



Liberal International's Newsletter

LIBERAL VISION

COVID-19 ROUND UP

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear friends and colleagues,

Once again, I would like to take a moment to wish you all good health. I hope that these past weeks in confinement, however tough, have also brought you some joy. For those of you who have lost a loved one, know that we grieve with you. I urge, those of you who can, to maintain social distancing until necessary and to do your best to keep up the social links that bind us together as a family and society.

Now that we are seeing social distancing measures begin to ease, that plans to re-launch the economy are being announced, and that a growing number of promises of financial support are being offered to, and made, by multinational corporations, we must ensure to take this opportunity to not let the old world take over once again; but instead, from the ashes of this chaos, build a new future that will assure continued growth and prosperity for generations to come.

However, it is with a heavy heart, that I must tell you that our hopes for using this tragedy as a vehicle to accelerate the green and digital transition of our economies is dwindling.

Although the pandemic that caused a global health and economic crisis has positively impacted the environment in the short-term, it is becoming clearer every day that this will not last – From one end of the world to the other, pressure is being exerted on governments to roll back hard-won environmental protections and to shy away from respecting commitments made under the Paris Agreement.

Funds allocated to polluting industries are not being conditioned on respect for the climate, but instead on getting the economy to wake from its coma; this, my friends, is a short-sighted strategy.

Liberal International's Climate Justice Committee has today released a statement calling for any support offered to industries to protect or help them recover from the crisis to be conditional on their acceptance of economically sustainable business practices and production methods that are in line with climate commitments; if we do not insist on this, we are only replacing one crisis with another.

In an ecosystem, there are millions of different plants, animals and habitats that are interconnected. Every species has its own conditions for life: a habitat of a certain dimension and quality, food sources on which it depends for survival, environmental requirements as well as vulnerabilities.

The fact that we share this planet means that the demise of even one species threatens the stability of the entire ecosystem. With that in mind, let us recall the millions of hectares of destroyed and degraded forest and soil, the

incalculable tons of solid, liquid and gaseous pollution sent into the atmosphere every year.

This deadly virus was born out of a rampant and unrelenting destruction of our natural world – these conditions allowed it to evolve into a plague that has caused untold harm to our global economic and health systems.

The unique peculiarities of Man, however exceptional, do not exclude him from the laws of the living world; we would be wise to remember this as we emerge from the COVID19 crisis.

To succeed, we must reaffirm our commitment to the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. I call on the liberal family to direct their political influence to assure the respect of international conventions, as confirmed by Liberal International's Human Rights Committee, and I call on the United Nations and the world's governments to prioritise the ecological and climate imperatives that are now undeniable.

Solidarity, multilateral international cooperation, and the respect for international agreements are the foundations of a prosperous global society, and they will also be the cornerstones of new, more sustainable and inclusive, economic and social models, that will assure that the loss we have felt over these past months was not for nothing.

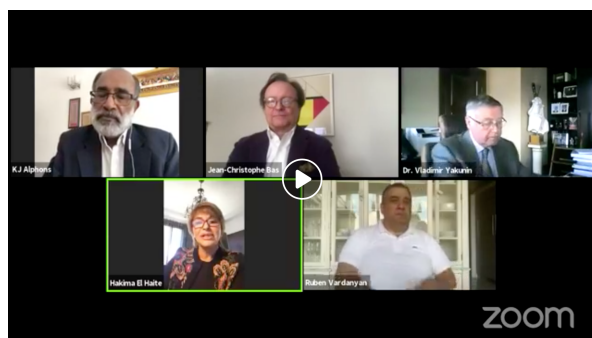
Sincerely,

Dr. Hakima El Haité

Dr Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International



LI President speaks on COVID19 webinar series



In the third webinar series hosted by DOC Research Institute, speakers, including that of LI President **El Haité** spoke on the importance of culture, civilisations, and humanity in light of the Covid-19 crisis particularly the way forward and scenarios for transformational change.

WATCH WEBINAR

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**



**Let us take off our blinders
and build a new world**



**COVID-19: The Global Crisis
Decrypted**



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LI Secretary General Gordon Mackay steps down



After 2.5 years as Secretary General of Liberal International, Gordon Mackay - the first African head of the Secretariat - has stepped down. During this time, LI underwent some enormous changes.

"On behalf of the Bureau and Secretariat, I would like to express my gratitude for everything Gordon has done, alongside with me to empower LI." - Hakima el Haité

[READ GORDON'S MESSAGE](#)

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI Deputy President Prof. Paqué writes about how Covid-19 has hit German regions unequally



More regional differentiation is urgently needed in the second stage of the fight against Corona, writes LI Deputy President and Chairman of FNF Prof. **Karl-Heinz Paqué**.

LI President of Honour Lord John Alderdice hosts another TedCircle session



LI Vice President **Lord John Alderdice** hosts discussion on gratefulness in the middle of a season of uncertainty, fear and anxiety. With contributions from Karen Sethuraman and Cheryl Meban they discuss how we notice the good elements of life, in a habit of negativity? among other questions.

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LI President of Honour Hans van Baalen condemns China's misuse of Covid-19 to enhance power.



ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** condemns China's misuse of Covid-19 to enhance communist power. He supports questions by RE MEP Bart Groothuis on softening EEAS reports on China.

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The coronavirus must not violate basic human rights writes LI Vice President Thors



LI Vice President and Chair of LI Human rights committee **Astrid Thors** writes an article for the Finnish think tank Agenda on human rights-related matters in times of Covid-19 pandemic.

