

15TH EDITION

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN



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FEATURES

Event on Digitalisation and Human Rights in Johannesburg • Executive Committee meeting in Fés • Inclusivity Handbook Now Available Online • Statements



Astrid Thors
Chairperson of LI Human Rights Committee

Dear Readers,

The two months since the previous Bulletin have been busy for the LI Human Rights Committee!

I am writing this a day after the 71st anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - a declaration that has not diminished in importance. We do not yet see a decrease in human rights abuses, and therefore our work is as important as ever.

At the 203rd LI Executive Committee Meeting held on November 22-24 in Fés, Morocco, the Human Rights Committee had no less than four events. We introduced the final version of the Women in Political Parties Index, and the Inclusivity Handbook is now ready to be used by our member parties. A big thank you to Tamara Dancheva for all the hard work she has done on this project.

In addition to holding an administrative meeting of the committee, we hosted a panel discussion on the use of human rights clauses in free trade agreements. We also invited representatives from five different women's rights organisations from across Morocco, who shared their inspiring experiences of working with these issues on the ground. The discussion was a concrete example of how important it is to have direct exchanges in order to learn from each other.

Liberal International has also organised, together with FNF Sub-Saharan Africa, the conference **Democracy Disrupted: Digitalisation and Human Rights**. Together with activists, politicians, and experts from Venezuela to Hong Kong, we discussed the importance of safeguarding human rights in a digital world.

This topic is high on the agenda and it is time to take action. Lots of work remains to be done, and we will continue to work on this item next year.

I am happy to look back on a fruitful first six months of the new HRC's mandate.

Thank you to everyone who has engaged with us in 2019 - now I look forward to continuing this important work in 2020!

Yours sincerely

Astrid Thors

DIGITALISATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS



Democracy Disrupted: Digitalisation and Human Rights

Together with colleagues in **FNF Africa**, Liberal International brought together technical experts and human rights defenders to better understand and strategise a liberal approach to digitalisation.

With expert speakers and political activists from Belarus to Venezuela – from Hong Kong to South Africa, chairperson of the LI human rights committee and LI vice president, **Astrid Thors**, sparked debates around ***Democracy Disrupted: Digitalisation and Human Rights***.

Speaking after the event Astrid Thors said: “Our political parties need to be better prepared to campaign against dis-information. We also need both looking into what are the positive freedoms for people and call on businesses to have ethical codes that we can rely on.”

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

EMPOWERING GIRLS AND WOMEN



LI HRC meets Moroccan activists fighting for true empowerment of girls and women

With a focus on the empowerment of girls and women in the MENA region – and the day before International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women – a panel of gender equality experts set about discussing strategies and objectives with the LI HRC to advance women's rights.

The topics of empowering women and ending violence against women could not have been more relevant. Apart from the empowerment of women being one of the LI HRC's priority working areas, violence against women is also a significant structural and societal problem in Morocco, with almost half of the female population falling victims to violence at some point in their life.

As stated in Liberal International's Andorra Liberal Manifesto, liberals believe in equality for all and will therefore continue to fight fiercely for the rights of women.

[Read more about the event in Fés](#)

STATEMENTS



Government crackdowns in Chile continues to “suffocate freedom”, LI Human Rights Chair Thors calls for investigations

“The eruption of violence and protests in Chile during the last weeks has shown that the political and economic system continues to suffocate freedom and deny and reject demands for equality and social justice”, Liberal International vice president and chairperson of the LI human rights committee, **Astrid Thors**, says.

[Read the full statement here](#)



BEYOND THE NUMBERS: BUILDING INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR SUCCESS

HANDBOOK OF BEST PRACTICE ON
GENDERBASED POLITICAL PARTY INCLUSIVITY



We are incredibly proud to announce that the LI Inclusivity Handbook is now available on the LI web page. A huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in creating this handbook, not least to the former Head of the LI Human Rights Programme, **Tamara Dancheva**.

The LI Human Rights Committee will organise a launch of the Inclusivity Handbook in Brussels, Belgium on February, 4th 2020. More information about the launch will be sent out to the membership shortly.

[See the full Inclusivity Handbook here](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
13 December 2019	Liberal International Offices Close
8 January 2020	Liberal International Offices Open
4 February 2020	Women in Political Parties Index and Inclusivity Handbook Launch in Brussels, Belgium
18 February 2020	The 2020 Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy in Geneva, Switzerland
24 February-20 March 2020	43rd Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland
9-20 March 2020	64th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in New York, USA

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