

A close-up photograph of a dandelion seed head. The central part is a dark brown, textured seed head. From it, a large number of white, feathery seeds are blowing away, creating a sense of movement. The background is a solid, vibrant green. In the top left corner, there is a light green circular graphic containing the text 'NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY'.

NETWORK
FOR A
FREE
SOCIETY

Summer Report
2022

ABOUT US

- **Our vision** is of a world of opportunity and prosperity based on the foundations of individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, the protection of private property, free markets and free speech.
- **Our mission** is to make the texts and ideas which explore and explain the principles and values of a free society accessible in countries and languages where they are currently not available.
- **Our strategy** is to increase the number of people who share our understanding of and commitment to liberty and will in their turn become the intellectuals who change the climate of opinion in their countries in favour of freedom.

We know that ideas have consequences and that many influential and inspirational advocates of a free society read just one book which had a profound impact on their understanding, leading them to dedicate their lives to the pursuit of the free society.

www.networkforafreesociety.org



“Everything that Network for a Free Society has done is only possible because of the dedication of our partners and the generous support of our donors.

Thank you all so very much.”

Linda Whetstone



NETWORK FOR A FREE SOCIETY

Our Twelve Months Report from August 2021 to July 2022

Linda's words on the preceding page were taken from the report she wrote last August, shortly before her tragic passing. But they continue to resonate and remain just as pertinent as the day she wrote them. So it's entirely fitting that we include them in this, our first report to you since Linda's untimely death.

We are very grateful to those who have continued to support **NFS's** work and to those who have contributed so far to **The Linda Whetstone Free Societies Memorial Fund** (see inside back cover), which has already funded projects we want to tell you about. We are equally grateful to the partners across the world with whom Linda worked so energetically and productively. Their continuing enterprise and enthusiasm inspire optimism.

We have been fortunate to have the help and encouragement of our friends at **Atlas Network** and **The Institute of Economic Affairs**, bringing together three institutes founded by Linda's father, Sir Antony Fisher. Many of the achievements of our partners are founded on the training, grants and many other forms of support they receive from Atlas. Publications of The IEA have long been central to the work of **NFS**, and as you will see throughout this report, the authorship of Dr. Eamonn Butler makes a signal contribution to the spread of ideas. And we are very pleased to announce that Angela Harbutt, with whom Linda enjoyed working closely and productively, has agreed to join us as a trustee of **Network for a Free Society**. We are very grateful to so many who have given and continue to give their talents and time voluntarily, just as Linda did.



The distinctive and vital role of **NFS** is to make the texts that explore and explain the principles and values of a free society available in countries and languages where they are currently not accessible, so that more people can understand

the relationship between freedom and human flourishing and promote and defend these concepts in their countries. Such insights have the most potential value to the poorest people in lower income countries, yet that is where they are least likely to have access to them.



Linda set about addressing this need by creating the '**Ideas for a Free Society**' compilation of texts she selected on a CD. In some parts of Africa the CD is still the only effective means to reach students and requests from discussion-leaders are still being fulfilled.

However, the **NFS** programme has evolved and expanded substantially to encompass: commissioning primers on core aspects of freedom; providing books; procuring translations into a wide range of languages; and enabling partners to take advantage of the full gamut of broadcast and social media now available.

Robert Boyd

Trustee

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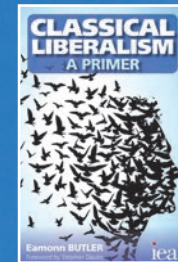


PROJECTS FUNDED IN 2021

Linda's summer 2021 update and our Annual Report covered most of the projects NFS supported last year. Complications resulting from COVID obliged some partners to carry forward their planned events to 2022 and circumstances have now allowed most of them to take place.

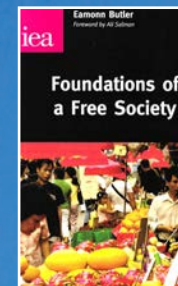
NIGERIA The translation of 'The Foundations of a Free Society' into Hausa has been completed, an initiative of Chukwuemeka Ezeugo and **Global African Christians for Liberty**. They also printed hard copies which were sent out to members of their network in Borno, Plateau and Yobe States of northern Nigeria where Hausa is the local language. The project also converted the translated work into an audio version that can be downloaded on GACLI websites and shared through social media. The project is facilitating the spread and understanding of free market ideas in an undeveloped and volatile part of Nigeria towards creating an enabling environment for growth and prosperity. It also brings the ideas to people in neighbouring countries in their own language.

