Liberal International's Newsletter
LIBERAL VISION

Liberal International
www.liberal-international.org

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

" Our mission now must be to re-embrace multilateralism. To unite and strengthen liberal democratic traditions the world over and to tackle climate injustice. "

READ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International

LI President sends best wishes to the Liberal Party of the Philippines

LI President Dr **Hakima el Haité**, shared this video message to the **Liberal Party** of the Philippines on their 75th Anniversary

WATCH VIDEO

LI President condemns the recent fuelling of violent protesters by outgoing President

January 6th, we witnessed the worst attack on the world's oldest democracy, the United States, in over 200 years. President Trump called on his supporters to march together to the Capitol against the results of the elections. This resulted in a horrible breach of the USA Capitol in Washington DC, whereby the officials hiding in the building feared for their lives, leaving 5 dead and dozens hospitalised, and a sacred building, a symbol of democracy worldwide, desecrated in the wake of this violent insurrection.

STATEMENT ON THE USA CAPITOL BREACH

READ STATEMENT

LI Bureau condemns China's latest wave of arrests of political opposition in Hong Kong and calls for release of political prisoners

The LI Bureau strongly condemn the continuing violations of fundamental political and human rights of Hongkongers by the Chinese authorities. The arrest of an international lawyer amongst the 53 people detained in early morning raids on Wednesday, 6 January 2021, represents an escalation of Beijing's suppression; demonstrating the dangers of dissent in the would-be new Hong Kong that China seeks to create.

STATEMENT ON CHINA - HONG KONG ARRESTS

READ STATEMENT

Democracy must not be further delayed in Somalia

The Bureau of Liberal International is deeply concerned by the election deadlock that continues to undermine the soon-to-be-held presidential and parliamentary elections in Somalia.

A political stalemate of this kind will once again hinder work towards democratic consolidation and participation as the elections rapidly approach. Democracy delayed is democracy denied and further undermines efforts to promote peace and stability in Somalia and across the Horn of Africa.

STATEMENT ON SOMALIA

READ STATEMENT

LI, FNF, and ALN call for democracy and human rights to be respected in the Ugandan elections

LI, FNF and ALN are deeply concerned by the continued human rights violations that occurred in the run-up to the presidential and parliamentary elections in Uganda, which took place on January 14th. These violations include arbitrary arrests, detention, and torture. Reports indicate that many covid-19 restrictions have been enforced selectively, to curtail the political participation of the opposition

STATEMENT ON UGANDA'S ELECTIONS

READ STATEMENT

LI Bureau Denounces Military Coup in Myanmar

Since 2015 the Liberal International Bureau has observed with cautious optimism, and encouraged with vigour, the slow transition towards democracy in Myanmar. It is with great alarm that we note the military seizure of power in the country in recent days and denounce this significant step backwards, away from the development of political and human rights.

STATEMENT ON MYANMAR COUP

READ STATEMENT

LI congratulates new Prime Minister of Estonia, Kaja Kallas

LI President Dr Hakima el Haité sends letter of congratulations to Prime Minister **Kaja Kallas** & Reform Party, for forming a new coalition, and Estonia's first women-led, government!

The global liberal family wishes the new government all the best for the work of creating a sustainable and liberal future for Estonia.

Palju õnne! Kaja Kallas

READ LETTER

LI congratulates newly elected Ugandan MP, Flavia Nabagabe

The global liberal family congratulates H.E **Bobi Wine**'s National Unity Platform (NUP) and NUP women's league chair, Ms **Flavia Kalule Nabagabe** for gaining a seat in as an MP in Uganda's Parliament.

Ms Nabagabe joined LI, ALN & FNF Africa in Johannesburg in 2019 for our Digitalisation & Human Rights event, and NUP took part in LI's Political Startup Incubator.

Congratulations! Flavia Kalule Nabagabe

VIEW TWEET

LI congratulates President Biden and Vice President Harris

Throughout Trump's presidency, LI has been working closely with our friends & colleagues in the USA to promote our liberal values & defend democracy.

The global liberal family were united in welcoming the inauguration of President **Joe Biden** & Vice President **Kamala Harris.**

CONGRATULATIONS PRESIDENT BIDEN AND VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS

VIEW TWEET

LI congratulates UPC Leader, Zéphirin Diabré on new Ministerial position

Congratulations to Hon. Zéphirin Diabré, President of UPC on his appointment as Minister of Reconciliation and National Cohesion for Burkina Faso.

