[Liberal International]: A year in review

1 message

Mon, Dec 21, 2020 at 10:10 AM

Liberal International's Newsletter

LIBERAL VISION

Liberal International
www.liberal-international.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

LI PRESIDENT'S END OF YEAR ADDRESS - 21 Dec 2020
Dr. Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International
Liberal International

WATCH VIDEO

Dr Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International

JAN

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Record breaking re-election for President of Taiwan – Tsai Ing-wen

The global Liberal family congratulated President of Taiwan **Tsai Ing-wen** on her record-breaking re-election! We are thrilled that such a strong voice Human Rights from our member party **DPP** will continue to be a beacon of inspiration in a troubled region.

VIEW TWEET

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI President of honour van Baalen supports Taiwan's bid for WHO membership

LI President of Honour & **ALDE Party** President **Hans van Baalen** supports Taiwan's bid for **WHO** membership to fight epidemics such as sars in the past & the coronavirus now. Van Baalen praised Canadian PM **Justin Trudeau** & Japanese PM **Abe Shinzo** for their support of Taiwan.

VIEW TWEET

SECRETARIAT IN ACTION

LI Secretariat planning with FNF to counter Fake News

The LI Secretariat were in Potsdam with **Friedrich Naumann Foundation** and liberals from around the world for advanced planning of our global campaign to fight back against Fake News.

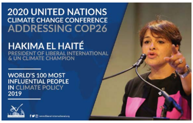
VIEW TWEET

FEB

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

LI president ELHaité promotes the global liberal voice at high-level conference for COP26

At the invitation of **Alok Sharma** & the UK government, LI president and **United Nations** climate champion **Hakima el Haité** was in the UK to engage with a high-level panel of experts in preparation for COP26.



READ MORE

PRESIDENT IN ACTION

The people of Guinea must be free to choose their leaders, demands LI President

"After months of disputes and on the eve of this polarising plebiscite I urge calm & appeal to President **Alpha CONDÉ** to listen to his people."

LI president **Hakima el Haité** calls for calm ahead of Guinea vote

READ MORE

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI Vice President Thors launches women in political parties handbook with Euro MPs

"Liberal International (LI) has 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.

FRIEDRICH NAUMANN FOUNDATION
WIPP INDEX
WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES
DELIVERING GENDER EQUALITY IN POLIT

READ MORE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

LI deputy president responds to Thüringen election

LI deputy president and chairman of the **Friedrich Naumann Foundation** (FNF – LI cooperating organisation), **Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué**, together with **Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger**, FNF Vice-Chairman, and Honorary Chairman and former FDP -Federal Chairman **Dr. Wolfgang Gerhardt**, have issued the following statement on the aborted election deal struck between the FDP, CDU, and AfD in the German state of Thüringen.

READ STATEMENT

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

LI active with biggest delegation to Europe's largest Human Rights NGO conference

Liberal International Human Rights Committee vice-chair, Dr **Phil Bennion**, has 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.

GENEVA SUMMIT 2020
INTERNATIONAL
WOMEN'S RIGHTS AWARD
CONGRATULATIONS!
SHAPARAK SHAJARIZADEH
awarded by DR. STEPHANIE KRISPER
Liberal International Human Rights Committee Member & Austrian MP

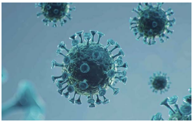
READ MORE

MAR

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

How are Liberals fighting COVID-19?

Liberal International launch a weekly newsletter with regional updates from our Bureau in action to training on COVID-19 and what our membership is doing to combat COVID-19.



SEE COVID SECTION

BUREAU IN ACTION

Coronavirus Bill 2020 Speech by John, Lord Alderdice

Pandemics and crises have thought us lessons in the past. However, in his speech at the Second Reading of Coronavirus Bill 2020, Lord John Alderdice addresses the issue of how a global pandemic creates completely new problems in society. Our global community needs to, among other things, deal with the second pandemic of the moment, a pandemic of anxiety.

WATCH VIDEO

LI President of Honour & ALDE Party President, Hans van Baalen, starts a petition!

