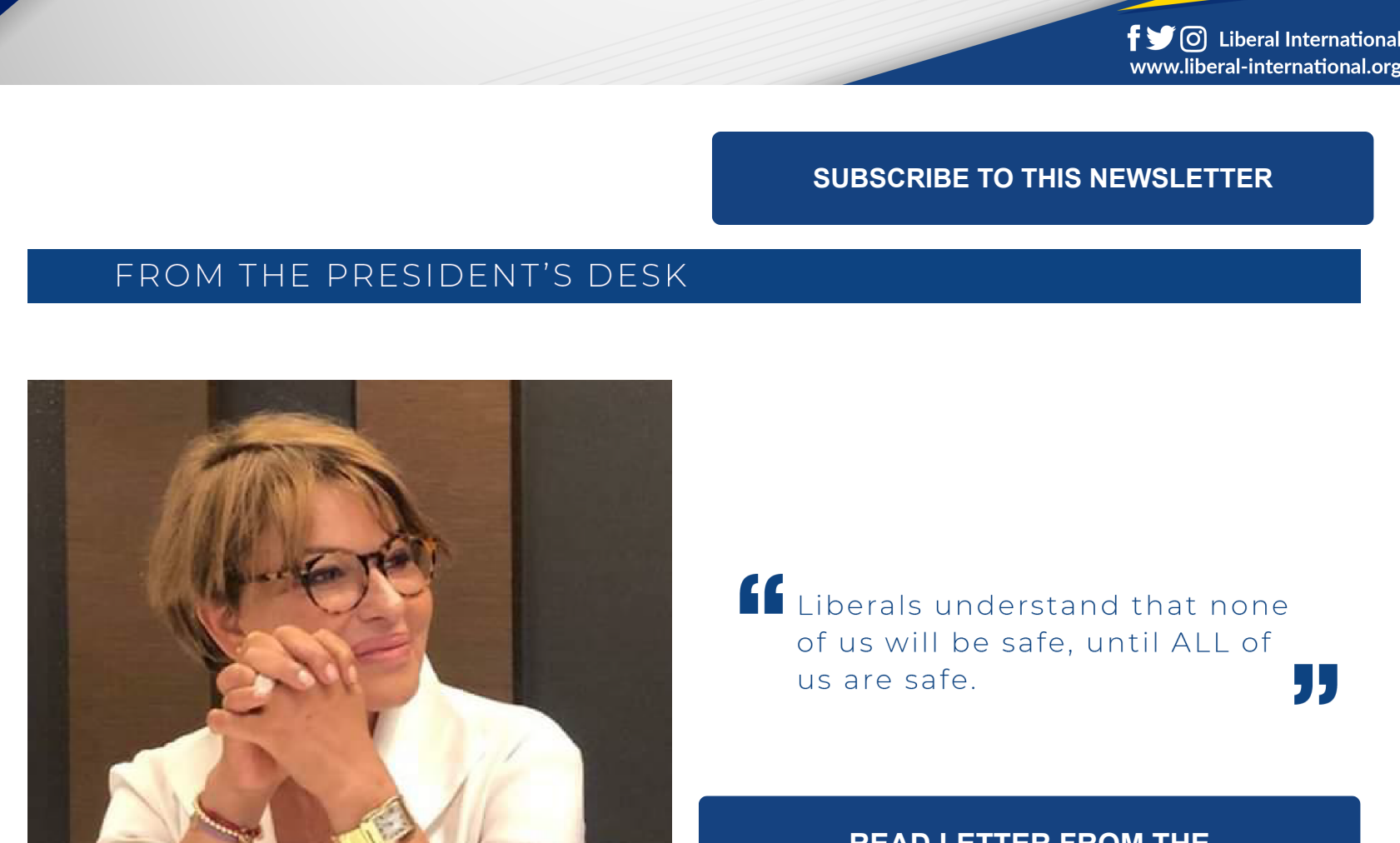
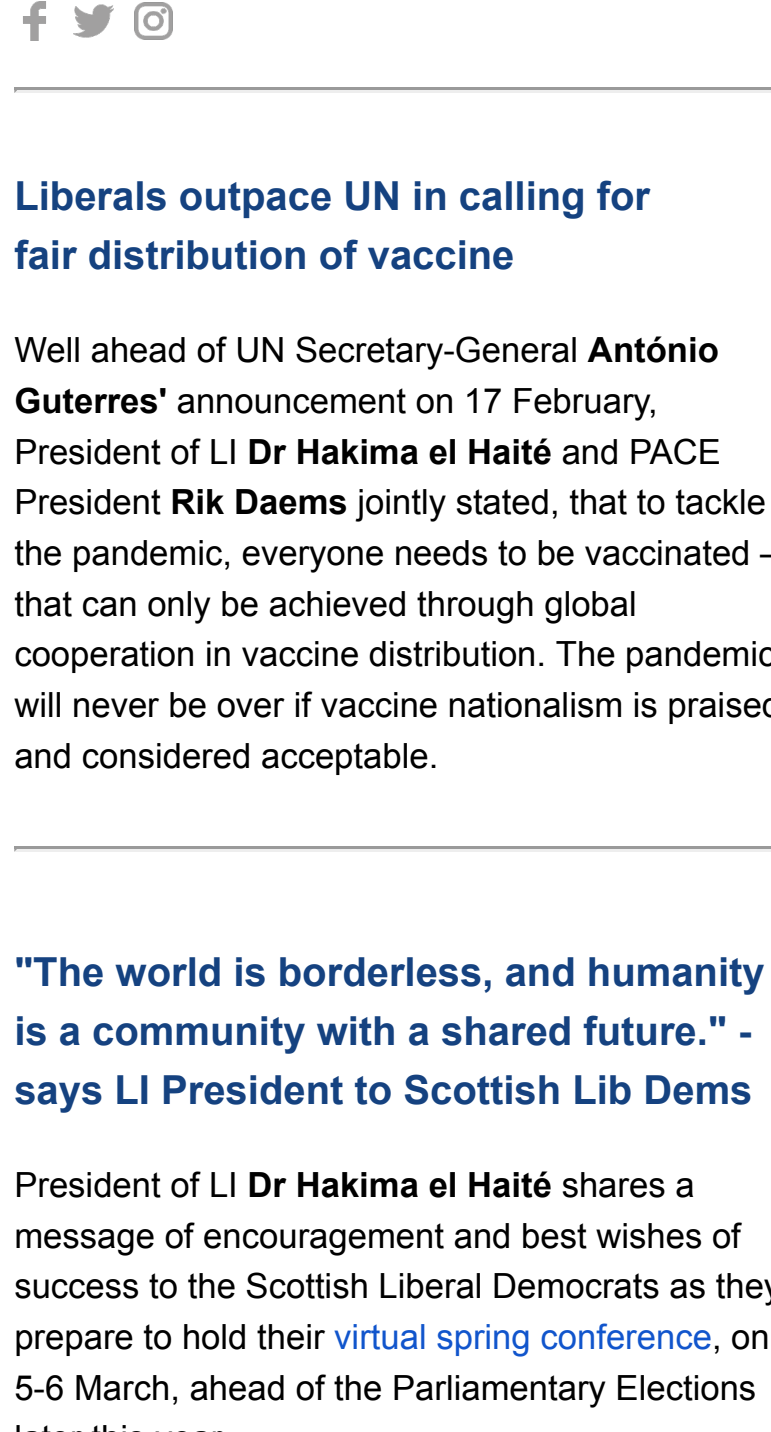


