

Annual Report 2025

Advancing freedom,
democracy, and
liberal values

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About us

Liberal International is the world federation of liberal and democratic political parties.

Liberal International (LI) is the global federation of liberal and democratic political parties, founded in 1947 with the adoption of the Oxford Manifesto. Headquartered at the National Liberal Club in London, LI unites over 100 member parties and organisations across Africa, North America, South America, Asia, and Europe, committed to advancing liberalism, human rights, and democratic governance worldwide.

Rooted in the principles of liberty, equality, and community, LI promotes free and fair elections, multi-party democracy, social justice, tolerance, environmental sustainability, and a market economy that serves all people. Through its manifestos and global congresses, LI fosters international solidarity and supports the development of liberal institutions and civil society.

LI's work is sustained by its member parties and cooperating organisations, including regional networks like the Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats (CALD), as well as think tanks and foundations such as the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) and the European Liberal Forum (ELF).

Together, we form a vibrant, values-driven alliance dedicated to protecting individual freedoms and strengthening democratic institutions around the world.



liberal-international.org



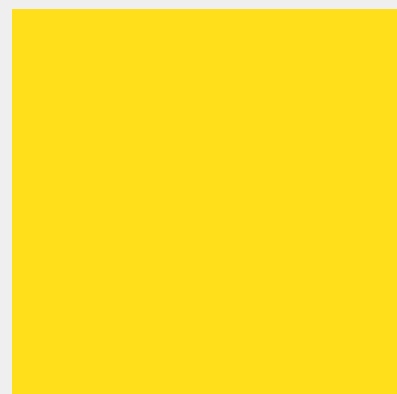
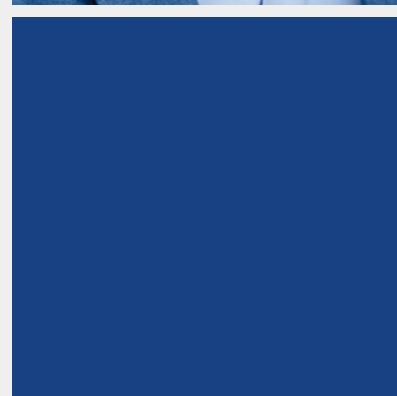
President's Message

Dear liberal friends,

Over the past year, Liberal International has acted with renewed focus and confidence in a world where liberal values are challenged like never before. Russia's continued aggression against Ukraine, authoritarian crackdowns on civil society across continents and mounting pressure on our rules-based international order remind us that democracy cannot be taken for granted. Liberals must be prepared to defend freedom and our way of life with resolve and unity.

Against this backdrop, Liberal International has worked deliberately to sharpen its mandate and strengthen its capacity to act. In 2025, we undertook a comprehensive organisational review that clarified priorities, strengthened regional representation across our bodies, and reinforced our ability to serve a truly global membership.

Throughout the year, Liberal International has been active on every continent. Political missions, partnerships, and programmes connected liberals from Africa, the Middle East, Europe, Asia, and the Americas. Established initiatives, like the successful Liberal International Democratic Training Academy, continued to empower emerging leaders, while new formats - such as the transatlantic legislators' liberty dialogue - expanded our service to member parties and parliamentarians alike.



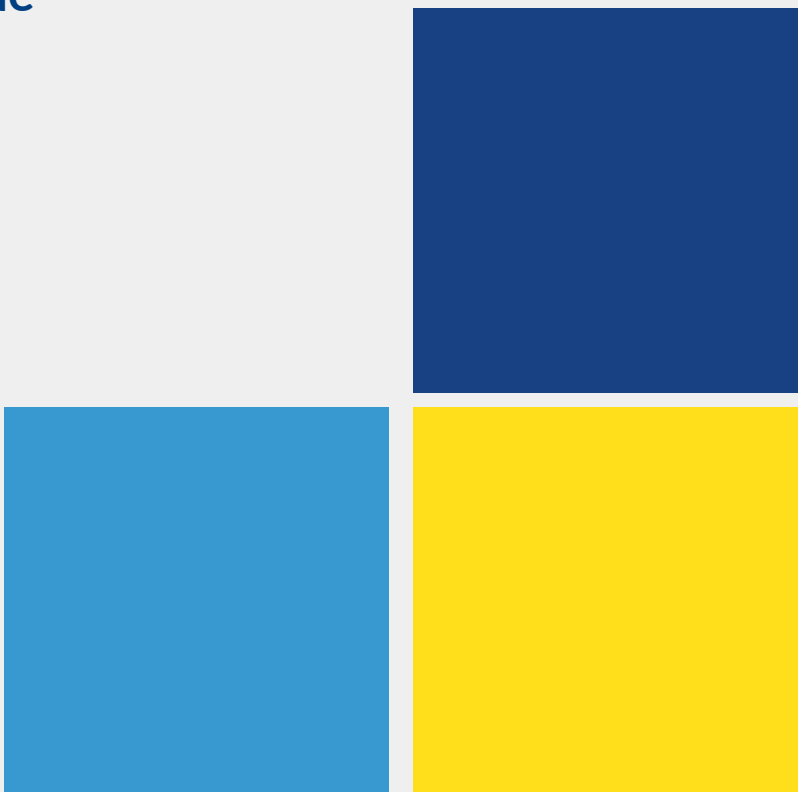
We also strengthened our role as a global hub for liberal ideas and thought leadership through enhanced cooperation with think-tank partners, the success of the 2025 Isaiah Berlin Lecture, the creation of new working groups on artificial intelligence as well as security and defence, and more agile, visible communications.

