



FEATURES

Human Rights and the COVID-19 Crisis • WIPP Index and Inclusivity Handbook • The Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy • Statements



Astrid Thors
Chairperson of LI Human Rights Committee

Dear liberal friends

The spread of the Coronavirus has meant changes to the work of the Human Rights Committee. In cooperation with the National Democratic Institute and the International Network of Liberal Women we had scheduled an interesting event during the UN Commission on the Status of Women, CSW, but all side events were cancelled. We are working to make sure the ideas of this event are not lost.

The LI Secretariat is distance working, and the 63rd Congress of Liberal International, scheduled for June, has been postponed. Our focus is now on different aspects of the coronavirus.

For those of us working with human rights, we know that times are difficult. Authoritarian regimes are using this opportunity to curtail democratic rights. Freedom of speech is endangered, as I point out in a separate article in this bulletin. Undemocratic regimes try to show that they are more efficient in combatting the virus. In some countries, like Turkey, prisoners are released to reduce spread in crowded prisons, but not the political prisoners.

All decision-makers are faced with difficult choices. We recognise that the right to life is a fundamental one. But other freedoms must not unnecessarily be restricted, the measures taken must be proportionate also in times of urgencies. Finally, a sunset clause must be included.

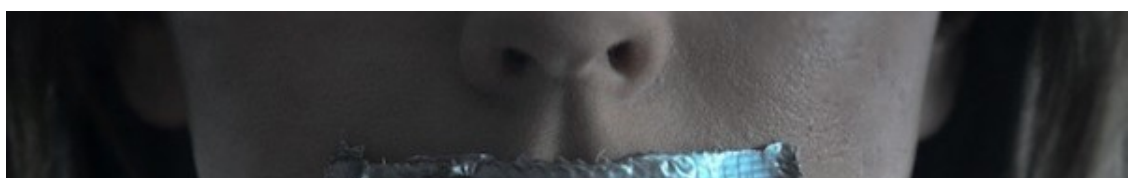
I am convinced that in these times our voice is more necessary than ever, to be vigilant and not to forget those who are persecuted for their convictions and not letting down the liberal world order.

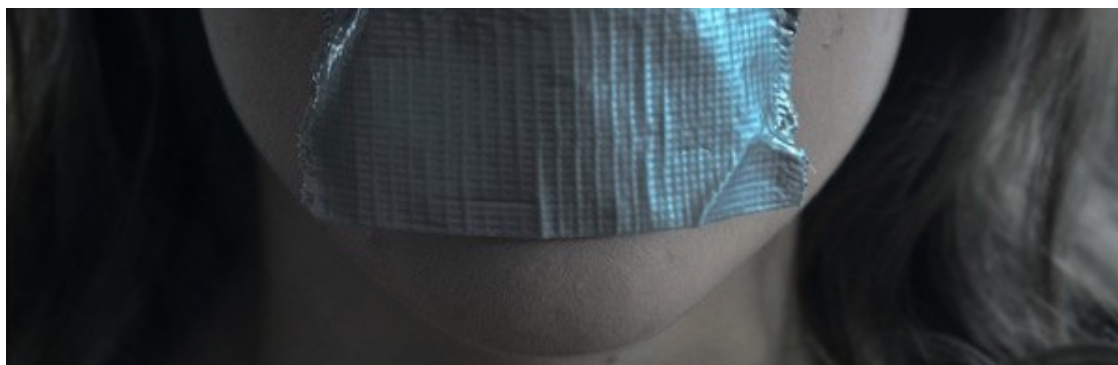
It is more necessary than ever that the liberal family is well connected across all boundaries, and fortunately, that is also easier than ever before.

Yours sincerely

Astrid Thors

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE COVID-19 CRISIS

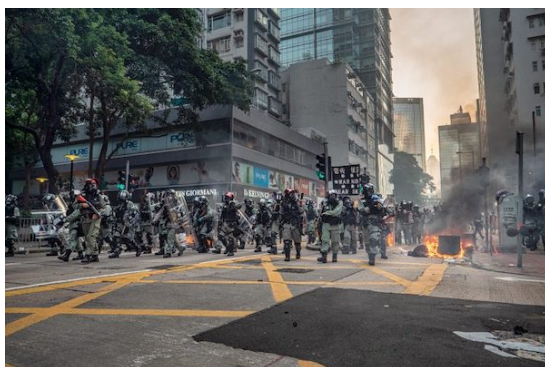




COVID-19 should not be excuse to curtail freedom of expression, says HRC Chair Thors.

All of us fully understand that certain emergency measures are needed to combat the pandemic, but all such measures must be necessary, proportionate, strictly time-limited, and subject to regular scrutiny, in order to solve the immediate health crisis. Such rules must be subject to a sunset clause.

[Read the full article here](#)



Liberals must not lose sight of human rights in the face of COVID-19 crisis

Governments are enforcing temporary emergency legislation in an attempt to mitigate the continued spread of the coronavirus outbreak. Liberals must not lose sight of human rights in the face of COVID-19 crisis.

[Read the article](#)



Women must be protected from increased abuse during COVID-19 crisis

A soar in domestic violence cases is being reported from countries all over the world where people are being restricted from leaving their homes.