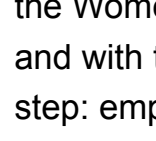


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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dr Hakima el Haité
President of Liberal International



“Liberals understand that none of us will be safe, until ALL of us are safe.”

READ LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Liberals outpace UN in calling for fair distribution of vaccine

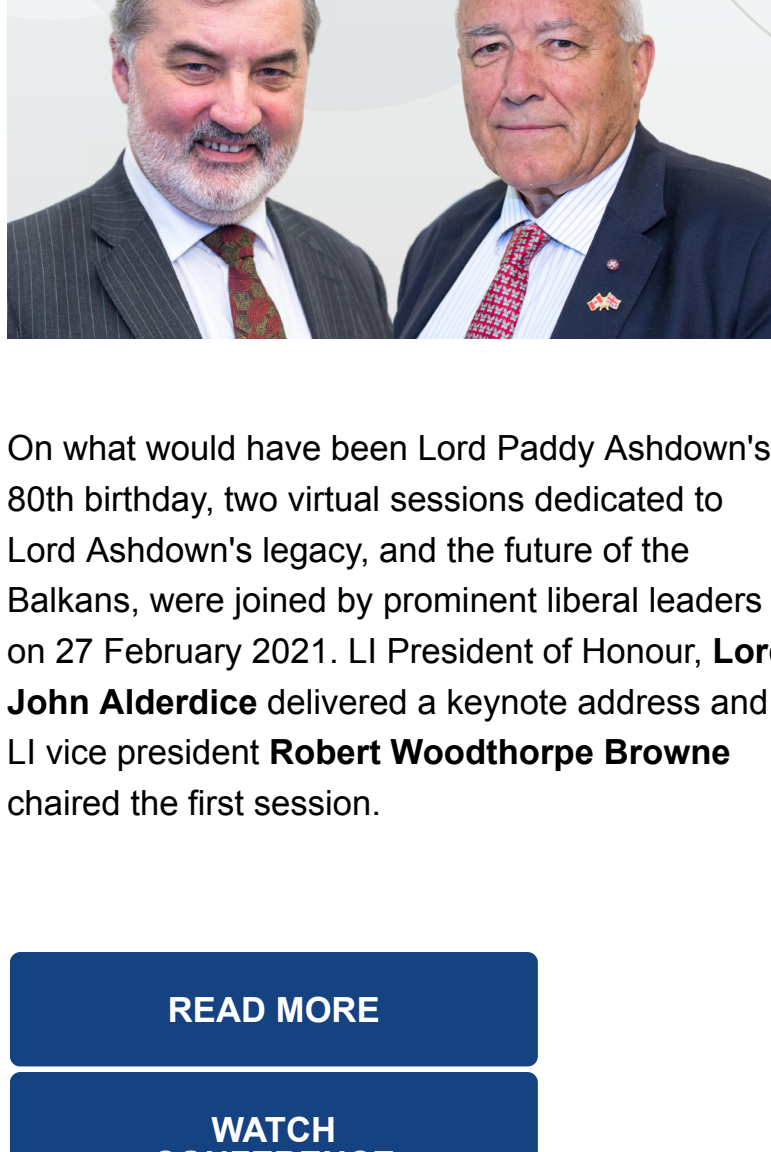
Well ahead of UN Secretary-General **António Guterres'** announcement on 17 February, President of LI **Dr Hakima el Haité** and PACE President **Rik Daems** jointly stated, that to tackle the pandemic, everyone needs to be vaccinated – that can only be achieved through global cooperation in vaccine distribution. The pandemic will never be over if vaccine nationalism is praised and considered acceptable.