Also in Nigeria, NFS provided books for discussion and subsequent reference, at **Liberty International West Africa's** event '**Global Capitalism Awareness – How capitalism can rebuild failing economies**', held in two locations and also via Zoom. This was the seventh time the three-day event had been held. It is focused on high school and college students, seeking to promote ideas of liberalism, the rule of law, capitalism and entrepreneurship. Speakers contributed from six continents and participants included a large number of high school students, undergraduates, post-graduate and PhD students and student leaders across subject areas.



NFS's contribution was to provide 500 copies each of Richard Wellings' 'A Beginner's Guide to Liberty' and Eamonn Butler's 'Classical Liberalism'. Rowland Kingsley reported on an enthusiastic event where discussion was energetic and participants explored areas of future collaboration. Special thanks were conveyed to Linda Whetstone and NFS for the provision of the books which were regarded as highlights of the event.

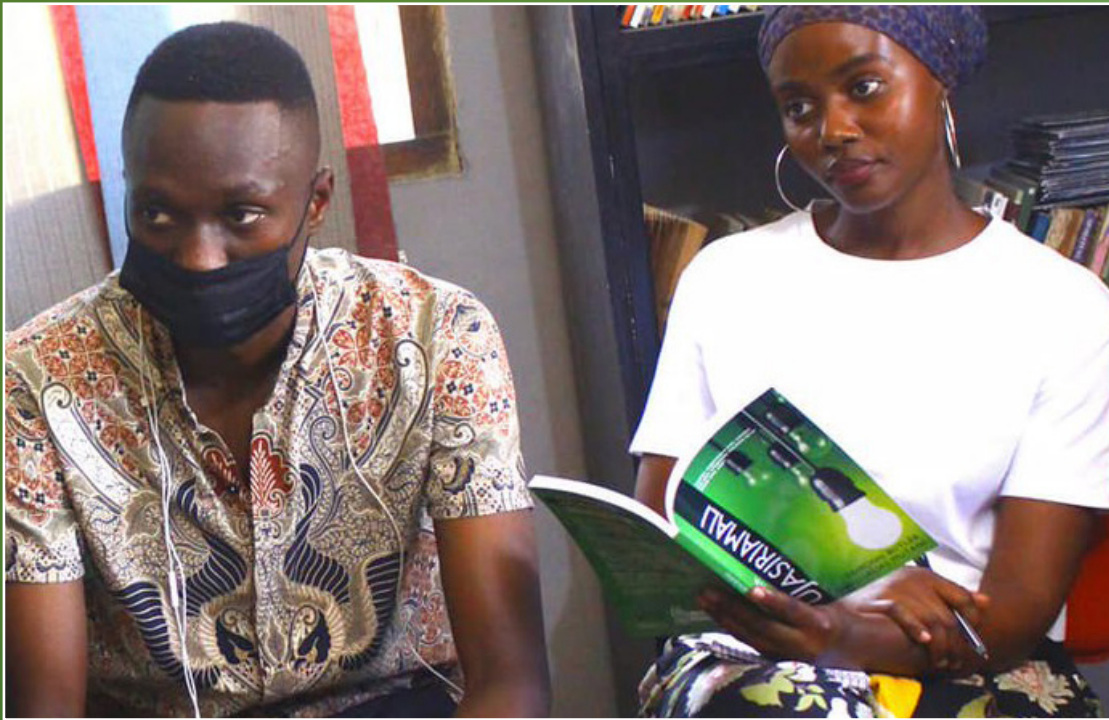
The **Free Market Summit (FMS)** is the flagship location-based in-person project of **Face of Liberty International** aimed at improving the way in which many Nigerians are exposed to the ideas of a free market.



