**Nominations to Humanists International Board (2022 version)**

Humanists International is seeking new Board members. Elections will take place at our General Assembly on Sunday 5 June 2022. **Completed nominations should be emailed to ga@humanists.international by Tuesday 26 April 2022**, or your nomination may be invalid.

There are four positions available on the Humanists International Board:

| **Position** | **Notes** |
| --- | --- |
| **President** | The President is a Board Member who is elected directly by the General Assembly, as stipulated by Bylaw 2.2.  You can find more information about the position and person specification below. |
| **President of Young Humanists International** | The President of Young Humanists International is a Board Member who is elected directly by the General Assembly, as stipulated by Bylaw 2.4.  You can find more information about the position and person specification below. |
| **Board Member (restricted to candidates from Asia)** |  |
| **Board Member** |  |

For more information on the Bylaws of Humanists International, see: <https://humanists.international/resource/bylaws/>

Only a fully paid-up Member and Associate may nominate candidates, and the person being nominated must support the aims of Humanists International. Nominees are required to submit a statement in support of their candidature (maximum 250 words). This statement will be circulated to the Humanists International General Assembly.

Candidates are encouraged to attend the General Assembly in person, where they will be given the opportunity to make a short statement in support of their candidacy (2-3 minutes). If a candidate is unable to attend, they may send a short video statement which (subject to sufficient technical facilities at the General Assembly) can be shown to the General Assembly delegates.

The following information is provided to help candidates and those making nominations.

* The Board is responsible for ensuring that Humanists International is managed in accordance with the policy and directives of the General Assembly.
* The term of office of Board members is three years.
* The Board meets at least four times a year to deal with current business, either in person or in a telephone conference call. Business may also be transacted by correspondence or by email.

Member Organizations should ensure that candidates are familiar with the work and activities of Humanists International, and with the procedures of Humanists International’s General Assembly through past attendance and participation. Candidates are expected to be present at the General Assembly where their election is to take place.

In 2004 the General Assembly gathered in Kampala, Uganda on 27th May, assented to resolution GA/04/11 on “the need for a candidate for the Executive Committee to attend at least one GA meeting before being put on the ballot.” Therefore Humanists International expects that all Board nominees will have been present for at least one previous General Assembly meeting.

Board members of Humanists International become legal company directors of the organization, and are legally accountable to the laws of New York State in the USA, and the laws of Scotland in the UK. For more information, see https://www.gov.uk/running-a-limited-company/.

President Role Description

The overall role of the President is to provide leadership to the Board and ensure the effective governance of Humanists International. They also provide political leadership and public profile for Humanists International, representing Humanists International policies. In addition to the general duties of a Board member, the President is responsible for:

* Ensuring effective induction, training and support of other Board members;
* Supporting, monitoring, and reviewing the work of the Chief Executive;
* Overseeing the Risk Management of Humanists International;
* In cooperation with the Chief Executive, planning the annual cycle of Board meetings and setting the agendas for Board meetings;
* Chairing and facilitating Board meetings;
* Ensuring the Board sets relevant policies, Aims and associated Strategies; ● Monitoring that decisions taken at meetings are accurately recorded and implemented;
* Representing Humanists International at functions, meetings, and elsewhere as appropriate;
* Ensuring, with the Chief Executive, that Humanists International has good relations with – and makes effective use of – its Officers;
* Liaising with the Chief Executive to keep an overview of Humanists International’s affairs, providing support as appropriate;
* Leading the process of appraising the performance of the Chief Executive; ● Liaising with the Chief Executive to develop the Board;
* Facilitating change and addressing conflict within the Board and within Humanists International , liaising with the Chief Executive to achieve this;
* Taking appropriate roles in Humanists International ’s whistle-blowing, complaints, grievance and disciplinary procedures, as found in this Handbook, and the Staff Handbook.

President Person Specification

In addition to the specification for Board members, the President needs to have:

* Leadership skills
* Diplomacy skills
* Experience of committees and committee work
* Willingness to be available to the Chief Executive for advice and enquiries on an ad hoc basis

**Nomination for Humanists International Board**

| **Candidate:** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Nomination for the position of (delete as appropriate):** |  |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Address:** |  |
| **Email:** |  |
| **Telephone number (with country and city codes):** |  |
| **Candidate is a member of:** (state the name of Humanists International Member Organization) |  |
| ***OR*, candidate is an Individual Supporter:** |  |
| **I agree to my name being put forward as a candidate for the Board of Humanists International.** | |
| **Name:** | **Signature:** |
| **Personal statement (max 250 words):** | |

**This form must be returned by to ga@humanists.international on or before Tuesday 26 April 2022**, or your nomination may be invalid.

**Code of Conduct for Humanists International Board Members**

**1. Selflessness**

Board members have a general duty to act in the best interests of Humanists International, putting aside their own political and ideological opinions. They should not act in their capacity as Board members to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, their friends or any other organization with which they are involved.

**2. Integrity**

Board members should:

* Act at all times with honesty, openness and integrity.
* Not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organizations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their role as Board members, other than as fully disclosed in their electoral statement or prior to any relevant Board discussions
* As well as avoiding actual impropriety, avoid any appearance of improper behavior
* Avoid accepting gifts and hospitality that might reasonably be thought to influence their judgement concerning the donor or its interests in relation to Humanists International.

**3. Objectivity**

In carrying out their role, including making staff and Board appointments, awarding contracts or transacting other business, Board members should ensure that decisions are made solely on merit in relation to the Values and Aims of Humanists International.

**4. Accountability**

Board members:

* Have a duty to be accountable to the law on all occasions in accordance with the trust placed in them and in such a way as to preserve public confidence in Humanists International
* Are accountable for their decisions and actions to the members of Humanists International and must submit themselves to such scrutiny as the Board considers appropriate to their role

**5. Openness**

Board members should:

* Ensure that confidential material, including that about individuals, is handled with due care
* Be as open as possible about their decisions and the action they take, giving reasons for their decisions and restricting access to information only when the wider interest clearly demands
* Declare any interest that they have in any matter to be considered by the Board, whether pecuniary or due to their involvement in any other organization
* Conduct the business of the Board with a presumption of rational argument based on evidence, openness and full disclosure according to the Values and Aims of Humanists International

**6. Leadership**

Board members must respect:

* The agreed working practices between the Board and the executive team
* The executive management reporting structure
* The different roles of staff and volunteers

**7. Humanism**

The Amsterdam Declaration 2002 is used as Humanists International’s working definition of Humanism. Board members are expected to acquaint themselves with this declaration.

Board members are also expected to have an understanding and commitment to issues of equalities and diversity.

**8. Collective Responsibility**

Board members must respect and abide by collective responsibility. All Board members must publicly support all decisions once those have been agreed by the Board.

**9. Participation**

Board members are expected to participate fully and actively in Board meetings, offering suggestions, opinions and analysis.