The highly successful 209th Executive Committee Meeting in The Hague, co-hosted by VVD, reinforced my confidence that, while the challenges before us are significant, so too is our collective capacity to meet them.

I thank our member parties and partners for their commitment and trust. May this report serve as both a record of our work and a reminder of what liberals can achieve when we act together.

LI President

Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué



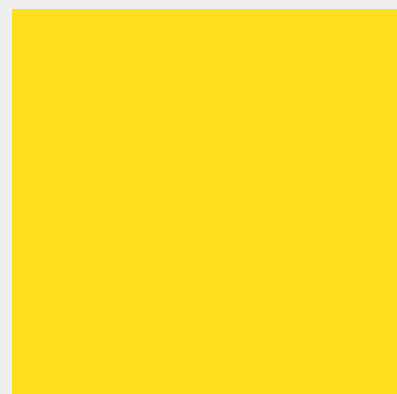
Secretary - General's Message

Dear liberal friends,

As Liberal International (LI) stepped out of the glow of its historic first-ever Congress in South America and entered 2025—marked by the second inauguration of Donald Trump as President of the United States—the global outlook for liberal democracy appeared increasingly uncertain. Democratic norms faced mounting pressure, and longstanding alliances showed signs of strain. In this environment, LI chose not to retreat but to act.

Yet, as democratic norms and traditional alliances began to fall on the back foot, Liberal International stepped firmly forward. With a newly elected Bureau and a new mandate, LI undertook a strategic refocus of its mission. The organisation refined its priorities around three core pillars designed to better serve its membership: Capacity Building, Advocacy, and Networking. This framework guided LI's work throughout 2025 and provided greater clarity and coherence to its global engagement.

Under these pillars, LI strengthened its presence in key international fora, re-engaging with global actors such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and RENEW PAC, and participating in initiatives including LibertyCon and delivering its LIDTA training programme for the sixth consecutive year. These efforts reinforced collaboration among member parties and expanded opportunities for shared learning and coordinated political action.



At the same time, LI launched new initiatives to broaden its global reach. The inaugural Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue convened policymakers in Toronto to deepen cooperation across the Atlantic. In The Hague, LI introduced the Human Rights Toolkit, a practical mechanism to report and monitor human rights violations worldwide. Internally, a restructuring of the Secretariat enhanced operational efficiency and positioned the organisation to deliver more effectively for its members.

In challenging times, liberal voices are essential. In addition to reporting on the activity of the Bureau, the quarterly Liberal Dispatch highlighted how liberal leaders are addressing contemporary challenges in their respective countries, directly engaging with the intellectual and political questions confronting modern liberalism.

As traditional international platforms for dialogue, disagreement, and cooperation face growing uncertainty, LI has strengthened its role as a trusted global network for liberal-democratic political parties and leaders. In 2025, the organisation not only set new foundations but also began delivering tangible opportunities for members to connect, collaborate, and act.

Building on this progress, LI enters 2026 with the ambition to go further still; we encourage all liberally minded actors to join in building partnerships of support and political action.

LI Secretary General

William Townsend

LI's Mission

Through the primary mechanisms of Capacity building, Advocacy, and Networking, we empower liberal leaders, member parties, and civil society groups to uphold and advance human rights, democracy, the rule of law, free markets, peace and security, climate justice, and individual freedom.

By strengthening capacities we provide training, resources, and best practices to equip our members to tackle today's global challenges. Through targeted advocacy we amplify the liberal voice and liberal thought on the international stage, championing fundamental rights and freedoms. By fostering global networks we connect like-minded individuals and organisations, facilitating collaboration and solidarity in the defence of liberalism.