We wish you all the very best in your new role Minister Z. Diabré!

Hon. Zéphirin Diabré FÉLICITATIONS

VIEW TWEET

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB - APRIL 2021
2nd Annual WIPP Index Survey opens

2021
Liberal International's 63rd Congress

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

8 Feb 2021 (not confirmed)
Somalia, Presidential Elections

17 March 2021 (confirmed)
The Netherlands, Dutch Second Chamber

23 March 2021 (confirmed)
Israel, Dutch Second Chamber

31 March 2021 (confirmed)
Congo- Brazzaville, Presidential Elections

4 April 2021 (confirmed)
Bulgaria, Parliamentary Election

BUREAU IN ACTION

LI Deputy President Paqué participated in panel on sustainability, vaccinations and economics

The extension of lockdowns has demanded a high degree of willingness to make sacrifices and solidarity from the entire population. To find out sustainable solutions, ethical answers to questions on vaccination and solutions for hard-hit economies, **Friedrich Naumann Foundation** assembled a panel of experts to explain a sustainable strategy in the fight against COVID19, with LI Deputy President **Karl-Heinz Paqué**.

WATCH VIDEO

Leader for European liberals greets new administration

On 20 January 2021 **Joe Biden**, the 46th President of the United States and **Kamala Harris** as the first female Vice President, were inaugurated. **ALDE Party** President and LI President of Honour **Hans van Baalen** welcomed the new administration, eager to rebuild the transatlantic relationship.

READ MORE

Political courage beyond party lines in support of the common good

LI President of Honour, peace contributor and mediation expert **Lord Alderdice** narrated how to engage with each other as human beings, beyond politics. In the series with **Scherto Gril**l, Lord Alderdice tells his personal story of shaking hands with a politician that has a background with the Irish Republican Army.

READ MORE

Electoral reforms demanded by the only voice of democracy in Nicaragua

Ciudadanos por la Libertad (CxL) and Alianza Cívica por la Justicia y la Democracia, with the lead of CxL leader and LI Vice President **Kitty Monterrey**, called on all opposition organisations to demand electoral reforms to create a trustworthy system in Nicaragua.

READ MORE

LI Vice President Al-Sahlani responsible for EU Parliament's new labour immigration policy

LI Vice President and Centerpartiet's MEP **Abir Al-Sahlani** has been appointed to negotiate on behalf of the European Parliament in drafting new legislation for labour and immigration and for expanded legal routes to the EU.

READ MORE

Kiat Sittheeamorn defends the Cambodian opposition right to return

LI Vice President **Kiat Sittheeamorn** issued a statement on **Hun Sen** regime's decision to not grant a visa to **Mu Sochua**, the **Cambodia National Rescue Party** (CNRP) vice president, underlining the importance of letting the opposition defend themselves in the trials.

READ MORE

LI Treasurer Pallarés wants a Civil Service dedicated to its citizens.

In her role as the Minister of Civil Service for Andorra, LI Treasurer Judith Pallarés works for offering quality service to each citizen, with one of the changes being upgrades to the communication of the Administration's work. The changes are part of Andorra's agenda for 2030.

READ MORE

SECRETARY GENERAL IN ACTION

LI bureau announces appointment of secretary general, William Townsend

The bureau of Liberal International has appointed the **Liberal Democrats**' (United Kingdom, LI full member) **William Townsend** secretary-general of the global federation after he was made acting secretary-general last year.

READ SG APPOINTMENT

LI Secretary-General signs partnership agreement inaugurating the Amadou Gon Coulibaly Political Training Institute

On behalf of the President of Liberal International, Dr **Hakima el Haité**, LI Secretary-General, **William Townsend**, was in Abidjan today to sign a partnership agreement inaugurating the **Amadou Gon Coulibaly** Political Training Institute (IFP-AGC).

READ MORE

LI Secretary-General meets with former French PM Raffarin discussing Guinea's shrinking democratic space under President Condé

In Ivory Coast, LI Secretary-General **Will Townsend** met former Prime Minister of France & Chairman of Leaders pour la Paix **Jean-Pierre Raffarin**. Their talks included advancing youth leadership in politics, human rights, & Guinea's shrinking democratic space under President Alpha Condé.

