



Liberal International's Newsletter

LIBERAL VISION

COVID-19 ROUND UP

   Liberal International
www.liberal-international.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I hope you are coping well with confinement, keeping a physical distance but making sure to maintain crucial social contacts.

As you are all aware, much has happened this past week; we have seen, almost in tandem, an assault on the WHO, the organisation tasked with coordinating public health responses at a global level, at the same time as we have seen enhanced cooperation between EU countries, creating a stronger Europe to fight Covid-19 both economically and politically. And we have also seen the UN show incredible levels of solidarity with the African continent.

As a former minister and the President of an international organisation, I have spent many years arguing for the deepening of international relations, as well as investment of time and political capital in multilateral cooperation forums, so that we might be ready to address the global challenges that we as a global community are faced with. I have called for increased cooperation on climate change and international human rights issues, and since Covid-19 has been raging across the planet, I have been calling for the same philosophy to be applied to public health.

Thus, on behalf of Liberal International, I salute the rebirth of a strong international cooperation, exemplified by the west African coordinating initiative launched by the King of Morocco, as well as the efforts of the EU and the UN in their support for African countries, including debt cancellation for certain countries. While debt cancellation is an effective support that allows for the injection of the financial resources necessary to prop up the public health sector, and should continue to be included in all relief packages, it does not address short-term needs at a crucial time like this. Direct financial support would help bridge the gap between lacklustre public health infrastructures and the needs of African populations, as well as allow for the purchase of essential medical materials.

We must also avoid taking advantage of this crisis to score political points on the world stage. Now is a time for solidarity, not division. Although by no means blameless, the WHO has faced pressure recently from world powers, impeding its essential work and slowing responses to calls for support. We, as an international community, must not fall victim to these temptations; instead, we should be setting politics aside for the greater good of public health.

From the start of this crisis, Liberal International has been calling for reform of the WHO once this crisis is over. The answer is most decidedly not to simply disband it; we must instead focus our efforts on ensuring that it is depoliticised and that its interventions are strictly impartial, based solely on the public health needs of our populations. Reform, not destruction, is the way forward.

I wish you all continued good health and invite you to reach out to us should you have something valuable to share with the liberal family.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Dr. Hakima El Haité



Dr Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International



ARTICLES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Coronavirus shows healthcare needs global governance



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Coronavirus: "Saying that there will be a before and an after is not enough"



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Developing real global public health governance becomes crucial



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Ôtons nos œillères, construisons un monde neuf



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Let us take off our blinders and build a new world



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COVID19 in Africa: the response requires telecom operators



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LI President offers condolences to the CAHDI Party and the family of Justice State Minister Hon. Khalif Mumin Tohow



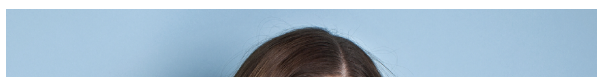
Heartbreaking News.

Our deepest condolences from the global liberals to the Somali people & family of Justice Minister of Somalia's Hirshabellere region, Hon. **Khalif Mumin Tohow**, who was the 1st Deputy Chairman of our member **CAHDI Party**.

Hon. Tohow passed away on Sunday, 12 April after being admitted to Mogadishu's Martini hospital a day after he tested positive for COVID-19 in the town of Jowhar - the administrative capital of Hirshabelle.

May your soul rest in peace dear colleague.

LI President congratulates new Director of NDI's Program of Political Parties in Washington DC



LI congratulates Ms **Birgitta Ohlsson**, former Swedish MP & Minister of EU-affairs, from LI Member party



Liberalerna on her forthcoming appointment as Director of the National Democratic Institute's Program of Political Parties.

LI looks forward to supporting & working with Ms Ohlsson in her new role.

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SECRETARY GENERAL'S CORNER

FNF MENA launches MENA on the Map & talks to LI SG Gordon Mackay about COVID & the fate of democracy



Secretary-General, **Gordon Mackay**, for the launch of FNF MENA's new series #MenaOnTheMap - focused on the short & long term impacts on global society of the CoronaVirus.

In discussion with FNF MENA's Regional Strategy Manager Yara Asmar & journalist Philip Abou Zeid they discussed "Post-corona & the Fate of Democracy".

[WATCH THE FIRST EPISODE](#)

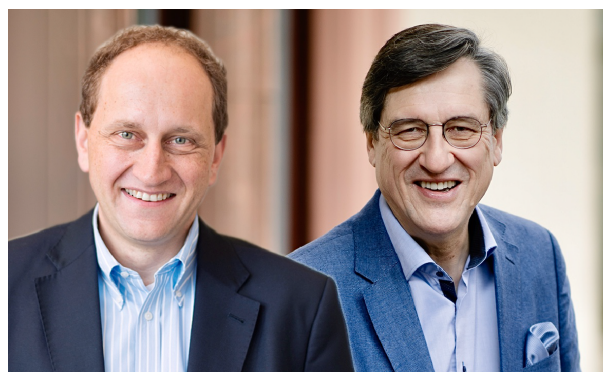
BUREAU IN ACTION

Liberal Leaders' Summit Goes Digital: how to rebuild Europe's economy



Calling for the Italian government to be flexible in accepting the European Stability Mechanism to co-finance the fight against the COVID-19, **ALDE Party** President and LI President of Honour **Hans van Baalen** with fellow liberal leaders & European Commissioners also called for EU solidarity. Previously van Baalen has also called for EU support to Africa as well as Taiwan.