Face of Liberty has an ambitious plan for 2022, based on a successful pilot test in Ibadan, in which Leonard Ogunweide and his colleagues aim to hold summits for small groups in 25 states. The focus is on potential thought-leaders with the objective of training a thousand advocates for a free market. In the first quarter three events were held with 180 participants. NFS's contribution has been to provide 1,000 copies of the 'Ideas' CD and 500 copies of 'Foundations of a Free Society'.

In **SOUTH SUDAN**, the reach and impacts of **Students Organization for Liberty and Entrepreneurship** demonstrate what can be achieved by enterprising partners making judicious use of relatively small grants, collaborating with peers through networks and adapting plans to changing practicalities. John Mustapha Kutiyote is **SOLE's** Executive Director. Our Trustee Professor Brian Baugus has taught at SOLE workshops on entrepreneurship (as he has done with other partners). Evans Exaud in Tanzania and John Mustapha contribute to each other's webinars. The ambitious and extended entrepreneurship training programme conducted in 2020-21 brought together the resources of **SOLE, NFS, Certell** and **Regent University**. And a grant by NFS enabled **training in website management**, as reflected in a clear and





up-to-date website. Communication through the website and by broadcast radio are important in a country with a widespread population and difficult communications.

Also in partnership with **NFS**, **SOLE** conducted a **one-day public lecture at the Women Empowerment Center** at Yambio in South Sudan. The total number of participants attending the public lecture was 85 of whom 60 were university students mostly studying business, 10 lecturers from two universities and a teachers training college, and 15 businesspeople and government officials.

NFS is supporting another **SOLE** project in 2022, on trade and globalisation, noted later in this report.

TANZANIA Liberty Sparks, led by Evans Exaud, carried out a comprehensive programme of activities with **NFS** support over the past twelve months including **translation, book dissemination, an essay competition, young scholars' colloquium, a conference** and online **webinars**. Two achievements are particularly noteworthy: the number of universities now actively participating in **Liberty Sparks' events** and the senior levels of those engaged, and the essay contest. The contest attracted entries from 356 students in various countries, a fourfold increase on the prior year; the top 25 were then engaged in a three-week discussion series based on 'Foundations of a Free Society'.

Liberty Sparks' events attract participants, both speakers and audience, widely from east, west and southern Africa and as we note later in this report **NFS** is now supporting an eleven-month '**Popularising Free Trade**' programme.

NORTH MACEDONIA The mission of **Libertania Center for Contemporary Politics** is to promote the ideas of individual liberty, free society and free markets through active involvement and cooperation of young people. **NFS** has supported a particular project involving the translation, publishing, promotion and dissemination of '**Foundations of a Free Society**' into Macedonian. The book has been translated but not yet printed because Simon Sarevski and his colleagues want to organise promotional events which due to COVID restrictions are not yet practical, their intention being to hold the main events in universities. Publication of the book has therefore been rescheduled for October/November.

