



ATHEIST
ALLIANCE
INTERNATIONAL

FOR A SECULAR WORLD

2016 Annual General Meeting

Agenda

1. Introduction and welcome
2. Review of past year's activities
3. Atheist Asylum Project
4. UN Consultative Status
5. Gender Balance Report
6. Investigative Research
7. Financial position
8. IT Director's Report
9. Volunteer Director's Report
10. Review of future plans
11. Reported Election of Directors
12. Q&A

AAI Board, 2015-2016

Onur Romano, President (Turkey)

Carlos Alfredo Diaz, Vice-President (Argentina)

John Hamill, Secretary (Ireland)

Gail Miller, Treasurer (Canada)

Kevin Sheehan, Membership Director (Ireland)

Marisa Batres (Guatemala)

Stuart Bechman (United States)

Melita Granger (Australia)

Sam Khangyi (Hungary)

Rene Hartmann (Germany)

Richard Honess (United Kingdom)

Karl Karnadi (Indonesia)

Kato Mukasa (Uganda)

Nada Peratovic (Croatia)

Elida Radig (Australia)

Andrew Rawlings (Australia)

Christine Shellska (Canada)

Tess Termulo (Phillippines)



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Review of Past Year's Activities

Campaigns and Projects

2015

- AAI continues to assist with fundraising support for the Kasese Humanist Primary School in Uganda, raising over \$9,800 in 2015.
- AAI launched an ongoing fundraising campaign to support the Humanist Association for Equity, Leadership and Accountability's (HALEA) "Stand Up for Reason" project to challenge superstitious beliefs in "witchcraft" in Uganda.
- AAI donated \$500 to the Guatemala Humanistas campaign to raise money for legal fees to fight proposed legislation to teach biblical studies in all schools in Guatemala both private and public. We also signed onto their joint statement, "Working Together to Fight Religious Extremism."
- Thanks to AAI member organization Zdravomyslie (Good Sense Foundation), Atheist Census was translated to Russian.
- AAI donated \$250 to the Humanist Atheist Alliance, Philippines, to support their General Assembly.
- As part of our Asylum Project, AAI provided \$250 to CFI Canada to support legal fees incurred by a successful asylum seeker.

Campaigns and Projects

2016

- Informed by the results of our Atheist Census project indicating low representation of women in atheism, AAI launched an international survey. The resulting *Gender Imbalance Report* informed the development of our Gender Equality Policy based on international best-practices.
- AAI provided \$500 to the Center for Civil Courage to support their theatre production of *Humanism for Children*.
- AAI donated \$500 to support the Humanist Empowerment of Livelihoods (HELA) in Uganda. This educational initiative supports vocational opportunities for vulnerable girls and women.
- AAI provided \$500 toward living expenses for a prominent blogger and his family fleeing Bangladesh.
- AAI launched an ongoing crowdfunding campaign to help support asylum seekers. To date, the campaign has raised over \$1,700.
- AAI joined the White Shield Appeal, an awareness campaign challenging the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal.
- AAI would like to thank Paul Saintilan for compiling his late father's work, and generously gifting it to AAI for public distribution, as a "mark of respect and in an effort to commemorate his passing."
You will find Frank Downer Saintilan's *Why I'm not a Christian*, and *Why I'm not a Muslim*, on our website. Please help us celebrate the life of Frank Downer Saintilan, and to help his legacy live on, by enjoying and sharing this thoughtful collection.

Operational

2016 was a struggle for AAI to keep its projects and activities going due to a rapid change in the Board and transition in leadership.

- In order to encourage a more active and engaged Board, AAI has adopted a new director roles and responsibilities which require substantial time commitment.
- With the new director roles every Board Member is either an officer or a director with certain roles, duties, and responsibilities and also responsible of building and directing a team of volunteers under their lead for certain tasks. All directors are expected to file monthly reports.
- **The new roles are;**
Officers: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
Directors: Membership Director, Volunteer Director, Asylum Director, I.T. Director, Publications Director, Communications Director, UN Director, Fundraising Director and Events Director.