Hungary's parliament will consider an emergency bill, that would give prime minister Viktor Orbán sweeping powers to rule by decree, without a clear cut-off date. We need to defend democracy and stand up against the passing of the Authorisation Act and this corona dictatorship! "How can we let Orbán get away with this?" - show your support for **Momentum** and the people of Hungary!

ADD YOUR SIGNATURE

SECRETARIAT IN ACTION

LI Secretariat held a strategy meeting with EU EEAS

Ahead of the launch later this year of the **LI-FNFreiheit** global campaign to fight fake news and disinformation, a team from the LI secretariat held a strategy meeting with the EU EEAS.

VIEW TWEET

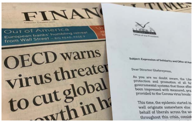
POLITICAL STATEMENTS

LI, ALDE Party & FNF Joint Declaration: Taiwan Should Get WHO Assistance

In a joint declaration by LI President **Dr. Hakima el Haité**, ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** & FNF Chairman **Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué**; the global liberal family stand firm in our support & commitment for LI Member Party DPP Taiwan and President **Tsai Ing-wen** in demanding that the **World Health Organisation** offers Taiwan assistance and allows Taiwan to share their COVID-19 lessons and best practices.

READ DECLARATION

LI president's open letter to WHO calls for 'humanity beyond politics'


FINAN
Out of America
European banks' humbling retreat from Wall Street
OECD warns virus threat to cut global growth in h

As the global coronavirus epidemic spreads and the world's governments plan contingency measures, LI President **Dr. Hakima el Haite** extends an offer of assistance to World Health Organisation (WHO) Director General, **Dr. Tedros Ghebreysus**, in the development of ideas to respond to the crisis.

READ LETTER

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

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

As Liberal International raised last week, a soar in domestic violence cases is being reported from countries all over the world where people are being restricted from leaving their homes. For example, reported cases tripled in China, Brazil has seen a 50% rise, and France a 35% increase since restrictions on movement were put in place.

READ MORE

Covid-related stimulus packages are an opportunity to accelerate toward a green economy

THE CLIMATE IS CHANGING
WHY AREN'T WE?

Economic plans worth trillions of dollars in public money are being rolled out to stave off the immediate collapse of some badly hit businesses, such as airlines and tourism – and to protect the incomes of workers in danger of redundancy as normal life becomes impossible across Europe and large parts of the US, as it already has in many parts of east Asia.

READ MORE

APR

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Lib Dems' William Townsend is LI's new acting Secretary General

Following the resignation of **Gordon Mackay** as LI Secretary General, **William Townsend** – LI's head of communication and political outreach – has been appointed Acting Secretary General by the bureau of Liberal International.

READ HERE

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI Vice President Dr. Karl-Heinz Paqué calls out WHO on the treatment of Taiwan

COVID-19 presents lessons in how a guaranteed basic income program could work, writes LI Vice President Art Eggleton

An island next door to China with a population of 23.6 people, parliamentary democracy with a liberal president, has delivered best practice in fighting Covid-19. But nobody is interested, least the World Health Organisation (WHO). This is a scandal, says Karl-Heinz Paqué, Deputy President of Liberal International and President of Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom.

READ MORE

COVID-19 presents lessons in how a guaranteed basic income program could work, writes **Eggleton** and colleague **Segal**. There is a need for an efficient, effective and equitable joint approach to poverty abatement nation-wide.

READ ARTICLE

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.

READ MORE

LI VP Diallo: COVID19 risks downfall of democracy in Guinea

LI vice-president **Cellou Dalein Diallo**, who also leads LI full member **UFDG** Guinea, has spoken about the danger of democracy's demise in his country in the wake of the reckless decision of President Alpha Condé to hold legislative elections and a controversial referendum as the coronavirus grips many parts of Africa.

READ MORE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Hong Kong clampdown: Joint statement of LI, FNF, CALD and ALDE Party

As the world struggles to contain the COVID-19 virus, the Hong Kong administration unleashes another 'pandemic' on the leaders of the political opposition and their supporters. In the joint statement, the parts call on the Hong Kong administration to stop political persecution and release politicians in detention

READ STATEMENT

The UN must not abandon the most vulnerable to COVID19, says Refugee Council

A letter from the World Refugee Council, signed by Canada's former foreign minister and a member of the Canadian Group of LI (LI full member), Lloyd Axworthy, has called for the UN Secretary-General António Guterres to prioritise the rights of refugees, as the pandemic strikes the most vulnerable.

