

14TH EDITION

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN



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FEATURES

Meet the new members of the Human Rights Committee • WIPP Index • Expert forums on gender-based political inclusivity • Launch of political prisoners' campaign • LI HRC Annual Report 2018 • Statements • LI Prize for Freedom 2019



Astrid Thors
Chairperson of LI Human Rights Committee

Dear Readers,

Let me begin this edition by saying "thank you to the liberal family!" - I am extremely honoured to be the new Chairperson for the LI Human Rights Committee. Liberal International is the only global political organisation with a Human Rights Committee and this unique feature allows us to be active in many fields and networks. It is a compelling task, especially when witnessing a systematic disregard for the rules-based order happening across the globe.

Without exaggerating we certainly experience a revolution with the spread of fast and accessible, ubiquitous communication technology and the immense capacity of computers to handle data leading to the use of Artificial Intelligence. Or with a simpler word, leading to the digitalisation of our lives.

On one hand, we can use these tools to make administrations more accountable, to be better informed of human rights abuses, but they also might lead to more oppression and discrimination. With the help of all member parties, we wish to give our contribution: liberal answers to new problems.

At this juncture, I also want to thank Markus Löning (former LI HRC Chair) from the depth of my heart for his wise, energetic and committed leadership of the committee. Together with the other members and the staff, Markus has done a marvellous job for Liberal International and it feels so good to be able to continue to rely on his wisdom.

I also want to thank Tamara Dancheva (former LI HRC Programme Officer) for her tireless, innovative and intelligent work for the benefit of the committee; thanks to her so many good partnerships have been launched. We wish her all the best in her new carrier. We also welcome Mikaela Hellman as the new LI HRC Programme Officer & Ida- Maria Skytte continues the good work of Gabriela Lönngrén as the Human Rights intern.

Yours sincerely

Astrid Thors

WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES - WIPP INDEX



LIBERAL
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WIPP INDEX
WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES

Liberal International's WIPP Index is soon to be tested

One of the Human Rights Committee's priority areas is **Women's Political Empowerment**. As a part of the work done within the area, Liberal International is creating both a barometer and an Inclusivity Handbook. The barometer will give all Liberal International's member parties the opportunity to measure their party's **WIPP Index**, i.e. the level of diversity and gender inclusivity within their own party. The parties will then, with the help of the Inclusivity Handbook, have a chance to make their parties even more diverse and inclusive.

The very first tests will be carried out already this October. The results of these tests, as well as more information about the barometer and the handbook, will be shared with the membership at the [203rd Executive Committee](#) in Morocco.

LI HRC ANNUAL REPORT 2018



LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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The Human Rights Committee's 2018 Annual Report, containing all the highlights from last year, is now available on Liberal International's web page. If you want to read more about what the LI HRC achieved last year, you can do so by clicking the button below.

[Read the Annual Report 2018](#)

STATEMENTS



Nordic Liberal Parliamentarians show their support for Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement

"We are disappointed that time has not led to a peaceful political solution which safeguards the liberties of the people of Hong Kong and the one country, two systems principle", Nordic Liberal

Members of Parliament says.

Guri Melby (MP, Norway), **Kerstin Lundberg** (MP, Sweden), **Eva Biaudet** (MP, Finland) and **Zenia Stampe** (MP, Denmark) – with the added support of, among others, **Emily Lau**, the Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Hong Kong's International Affairs Committee – join together in a statement to express their support for the people fighting for democracy in Hong Kong.

[Read the statement](#)



LI HRC Chair Astrid Thors urges the Egyptian government to release peaceful protesters

Over 3 000 pro-democracy activists have been arrested in Egypt during the recent protests demanding the resignation of **President el-Sisi**. Peaceful protesters have been detained and several protesters' locations are still being withheld from the public by Egyptian authorities.

The Chair of Liberal International's Human Rights Committee, **Astrid Thors** (SFP, Finland), strongly urges that the locations of the missing pro-democracy protesters are revealed and that the detained protesters are released immediately.

[Read the statement](#)

LI PRIZE FOR FREEDOM 2019



LI Prize for Freedom 2019 awarded to María Corina Machado

On behalf of the global liberal family, we were proud to present the 2019 LI Prize for Freedom to the daughter of our 36th laureate, **María Corina Machado** – the brave, long-standing voice of Venezuela’s democratic opposition – in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

[Read about the award ceremony](#)

[Watch the live stream](#)

MEET THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee has appointed a new Human Rights Committee

The new LI HRC was appointed at the [202nd LI Executive Committee](#) meeting in London, United Kingdom. Of the 24 LI HRC members 15 are women, and 14 are new members. The LI Executive Committee appointed LI Vice President, and former LI HRC Vice Chairperson, **Astrid Thors** (SFP, Finland) as the new LI HRC Chairperson. The new LI HRC will focus on three human rights priority areas:

- Women's Political Empowerment
- Digital Space and Human Rights
- Defence of Civil and Political Rights/Countering the Shrinking Democratic Space around the World

[Read more about the members](#)

Liberal International's Human Rights Programme also has two new staff members - **Mikaela Hellman** (Centerpartiet, Sweden), the new Head of the Human Rights Programme, and **Ida-Maria Skytte** (Svenska Folkpartiet, Finland), the new Staff Intern.



[Read more about Mikaela](#)

[Read more about Ida-Maria](#)

FEATURED VIDEO



LI President launches LI political prisoners' campaign at Geneva Summit

Liberal International co-hosted the 11th Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy in Geneva, Switzerland. LI President Dr. Hakima El Haité called on liberals to continue the fight for all of those who remain unfairly behind bars by announcing the launch of LI's new campaign to free liberal political prisoners.

[Watch the video](#)

[Read about the launch](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS



LI HRC organises expert forums on gender-based political inclusivity

Ahead of the launch of Liberal International's Party Inclusivity Barometer, LI HRC organised two expert forums on gender inclusivity in political parties - one in Marrakech and one in Stockholm. The outcomes of the sessions will be featured in the Inclusivity Handbook as liberal best practices on gender-based political party inclusivity.

[Read more about the event in Marrakech](#)



[Read more about the event in Stockholm](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
22-24 November	203 rd LI Executive Committee Meeting in Fes, Morocco (LI HRC will meet on the fringe of the event)
7-8 December	Event about Digital Space and Human Rights in Johannesburg, organised by LI and FNF South Africa
11 December	LI HRC Publishes the 15th Edition of the LI Human Rights Bulletin
18 February 2020	The 2020 Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy

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