READ STATEMENT

“The world is borderless, and humanity is a community with a shared future.” - says LI President to Scottish Lib Dems

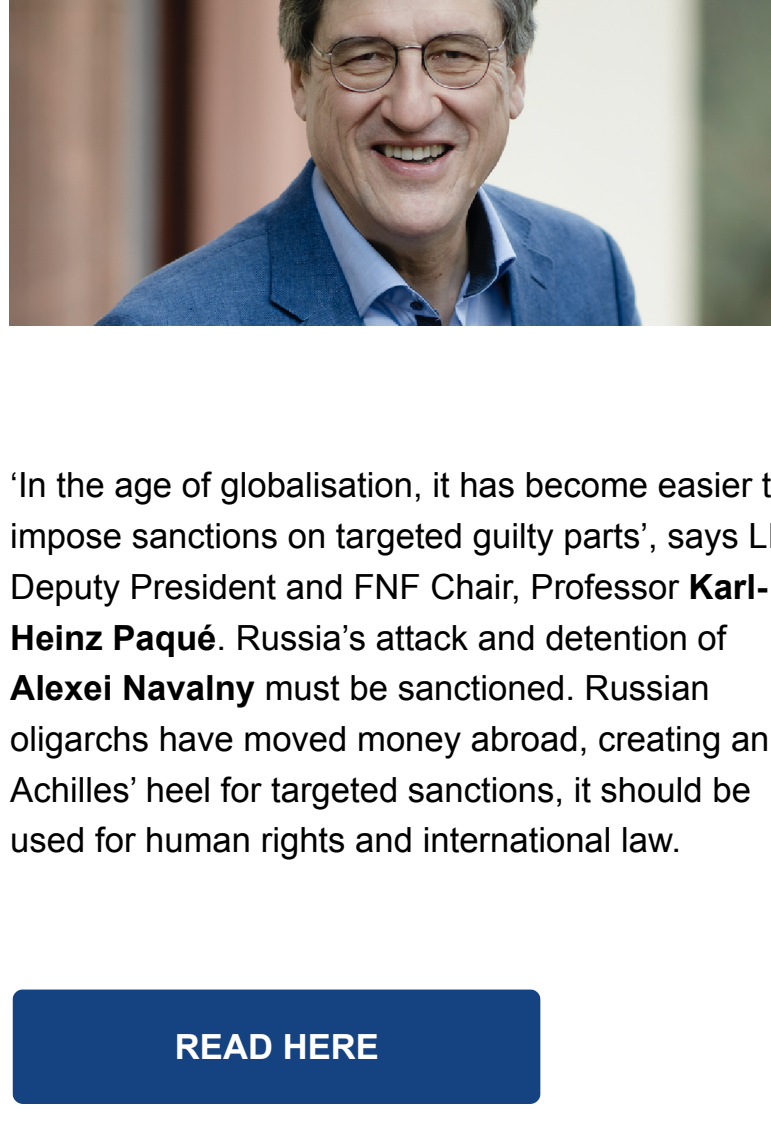
President of LI **Dr Hakima el Haité** shares a message of encouragement and best wishes of success to the Scottish Liberal Democrats as they prepare to hold their **virtual spring conference**, on 5-6 March, ahead of the Parliamentary Elections later this year.



WATCH HERE

Help your party boost and advance the presence of women in politics.

Advocating for women in politics is a mission that Liberal International has undertaken over many years. On 16 Feb 2021, LI opened the 2nd year of the Women in Political Parties Index (WIPP Index) and with this, the global federation takes the next step: empowering member parties to deliver real change.