READ LETTER

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

LI HRC member Nilsson Söderström say: In times of crisis, we must stand up for liberal democracy.

The first edition of Liberal International's Climate Justice Bulletin is now online

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
Freiheit

The corona pandemic is not only a threat to our health and economy, but also to liberal democracy. Authoritarian regimes are increasing their powers and cracking down on both civil society and political opposition. In these difficult times, we need more - not less - liberalism, internationalism and solidarity.

READ MORE

1ST EDITION
LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
CLIMATE JUSTICE
BULLETIN

The climate justice committee and LI's President, **Hakima El Haité**, have been hard at work promoting a liberal climate perspective - The following are a collection of the highlights of LI's work in this field.

READ HERE

MAY

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Can Digital Social Innovation Work In Sub-Saharan Africa?

Liberal International together with **African Liberal Network**, **Council of Liberal Asians** and **FNF Africa** hosted a webinar with Taiwan's digital minister, **Audrey Tang**, as she shared lessons from Taiwan's successful pandemic response.

Read more on Taiwan's successful response to the Pandemic and how Taiwan can help on the "**Taiwan can help"-website**

Jules Maaten
Audrey Tang
Me GNO 2020
ELHAITE

WATCH HERE

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI Honorary President Alderdice moderates webinar on post-covid challenges

Our Shared Future in the Wake of a Global Pandemic

LI President of Honour **Lord John Alderdice** moderated the online event *Our shared future in the wake of a global pandemic: Impact on economic, social and environmental divides* organized by the Victoria forum. The discussion evolved around globalization and the economy in a post-pandemic world and what COVID-19 is revealing about the extent to which we are connected or divided.

WATCH HERE

LI Honorary President Neyts-Uyttebroeck participates in ELF podcast on age divide

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed the rifts between the various groups in our societies. The divide between the old and young appears to have deepened, as the virus has shown how people of different ages are affected in different ways, not only in terms of mortality, but also in terms of impact on daily life. Listen to the discussion featuring LI President of Honour **Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck** on the **ELF** podcast.

LISTEN HERE

The government should listen to the MP's, says LI VP Sittheeamorn

Thai PBS
WORLD

Liberal Leaders: It is time to restore Democracy in Cambodia

Vice President of the Liberal International Bureau **Kiat Sittheeamorn** participated in talks with Thai PBS World, around the future of the Thai economy. Mr Sittheeamorn also points out that the MP's are currently bringing forward important views and recommendations that can be used in practice and that the Government should pay attention to.

WATCH HERE

Prominent political leaders **Hakima el Haité**, **Mu Sochua** and ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** have set out the action they have taken internationally to support LI full member **Cambodia National Rescue Party** and the Cambodian people in restoring democracy to Cambodia. Watch and listen to the next steps that Liberal International is taking to support freedom and keep the spotlight on Cambodia featuring LI nominal VP **Emil Kirjas**, and the liberal leaders.

WATCH HERE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

LI Bureau Statement: Time is running out to save Hong Kong

The bureau of **Liberal International** condemns the Chinese government's intention to impose a so-called 'national security law' on Hong Kong – a precursor to direct rule from Beijing – in contradiction to the terms set out in the 1997 handover agreement. The bureau calls on governments around the world to demonstrate similar resolve in defending Hong Kong and resisting further aggression from China.

READ STATEMENT

Liberals will fight for Taiwan's recognition at WHA

The bureau of Liberal International deplores the decision of the World Health Assembly to deprive Taiwan of retaking its seat as an observer to the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation on Monday 18th May.

READ STATEMENT

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

COVID-aid must not fuel corruption and undermine the rule of law

CORRUPTION

With large sums of money being distributed quickly to keep the world economy alive, it is essential that public authorities and civil society watchdogs ensure that the money reaches those who need it most. If not, the measures taken to relieve the effects of the coronavirus may fuel corruption, crime and undermine the rule of law for many years to come.