READ ARTICLE

LI Vice President Abir Al-Sahlani participates as a panellist "Liberties in Lockdown"



This week our vice president, **Abir al Sahlani MEP**, joined the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to debate the impact that coronavirus lockdown in many of our countries is having on our liberal values and democratic rights.

Article by LI Vice President Kitty Monterrey on the "Two battles" in Nicaragua



'What worked in the past will not work now', writes LI VP **Kitty Monterrey**. Nicaragua changed from April 2018 and the world is changing as a result of Covid-19. Nicaraguans now have to face two simultaneous battles: the Ortega regime and Covid-19.

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

Lockdowns risk grinding the fundamental machinery of democracy to a halt



The coronavirus has rapidly changed the way our societies operate. Politicians must consider these effects and act to ensure that the very foundations of liberal democracy do not become one of its victims.

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Respect for our planet is the key to avoiding future global crises



Experts have warned that the COVID19 crisis is likely to be followed by even more deadly and destructive disease outbreaks unless their root cause – the rampant destruction of the natural world – is rapidly halted.

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Statement: LI CJC - Post Covid-19 stimulus packages must meet climate requirements

**Now is
the time** 

LI's Climate Justice Committee calls on governments around the world to enhance the protection of our planet by supporting and improving citizens' livelihoods. This should be done by including the sustainability principles as an integral part of any stimulus packages. Abandoning sustainability at this crucial time of recovery would not only be wrong, but also costly.

[READ STATEMENT](#)

Applications open: Join LI's new working group on trade



**FAIR TRADE
WORKING**

Trade is a central tenet of liberalism and today the bureau of Liberal International has launched a call for qualified applicants to form our latest policy working group on trade, chaired by LI Deputy President, Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué.

Similar to the prominent LI committees on human rights and climate justice, the trade working group will create a

and climate justice, the trade working group will craft a global liberal position on one of the most important aspects of international politics.

Find out more and express your interest by clicking [here](#).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



CALD and ALDE Party arrange Webinar on Tuesday, 5 May around Harnessing technology to tackle Covid-19



The **LI British Group** discusses their perspectives on the current state of deforestation with experts



Senegal developed one of the world's most affordable Coronavirus testing kits

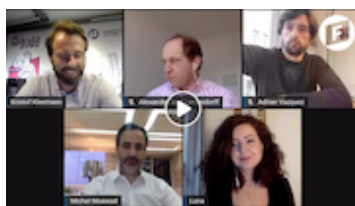
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Margrethe Vestager took part in an online debate on digital sovereignty in the age of pandemics



Parliamentarians discuss the aftermath of the global health crisis on **FNF** online event **MENA on the map**



Together, we can be more than the sum of our parts, tweets Taiwan President
Tsai Ing-wen

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HOW OUR MEMBERS ARE FIGHTING COVID

AFRICA

In the move to level 4 of lockdown, DA proposes wider opening of the economy

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AMERICAS

The liberal family members of Latin America send updates on issues faced due to Covid-19

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ASIA

Amidst the global pandemic, Cambodia's Hun Sen clamps down on Opposition

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EUROPE

Renew Europe committee proposals to respond to the crisis caused by COVID19

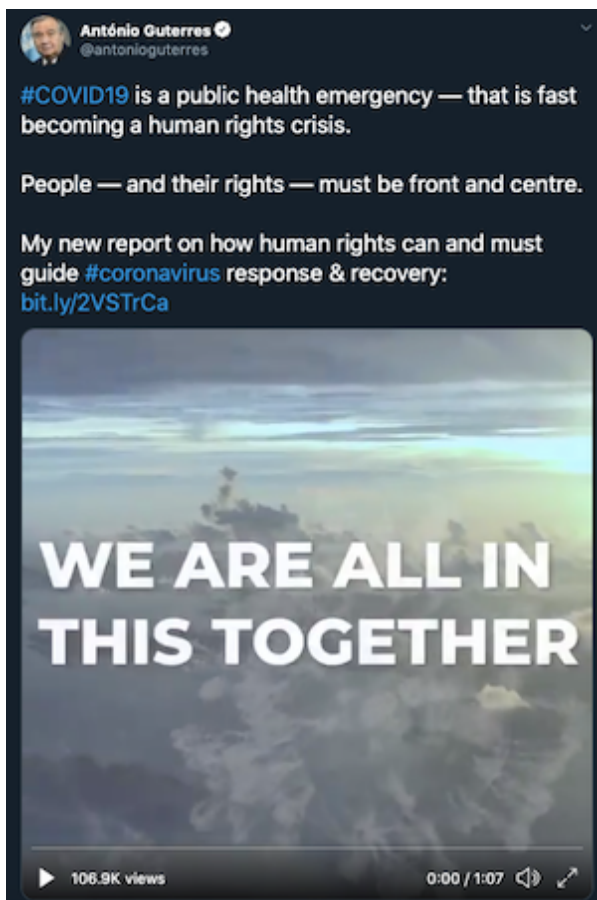
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MENA

Update by FNF on the spread and managing of COVID-19 in Jordan

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TWEET OF THE WEEK



This week's tweet comes from the SG of the UN António Guterres

[VIEW TWEET](#)

Make sure you follow Liberal International on social media.



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)**

**International Committee of
the Red Cross**

**Doctors Without
Borders**

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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](#)
- [ICLN](#)

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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