COMPLETE SURVEY

Liberal Malmström makes it to final round in OECD Secretary-General race

Former EU Trade Commissioner and LI Isiahiah Berlin Lecturer **Cecilia Malmström** has made it to the final race, as just 2 candidates remain, for the post as OECD Secretary-General.



SHARE MESSAGE OF SUPPORT

BUREAU IN ACTION

Tear gas, raids, & arbitrary arrests - a setback for democracy in Georgia

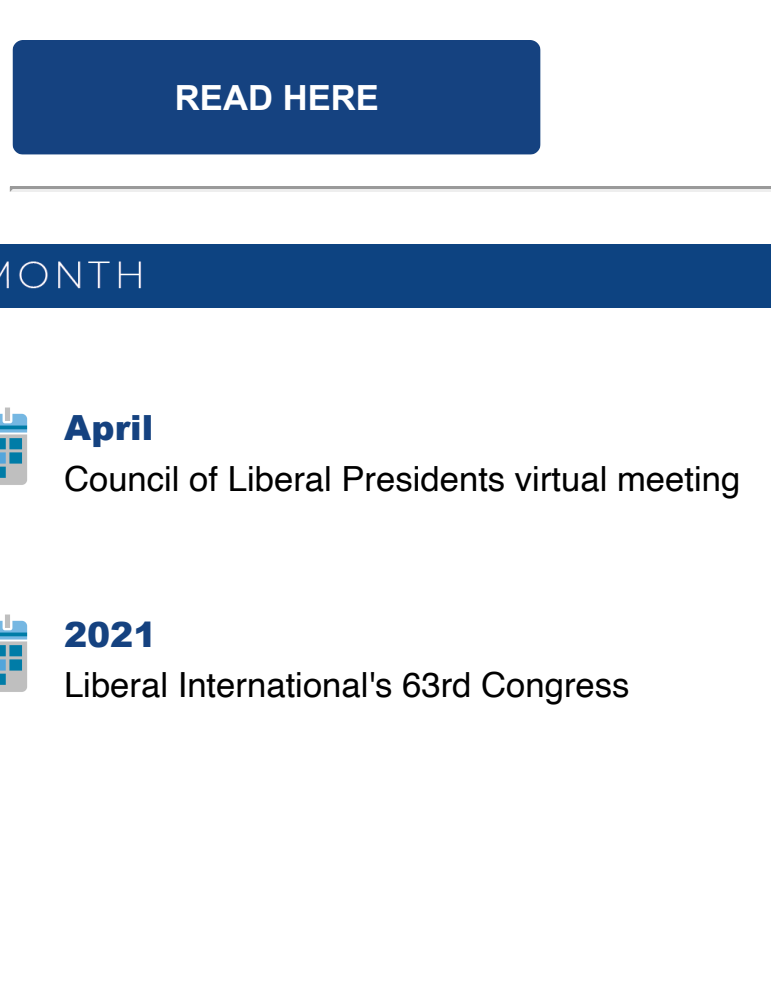


In an open letter penned, 22 Feb 2020, to Georgia's newly appointed Prime Minister **Irakli Gharibashvili** the next steps require engagement and an end to the political deadlock, not further punitive legal action", wrote LI President of Honour and ALDE Party President **Hans van Baalen**. Less than 24 hours later, the leader of the largest opposition party in Georgia was arrested in a morning raid by police at the party's HQ in Tbilisi.

READ OPEN LETTER

READ REACTION

“Divided societies & religious identity: Paddy was profoundly influenced in solving these issues” - Lord Alderdice tells PAF



On what would have been Lord Paddy Ashdown's 80th birthday, two virtual sessions dedicated to Lord Ashdown's legacy, and the future of the Balkans, were joined by prominent liberal leaders on 27 February 2021. LI President of Honour, **Lord John Alderdice** delivered a keynote address and LI vice president **Robert Woodthorpe Browne** chaired the first session.