READ ARTICLE

Renewable energy powering our food chains: COVID19 fighter & future-proof

Using renewable technology to adequately supply good quality nutrition is part of the COVID19 response necessary to keep our communities healthy, but it is also a solution for maintaining a sustainable supply chain that can be scaled internationally or kept local and that, importantly, can help us become more resilient to future global level environmental threats.

READ ARTICLE

JUN

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Liberal International inaugurates global Council of Liberal Presidents

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, 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.

COUNCIL OF LIBERAL PRESIDENTS
Ricardo Gomes
Hans van Baalen
Hakima El Haité
Gilbert Ouédraogo
Bi-Khim Hsiao
RELIAL
alde

READ STATEMENT

PRESIDENT IN ACTION

'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.

WATCH HERE

BUREAU IN ACTION

The Pandemic Dilemma: Recession or Contagion?

Liberal International Bureau members **Prof. Karl-Heinz Paqué**, **Hans van Baalen,** and **Abir Al-Sahlani** participated in webinar organized by the **Council of Asian Liberals and Democrats** (CALD), in close cooperation with the **ALDE Party** and **FNF Korea**. The Webinar will addresses the considerations should countries take into account to prevent a second wave of coronavirus outbreak as they reopen their economy.

WATCH HERE

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 ambitions with reality and the need for multilateralism.

WATCH HERE

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

WORLD REFUGEE DAY
Every Action Counts!
18 June 2020
19:30 (UK Time)
Join us this Thursday
LIVE
facebook.com/LiberalInternational
Hon. Lloyd Axworthy
Chair of the World Refugee Council & Former foreign minister of Canada
Abir Al-Sahlani MEP
Liberal International vice president & Member of European Parliament
#LIHRC #WorldRefugeeDay

WATCH HERE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

LI calls for solidarity with Black Lives Matters

BLACK LIVES MATTER

As liberals, we must take the lead against racism,

Liberal International endorses World Refugee Council's call to do more to support refugees threatened by COVID-19

we must continue the fight for human rights at home, in the coffee shop, in policy-making, and, crucially, on the streets – If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.
All lives won't matter until black lives matter.

READ STATEMENT

LI President **Hakima el Haité** and Bureau member and HRC president **Astrid Thors** address His Excellency **António Guterres** Secretary-General of the United Nations in letter.

READ LETTER

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

LI Policy Lab: Safeguarding Human Rights in the digital age

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 HERE

Pride & Prejudice: A new decade for LGBT+ rights

#GlobalPride

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.

WATCH HERE

JUL

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

'The human rights of millions are now threatened', El Haité tells UN high commissioner

LI president Dr. **Hakima el Haité** has written to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, HE. **Michelle Bachelet**, to call for urgent intervention regarding the enforcement of Philippines' President **Rodrigo Duterte's** so-called 'anti-terror' law.

READ RESPONSE

READ LETTER

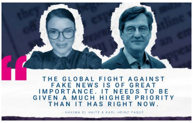
BUREAU IN ACTION

Climate & rule of law engrained elements for EU budget spending

LI President, Dr **Hakima el Haité** and LI President of Honour,
Hans van Baalen, congratulate & EU Council President
Charles Michel on delivering not just for Europe but for the international community with this EU budget. For the first time, climate objectives & respect for the rule of law are now engrained elements for budget spending of EU member states. View our #WhatLiberalsThink series and share our tweet

VIEW TWEET

LI-FNF global campaign research reveals interesting stats on disinformation


THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST FAKE NEWS IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. IT NEEDS TO BE GIVEN A MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY THAN IT HAS RIGHT NOW.
- HAKIMA EL HAITÉ & KARL-HEINZ PAQUÉ

Bill Gates, Chinese bio-weapons or 5G networks: disinformation surrounding the coronavirus permeates societies around the world, as a global study conducted by the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom shows. Dr **Hakima el Haité**, President of Liberal International, and Prof. **Karl-Heinz Paqué**, Deputy President of Liberal International, declare the following statement.