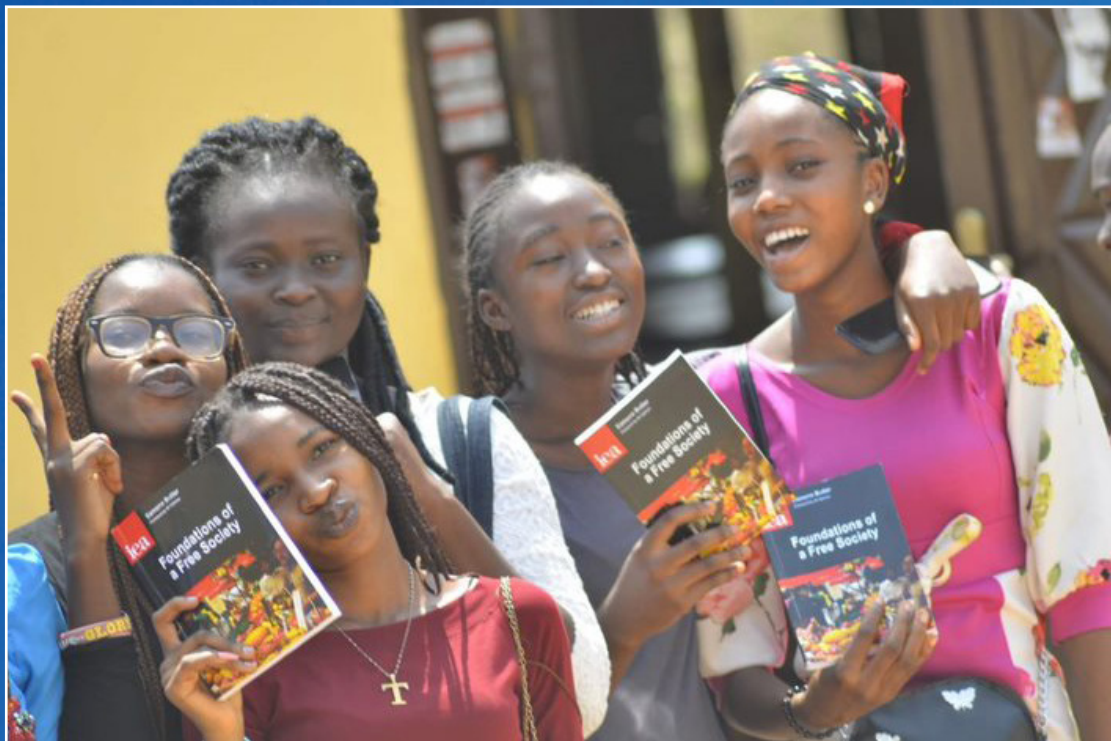
SRI LANKA Our current project with **Advocata Institute** has involved the provision of copies of 'Basic Economics' by Thomas Sowell for use both in **direct supply to policy makers, journalists and decision makers**, and as a basis for discussion in groups of **journalists and politicians** with a focus on **trade policies**. **Advocata** has had to contend not only with COVID but the major economic crises of Sri Lanka which – amongst other much graver impacts – delayed receipt of the books.

Islam & Liberty Network held its **8th annual conference** online in November with support from **NFS**. This is their flagship annual event advancing the understanding of economic, political and religious freedom for peace and prosperity in Muslim-majority countries. The theme was '**Inclusion, Pluralism, Prosperity**'.



Long-time supporters of **NFS** will know the special importance **Islam & Liberty Network** held for Linda. She was determined to increase and spread understanding of the liberal tradition of Islamic thought and played an instrumental role in **ILN's** formation in 2011. The book she co-edited with Nouh El Harmouzi, 'Islamic Foundations of a Free Society', was an inspiration: originally thought of as an English-language means to raise awareness in non-Islamic countries, it has proved very popular in translation in Muslim-majority countries across North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.





NEW PROJECTS

NFS is supporting the 9th Annual Islam & Liberty Conference, the flagship event of ILN, to be held in October 2022 at Mardin Artuklu University in Turkey.

The main theme will be **'The Future of Democracy, Peace and Development in Muslim-majority nations'** within the context of Muslim-majority societies.

We have provided grant support to the **Initiative for African Trade and Prosperity**, a joint venture of the **IEA** and **The University of Buckingham**. **NFS** will be amplifying the impact of five partners who have already demonstrated ability to put our support to good use. Linda worked closely with Alex Hammond, Founder and Director of **IATP**.



In **Burundi** we shall be enabling book and CD distribution at the **'Freedom Week 2022'** of **Centre for Development and Enterprise, Great Lakes**. This will host over a thousand students, journalists, policymakers, elected officials, heads of think tanks, academics, businesspeople, and leaders of civil society. Through a series of colloquia and other events the attendees will learn about classical liberal ideas and the merits of economic freedom including free trade. A feature will be Butler's valuable and influential primer **'An Introduction to Trade and Globalisation'**.

In **Tanzania** we shall be supporting an **eleven-month project** of **Liberty Sparks** that will bring the issue of free trade to the forefront of the political debate in Tanzania through a range of activities. This will aim to foster public support for the AfCFTA continent-wide free trade agreement and also lay the intellectual groundwork necessary for further economic liberalisation.