Communication

- *Secular World* magazine remains under the editorship of Rustam Singh.
- Due to a freedom of information act adopted by the Board, *Secular World* is now a free-subscription magazine.
- *Secular World* magazine has its new website www.secularworldmagazine.com which is under construction as of November 2016.
- *Secular World* magazine is adopting a major change in its design, content and sections since it is expected to have thousands of new viewers than the few hundred subscription members it used to have.
- These changes will be affective with the 1st quarterly issue of 2017.

Communication

- The AAI Social Media Team operates under the direction of the Social Media Team Lead Matt Kovach.
- AAI's Facebook page has over 156,000 “likes” up from 65,000 in September 2015.
- In November 2016, AAI undertook a website upgrade to redesign the webpage, fix the broken links, multi-language and mobile device access.
- The SalsaLabs CRM software which is a donor management, fundraising, advocacy, and marketing system for nonprofits was adopted by AAI in late 2013. It was aimed to streamline membership and provide mechanisms to track and reach out to our supporter base, however it is very costly for AAI. We are planning to replace this expensive system with OUR OWN software which is under construction.
- **Future plans include developing this software in multiple languages and distributing it to the members of the alliance to replace their own paid CRM systems.**

Policy & Strategy

UN Special Consultative Status

In March 2016, we established the **AAI UN Network**, a group of affiliate organizations, coordinated by AAI, who are interested in presenting submissions and attending UN meetings.

Draft UN Declaration on the Human Right to Peace

- Meetings attended since last AGM:

- 30th regular session of the Human Rights Council (September 14 to October 2, 2015, Geneva)
- Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace, 4th session (July 11-14, 2016, Geneva)

Public Profile/Conferences and Events

AAI supported and/or attended the following conferences:

2015

July 11-15	4 th Human Rights Work Reunion, Geneva
September 14 – October 2	Human Rights Council, 30 th Session, Geneva
October 17-18	The Alberta Secular Conference, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada
October 16-18	The Atheist Alliance of America Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, USA
October 30	Meeting of Humanist Youth Leaders, Norway

2016

March 28 -29	Annual General Meeting of the Atheist Foundation of Australia, Sydney
April 20th and 23rd	The first and second atheist open meetings of Tbilisi, Georgia
May 20-21	Imagine No religion 6, Vancouver, BC, Canada
May 26-29	American Humanist Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois, USA
May 28-29	Australian Humanist Convention 2016, Brisbane
June 4	Reason Rally, Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC, USA
June 4-5	Int'l Society for Historians of Atheism, Secularism, and Humanism Conference, London, UK
August 13	The Non-Conference, Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
September 22-23	Exit International Global Conference, Melbourne, Australia
October 16 – 17	Alberta Secular Conference, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Partnerships

AAI has strategically aligned with international organizations who share our mission and vision, to maximize our outreach and visibility, while leveraging the collective human and financial resources of both AAI and those organizations.

- In 2015, we partnered with the International Coalition Against Blasphemy Laws in campaigning to repeal “blasphemy” and related laws worldwide.
- In 2015, we partnered with the Secular Policy Institute, a US-based think-tank whose global mission is to influence public opinion in the promotion of a secular society.
- To facilitate our Asylum Project, we collaborate with Movements.org, which connects dissidents in closed societies with individuals around the world with skills to help.