READ STATEMENT

Technological innovations & competitive business models - Southern Cone success in agriculture

LI Vice President **Robert Woodthorpe Browne** moderated a webinar hosted by the Paddy Ashdown Forum, European Liberal Forum, GPS & RELIAL on "Sustainability of Agricultural Systems in the Southern Cone Countries"

WATCH HERE

'Tanzania: civic space must be respected', LI vice president Thors

LI vice president & LI Human Rights Committee Chair, **Astrid Thors**, has expressed concern over the crackdown on civic spaces in Tanzania. UN human rights experts have also called on the Tanzanian government to end the suppression on freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association.

VIEW TWEET

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

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 STATEMENT

LI calls for accountability in the incommunicado detention of Philippine Senator Leila de Lima

This statement, submitted to the United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, Liberal International calls for accountability in this long case of incommunicado detention. Such conditions are illegal by both international and Philippine law and are particularly damaging for a working political representative.

READ STATEMENT

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

“New normal” must not sacrifice democracy and human rights

VOTING STATION

As the spread of the coronavirus shows few signs of slowing down and people increasingly settle into what is becoming known as the “new normal”, it is important to remain vigilant against the measures remaining in place or even being reinstated to control the virus spread.

READ ARTICLE

Climate justice principles should be central in climate finance

The 2015 Paris Agreement was an auspicious moment for climate finance - a pledge to mobilise US$100 billion per year by 2020 in “new and additional” funds to help developing countries avoid, or at least adapt to, the worst effects of climate change.

READ ARTICLE

AUG

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Dr El Haité pens letter to ECOWAS Chairperson

Following on from the statement on Mail, Dr el Haité has written to H.E **Mahamadou Issoufou**, ECOWAS Chairperson and President of Niger for his support.

CEDEAO
ECOWAS

READ LETTER

BUREAU IN ACTION

Internationally recognised borders of Ukraine should be respected: LI PoH van Baalen

On Monday 24 August, LI President ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen** congratulated the Ukrainian people on their 29th anniversary as an independent state. Van Baalen stressed that the internationally recognised borders of Ukraine should be respected.

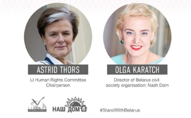
WATCH VIDEO

Another peaceful protest in Guinea ends in bloodshed

The right to protest peacefully is a fundamental value that unites liberals around the world. Liberals around the world will therefore want to unite with LI vice-president and leader of **UFDG** (LI Full Member), **Cellou Dalein Diallo**, and leader of **UFR** (LI Full Member) **Sidya Touré** in condemning the violence which targeted opposition protesters in Guinea in late July 2020, killing or injuring scores of people.

READ MORE

Europe's last dictator wobbles: What next for Belarus?


ASTRID THORS
LI Human Rights Committee Chairperson
OLGA KARATCH
Director of Belarus civil society organisation: Nash Dom
НАШ ДОМ
#StandWithBelarus

Liberal International brought together **Olga Karatch**, founder and director of Belarusian civil rights organisation *Nash Dom*, and **Astrid Thors**, LI Vice President and Chair of the LI Human Rights Committee to discuss the situation in Belarus in a fireside chat.

READ MORE

Liberals are Nicaragua's only viable option for uniting opposition in 2021 elections

Ciudadanos por la Libertad

In an interview with **PanAm Post**, LI Vice President and Leader of **Ciudadanos por la Libertad**, **Kitty Monterrey** clearly sets out why the liberals are Nicaragua's only viable option for uniting the opposition in the 2021 elections.

READ MORE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Mali – Empower democratic institutions and respect the rule of law

STATEMENT ON MALI
AFRICA LIBERAL NETWORK
RESEAU LIBERAL AFRICAIN

LI condemns pro-democracy lawmakers arrest in Hong Kong

STATEMENT ON HONG KONG

In a joint statement, **Liberal International** and the **Africa Liberal Network** are extremely concerned about the situation in Mali.

We called on the release of Hon. **Soumaila Cissé**, leader of URD Mali, as well as called for the empowerment of the people through the establishment of democratic institutions.

READ MORE

The bureau of **Liberal International** condemns the arrest of two Hong Kong opposition lawmakers, Mr **Lam Cheuk-ting** and Mr **Ted Hui Chi-fung** – both from the **Democratic Party** (DP) and critics of Beijing – on Wednesday, 26 August 2020 as the crackdown on pro-democracy supporters widens.

