

## AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL MALAYSIA

### Terms of Reference for Youth Committee, July 2020

#### 1. Introduction

##### Why Youth Committee and Youth Network?

Young people have always been at the forefront of change, leading movements against injustice, demanding freedom and upholding truth. They are the conscience of a society.

At Amnesty International Malaysia, young people make up more than half of our membership including volunteers and supporters.<sup>1</sup> Over the last few years, we have observed an increased in participation of youth from diverse backgrounds and meaningful engagement with Amnesty International Malaysia. They are no longer passive members but play an active role in human rights education, activism, campaigns and governance.

As part of the consultation process on the AI Malaysia's National Youth Strategy (NYS), youth members and local group coordinators urged for concrete actions to address key issues within the movement such as the lack of communication with and about young people, the lack of human rights knowledge and understanding of Amnesty International and its opportunities in Malaysia and at the global level. Therefore, it led to the drafting of the National Youth Strategy 2020-2024<sup>2</sup> in line with the Amnesty's *Youth, Power, Action! International Youth Strategy* to address the many issues within the movement.

In order to fulfil and implement key goals set in our National Youth Strategy<sup>3</sup>, we need to set up a strong organisation structure for our youth members. The formation of the youth committee will help facilitate the creation and development of the Youth Network, provide youth leadership and innovative thinking to the movement and support the implementation and monitoring of the National Youth Strategy in Malaysia.

#### 2. Role of the Youth Committee

- Bridge the gaps between the Board of Governance, the Secretariat and the Youth Members
- Provide a leadership platform for young people to play an active role in all levels of our work, particularly in activism and campaigning.
- Support the formation and development of Youth Network
- Support the implementation and monitoring of the National Youth Strategy and other related plans of action
- Support the planning of the Annual Youth Assembly with the Secretariat and Board of Governance
- Provide youth leadership and innovative thinking to the movement

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<sup>1</sup> AI Malaysia defines "youth" as those under the age of 30.

<sup>2</sup> The Amnesty International Malaysia's National Youth Strategy 2020-2024 is set to be tabled in the next Annual General Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> Subgoal 1. Prioritising human rights education to be the centre of activism and youth work in order to raise human rights knowledge; Subgoal 2. Increasing effective communication channels, representation and engagement for young people in AI Malaysia; Subgoal 3. Establishing an active youth network that will help cater to the requirements of Subgoal One and Subgoal Two.

### 3. Structure and Composition of the Youth Committee

- The Youth Committee shall be composed of six (6) members, namely the Chair and Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and (2) Committee members.
- The Youth Representative to the Board of Governance and the Activism Coordinator from the Secretariat will supervise and provide guidance to the Youth Committee.
- The Youth Committee will be answerable to the Board of Governance through the Youth Representative to the Board of Governance.
- The membership of the Youth Committee shall reserve 4 positions for Amnesty International Malaysia's local group or school club members.<sup>4</sup>
- The Youth Committee shall have an elective term of 1 year

### 4. Selection Criteria:

The Youth members would be expected to meet the following criteria:

- To be a fully paid-up Amnesty International Malaysia member;
- To be under the age of 30;
- Ability to work in English (Proficiency in Malay and other vernacular languages is an added value)
- Be a diverse representation of the youth
- Good knowledge of Amnesty International Malaysia
- Experience in organising youth and events (desired)
- Ability to work in a team
- Committed to dedicating a minimum 8 hours per month to meetings and projects of the Committee (vary from month to month)
- Members of the committee shall be required to relinquish any positions they hold within their local group or school club.

### 5. Opportunities and Support

Youth Committee members can expect the following support, opportunities and recognition from the Amnesty International Malaysia's Secretariat during their term:

- Induction meetings and support on joining the Youth Committee
- Monthly virtual catch-up call
- Administrative and operational support from the Secretariat for projects and initiatives
- Opportunities to attend Amnesty's trainings and other NGO's opportunities locally and overseas
- Opportunities to attend exclusive capacity-building programme/bootcamp for Youth Committee organised by the Secretariat
- Members will receive recognition of their commitment to the Youth Committee in the form of certificate or letter signed by the Secretariat at the end of their term.

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<sup>4</sup> Our active local groups and school clubs are Penang Local Group, Ipoh Local Group, Sunway School Club (Sunway University College, Subang), ISKL School Club (The International School of Kuala Lumpur). The membership of the Youth Committee will be available to members who do not belong to any local group or school club if the Secretariat does not receive at least one application from each group.

- An additional 3 years of Amnesty International Malaysia's membership will be awarded to members at the end of their term.

## 6. Budget and Financial Support

- A budget of RM2000 will be allocated by the Secretariat to support initiatives and projects from the Youth Committee.
- The Secretariat will provide additional financial support for events/programs/training approved by the Secretariat.
- Members may reimburse any travel, logistics and job-related expenses while carrying out the responsibilities as a member of the Youth Committee.

## 7. Transition

- Successful candidates will be appointed by the Secretariat and Board of Governance as a committee member.
- The positions will then be decided among the selected members.
- The next youth committee shall be selected by youth members during the Youth Assembly in 2021.

## 8. Application

Interested applicants are to write to the Activism Coordinator, Li Yang at [liyang@amnesty.my](mailto:liyang@amnesty.my) providing the following by 9 August 2020.

- A) A cover letter (less than 500 words)
- B) An updated CV

Applicants should make sure that they address the following questions in their cover letter. Try keep it short and sweet!

At Amnesty International Malaysia, we are committed to create meaningful youth-led engagement and enable young people to play an active role in all levels of our work.

- Suggest one initiative or project for the Youth Committee to advance our vision if you are chosen as a committee member.
- Explain how you have come to know about Amnesty International.
- Highlight your participation in an Amnesty project/event/campaign, or in other human rights organisations/youth organisations/schools
- Share one human rights cause/issue that you feel passionate about (need not be our campaigns) and highlight briefly what actions the public and/or authorities can do to improve it.