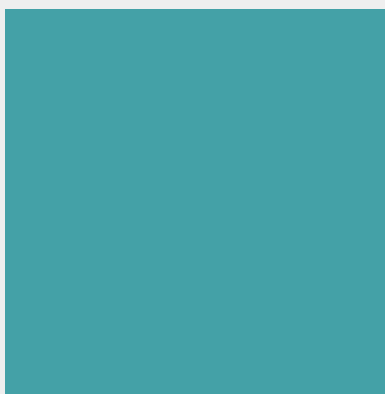
Together we strive to create a world where the values of liberty, justice, and opportunity prevail in order to build stronger, freer, and more inclusive societies for future generations.



Democratic Governance



Human Rights



Innovation



Key Initiatives

Liberal International's key initiatives - including the Isaiah Berlin Lecture Series, LI-VVD International's Liberal International Democratic Training Academy (LIDTA), RENEW Europe's Pacific, Africa, and Caribbean cooperation, and the first-of-its-kind Transatlantic Liberal Legislators' Dialogue - foster thought leadership, policy innovation, and strengthened global liberal cooperation.

During the year, these platforms also enabled LI to expand its international reach, engaging for the first time with partners such as LibertyCon, the Copenhagen Summit for Democracy, and the Centre for New Liberalism, among others.



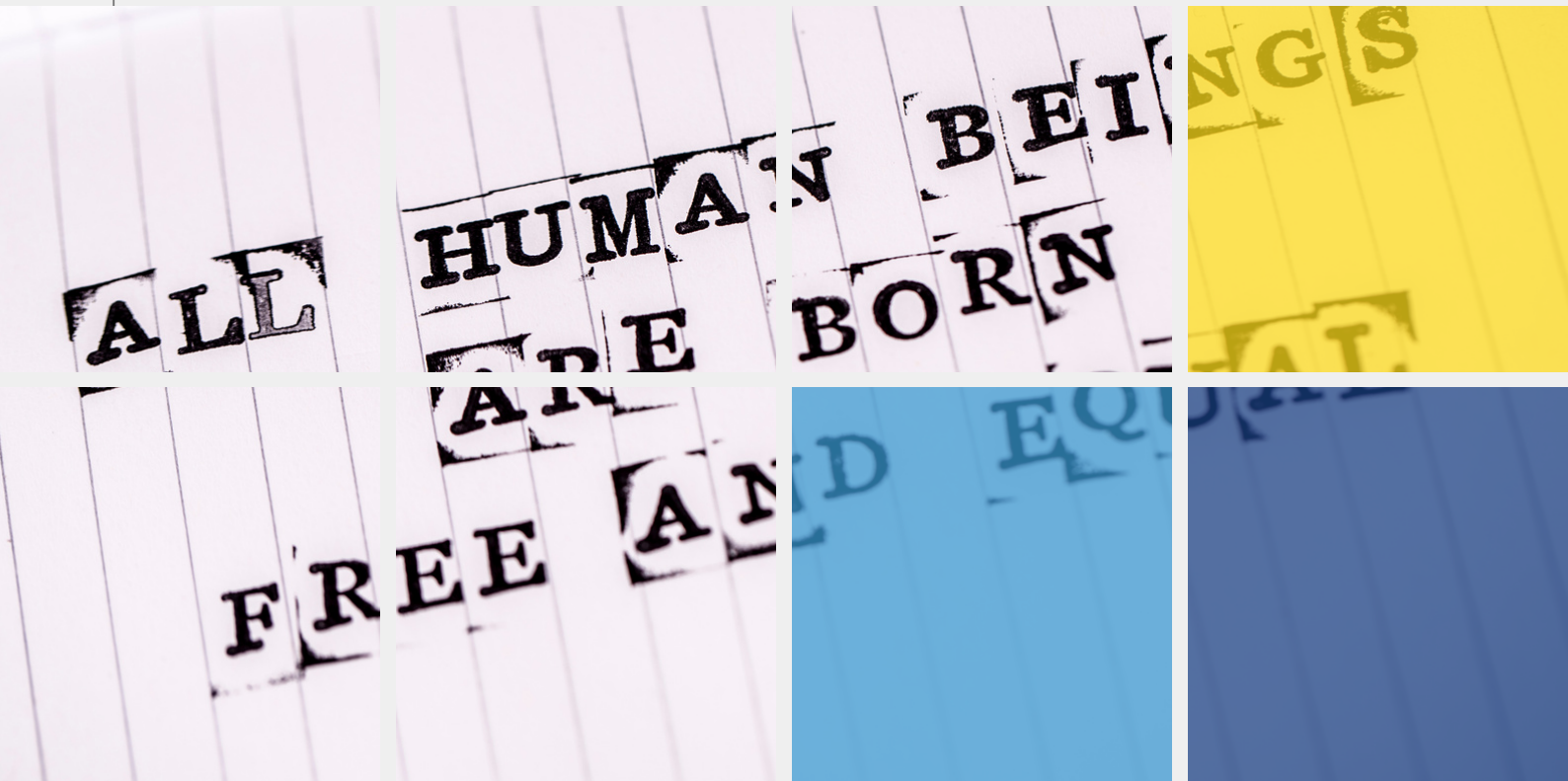
Liberal International organised a gathering of liberal parliamentarians attending the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in Geneva to exchange views and strengthen coordination among liberals within the IPU framework.