READ MORE

WATCH CONFERENCE

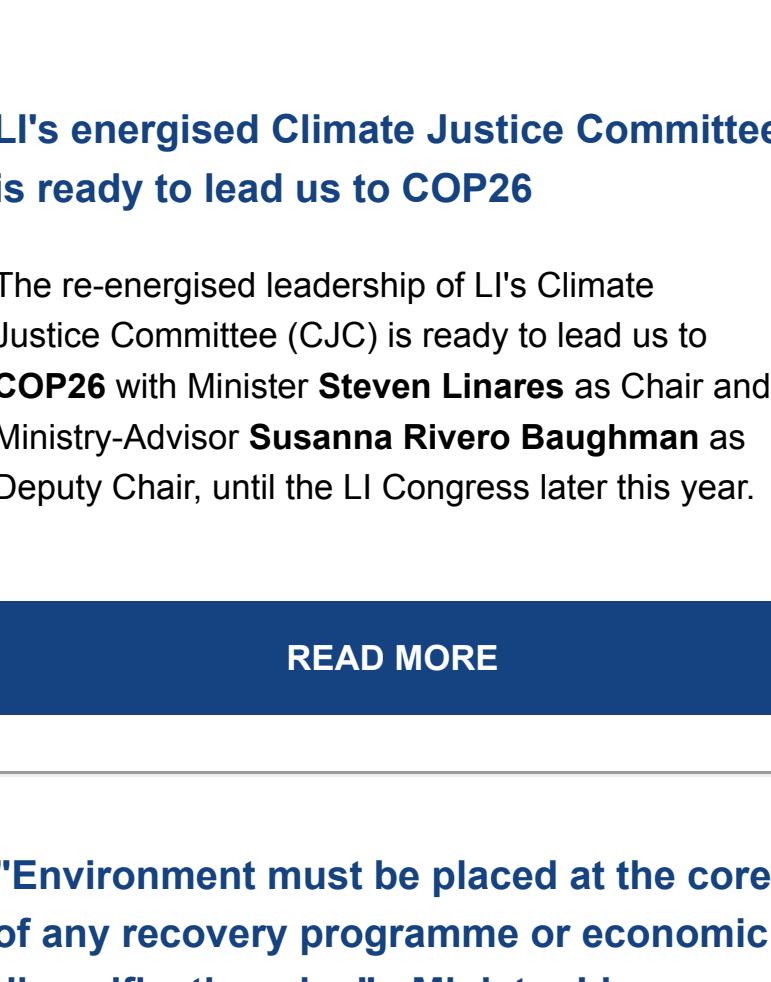
Dignity is an immensely important key value when re-thinking solidarity, equality and social justice.



The **Centre for Democracy and Peace Building** hosted its fourth webinar series on 19 February, which focused on Solidarity, equality and social justice. Chaired by LI President of Honour, **Lord John Alderdice**, it brought together leading academics, philosophers, social activists and legislators to engage in thoughtful reflection and re-think what solidarity means today, in light of a variety of societal shifts, the current geopolitical situation and the consequences of COVID-19 pandemic.

WATCH HERE

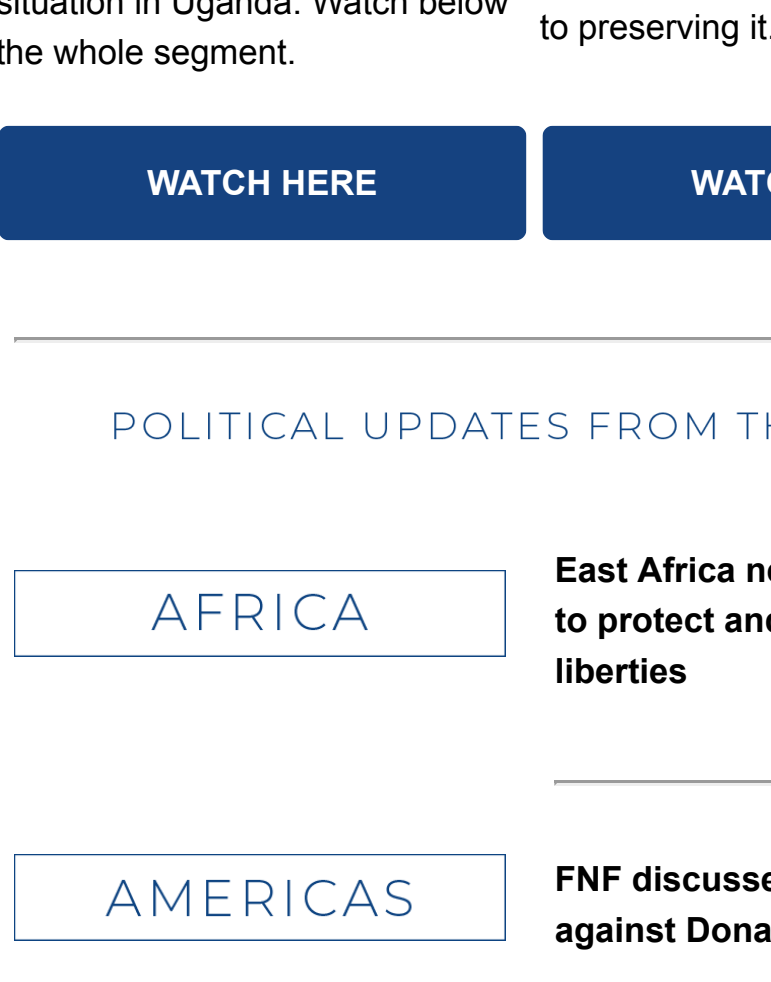
On Russia: “Sanctions are a sharp weapon in the fight for human rights” - says LI Deputy President



'In the age of globalisation, it has become easier to impose sanctions on targeted guilty parties', says LI Deputy President and FNF Chair, Professor **Karl-Heinz Paqué**. Russia's attack and detention of **Alexei Navalny** must be sanctioned. Russian oligarchs have moved money abroad, creating an Achilles' heel for targeted sanctions, it should be used for human rights and international law.

