

11 May 2024

Humanists UK
39, Moreland Street
London EC1V 8BB
020 7079 3060
chiefexec@humanism.org.uk

To all members of Humanists UK

Dear Member,

Annual General Meeting
Sunday 16 June 2024 15:30 - 17:00
Cardiff Students' Union, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3QN

These papers contain the agenda for this year's AGM, the formal notice of the AGM, and the minutes of last year's AGM. Please bring them with you to the AGM. Our current Articles of Association and Byelaws can be downloaded at www.humanism.org.uk/members.

Registration for the formal AGM will be open throughout the weekend. The AGM will begin at 15:30. You are invited to join Trustees and staff for a glass of wine or soft drink from 17:00 to 17:30.

2023 Report and Accounts

The 2023 Report and Accounts are available online at humanists.org.uk/members. A copy is also available for inspection at the Humanists UK office and, while a small number of copies will be available at the AGM, we encourage members to view the electronic version if possible. You can request a paper copy in advance of the AGM by emailing, telephoning, or writing to us.

In order to make sure that members who have questions concerning the accounts can have them answered in the fullest way and without taking up too much time, the Board will take written questions on the accounts in advance of the AGM and provide written answers to members attending the meeting. If you have any questions on the accounts, please submit them by email (agm@humanists.uk) by 09.00 on 3 June 2024.

Resolutions and Motions

As part of the formal business of the AGM, members will be asked to consider and pass the resolutions which are set out in the notice of the AGM. The resolutions are: to receive the report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023; the re-appointment of the auditor; and to authorise the trustees to determine their remuneration.

Any **Emergency Motions** (i.e. motions relating to matters of importance to Humanists UK that have arisen after the closing date of **1 May 2024**) must be submitted to me or to the Chair before the start of the AGM. Emergency Motions may be proposed by

members of Humanists UK or by Partner Groups of Humanists UK and must also be seconded. It should be noted that any motions passed are in law not resolutions of Humanists UK but only express the opinion of the meeting.

We look forward to seeing as many as possible of you at the AGM. **Apologies for absence** can be made by email (agm@humanism.org.uk), post, or telephone.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Copson". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Andrew Copson
Company Secretary, Humanists UK

Humanists UK
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 16 June 2024 15:30 - 17:00 (registration possible from 12:00)
Cardiff Students' Union, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3QN

AGENDA

1. Adoption of Standing Orders
which are given in the Byelaws
2. Apologies for absence
3. Declarations of interest
4. Election of one Timekeeper and two Tellers
5. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
which are attached to this agenda
6. Matters arising from those minutes
which are not covered separately on this agenda
7. Chair and Chief Executive reports
8. Election to the Board of Trustees (candidate statements are attached to this agenda)
9. Formal part of the Business of the AGM as set out in the attached Notice
10. Emergency Motions
which must relate directly to core areas of our operation or existence, and be related to issues which have newly arisen since 1 May 2024, and must be presented to the Chair or Company Secretary before the start of the meeting
11. Any other business
which must be notified to the Company Secretary in advance of the AGM

Company Secretary
11 May 2024

Statements by candidates for election to the Board

Samira Ahmed

Sex: Female

Age: 55

Ethnicity: Asian British | Indian

Region: London

Why should people vote for you?

A commitment to humanism, bringing diverse and journalistic experience to the campaigning work of the organisation.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

Media/ news management expertise from 30 years in news journalism, a broad understanding of the multi faith climate in which Humanists UK operate, a long term appreciation and support of Humanists UK's ambitions and campaigns, a high level understanding of dealing with racism and sexism and the challenge of genuine inclusivity.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

I'd like to see it secure full recognition and rights for humanists including legal marriage ceremonies, work towards the end of state-funded faith schools and the growth of a younger and more diverse membership.

Tamar Ghosh

Sex: Female

Age: 49

Ethnicity: Mixed: White & Asian

Region: London

Why should people vote for you?