Chaired by LI Deputy President Astrid Thors, the meeting provided a platform to discuss key topics on the IPU agenda, including democracy and AI, humanitarian action, climate justice, food security, and the promotion of women in politics.



Human Rights

The Human Rights Committee remained one of LI's most visible and active platforms, advancing liberal responses to global human rights challenges.



From the 64th Congress in Santiago de Chile to the 209th Executive Committee meeting, the LI HRC convened eight online meetings and five international events, strengthened partnerships with leading human rights organisations, and maintained sustained advocacy at the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

The Committee issued seven public statements, delivered oral and written interventions at multiple sessions of the UN Human Rights Council, and submitted stakeholder contributions to the Universal Periodic Review process. A dedicated report documenting torture and inhumane treatment during protests in Georgia was prepared for review by the UN in 2026.

Programming focused on three priority areas: advancing women in politics, digitalisation and human rights, and defending democracy. The Committee marked key international days including the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, International Women's Day, and World Press Freedom Day, amplifying liberal voices in defence of dignity, equality, and fundamental freedoms.

Throughout the year, Liberal International representatives participated in major international fora, including the Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy, engaged with partners such as the ALDE Party and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, and held high-level consultations, including with the EU Special Representative for Human Rights.

In an increasingly challenging global environment, the Human Rights Committee reaffirmed Liberal International's commitment to defending democracy, protecting civic space, and standing in solidarity with those facing repression worldwide.

HRC Toolkit

This digital tool supports the mission of the Committee to serve as a framework for exchanging information, experience and good practices in advocacy and lobbying in the defence and promotion of human rights, particularly civil liberties, among liberals from across the world.

By structuring and analysing reports on human rights events and alerts, the LI Human Rights Committee can align its strategic priorities, coordinate collective responses, and inform allies about key developments.

Human Rights Toolkit



HUMAN
RIGHTS
COMMITTEE



Climate Justice

Liberal International's Climate Justice Committee (CJC) advanced a focused programme addressing the intersection of climate action, human rights, and democratic governance. Meeting monthly - with nine meetings held between the Chile Congress and the 209th Executive Committee in The Hague - the Committee remained active, coordinated, and forward-looking in an increasingly complex global climate and political landscape.



The Committee's work centred on raising government and public awareness of climate justice, advancing climate finance, supporting a just energy transition, and addressing the particular challenges facing the MENA region and the Global South.

The CJC contributed to the UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change's call for inputs on fossil fuel-based economies and human rights, highlighting energy poverty, pollution, food systems, and the human rights obligations of states and businesses in ensuring a just transition away from fossil fuels. In April, the Committee issued a declaration reaffirming liberals' commitment to climate action at a time when climate justice principles face growing political pressure.

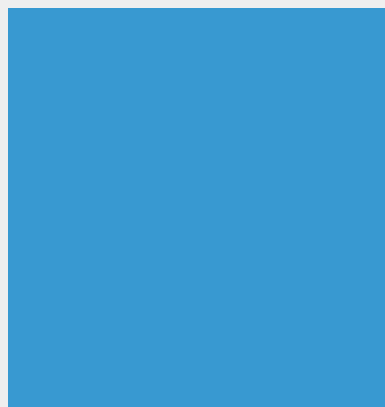
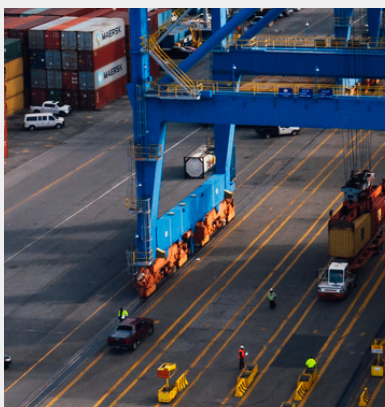
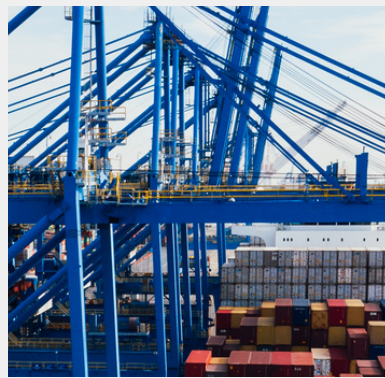
The 2024 Climate Justice Award was presented to Catherine McKenna in recognition of her leadership in advancing ambitious and inclusive climate policy. In preparation for COP30, the Committee developed the "Baku to Belém Roadmap," outlining practical pathways to mobilise increased climate finance, to be presented to Liberal International and the COP30 Presidency.