In **Nigeria** we shall be supporting **Ominira Initiative for Economic Advancement** in their first **'Freedom in Nigeria'** Conference at The University of Ibadan. More than a hundred guests are expected to attend comprising academics, media representatives, civil society leaders, policymakers, and businesspeople. The overall theme of the conference is **'Trade, Entrepreneurship and Economic Freedom'** and we shall be enabling printing and distribution of **'An Introduction to Trade and Globalisation'** for discussion.

Also in Nigeria we shall be enabling printing and distribution of the book at the **3rd Annual Global Capitalism Awareness Event** of **Liberty International** and **Kids4biz**, held at Rivers State University as a hybrid conference that will see approximately 800 high school and university students attend in person with many more expected to attend online. The ideas of capitalism and free enterprise are promoted through presentations, panel discussions, and distribution of books and other educational resources.

In **South Sudan** we shall be supporting the **'Popularising Free Trade'** project of Students' Organization for Liberty and Entrepreneurship. This project will see **SOLE** undertake several projects over the next eleven months. The two primary outputs will be undertaking **three student events** and **twenty-four radio shows** in order to bring the issue of free trade and economic liberalisation to the front and centre of an informed policy debate in South Sudan. It is estimated that **the listenership of each radio show will be between 100,000 and 150,000 people**.

An Africa-wide project will be to extend the reach of 'Ideas' CDs. A stock of 14,000 presently remaining out of a total 250,000 Linda had made are being shipped to various countries. Additional **NFS** funding will be provided where local production is more economical than shipment. The main recipients of will be **Liberty Sparks** (Tanzania), **Centre for Development and Enterprises** (Burundi and Democratic Republic of Congo), **Nkafu Policy Institute** (Cameroon), the **Ominira Initiative** (Nigeria), **Action for Liberty and Economic Development** (Uganda), and the **Mtindo Network** (Uganda).

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FUTURE PROJECTS

We continue to receive requests for translations and are grateful to Adam Bartha and his colleagues at the IEA for handling and responding to these on our behalf and for continuing to look for new opportunities.

Numerous books and languages are involved and this is an area where the **NFS** network can really multiply the impact of a single grant. Languages cross borders, especially those that are the legacies of past empires, and languages carry ideas with them.



A good example is 'Foundations of a Free Society' which has now been translated into Pashto so that **Pashtun** people in Pakistan and neighbouring areas have access to the ideas it conveys. The book was launched by **National Influencers** in May this year at University of Peshawar in northwestern Pakistan attended by over a hundred students and young businesspeople.



So far in 2022 grants have been made with the **IEA** that will add Turkish, Bosnian, Serbian, Pashto, Dari and Arabic versions of Eamonn Butler's new book 'An Introduction to Economic Inequality'.

We are planning on enabling further projects in the remainder of 2022 and look forward to continuing to do so further ahead to the extent that donations and grants allow.

There are many opportunities for translations and additional 'primers', new media avenues to exploit, and there are talented people eager to put them to work - many of them people whose skills and motivation developed under Linda's tutelage.

Antony Fisher frequently cited the words attributed to Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." Fortunately, the networks through which Linda magnified her impact comprise very good men and women doing a great deal, and the "business model" she and her father created is continuing to attract and engage more.