[Read the article](#)

WIPP INDEX AND INCLUSIVITY HANDBOOK





WIPP Index and Inclusivity Handbook Launch

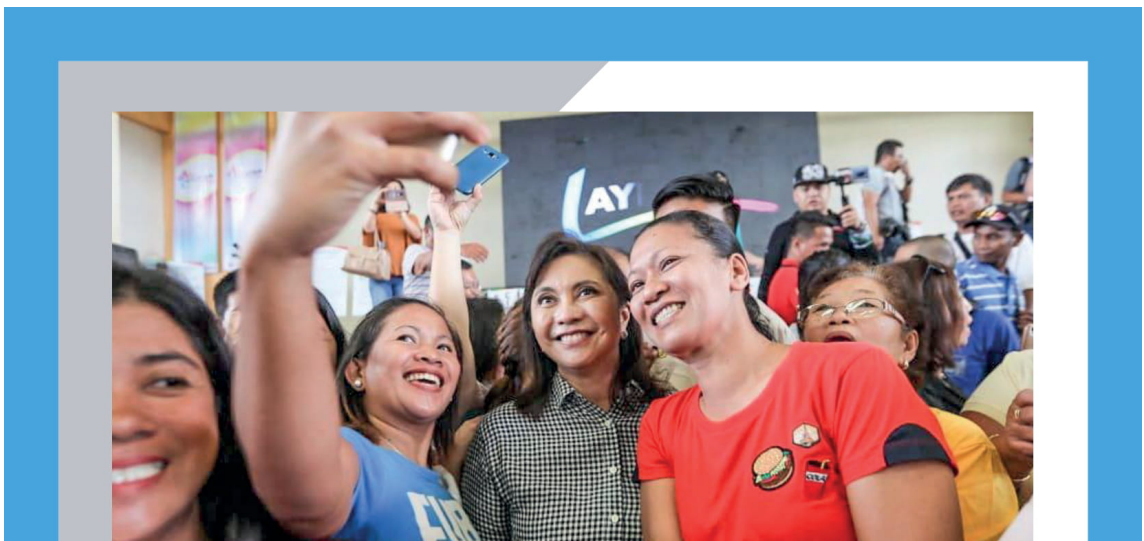
On the 4th of February Liberal International (LI) gathered liberals at the home of the European Parliament to launch the LI [Women in Political Parties Index](#) (WIPP) handbook – the practical best-practice guide to accompany LI's one-of-a-kind online inclusivity index.

Addressing international guests at a panel debate under the theme *Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Women in Politics* to celebrate the launch, LI Human Rights Committee Chair, **Astrid Thors**, emphasised that for parties looking to be more representative, and more electable, the WIPP Index handbook is an essential strategic aid.

Sharing both their personal and professional experiences of women's political representation, former Cambodian Minister for Women and long-standing advocate for women's rights **Mu Sochua** (CNRP, Cambodia – LI full member), Policy Officer of the LYMEC Bureau **Antoanata Asenova** (MRF, Bulgaria – LI full member), and Policy Advisor **Manon Deshayes** of the European Women's Lobby led discussions around promoting women in politics.

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

[Watch the live stream](#)





BEYOND THE NUMBERS: BUILDING INCLUSIVE POLITICAL PARTIES FOR SUCCESS

HANDBOOK OF BEST PRACTICE ON
GENDERBASED POLITICAL PARTY INCLUSIVITY



Liberal International
WIPP INDEX
WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES



**FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
FOUNDATION** For Freedom.

The LI Inclusivity Handbook is available online

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**.

[See and download the inclusivity handbook](#)

THE GENEVA SUMMIT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY





On the 18th of February Liberal International Human Rights Committee vice chair, **Dr Phil Bennion**, led one of LI's biggest delegations to the largest gathering of human rights NGOs in Europe in Geneva, Switzerland. The liberals presented an award and chaired panel debates at the LI co-hosted Geneva Summit for Human Rights and Democracy.

- LI HRC member **Dr Steffi Krisper** presents International Women's Rights Award
- Raised awareness of the case of LI Prize for Freedom laureate **Ilham Tohti** at Europe's largest gathering of NGOs
- Strategised with **Jewher Ilham**, daughter of Ilham Tohti, about future actions
- LI representatives chaired debates on urgent global human rights concerns

[Read more about the event](#)

[Watch the live stream](#)

STATEMENTS



LI president, **Dr Hakima el Haite**, has welcomed the news that Hollywood movie mogul and serial abuser Harvey Weinstein, whose criminal acts towards women sparked the #MeToo movement, has been convicted.

[Read the statement](#)



Liberals must tackle racism everywhere; LI VP **Abir al-Sahlani** calls for action on *Day for Elimination of Racism*

[Watch the video](#)

Save .ORG

"We urge ISOC and ICANN to not put at risk the websites of global organisations such as LI and other human rights groups. It is crucial that the work of such organisations stays safe!" says LI HRC Chair **Astrid Thors**.

[Read the statement](#)



LI nominates Senator **Leila de Lima** for the **Nobel Peace Prize**. Senator De Lima has stood for human rights since the beginning of her political career, despite great personal cost to herself.

[Read the statement](#)

UPDATE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

In reaction to the coronavirus outbreak, Liberal International has postponed or moved our human rights related events to more suitable dates and platforms.

We continue our important work across all digital platforms, specifically refining our focus to resist the extensive COVID-19 dis-information and fake news campaigns being run against liberal democracies and the liberal world order more broadly. Liberal International is providing the liberal family with original content every week, on our website and through our newsletter. We are also updating our social media with human rights related insights everyday.

Do follow us on social media for the latest updates, and share with us what is happening in your countries.

[Sign up for our newsletter](#)

Follow us on social media:



UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE

EVENT

Until further notice

Liberal International Office working remotely

25th June

Human Rights Committee meeting

[INSTAGRAM](#)

[FACEBOOK](#)

[TWITTER](#)

[WEBSITE](#)

OUR SUPPORTERS



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