I have the time, energy, and experience to help Humanists UK optimise its impact, minimise risk, and deliver its strategy.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

I've worked on Boards of Trustees, and governance committees for more than 15 years, for charities of different sizes, financial positions and governance models. I Chaired Humanists UK for 7 years through steep income and capacity growth. During this time I oversaw the development of a new strategy and worked with the Board and CEO to help steer the charity through the challenges of covid-19. I helped achieve organisational change and restructure, the development of a new brand, and also challenging situations for the Board and team.

I have over 25 years collective governance experience as a CEO, Trustee, and Chair, and my experience includes developing investment Policies and multi-year budgets, risk registers, and recruitment and appraisal policies for Boards. I've established new Committees, and developed policies around division of responsibility for Board and executive. My financial training as an accountant and over 20 years of work securing funding for charities through multiple sources, provides useful experience of charity financial management, risk management, and income diversification and growth. I'm a good team player and mindful of the boundaries of my role as a Trustee. I understand the importance of collective decision-making and balancing constructive challenge with providing support as a Trustee.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

My vision for Humanists UK is for it to be the main recognised and respected organisation representing the non-religious in the UK. I would like to see it growing yet more in profile, in line with the growth of the non-religious across the UK, and for it to be seen as the place to seek community and support as well as the place that will represent the rights of the non-religious in policies and practices. I would like to see it weather the financial challenges that many charities are facing at the moment, and maintain its income and the level of reserves it needs to be able to grow and improve its services. I would also like to see it achieve the important policy goals it works on so tirelessly. As part of the Board of Trustees I would also have a goal that Humanists UK has a skilled and experienced Board, who help to manage its risk and challenges as a critical friend, whilst also supporting the very capable and effective team in their day to day work where helpful.

Amy Walden

Sex: Not disclosed by candidate

Age: Not disclosed by candidate

Ethnicity: Not disclosed by candidate

Region: South East

Why should people vote for you?

Dedicated trustee with extensive and varied governance experience. Passionate about empowering people and putting humanist values into action.

What skills and/or experience do you bring to the governance role?

Previously a Humanists UK Trustee I played an active part in governance, contributing to financial decisions, ensuring compliance with charity law and reviewing our strategy, examining the direction, values, and aims of Humanists UK. I led a review of safeguarding to better protect service users and our reputation. I particularly enjoy communicating with members and patrons.

I have worked in many leadership roles within the criminal justice system. Currently an active member of the Senior Leadership Team at HMP Winchester I assist in making strategic decisions, ensuring the prison achieves its aims and maintains its values despite our many challenges. I hold my own in this tough environment whilst developing strong working relationships. As Woman's Ambassador I am bringing people together to improve the experiences of female staff.

I have extensive experience of Humanist Pastoral Support, for which I am co-opted back onto the Board. I played a pivotal role in its inception in prisons, identifying the need and running a successful pilot. I have been continuously instrumental in setting the strategic direction of expansion, involved in setting up the NRPSN and chairing the NRPSN Board. I am now part of the Expert Advisory Board and continue to train volunteers.

What is your vision for Humanists UK?

I see Humanists UK as an integral part of the social and political landscape, particularly with regard to influencing social policy and debate. I think it important that we continue to provide a rational and compassionate voice on behalf of the non-religious and wider humanity.

I think we are perfectly placed to deliver practical humanism and provide much needed support to non-religious people in a variety of situations. I would want to see us able to meet the demand we create for humanist ceremonies and pastoral support, as well as continuing to develop support for apostates.

I see bringing people together, providing intellectual stimulation and encouraging thought as important roles the organisation plays. The Humanists UK events

programme provides many opportunities for these elements and I am supportive of its development.