We stand in support of pro-democracy and the people of Hong Kong.

READ MORE

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

LI HRC Report 2019

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
2019

"Our response as liberals must be to working together around the world, across borders. What we do in one country has consequences in others." - LI HRC Chair **Astrid Thors**.

Read the report to find out more about the activities undertaken by the committee during 2019!

READ REPORT

Earth Overshoot Day, Overshot: Why we need to invest in a climate friendly-recovery

The rate at which humanity is consuming the Earth's resources declined sharply this year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Consequently, **Earth Overshoot Day**, the point at which human consumption exceeds the amount nature can regenerate in a year, has moved back by over three weeks from 29 July in 2019 to 22 August this year.

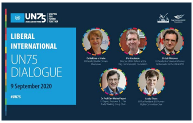
READ ARTICLE

SEP

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

LI Committees gather to discuss liberal answers to the future of the UN

Liberal International, through its general consultative status, has actively participated in the work of UN bodies such as UNFCCC, UN Women, and the UN Human Rights Council. To increase our involvement and promote liberal ideas in the UN reform process, LI brought together experts from around the world to discuss the future of the UN and where it is headed. In particular, the event focused on what is needed from the now 75-year-old organisation to achieve these reforms.


UN75 2020 AND BEYOND
SHAPING OUR FUTURE TOGETHER
LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
UN75 DIALOGUE
9 September 2020
#UN75
Dr Hakima el Haité
LI President & UN Climate Champion
Per Knutsson
Director of UN Reform at the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation
Dr Juli Minoves
LI President of Honour & former Ambassador to the UN & WTO
Dr Prof Karl-Heinz Paqué
LI Deputy President & LI Fair Trade Working Group Chair
Astrid Thors
LI Vice President & LI Human Rights Committee Chair

READ ARTICLE

PRESIDENT IN ACTION

Success at COP26: lessons from COPs past

The panel discussion with former negotiators and influencers in the **UNFCC COP** process to discuss what will make or break success for **COP26**. The speakers, including LI president **Hakima el Haité,** drew on their experience in past negotiations and on the current direction of climate policy more broadly to highlight areas to watch over the coming year, including an indication of where battle lines are likely to be drawn and potential solutions.

CLIMATE WEEK NYC
THE CLIMATE GROUP
SUCCESS AT COP26:
LESSONS FROM COPS PAST
DR HAKIMA EL HAITÉ
President of Liberal International & UN Climate Champion
WED 23RD SEP. - 9AM EST / 2PM BST / 9PM CST

WATCH HERE

BUREAU IN ACTION

The Importance of Berlin's thinking – a book review on The Philosophy of Isaiah Berlin

Discuss ending impunity in Cambodia

Liberal International
Isaiah Berlin Lecture
Lord Alderdice

Ahead of Liberal International's 2020 Isaiah Berlin Lecture *Ten Commandments of Isaiah Berlin* with Dr **Henry Hardy** – an editor and author who has (co-)published 18 volumes of Berlin's work – LI is sharing a series of insights into Isaiah Berlin and his works. Here, LI President of Honour, **Lord Alderdice**, shares his review of Johnny Lyons' book, The Philosophy of Isaiah Berlin.

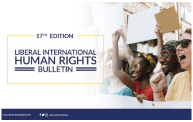
READ MORE

Guest speakers **Mu Sochua**, **Kasit Piromya** & LI Vice President and MEP **Abir Al-Sahlani** discussing ending impunity in Cambodia.

READ MORE

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

17th LI HRC Bulletin



In the 17th instalment of the *human rights bulletin,* LI HRC goes online to host webinars, the Liberal Principles of Digitalisation and Human Rights are established and the 2019 annual report is published.

READ BULLETIN

Climate Justice Impact Sessions

CLIMATE
MIGRATION
IMPACT SERIES.
5 – 26 SEPTEMBER 2020
#ClimateMigration
D66

Liberal International, in partnership with D66 (LI full member, the Netherlands), is pleased to announce that our upcoming series of expert webinars as part of our **Climate Justice Impact Sessions Project** which kicked off on Saturday, 5 September.