READ HERE

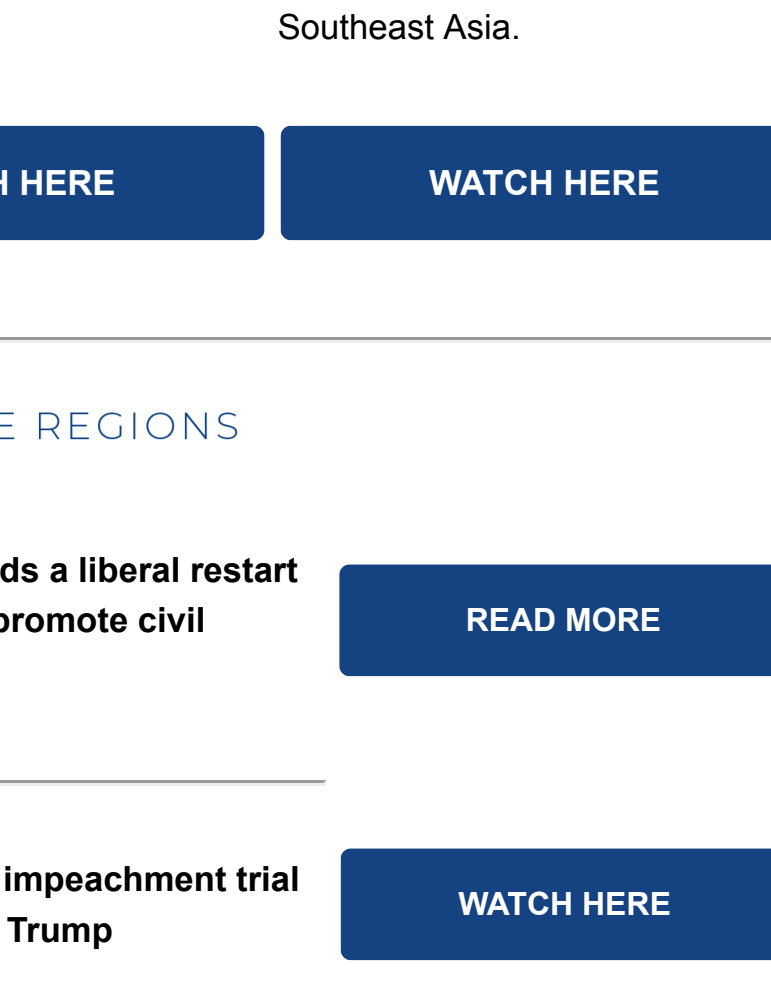
“We need to ensure that the EU does what it's best at - instead of undermining national competences” - says LI VP Al-Sahlani



The Social Democrats supported the EU's social pillar. But now Stefan Löfven is calling on other parties to help stop EU legislation. At the same time, the Social Democrats vote for social Europe when it suits them, she writes. It is important to make decisions about the labour market and welfare as close to the citizens as possible, LI vice president **Ms Al-Sahlani** MEP concludes.

READ MORE

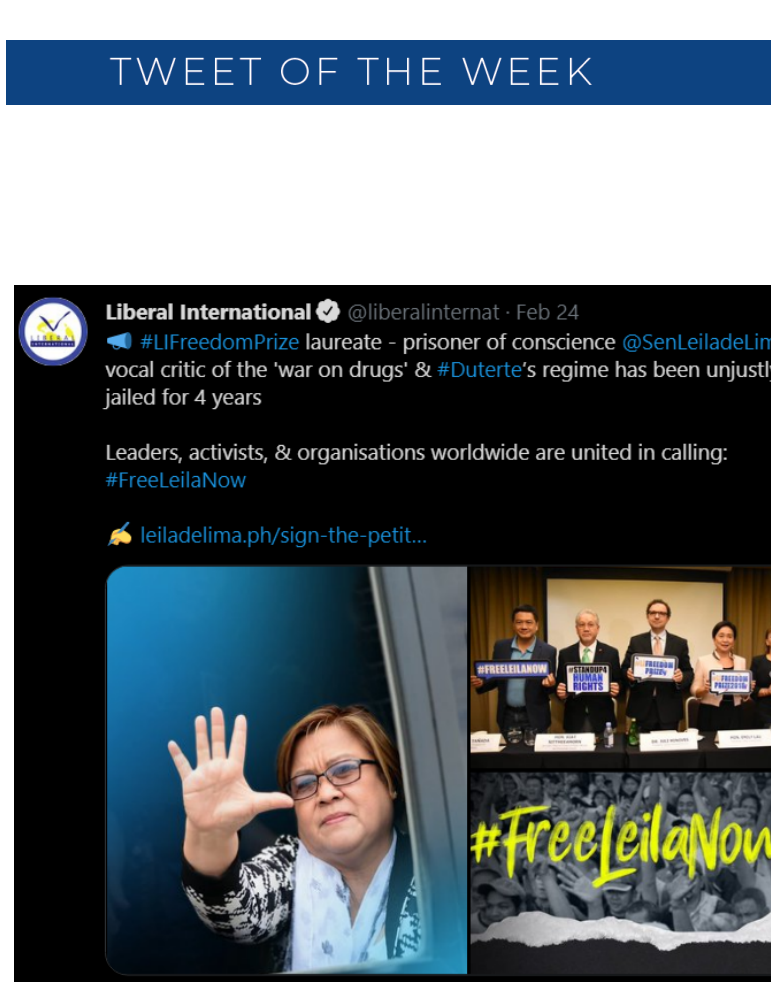
As Myanmar crisis worsens “Thailand's approach is to adhere to the ASEAN guidelines” - says LI VP Sittheamorn