German Liberals: Germany should bridge WHO funding gap



Chairman of the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation** and LI Deputy President, **Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué (right)**, has backed a proposal from **FDP** parliamentarian and foreign affairs spokesman, **Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (left)**, by urging Germany and its European partners to bridge the funding gap left by the Trump administration.

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Even with COVID19, Ortega remains Nicaragua's biggest problem



LI Vice President & Leader for **Ciudadanos por la Libertad**, **Kitty Monterrey** pointed out via video message that only way to keep going is with democracy for all the sectors work together not with a dictator ruling the country. "To keep up with all these upcoming changes, Nicaragua needs to first deal with our biggest issue - a dictator!"

[VIEW VIDEO](#)

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COVID-19: THE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

In the shadow of COVID19, China seeks to change the internet



We see governments today taking advantage of the coronavirus crisis to extend surveillance and control over their citizens' lives. In China's vision of the future internet, this is the default, not the exception.

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Post COVID19 response, an opportunity to strengthen worldwide climate commitments



As the world's policymakers turn their attention toward shaping post COVID19 society, it is essential that the liberal voice be heard loud and clear. Liberal International, in particular, has a duty to champion the global liberal position.

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16TH EDITION

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS
BULLETIN

BULLETIN

View the latest version of LI's Human Rights Bulletin:
Human Rights and Coronavirus

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MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



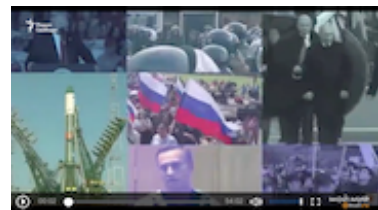
Exclusive Q'nA with a coronavirus survivor on *Coronacast* by Democratic Alliance

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



ALDE Party launches Corona Dictatorship Watchdog with interactive map

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Worrying situation: Regions of the Russian Federation are being separated from each other

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE FIGHTING COVID

AFRICA

West Africa's liberal leaders asked to launch continental COVID response

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AMERICAS

Latin American liberals stand up against this pandemic and its negative consequences

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ASIA

International recognition for Taiwan's Liberal President

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EUROPE

European liberals discuss "life after lockdown"

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MENA

Opportunities Beyond Corona: Digital Economy

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TWEET OF THE WEEK



Van Baalen's: Taiwan must be welcomed into society of states now



In this week's tweet of the week, LI President of Honour & ALDE Party President, **Hans van Baalen**, thanked liberal leader President **Tsai** and Taiwan for their efforts in delivering facemasks and knowledge in support of support European countries battling COVID. Van Baalen called for democratic Taiwan to be brought fully into the global community of states!

[VIEW TWEET](#)

Make sure you follow Liberal International on social media.



TRAINING ON COVID-19

In support of our member parties, who expressed to us that they found the information provided in our first newsletter extremely helpful, we are sharing a **free learning course** with the WHO about the Coronavirus and emergency responses.



[ENROL TODAY](#)

DID YOU CATCH OUR PAST COMMUNICATIONS?

Be sure to double-check your email - Liberal International has sent out communications to the membership.

REPUTABLE SITES FOR COVID-19 INFORMATION

With the rise of Fake News and Disinformation, Liberal International has listed some trusted sites for information around COVID-19. As liberals, we need to do all we can to minimise the spread of Fake News & Disinfo and contain this pandemic.

If you want to find out more information on data and statistics, please also click the links below.

**World Health Organization
(WHO)**

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

**International Committee of
the Red Cross**

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

**Doctors Without
Borders**

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

TOP TIPS:

- Do not feel guilty and know how to disconnect.
- Use reliable sources of information
- Do not look too much and listen to the media and social networks

Other websites to check out:

- [LitCovid](#)
- [Living map of evidence](#)
- [REACTING Consortium](#)
- [DocCismef](#)
- [A MOOC](#)
- [NephJC](#)
- [ERA-EDTA](#)
- [IPU](#)

LI'S REGIONAL NETWORKS

- [Africa Liberal Network \(ALN\)](#)
- [Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe \(ALDE Party\)](#)
- [Arab Liberal Federation \(ALF\)](#)
- [Council of Asian Liberals & Democrats \(CALD\)](#)
- [Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom \(FNF\)](#)
- [Red Liberal de América Latina \(Relial\)](#)

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