Joint Statements

- Gender Neutral Marriage Letter (Secular Policy Institute, July 21, 2015)
- Death Sentence-Nigerian Nine (Secular Policy Institute, August 1, 2015)
- Working Together to Fight Religious Extremism (Asociación Guatemalteca de Humanistas Seculares, August 14, 2015)
- Joint Statement on Bangladesh Violence (International Humanist and Ethical Union, August 15, 2015)
- Argentina Veto Religious Education (Secular Policy Institute, August 22, 2015)
- Guatemala Oppose Religious Education (Secular Policy Institute, August 22, 2015)
- Citizenship Pledges-US (Secular Policy Institute, August 24, 2015)
- Joint CSO Written Statement (Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, August 28, 2015)
- Uganda NGO Oversight (Secular Policy Institute, September 5, 2015)
- Human Rights Council 30th Session Agenda Item 3: Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development (Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, September 8, 2015)
- UN Bangladesh Asylum Assistance (Secular Policy Institute, September 21, 2015)
- Obama Repeal RFRA Interpretation (Secular Policy Institute, September 21, 2015)
- Remove Religious Exemptions to Vaccinations (Secular Policy Institute, October 15, 2015)
- Secretary Johnson Bangladeshi Bloggers Asylum (Secular Policy Institute, October 15, 2015)
- Director Rodriguez Bangladeshi Bloggers Asylum (Secular Policy Institute, October 15, 2015)
- Joint Statement Calling on the Canadian Government to Provide Humanitarian Assistance to Secularists in Bangladesh (Centre for Inquiry Canada, November 13, 2015)

Joint Statements

- Alabama Supreme Court Judge's Personal Prejudice (Secular Policy Institute, February 17, 2016)
- Draft UN Declaration on the Human Right to Peace (Spanish Society for International Human Rights Law, March 4, 2016)
- Forced Child Marriages in Pakistan (Secular Policy Institute, March 14, 2016)
- Zika Virus & Reproductive Legislation (Secular Policy Institute, March 14, 2016)
- NUS: Revise Safe Space and No Platform Policies to Facilitate not Restrict Free Expression and Thought (Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain, March 18, 2016)
- Supporting Transgender Acceptance (Secular Policy Institute, March 31, 2016)
- Italian Civil Unions (Secular Policy Institute, March 31, 2016)
- UK Education (Secular Policy Institute, April 6, 2016)
- **Respect for Non-Religious Philosophical Convictions (Atheist Alliance International, April 22, 2016)**
- Statement on Attacks on Atheists, Secularists, and Religious Minorities in Bangladesh (Center for Inquiry, May 3, 2016)
- Refugee Advocacy (Secular Policy Institute, May 19, 2016)
- Reproductive Rights in Texas (Secular Policy Institute, May 19, 2016)
- North Carolina – Transgender Bathroom Ban (Secular Policy Institute, June 1, 2016)
- Greece Blasphemy Laws Repeal (Greek Helsinki Monitor, June 2, 2016)
- Colombia - Same-Sex Marriage Supporters (Secular Policy Institute, June 27, 2016)
- Domestic Violence in Pakistan (Secular Policy Institute, July 19, 2016)
- Do No Harm Act (Secular Policy Institute, July 27, 2016)
- Protect Reproductive Freedom in Poland (Secular Policy Institute, September 29, 2016)
- Protect Religious Freedom and Other Civil Rights in Russia (Secular Policy Institute, October 17, 2016)

Key Projects

Atheist Asylum Project

- Gail Miller (Asylum Director),
- AAI is working to help individuals who have been accused of blasphemy or defamation of religions, who face cruel and inhumane punishment, torture, and/or the threat of death. However, AAI must work within the constraints of international and federal laws.
- This project is in its infancy, and each case requires individual attention.
- We are presently issuing letters of recommendation to the attention of the agency of application by the asylum seekers after we investigate the seeker and the case.

Key Projects

UN Special Consultative Status

- AAI UN Network is a group of affiliate organizations, coordinated by the AAI UN Network Team, which will attend and participate at UN meetings. Representative(s) of the AAI UN Network will attend and participate at UN meetings (in Geneva or NY) on behalf of AAI and/or the affiliates of the AAI UN Network.
- The representative(s), in using AAI's special consultative status, will draw the UN's attention to the situation of atheists' and humanists' human rights, call out states and religions for their malpractices and violence of the principles of secularism and provide practical assistance in the composition of submissions and associated processes.
- Launch of the UN Network Team will be scheduled as a side-event at the next UN session in March 2017.
- This year, AAI provided another atheist delegation ever to make a formal presentation to the full UN Human Rights Council. Previous delegations have attended at the UN Human Rights Committees.
- The AAI delegation at the 33rd Session of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva, included contributions from Michael Nugent and Jane Donnelly (Atheist Ireland).