List of remaining Board members and their sex, age, ethnicity, and region

John Adentire

Sex: Male | Age: 35 | Ethnicity: Black (African) | Region: West Midlands

Roland Davies

Sex: Male | Age: 64 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: South East

Iain Deboys

Sex: Male | Age: 65 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: Northern Ireland

Neil Hawkins

Sex: Male | Age: 58 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: Wales

Charley Jarrett

Sex: Male | Age: 36 | Ethnicity: Mixed (White and Arab African) | Region: London

Ruth Kaufman

Sex: Female | Age: 70 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: London

Neil McKain

Sex: Male | Age: 44 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: South East

Ann O'Connell

Sex: Female | Age: 55 | Ethnicity: White (Irish) | Region: East Midlands

Andrew Russell

Sex: Male | Age: 36 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: South East

Emma Shepherd

Sex: Female | Age: 48 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: Wales

Simon Walker-Samuel

Sex: Male | Age: 45 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: South East

Kate West

Sex: Female | Age: 44 | Ethnicity: White (British) | Region: London

Humanists UK

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held on Sunday 11 June 2023, 15.30

at Liverpool Guild of Students, 160 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, L3 5TR

Present: John Adams, Mark Agathangelou, Parveen Babar, Zahir Babar, Nick Baldwin, Peter Bamber, Judith Barnes, Peter Barnett, Antony Barrett, Janet Beck, Sarah Bennett, John Blakey, Rhian Blakey, Steve Bowen, Tony Brewer, Hester Brown, Chris Bryant, Andrea Cameron-Collier, Katharine Cawsey, Anthony Challis, David Cleal, Lynn Cleall, David Cockayne, Patricia Cockayne, Clive Coen, Julie Collins, Margaret Cooper, Phoenix Cooper, Julia Copson, Adrian Davis, Ian Dunbar, Pauline Element, Ian Ephgrave, Cathryn Fraser, Richard Frost, Tamar Ghosh, Neil Hawkins, Roy Heaps, James Hodgson, Richard Jacques, Paul Jenkins, Russell Johnson, Fran Johnstone, Briony Kapoor, Ruth Kaufman, Angela Kilenyi, Roger Knight, Andy Lawrence, Marilyn Mackley, Ewan Main, Amit Malde, Jude Marr, Lori Marriott, Clare Marsh, David McAvoy, Stephen McBride, Peter McGinty, Neil McKain, Tom McMillen, Michael McNally, Archie Mitchell, Alan Montgomery, Linda Montgomery, Bernard Mooney, Colin Moran, Kenneth Morton, Margaret Mulholland, Simon Nightingale, Richard Norman, Ann O'Connell, Guy Otten, Alan Palmer, Paula Palmer, Keith Pennington, Andy Pepperdine, Maggie Platts, Joe Platts, Dean Powell, Liliana Risi, Jano Rochefort, Malcolm Rochefort, Jeremy Rodell, Alison Roder, George Rodger, Amy Rogers, Nigel Ross, Emma Russell, Stephen Samways, Nick Senior, Nicole Shasha, Harry Small, Peter Smith, Cath Sutherland, Ruth Swetnam, Anthony Thorne, Hamza Walayat, Stuart Walker, Martin Ward, Kate West, Rosy White, Andrew Whiteley, Mike Wilkins, Peter Wood, James Wood, Martin Wood, Usman Yousaf.

Staff in attendance: Andrew Copson, Luke Donnellan, Catriona McLellan, Terri O'Sullivan, Boyd Sleator, Andrew West, Liam Whitton, Aaron Wilkins

Apologies for Absence: Asad Abbas, Ruth Abbott, Robert Adams, John Aston, Tom Blundell, Martha Cock, Trudi Dargan, John Dowdle, Colin Francis, Maggie Fraser, John Gray, Baroness Hayter, Saiful Islam, Charley Jarrett, Adrienne LeMan, David Lewis, Pat McKeown, Mary McKeown, Leeka Meetal, Betty Mileham, Paul Sinha, Ariadne Tampion, Peter Tatchell, Mark Wardrop, Baroness Whitaker.