VIEW TWEET

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CLIMATE JUSTICE & FAIR TRADE

LI and Radikale Venstre launch joint campaign to strengthen human rights online

The ongoing internet shutdowns in Uganda, the blocking of **Donald Trump** from Twitter and surveillance of citizens, inspired the LI HRC to bring together Executive Vice President of the European Commission **Margrethe Vestager** responsible for making Europe fit for the Digital Age, and journalist and author **Maria Ressa**, CEO of Rappler from the Philippines, and chaired by **Astrid Thors**, LI Vice President and Chair of the LI Human Rights Committee (LI HRC) to underline the importance of Liberal Principles of Digitalisation & Human Rights.

Liberal Principles of Digitalisation & Human Rights

READ MORE ON THE CAMPAIGN

WATCH CAMPAIGN LAUNCH

Liberal International & Radikale Venstre are proud to launch our joint campaign on the Liberal Principles of Digitalisation & Human Rights!

Watch our first video as LI Human Rights Committee Chair **Astrid Thors** sets out one of our ten principles.

Astrid Thors

WATCH 1st CAMPAIGN VIDEO

LI concerned about Women's Rights in Egypt

In the statement to the UN, Liberal International remains concerned by ongoing policy and tactics used by states to attack and marginalise women's organisations, feminist groups, and women human rights defenders. In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, there is increased urgency in putting women and girls at the centre of recovery efforts.

READ MORE

Legislation on digital rights must be robust enough for the worst offenders

All policy-makers are aware of the fact that when we make laws, it is important to consider the unexpected consequences that the legislation may have. These consequences may not only manifest in the present time, but could also pave the way for other unwanted regulation in the future or inspire legal actions in other countries.

READ MORE

LI Climate Justice Committee set for 2021

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL | CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

The Climate Justice Committee of LI has started this year in full swing. Having appointed our new Head of policy and programmes, the work of the committee is expected to be fully reinstalled starting 2021. With the first meeting scheduled for February, the committee will aim to meet once every two months.
Ahead of us is a year full of opportunities when it comes to mitigating the climate crisis, as we're now on the road to COP26. Stay tuned for more substantial updates on our work!

The global ice loss and its consequences

It was recently published that we've now entered the worst-case scenario according to the IPCC, when it comes to the speed with which our ice caps are melting, especially in Greenland and the Antarctic. This process triggers a global sea rise, placing coastal communities on the frontline of the disasters caused by climate change. Additionally, the melting of glaciers causes loss of clean fresh water for local communities, further disenfranchising marginalised communities, further enhancing climate-induced migration.

READ MORE

LI FTWG ready for liberal economic policy

LIBERAL INTERNATIONAL | FAIR TRADE WORKING GROUP

The Fair Trade Working group is back in full swing with its work! With the first meeting of 2021 behind us, the working group set its ambition across the 3 different priorities they will focus their work on, namely: Integrated Markets and Direct Investment, Digitalisation, and Multilateralism.

The working group aims to grow its work and activities both internally within LI and externally, by being present as some of the most prominent trade-related events. Stay tuned for more substantial updates on the work of the group!

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

Liberal Party of the Philippines celebrated their 75th anniversary on 19 January 2021.

WATCH HERE

Partido Liberal, Chile, candidate **Alejandra Zúñiga Fajuri**: No one represents women better than women themselves.

WATCH HERE

Democratic Alliance's Dianne Kohler Barnard MP, calls for the total disbandment of the State Security Agency, and for the establishment of an efficient and transparent independent entity in its place.

WATCH HERE

POLITICAL UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS

Region	Update	
AFRICA	**ALN calls for free and fair elections to be respected in Uganda**	READ MORE
AMERICAS	**Ciudadanos por la Libertad call for the release of all political prisoners**	VIEW TWEET
ASIA	**Trials against the opposition in Cambodia**	READ MORE
EUROPE	**Renew Europe calls for vaccine transparency**	READ MORE
MENA	**FNF MENA commemorates the Jasmine revolution in Tunisia**	READ MORE

POLITICS ONLINE

In case you missed our social media activity for the month, here are a few of our political positions you can get behind - share, like and retweet.

#WhatLiberalsThink: The first people totalitarians destroy or silence are men of ideas and free minds.

MONEY LAUNDERING

Money Laundering: Impact and Implications on the Union's Defence Dimension

A Liberal Take on the Brexit Agreement

International Academy for Leadership of the FNF for Freedom: A Liberal Take on the Brexit Agreement

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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