In his interview with the TP channel in Thailand, LI vice president **Kiat Sittheamorn** explained the economic effects on Thailand due to the military coup in Myanmar. Mr Sittheamorn emphasised that border trade checkpoints are still open as usual but investors should follow the situation closely.

WATCH HERE

LI VP Kitty Monterrey welcomes new alliance to defeat Nicaraguan Dictator Ortega



Ciudadanos por La Libertad (CxL) established a new alliance with **Coastal Unity Movement Party** in Nicaragua. CxL president and LI vice president **Kitty Monterrey** welcomed the new partnership, citing the hope of a long relationship and unity to defeat the dictatorship.

READ HERE

As the first woman and African to hold the post of WTO Director, LI VP Cellou Dalein Diallo congratulates Dr Okonjo-Iweala.



Former Guinean Prime Minister and LI vice president **Cellou Dalein Diallo** extended his congratulations to Ms. **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, the first woman and the first African to hold the post of Director General of the **World Trade Organization**. Mr Diallo praised her educational background and work experience.

READ HERE

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE MONTH

16 February - 30 April
2nd Annual WIPP Index Survey opens

April
Council of Liberal Presidents virtual meeting

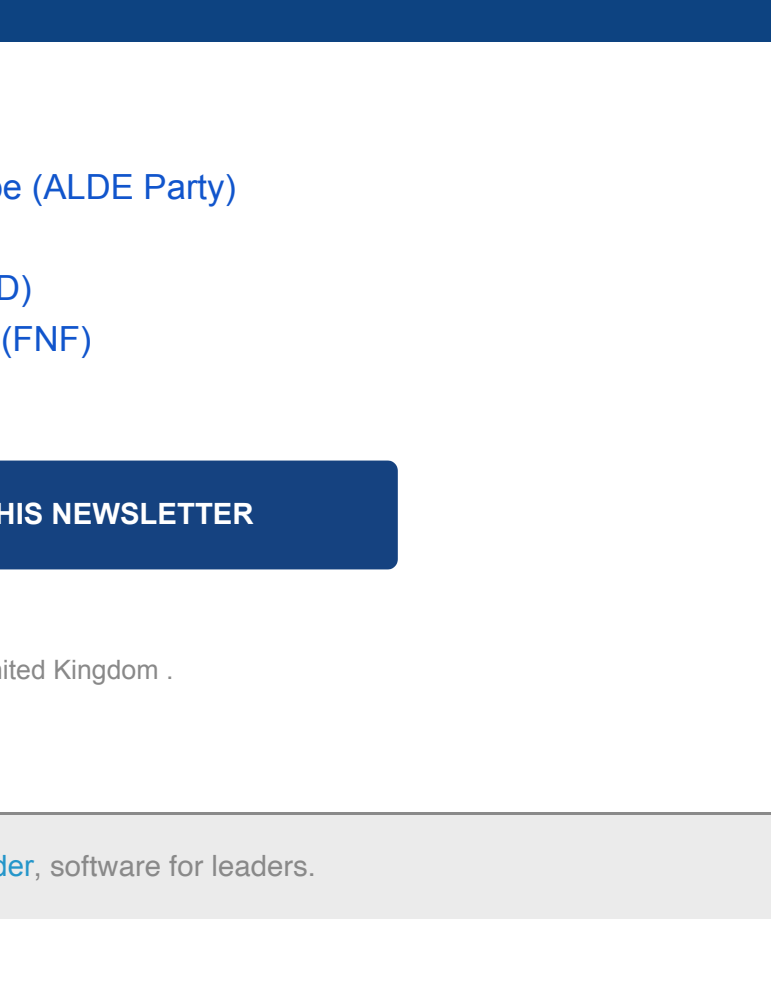
8 March
International Women's Day

2021
Liberal International's 63rd Congress

15 March
LI-HD66 UNCSW event 'Mind the Gender Gap'

'She Will Be Heard' - ALDE Party event & report launch

Discover a new era of female liberal leadership and empowerment with **ALDE Party** on 9 March! Register now for the launch of their new gender report on the state of women in European politics and ALDE Party's approach to advancing liberal female leadership with **Margrethe Vestager, Yoko Alender** and **Annelou van Egmond**.