Remembering David Pollock: The AGM noted the death of David Pollock, a humanist activist for over six decades, and honoured his six decades of activism with a round of applause.

Adoption of Standing Orders: On the proposal of Neil Hawkins (Chair of the Board of Trustees and AGM), the Standing Orders were adopted by the meeting.

Declarations of Interest: The Chair reminded those present that members speaking should declare any potential conflict of interest in relation to any item.

Tellers: Harry Small and Nick Senior were appointed as tellers and Catriona McLellan as timekeeper.

Minutes of the AGM of Sunday 26 June 2022: On the proposal of the Chair, the

minutes were approved *nem con*.

Matters arising from the previous minutes: There were no matters arising.

Chair and Chief Executive address: The Chair and Chief Executive reported on the past year's activities, highlighting Humanists UK's many successes and the hard work ahead, and answered questions from the floor.

Elections to the Board of Trustees: The following candidates were elected to the Board without objection (in alphabetical order): John Adenitire, David Cockayne, Roland Davis, Kate West

Annual Report and Accounts: By resolution, the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2022, presented by Ann O'-Connell (Treasurer) were accepted without objection.

Appointment of Auditor: By resolution, Knox Cropper were re-appointed as auditors, without objection.

Remuneration of Auditor: By resolution, the trustees were authorised to determine the remuneration of the auditor, without objection.

Motion: The following motion, proposed by Cath Sutherland and seconded by Phil Walder, was debated:

Humanists UK is to be congratulated for setting up Humanist Climate Action as one of its sections, and for the progress HCA has made so far. HCA should continue to follow the policy of Humanists International, of which Humanists UK is a member, to "foster a social and political commitment to urgent action and long-term policymaking to mitigate and prevent climate change".

In addition, Humanists UK should adopt the following:

1. Humanists UK recognises that the climate crisis along with other damage that humans are inflicting on the natural world, as described by scientists, are an existential threat to the future of humanity. Humanists UK should provide guidance to humanists about how to react to this threat. This guidance should be prominent and frequent in Humanist UK communications.
2. Humanists UK should add a fourth tenet to the three tenets of humanism as displayed on its website. The fourth tenet should read that Humanism recognises that humans are part of the natural world and totally dependent upon it, and therefore should protect and nurture it.
3. Humanists UK should encourage humanists to make their voices heard about the climate crisis and other threats to wildlife, individually or as part of international or local campaigns, organisations or movements, or by actively supporting Humanist Climate Action.
4. Humanists UK should encourage humanists to adapt their lifestyles to reflect the need to lower carbon emissions and protect the natural world.

5. Humanists UK should commit to an environmental audit of its work and activities, and take into account environmental impacts in all of its future policies and campaigns, just as Equal Opportunities or Human Rights impacts are already taken into account.

The following procedural motion was proposed by Richard Norman and approved, without objection:

To take the motion in parts: proposed by Cath Sutherland and seconded by Phil Walder into two separate motions to be voted upon separately. The AGM will be asked to vote on the Preamble and points 2, 3 and 4 of the original motion as one motion and will then vote a second time to remit points 1 and 5 to the Board.

The following was approved by 71 votes to 9 with 12 abstentions:

Humanists UK is to be congratulated for setting up Humanist Climate Action as one of its sections, and for the progress HCA has made so far. HCA should continue to follow the policy of Humanists International, of which Humanists UK is a member, to “foster a social and political commitment to urgent action and long-term policymaking to mitigate and prevent climate change”.

In addition, Humanists UK should adopt the following:

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3. Humanists UK should encourage humanists to make their voices heard about the climate crisis and other threats to wildlife, individually or as part of international or local campaigns, organisations or movements, or by actively supporting Humanist Climate Action.

4. Humanists UK should encourage humanists to adapt their lifestyles to reflect the need to lower carbon emissions and protect the natural world.