The CJC also strengthened programmatic engagement through a joint panel on the Blue Economy and Climate Justice at the Executive Committee meeting in The Hague, and through a partnership with the Dutch political party D66 in Istanbul, bringing together women leaders from the MENAT region to promote inclusive, participatory climate policymaking.

In a period marked by environmental urgency and geopolitical uncertainty, the Climate Justice Committee reaffirmed Liberal International's commitment to advancing equitable climate solutions grounded in justice, inclusion, and international cooperation.

Fair Trade

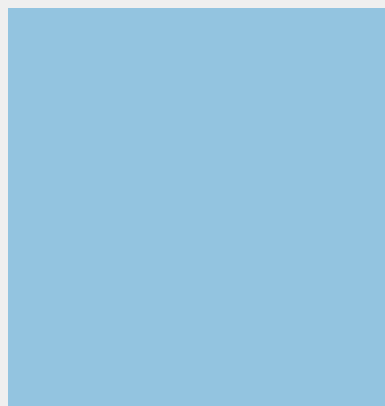
Liberal International's Fair Trade Committee (FTC) remains a key platform for promoting a liberal approach to trade, sustainability, and human rights.



In early 2025, leadership transitioned from Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué, who guided the Committee's relaunch and early trade reform proposals, to Francisco Winter (Evópoli, Chile), ushering in a new phase focused on linking liberal trade reform with sustainable energy and emerging blue and circular economies. Under this renewed vision, the FTC continues to advance open markets, responsible trade, and democratic values as central pillars of economic innovation.

During the year, the Committee advanced the global dialogue on green hydrogen, promoting fair and transparent markets, rights-based governance, and liberal leadership examples from Chile and the European Union. In April 2025, the FTC hosted a high-profile policy event in Washington D.C., "Liberal Trade and Global Prosperity in an Age of Transition," convening liberal economists, diplomats, and business leaders to explore open markets, digital trade, and liberal strategies to counter protectionism.

The Committee also launched its flagship project, The Blue Economy: Fair Trade for a Sustainable Future, examining sustainable ocean industries, the intersection of trade and marine biodiversity, and inclusive governance that empowers coastal communities and youth. Through these initiatives, the FTC positions Liberal International at the forefront of advancing trade that is not only open and liberal but also sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready.



New Working Groups

In response to new realities and an increasingly turbulent global order, Liberal International established two new working groups:

Working Group on **Security and Defence**, Chairperson Henrik Bach Mortensen

and

Working Group on **Artificial Intelligence**, Chairperson Claudia McKoy



Prize for Freedom Awarding Ceremony

Victoire Ingabire Umuhoza received the 2024 Prize for Freedom for her unwavering advocacy for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Rwanda, despite serving a sentence on politically motivated charges after announcing her 2010 presidential candidacy.

She remains imprisoned and continues to face persecution, yet remains steadfast in defending fundamental freedoms.

The award was received by her three children at the 209th Executive Committee in The Hague, the Netherlands.



Members' Network

Liberal International consists of a broad range of democratic political parties (both as full members and observer members), international organisations, cooperating organisations, think tanks and individuals.



73

Full member parties

27

Observer member parties

13

Co-operating organisations

12

Think Tanks

2

International organisations

How we're funded

Our global federation is funded almost exclusively by our membership, for our membership on the basis of a subscription scheme decided by the LI Executive Committee – no one member organisation is therefore able to claim a monopoly on the work or political direction of our organisation. Liberal International does not receive state funding.

We are audited annually by chartered accountants in the United Kingdom and our financial reports presented and voted on by our membership.

It is because of the generosity of our member parties that Liberal International remains uniquely placed to deliver a balanced, wide range of activity that allows us to advocate, capacitate, and offer networking opportunities for our member parties worldwide.



Thank You

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