

For Policy General Meeting

Date		30th April 2024
Subject		Update on Motions 2023
Version		Final
Author		Ruth Allen, CEO
Owner		Julia Ross, UK Chair
Purpose		To update the General Meeting on progress on motions 2023.
Status		Final for members
Distribution		Council

Background	<p>6 Motions were passed at the 2023 AGM, and each implied actions for BASW and Council.</p> <p>This is an overview report of progress on these motions. Further information will be given in the Policy General Meeting and questions will be taken.</p>							
Issues	<p>Motions update - summary</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Motion 1 – Life achievement award for June Thoburn</td> <td> <p>Passed. The award was presented to June at the AGM</p> <p>Subsequent to this, the Recognition and Remuneration Committee and Chief Executive have been working on a standard approach to nominating people for lifetime achievement awards and this will be announced at the AGM on 5 June 2024.</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Motion 2 – Israel state apartheid against Palestinians</td> <td> <p>Original motion fell as Council amendments were accepted. The Motion 2 (Amended) was passed.</p> <p>View the motion here (member login required)</p> </td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		Motion 1 – Life achievement award for June Thoburn	<p>Passed. The award was presented to June at the AGM</p> <p>Subsequent to this, the Recognition and Remuneration Committee and Chief Executive have been working on a standard approach to nominating people for lifetime achievement awards and this will be announced at the AGM on 5 June 2024.</p>		Motion 2 – Israel state apartheid against Palestinians	<p>Original motion fell as Council amendments were accepted. The Motion 2 (Amended) was passed.</p> <p>View the motion here (member login required)</p>	
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		<p>Work on this was remitted to International Committee (IC) and discussed at 2 August meeting. An initial policy paper was presented on the issues. A full paper was received, and a substantial discussion held at October IC. No decision taken on the Motion – remitted to January IC meeting where a further paper and proposals were discussed.</p> <p>Based on IC discussions and recommendations, a proposed response to Motion 2 (Amended) was presented to February 24 Council for review and decision on adoption.</p> <p>This response was agreed in Council BASW Council BASW</p> <p>BASW Council reaffirmed the commitments given within Motion 2 (amended option 2) that was passed by members in June 2023.</p> <p>After a full and lengthy debate (which can be read in the Council minutes), BASW Council voted to approve the recommendation of International Committee that the term ‘apartheid’ as a one-word descriptor for the Israeli state’s treatment of and laws affecting Palestinians is not adopted by BASW at this time.</p> <p>Council acknowledged that the International Court of Justice in the Hague found in January 2024 that at least some acts by the Israeli military that were alleged by South Africa (which brought the case) appeared to fall under the Genocide Convention and ordered Israel to take all measures to prevent acts that could be considered genocidal.</p> <p>Council went on to note its appreciation of the work done to date by International Committee and the reports provided to develop a policy statement on the situation in Israel and</p>	
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		<p>Palestine/Gaza and asked that a final integrated document is completed for publication to the membership and (as appropriate) wider stakeholders.</p> <p>BASW has continued to update statements about the conflict and humanitarian crisis that has unfolded in Gaza and Council committed to ensuring members were kept informed about BASW’s deep concerns and shock in relation to the loss of life and escalation of violence.</p>	
	<p>Motion 3 To speak out against authoritarianism and anti-democratic governments</p>	<p>Passed. The policy work has been remitted to the International Committee.</p> <p>In addition to taking the opportunity to call out authoritarian and non-democratic actions our overall UK and International policy work and statements, the main action on this motion has been to get the International Federation of Social Workers to adopt a motion committing to further action raising up social workers against these forces including through work with partners such as the United Nations, Council of Europe, World Health Organisation, and others.</p>	
	<p>Motion 4 To challenge government’s current policies for support to asylum seeking children in the UK</p>	<p>Passed. BASW action on this is embedded in the extensive work to highlight the discriminatory and harmful nature of new UK immigration law and policies led by Policy Ethics and Human Rights and reflected also in the work of IC.</p> <p>Most recently we have been working as part of a coalition of 260 human rights and refugee organisations to object to the Rwanda Bill which seeks to disapply key aspects of our Human Rights Act (HRA) which include basic, minimum standards that exist to protect us all. Adults and children seeking safety as asylum seekers/refugees who are threatened with removal to Rwanda will not have the full protections of the HRA</p>	

		<p>to enforce their rights in domestic courts.</p> <p>We have actively advised social workers not to join the Home Office team working on age assessments after the department could not give assurance social workers will not be subject to political influence/pressure.</p>	
	<p>Motion 5 To fully acknowledge Jewish identity as ethnoreligious</p>	<p>Passed. Remitted to Policy, Ethics and Human Rights (PEHR) committee. The new category has been included in the latest BASW member survey. Feedback from this has been sought from the Jewish SW Group. The category to be added to our member ethnic identity routine data collection in our new Customer Relations Management system and further work to be done to ensure other ethnoreligious self-identification is possible.</p>	
	<p>Motion 6 To call on employers to adopt recruitment and induction standards for overseas social workers</p>	<p>Passed. Remitted to Policy, Ethics and Human Rights committee to ensure the standards are being promoted with UK employers via BASW. This work is now mainstreamed into the ongoing work of the Working Conditions project (see above), is being promoted with employers across the UK, and links have been made with the Overseas Qualified Social Workers development programme offer</p>	