READ MORE

OCT

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

LI kicks off online festival coinciding with LI virtual congress

Liberal International's virtual congress 'festival' - a series of more than 14 online political events spanning 3 weeks - concluded last week.

Together with our partners, we convened panels in English, French, and Spanish featuring parliamentarians, global businesses leaders, NGOs, journalists and academics. In testing liberal answers to today's most urgent political issues, from the **US elections** to fighting **COVID** and battling **disinformation**, we reached almost 750,000 people around the world!

The LI membership voted and adopted a new constitution, opening LI up to more liberal and democratic Think-Tanks and international organisations.

LIBERAL
INTERNATIONAL
EXTRAORDINARY
VIRTUAL CONGRESS
20 OCT 2020

CATCH UP OR WATCH AGAIN

READ NEW CONSTITUTION

BUREAU IN ACTION

Isaiah Berlin Lecture: Ten Commandments of Isaiah Berlin

Liberal International
Isaiah Berlin Lecture
Dr Hakima el Haité
Lord Alderdice
Dr Henry Hardy

LI hosted the 20th anniversary of the LI Isaiah Berlin Lecture with keynote speaker Dr **Henry Hardy**, who shared the 10 Commandments every liberal needs to carry with them today. Opening the lecture was LI president Dr **Hakima el Haité** and closed in conversation with LI president of honour, Lord Alderdice.

READ ARTICLE

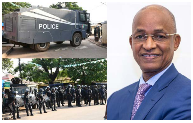
POLITICAL STATEMENTS

Nordic Liberals demand release of Belarus human rights leader after sham trial

Julia Mickiewicz, member of the Belarus Coordination Council, was arrested by the Belarusian authorities. Mickiewicz was due to be in Stockholm, meeting with among others LI Bureau member **Abir al Sahlani**, MEP, and **Kerstin Lundgren**, MP, foreign policy spokesperson for Centerpartiet.

READ STATEMENT

European Liberals slam ‘illegal home arrest’ of Guinea’s liberal leader following elections



Adding support to LI’s call for the rights and freedoms of Guinea’s main opposition leader, Cellou Diallo, leader of LI full member **UFDG**, the president of the **Renew Group** in the European Parliament (LI full member) has spoken out about and said he is “extremely worried by the tensions surrounding the presidential elections in the Republic of Guinea.”

READ STATEMENT

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

Launched: Liberal International Gender Equality Report

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL
GENDER EQUALITY REPORT
FINDINGS OF THE 2020 WOMEN IN POLITICAL PARTIES INDEX

In October LI was proud to launch the inaugural Liberal International Gender Equality Report! This report presents the findings of the 2020 Women in Political Parties Index, the first of its kind tool developed by Liberal International to assist our membership in evaluating and improving their inclusivity as political parties.

READ REPORT

Climate Migration Impact Series: Campaign Launch

As part of the **LI-D66** climate migration impact series, the participants set out their proposal for a global campaign to promote effective policies on climate migration. The campaign was followed by an expert discussion.

READ MORE

NOV

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

LI President extends congratulations to US President-elect Biden

CONGRATULATIONS
PRESIDENT-ELECT BIDEN
AND VP-ELECT HARRIS

LI President Dr **Hakima el Haité** writes to US President-elect, Joe Biden, extending her warm congratulations on the Biden-Harris election victory and the historic success for the Democrat Party.

READ LETTER

BUREAU IN ACTION

Council of Liberal Presidents – Joint Statement

COUNCIL OF LIBERAL PRESIDENTS

Meeting virtually on Tuesday 3 November, the Council of Liberal Presidents convened by Liberal International President Dr **Hakima el Haité**, discussed the state of liberal democracy around the world and agreed on the following joint statement

READ STATEMENT

LI bureau expresses concern over El Guergarat border zone

The bureau of Liberal international condemns **Polisario's** calls for violence and its choice to risk conflict with the Kingdom of Morocco.

READ STATEMENT

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

LI bureau outraged by China's arrest of pan-democracy activists and legislators

The arrest of seven pan-democracy legislators in Hong Kong this past weekend has provided the world with a familiar *coup d'oeil* of the island's rapidly diminishing political and human rights guarantees, which had already been severely fractured in June this year with the imposition of China's so called 'national security law.'