Key Projects

Gender Balance Report

- Over 100 people were contacted (journalists, scientists, activists, parliamentarians, etc.)
- Report describes their views of why there is male over-representation within atheist groups, along with a summary of the academic research in this area
- Some recommendations are also provided, which are included as motions to this AGM
- The report was included within a National Geographic article on the spread of atheism, including an interview with Christine Shellska
- An electronic copy of the report may be obtained from the AAI web site

Key Projects

Investigative Research

- Continued support for graduate student Michael Doane
 - Objective for the second survey includes:
 - Finding out more information about people's religious histories and the religious identities of their parents and relationship partners (if applicable)
 - Assess more dimensions of discrimination
 - Assess more dimensions of psychological and physical health, and examine several "positive" psychological traits often linked to religiosity (e.g., compassion)
 - Includes more questions related to nonreligious organization activities
 - Survey is set-up for atheists, but many of the questions will be re-worded for people who identify as agnostics or with "no preference" (e.g., discrimination based on being agnostic, identification as someone who is agnostic, etc.).

Membership Report

Organisational

- 17 Affiliate and Associate Groups
- 21 Affiliates and Associates groups have not responded to requests for payment of their membership.

Individual

- 245 Individual memberships.
- **Membership director is working on an expansion policy to activate in 2017.**



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Financial Position

Gail Miller, Treasurer

2015 Financial Highlights

REVENUES	2014	2015
Membership Dues	22,373	21,939
Print Premiums		
Secular World Adv.		729
General Donations	3,818	7,027
Affiliate Contributions	2,114	1,717
AAI Merchandise Sales		
Other	2,341	
TOTAL	30,646	31,412

EXPENSES		
Operational	16,934	17,977
Banking Fees		137
Secular World	20,101	12,553
Conference	2,768	4,745
Other	508	7,515
TOTAL	40,311	42,947

AAI FOUNDATION		
Kasese Humanist School	7,027	2,917
AAI Foundation	2,848	2,877
AAI Legal Fund	3,022	2,668
AAI Scholarship Fund	498	498
TOTAL	13,395	8,960

EOY CASH BALANCES		
Bank Account US	4,416	7,787
Bank Account Europe		
PayPal	35,671	17,580

2015 Financial Highlights

- Loss of approximately \$15,000
- Lower revenues and higher expenses for SW and employees
- \$7000 loss for failed investment



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Volunteer Director's Report

Elida Radig, Volunteer Director

2016 AGM Volunteers Report

Elida Radig, (Volunteers Director)

2015

- It was up to the individual Directors to recruit and organize volunteers.

2016

- Took over portfolio of Volunteers Director since August.
- Have implemented the following:
 - Volunteer Registration Form
 - Registration of Task Form for Directors
 - Evaluation of Task Form by Directors
 - Evaluation Form by Volunteers for Feedback
 - Certificate of Completion to be handed to the Volunteer.
- Have recorded an extensive data collection of volunteer skills, languages, availability, interests etc.

2016 AGM Volunteers Report

Recognise that the work of **volunteers** is the key to the success of the organisation and I take pride in continuing this role to be able to record and recognise the generous contribution of skills, knowledge and time by the Atheists around the world to the Alliance.

Currently Active:

Breyner Portillo, Daniel Aldana

Alison Carpenter, Girma Bayan, Necati Burak

Matt Kovach

Caroline Gerber

David Ross Mann – Certificate received for Tabling at Non-Conference 2016

The Alliance is an excellent avenue to enhance the skills and broaden work experiences of the volunteer, to give them pride and recognition of their contribution to a more just society.