The following was remitted to the Board for its consideration by 57 votes to 9 with 17 abstentions:

1. Humanists UK recognises that the climate crisis along with other damage that humans are inflicting on the natural world, as described by scientists, are an existential threat to the future of humanity. Humanists UK should provide guidance to humanists about how to react to this threat. This guidance should be prominent and frequent in Humanist UK communications.

5. Humanists UK should commit to an environmental audit of its work and activities, and take into account environmental impacts in all of its future policies and campaigns, just as Equal Opportunities or Human Rights impacts are already taken into account.

Emergency Motions: On a proposal by Wendy Savage, in light of news that a woman in England had just been found guilty of abortion under the criminal law, the following motion was unanimously agreed by the meeting:

In light of growing threats to the right to abortion, this meeting reaffirms the support of Humanists UK for the decriminalisation of abortion in England and Wales.

Any other Business: None was notified in advance.

**BRITISH HUMANIST ASSOCIATION
(‘Humanists UK’)
Company Number: 228781**

Notice of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held at *Cardiff Students' Union, Park Place, Cardiff, CF10 3QN* on 16 June 2024 at 15.30 to consider and, if deemed fit, to approve the following resolutions:

As Ordinary Resolutions:

1. To receive the annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023.
2. To re-appoint Knox Cropper as auditor to Humanists UK to hold office until the conclusion of the next general meeting where accounts are laid before the members.
3. To authorise the trustees to determine the remuneration of the auditor.

Date: 11 May 2024

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Registered Office:
39 Moreland Street
London
EC1V 8BB



COMPANY SECRETARY

Notes:

1. A member entitled to attend, speak and vote at the meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights to attend, speak and vote in his or her place on a show of hands or on a poll provided. Such proxy need not be a member of Humanists UK.
2. To be valid, the completed and signed form of proxy must be returned to the BHA's registered office no later than 17.30 on 14 June 2024. Lodging a form of proxy does not preclude a member from attending and voting at the meeting.
3. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members of Humanists UK at 09.00 on 15 June 2024 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK

Humanists UK Form of Proxy

I, [insert name] of [insert address]

being a member of the Humanists UK hereby appoint the Chair of the meeting or [insert name] of [insert address]

as my proxy to vote for me on my behalf, as indicated below, at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 16 June 2024 and at any adjournment thereof.

Resolution n	Resolution Summary	For	Against	Discretionary	Vote Withheld
1	Receive annual report and accounts for 31 December 2023				
2	Re-appointment of Knox Cropper as auditor				
3	Authorise the trustees to determine the auditor's remuneration				

Please indicate with an 'X' in the space above how you wish your votes to be cast.

Signed this day of 2024

.....
Signature

Explanatory Notes:

1. Every member has the right to appoint some other person of his or her choice, who need not be a member, as his or her proxy, to exercise all or any of his or her rights, to attend, speak and vote on his or her behalf at the meeting. To appoint a person other than the Chair please insert the name and address of your chosen proxy in the space provided.
2. To be valid this form of proxy must be signed by the member or his or her attorney and be sent to Humanists UK's registered office (39 Moreland Street, London EC1V 8BB) no later than 17.30 on 14 June 2024. Any Power of Attorney or any other authority under which the proxy form is signed (or a duly certified copy of such power or authority) must be included with the proxy form.
3. The 'Vote Withheld' box is provided to enable you to abstain on the resolution. However, it should be noted that a vote withheld is not a vote in law and will not be counted in the calculation of the proportion of votes 'for' and 'against' a resolution.
4. If you do not indicate as to how your proxy should vote or you tick the discretion box, your proxy will have discretion to vote on the resolution as they see fit. Your proxy will also have the discretion to vote as they see fit on any other business which may properly come before the meeting, including amendments to the resolution, and at any adjournment of the meeting.
5. The completion and return of this form will not preclude a member from attending the meeting and voting in person.
6. To be eligible to vote, you must be on the register of members at 09.00 on 15 June 2024 and have no monies owing to Humanists UK.