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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

COUNCIL OF LIBERAL PRESIDENTS



Hakima el Haité
Liberal International President



Liberal International has inaugurated the global Council of Liberal Presidents.

Presidents of the regional liberal networks worldwide met virtually to discuss the challenges facing each continent and coordinate cooperation in the global fight to defeat COVID19.

Convened by **Hakima Elhaité**, President of Liberal International, the council of liberal presidents expressed solidarity with the large scale protests around the world campaigning against violence and systemic racism.

solidarity with the large-scale protests around the world campaigning against violence and systemic racism, affirmed that democracy & the freedom of speech and assembly should not become victims of the pandemic and that only by strengthening multilateral cooperation can the world mitigate the greatest challenges to international peace and stability in our time. The 5 presidents drew up an action plan to address a number of the challenges raised.

[Read the following statement](#)

Joined by:

- ◆ Africa Liberal Network President **Gilbert Noël Ouédraogo**
- ◆ ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen**
- ◆ Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats Chair **Bi-Khim Hsiao**
- ◆ Red Liberal de América Latina - Relial President **Ricardo Gomes**

WATCH VIDEO



'Everything's Under Control: the pandemic of power-grabs'

The coronavirus pandemic has devalued the rule of law, eroded democratic norms and allowed autocrats to tighten their grip on power. This week Hong Kong, Russia, and, just a few hours ago, the Philippines have all seen outrageous abuses of liberal-democratic structures to help autocrats consolidate control.

Joining the debate:

- ◆ European Union Commissioner for Justice, **Didier Reynders**.
- ◆ Open Society European Policy Institute Director, **Heather Grabbe**
- ◆ Liberal International President, **Hakima Elhaité**
- ◆ Hong Kong politician and pro-democracy activist, **Emily Lau**



WATCH HERE

Covid-19 : Et si le Libéralisme et la Mondialisation sont la solution et non le problème ?

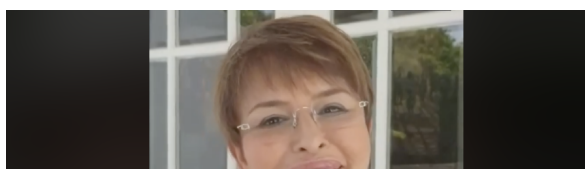
Nous avons le plaisir de vous inviter au webinaire sur "Covid-19: ... Et si le Libéralisme et la Mondialisation étaient la solution et non le problème?", prévu le Mardi, 16 juin 2020 de 10h00 - 11h30, GMT (12h00 - 13h30 en France et en Afrique du Sud).

Cette édition d'Actu-Digital.Forum sera réalisée sur la plateforme virtuelle ZOOM et diffusée en direct sur Facebook. Nous vous faisons tenir, ci-après, le lien de la page Facebook qui vous permettra de rejoindre le Live Facebook et de participer activement au débat.

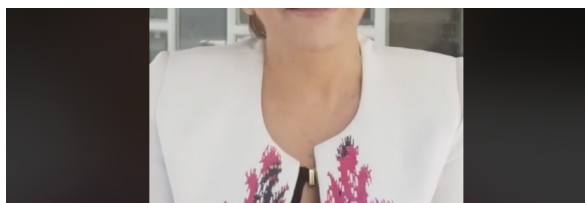


WATCH HERE

Feliz cumpleaños! Happy 4th Anniversary Ciudadanos por la Libertad



On behalf of the entire global liberal family, LI President **Hakima Elhaité** sends best wishes to LI full member party **Ciudadanos por la Libertad** and their leader & LI vice president **Kitty Monterrey** on such a momentous occasion.



[WATCH HERE](#)

BUREAU IN ACTION

Statement: LI Bureau condemns China's demolition of 'one-country-two systems' firewall



On the day that Hong Kong people are set to celebrate the twenty-third anniversary of the Sino-British handover agreement – a treaty to safeguard specific civil and political rights until 2047 – the bureau of Liberal International stands in solidarity with the people of Hong Kong as China enforces its so-called national security law.

[READ MORE](#)

LI President of Honour van Baalen welcomes German EU Presidency as 'honest broker'



LI President of Honour & ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** welcomes the German EU Presidency as an honest broker between those who support the European Commission Recovery Plan as proposed and those who want to safeguard how the money is to be spent.