The Board welcomes all volunteers at volunteer@atheistalliance.org



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IT Director's Report

Sam Khangyi, IT Director

IT director's report

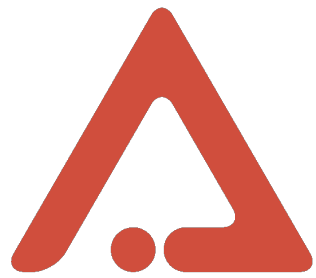
AAI Website, Salsa and Secular world portal

- We have moved to a VPS, for better performance and better security and better access than what was provided by godaddy shared hosting.
- In the process of debugging and refreshing the contents of the website.
- We are building a new membership system(Project Argus), gathering volunteers for the development process.
- We are going to replace SALSA as soon as our membership system is capable of a certain subset of functionality
- Started the process for secular world magazine portal, you can observe our progress at secularworldmagazine.com /[.org](http://secularworldmagazine.org)

IT director's report

Projects, done, ongoing and projected

- Gathering volunteers for main website maintenance and content updates
- Looking for volunteers for the membership system development
- Adding a bug tracking system to help with bug tracking on all the projects
- Finalizing the backup and recovery system on the vps
- Since we are building a new website, figuring out how to add bug tracking and encrypted rss feeds to the old site ..
- Overseeing the completion of the secularworldmagazine.com portal content and functionality wise.
- Catering to the IT needs and tech questions of AAI membership and board.



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Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead

- AAI relies on the volunteer efforts of the Board of Directors and its membership to facilitate its projects, and both financial and human resources were scarce over 2015 and 2016. However, AAI will no longer postpone its efforts to expand the alliance in 2017.
- Fundraising will be critical to the sustainability of AAI, and to continue supporting AAI and member organizations' projects and events.
- In September 2016, AAI has launched two new services for its organizational members.
 - (1) **Hosting monthly conference calls** with the representatives of all of its associate and affiliate member organizations **on the second Sunday of each month.**
 - (2) **Hosting monthly 1-on-1 calls with president** with the representatives of all of its associate and affiliate member organization **on the first Monday of each month.**
- AAI aims to support and increase the collaboration of its member organizations building and partnering on international projects as well as to create a well-connected and well-aware global atheist community.

Looking Ahead

Policy and Strategy

- AAI will continue to exercise its UN Special Consultative Status.
- AAI will continue to align with other organizations to lobby the EU Parliament.

Investigative Research

- AAI will continue to seek out opportunities to support research of value to our members.

Public Profile/Conferences and Events

- While AAI will endeavour to support member organization conferences, we need to carefully evaluate costs versus benefits on a case-by-case basis.
- Speaking and tabling at regional conferences has not noticeably impacted our membership trends, thus we will minimize Board member conference tabling and travel expenses, and instead solicit members and volunteers to represent AAI when possible.
- **In order to continue being the premier global alliance AAI plans to sponsor and fund at least one event in all seven continents in 2017.**

Looking Ahead

Membership

- Both organizational and individual memberships have decreased substantially, necessitating a re-evaluation of our previous development strategies.

Campaigns and Projects

- AAI will launch fundraising campaigns to support its key projects – the Atheist Asylum Project, Educational Outreach, UN Special Consultative Status, and UN side events.

Partnerships

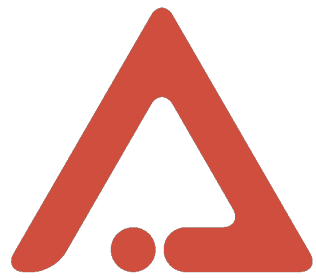
- To maximize our outreach and visibility, AAI will continue to partner with organizations who share our international mission and vision.
- AAI will continue to participate in joint statements issued by our member organizations, partners, and others when those embody our mission and vision.



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Reported Election of Directors

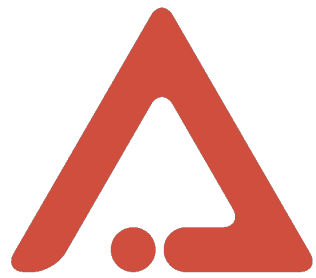
Matt Kovich, Returning Officer



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Next Regular Board Meeting

TBA



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Q&A