for new laws to protect human rights and given free advice to thousands of people when they've had nowhere else to turn.

Thank you for being a part of Liberty and making this work happen.

YOUR SUPPORT

Here are a few other ways you can get involved and support Liberty's work:

TAKE ACTION

Every year thousands of supporters sign our petitions and write to their MPs to help us challenge the latest threats to people's human rights.

You can find all our latest campaign actions [on Liberty's website](#) – from defending the right to protest to protecting the European Convention on Human Rights.

SPREAD THE WORD

Follow Liberty on social media and share our posts with friends and family. Search for [@libertyhq](#) on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook and help spread the word.

A GIFT IN YOUR WILL

We don't know what the future holds, but we do know that there will always be attacks on people's human rights.

A gift in your will – however small or large – will make sure Liberty is ready to challenge injustice and abuses of power long into the future.

Visit libertyhumanrights.org.uk/legacies to find out how you can write or update your will for free and help protect the future of human rights.