READ STATEMENT

Georgian Dream must find political compromise to stem deepening democratic crisis

The bureau of Liberal International applauds the diligence of the opposition, and in particular the Republican Party, who are working to ensure that the numerous irregularities, frauds, and failures are carefully compiled; insodoing, the Republicans must be recognised as honest advocates for the rule of law in Georgia.

READ STATEMENT

DEC

FEATURE OF THE MONTH

Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) re-elected leader Mustafa Karadayi during party's National Conference

The Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) has re-elected its leader Mustafa Karadayi during the party's National Conference held online yesterday. The national conference was held under the motto "Freedom, unity, togetherness".

Karadayi called the MRF "builders of democratic Bulgaria, a pillar of democracy and peace in the country, a bridge for tolerance in the Balkans and for reforms in Europe".

READ ARTICLE

WATCH HAKIMA'S SPEECH

WATCH MRF CONFERENCE

PRESIDENT IN ACTION

LI President El Haité - Speech to LIDTA Graduates

LI President Dr **Hakima el Haité** together with LI member party and partner **VVD** & **VVD International** hosted our first graduation ceremony and congratulated the participants of the Liberal International Democratic Training Academy (LIDTA)

DEMOCRATIC
TRAINING ACADEMY
VIRTUAL GRADUATION CEREMONY - 5 Dec 2020
Dr. Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International

WATCH GRADUATION

LI President addresses IFLRY's You(th) 4 Climate Conference

Starting with a supportive and inspiring speech by LI President Dr **Hakima el Haité** young liberals joined IFLRY's conference bringing forward ideas to influence policy and decision making. Introductory remarks were made by IFLRY Climate Change Programme **Perla Hernandez** as the conversation continued with **Susanna Rivero**, **Karin Karlsbro** and **Svitlana Krakovska**.

WATCH SPEECH

"Peace, success and stability" - LI Presidents message in Côte d'Ivoire

LI president **El Haité** conveyed a message to the President of Côte d'Ivoire H.E **Alassane Ouattara** on behalf of the global liberal family as she met the African head of state as a special guest during President Ouattara's inauguration.

LI stands ready to assist in further developing good relations.

READ ARTICLE

POLITICAL STATEMENTS

The LI Human Rights Committee call out "corona dictators" on Human Rights Day

As the LI HRC reflects on 2020 this Human Rights Day, we recall
a year where a global pandemic has too often been used as an excuse for authoritarians and dictators, across the globe, to increase their own power at the expense of the rights of their people or the opposition in their countries.

INTERNATIONAL
HUMAN
RIGHTS
DAY
10 DEC 2020
LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL

READ STATEMENT

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS & CLIMATE JUSTICE

The digital divide solidifies inequality and undermines equality of opportunity

The coronavirus pandemic has served as a stark reminder of the importance of internet access for participation in society. Lockdowns and other severe restrictions on movement have forced a large part of the world's population to move both professional and social interactions online. With an increasingly large portion of our lives being conducted virtually, internet access has become a crucial tool for individuals to take advantage of their opportunities in society.

READ MORE

Climate change – science vs. politics

no intelligent
species would destroy
their only
HOME PLANET

Climate change has since recently completely dominated our lives, and rightfully so. The notion that our time on this planet is running out unless we make a significant change in our behaviour has pushed us into double thinking what and where we buy things from, how often we travel, how we deal with our waste and the type of food we consume.We have seen business pledging carbon neutrality, we have seen politicians launching historic climate deals, and we have seen young people ruthlessly flooding the public space with the urgency of climate change, to make the whole world listen.

READ ARTICLE

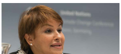
MORE STATEMENTS & LETTERS

Liberal democrats must not lose sight of risks to stability in Caucasus region as Nagorno-Karabakh peace deal signed

ARMENIA
AZERBAIJAN
NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Liberal International calls for female representation in Somali elections at UN HRC

Guinea's Conde must not be allowed to exploit Coronavirus for political ends



READ HERE READ HERE READ HERE

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:

VIEW PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

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

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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