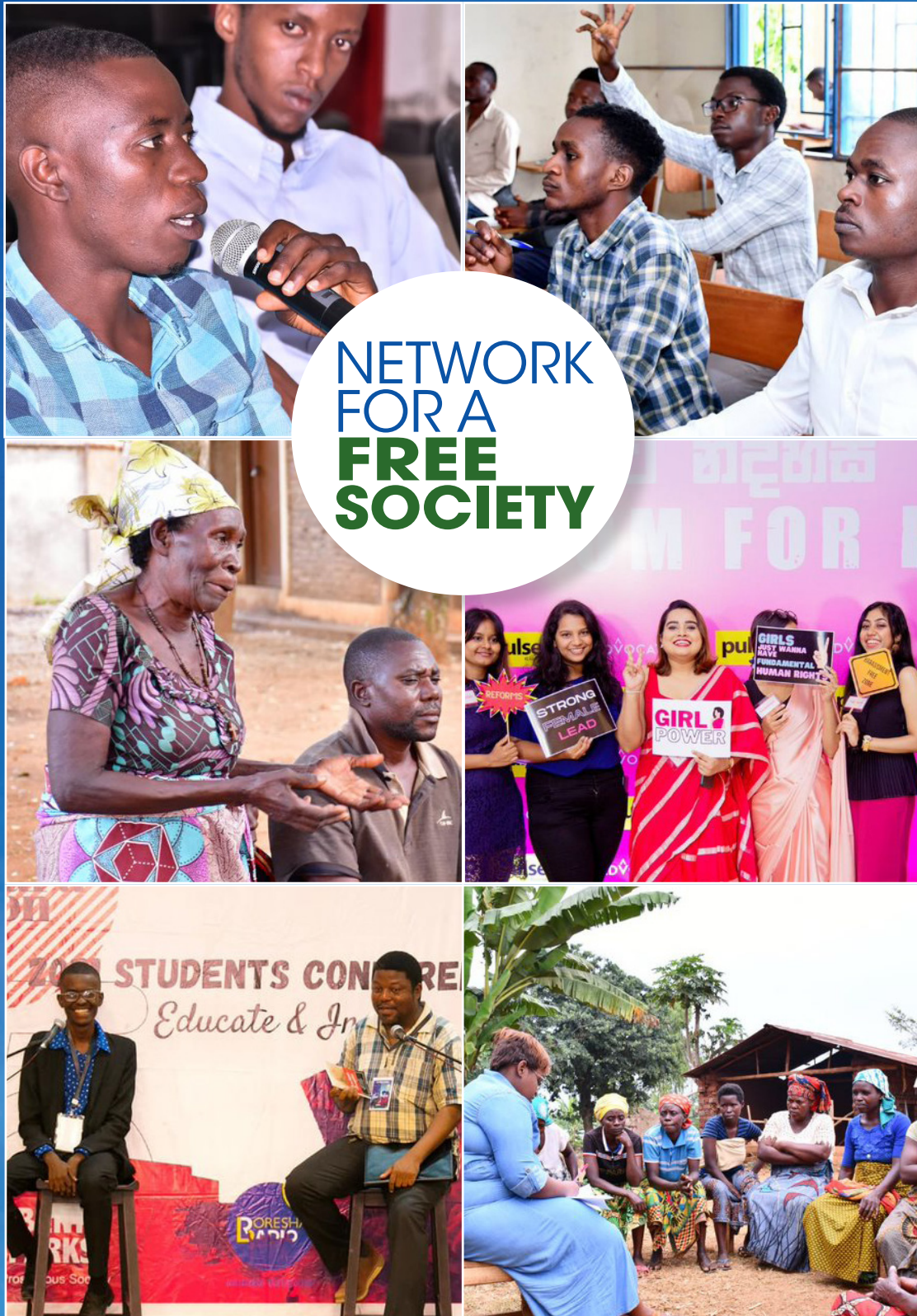
In Linda's own words, "We want to thank everyone who has supported us in any way most sincerely for making this possible and we urge you to continue to do so because without you it cannot continue to happen."

A new development this year relevant to US taxpayers is that support may now be given through **Donors Trust**, a 501(c) 3 tax-exempt corporation. The potential for supporting through Donors Trust is also relevant for US foundations. Donations by UK taxpayers continue to be eligible for Gift Aid.

If you would like further information on any of this or any other aspect of Network for a Free Society, please get in touch with me:

robert@freesocieties.org

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The LINDA WHETSTONE FREE SOCIETIES MEMORIAL FUND

Linda Whetstone envisioned a world of opportunity and prosperity based on the foundations of individual freedom, limited government, the rule of law, the protection of private property, free markets and free speech.

Her impact in some of the poorest regions in was truly astonishing – distributing 150,000+ CDs (each containing over 100 texts) and overseeing the translation and distribution of tens of thousands of books across Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Even more importantly, she found, helped and inspired a generation of freedom fighters right across the region.

The Linda Whetstone Free Societies Memorial Fund has been launched to help keep Linda’s crucial work alive and thriving.

To find out more, contact:
robert@freesocieties.org



NFS is a UK-registered charity (no.262982)



www.networkforafreesociety.org