REGISTER

UPCOMING ELECTIONS

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

23 March 2021 (confirmed)
Israel, Israeli Knesset

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

4 April 2021 (confirmed)
Bulgaria, Parliamentary Election

FIGHTING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, CLIMATE JUSTICE & FAIR TRADE

“Secure justice for Venezuelan people, and accountability for the human rights violators” says LI HRC Member Irwin Cotler

The **UN Watch** co-sponsored a UN side event on the human rights situation in Venezuela. LI HRC member Professor **Irwin Cotler** spoke out against the assault (by Maduro's administration) on the Venezuelan people and the political opposition. LI's Prize for Freedom laureate and opposition leader for **Vente Venezuela** **Maria Corina Machado** gave an update and account of the current situation and the ultimate price she has paid as a leading democracy activist in the country.

WATCH HERE

What can political parties do internally to get women to leadership positions?

Drawing on the success of the results from the inaugural **LI Women In Political Parties survey**, this event titled **Women In Political Parties: Supporting Women in Political Parties** will be split into two sessions focused on exploring challenges of women representation, sharing best practices and discussing recommendations of the LI Inclusivity Handbook.

15 March 2021
1st Session: 15:00 — 16:00 (GMT)
2nd Session: 16:00 — 17:00 (GMT)

REGISTER HERE

LI's energised Climate Justice Committee is ready to lead us to COP26

The re-energised leadership of LI's Climate Justice Committee (CJC) is ready to lead us to **COP26** with Minister **Steven Linares** as Chair and Ministry-Advisor **Susanna Rivero Baughman** as Deputy Chair, until the LI Congress later this year.

READ MORE

“Environment must be placed at the core of any recovery programme or economic diversification plan” - Minister Linares

In an open letter highlighting that “the planet cannot wait”, LI CJC Chair, Minister **Steven Linares**, spotlights the LI Climate Justice Committee's focus on leading a programme to COP26 and calling on global liberal partners to participate in leading environmental policies which will achieve the decarbonisation of the planet as soon as possible.

READ LETTER

LI's FTWG - “Hope that the new Director-General of the WTO will be able to initiate transparent and inclusive reforms”

Following months of vacancy, the World Trade Organisation has chosen a new Director-General. The Fair Trade Working Group of Liberal International congratulates **Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala** on her new role at the heart of the global trading system. LI's FTWG particularly welcomes that she will be the first woman and the first African to be appointed as Director-General. The challenges Dr Okonjo-Iweala faces as the new Director-General are grave.

READ STATEMENT

VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS

LI HRC chair **Astrid Thors** invited National Unity Platform's newly elected **Flavia Kalule Nabagabe**, to discuss the deteriorating situation in Uganda. Watch below the whole session.

On International Mother Language Day, Taiwan President **Tsai Ing-wen** embraced the cultural diversity of Taiwan and committed to preserving it.

Watch the CALD Report Launch, an Animation of Defending Freedom of Expression, reporting on Fake News laws in East and Southeast Asia.

WATCH HERE

WATCH HERE

WATCH HERE

POLITICAL UPDATES FROM THE REGIONS

AFRICA

East Africa needs a liberal restart to protect and promote civil liberties

READ MORE

AMERICAS

FNF discusses impeachment trial against Donald Trump

WATCH HERE

ASIA

CALD condemns in strongest terms the military coup d'état in Myanmar

READ STATEMENT

EUROPE

‘Europe back America’ – Europe's liberals ready for a renewed partnership

READ HERE

MENA

Leave the passenger seat, get behind the steering wheel and drive change.

READ MORE

SECRETARIAT UPDATES

“Investing in wellbeing, pays itself back” - LI Staff Intern tries out for Helsinki City Council 2021

International politics during the day, local politics in the evening – read about LI Staff Intern, **Kasper Kannosto**, ambition to gain a seat in Helsinki City Council in four languages. Running for the first time in official elections, Kasper's main themes are mental health, culture and sports.

READ HERE

TWEET OF THE WEEK

View LI's tweet supporting the petition calling for the release of Letitia de Lima.

SUPPORT SEN DE LIMA

Engage Liberal International on social media.

POLITICS ONLINE

In case you missed our social media activity for the month, get behind our political positions by sharing, liking and retweeting.

Georgia LI member party Chairperson leads opposition supporters at a mass rally

Defending freedom of expression in Asia

Liberals continue to stand with the citizens of Belarus in achieving democracy.

Securing human rights and democracy in Uganda

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)

International Committee of the Red Cross

Doctors Without Borders (Médecins Sans Frontières)

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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