[READ MORE](#)

LI Deputy President Paqué speaks on the future of democracies in Asia



On 30 June, Liberals set out the case for the future of democracy. Joined by LI Deputy President Prof **Karl-Heinz Paqué** the liberals sought to match political

LI Vice President Al-Sahlani & Hon. Axworthy mark world refugee day



For World Refugee Day 2020, LI brought together World Refugee Council Chair and former Liberal Party of Canada minister of foreign affairs, **Lloyd Axworthy**

From 1945, the liberals sought to match political ambitions with reality and the need for multilateralism.

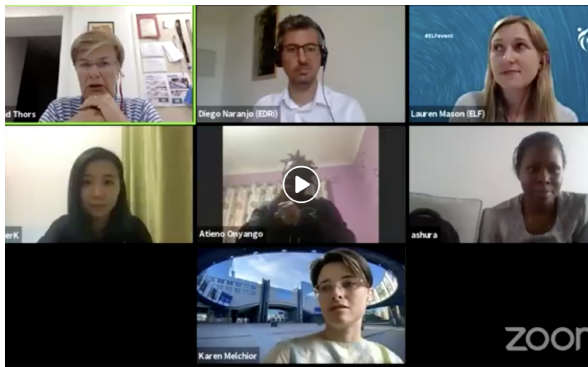
[WATCH HERE](#)

and LI vice-president **Abir Al-Sahhani** MEP to discuss whether the international community is meeting its obligations to protect refugees.

[WATCH HERE](#)

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND CLIMATE JUSTICE

LI Policy Lab: Safeguarding Human Rights in the digital age



On Wednesday 1 July, Liberal International in cooperation with the **European Liberal Forum** gathered policy-makers and experts from around the world to develop ideas around one of the HRC's priority areas of work, digitalisation and human rights.

[WATCH](#)

Pride & Prejudice: A new decade for LGBT+ rights



Ahead of GlobalPride 2020, LI convened a multi-regional panel of LGBT+ activists, politicians and human rights defenders and allies sought to answer what the next decade might look like for the LGBT+ community.

Joined by:

- Dr Juli Minoves** - LI President of Honour
- Milosz Hodun** - International advisor at Nowoczesna
- Hadi Damien** - Founder of Beirut Pride
- Thozama Njobe** - International LGBT+ human rights speaker
- Joyce Teng** - Deputy Executive Director for the Taiwan Equality Campaign

[WATCH](#)

LIDTA Online Session II



Young liberal leaders from around the MENA region convened in June to take part in the second online session of Liberal International's Democratic Training Academy (LIDTA), which was established this year in partnership with VVD International. Representatives of eight countries took part in a morning of discussion on freedom of expression hosted by MEP and Renew Group Vice President **Katalin Cseh**.



[READ MORE](#)

Thank you Viola: Farewell to our SFP staff intern



We bid farewell to **Viola Mikos** who joined LI in February from our full member party **Svenska folkpartiet i Finland (SFP)** as part of the Staff Intern Programme.

We are extremely grateful to have had Viola work with us for 6 months and proud that yet another LI alumni will be moving on to do great things. Ms Mikos will soon begin working at the Finish Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand.

From the Secretariat - Thank you for all your hard work and the great work ethic!

[READ VIOLA'S ARTICLE](#)

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS



#MENAontheMAP - Episode 8: Between Berlin and Amman

[WATCH HERE](#)



Rural safety: should farm attacks in South Africa be reported as hate crimes?

[WATCH HERE](#)



Mu Sochua reports on police brutality in Cambodia

[WATCH HERE](#)

POLITICAL UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS

AFRICA

Ramaphosa's 'Quiet Diplomacy 2.0' towards Zimbabwe exacerbates unfolding crisis

[READ MORE](#)

AMERICAS

Elections & Corruption in the Dominican Republic

[READ MORE](#)

ASIA

Former LI VP Hsiao Taiwan's next ambassador to United States

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EUROPE

Europe's liberals add another PM:
congratulations Micheál Martin

SHARE TWEET

MENA

"Right to public figure critique" project
kicked off by FNF Jordon

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TWEET OF THE WEEK



**#FreedomFightsFake - LI and FNF
launch new global campaign**

VIEW TWEET

Make sure you follow Liberal International on
social media.



DID YOU CATCH OUR PAST COMMUNICATIONS?

Since the pandemic hit LI, together with our members, has been outspoken about the issues related to COVID and offered new ideas and approaches.

You can find our previously published newsletters here:

1st Edition

2nd Edition

3rd Edition

4th Edition

5th Edition

6th Edition

7th Edition

8th Edition

9th Edition

10th Edition

11th Edition

12th Edition

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

around the world to liberate, we need to act as early as possible to minimise the spread of the virus 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](#)

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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