



FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

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CD “Ideas for a Free Society” still very much needed in Africa.

Thank you to our partners for their hard innovative work making the case for freedom and the opportunity and prosperity it brings.

Also a huge thank you to our donors without whom none of this would be possible.

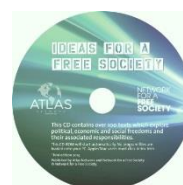
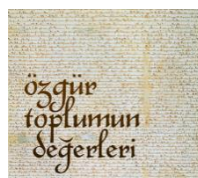
Pitiful poverty has been the normal human condition for most of history with significant change coming only in the 20th century during which average world income rose from just over \$1000 to somewhere between \$6000 to \$8,000 and life expectancy from just over 30 years to just under 70 years according to Johan Norberg in his new book [Progress](#).

The benefits of these gains have however not been shared equally and are shown to depend on the degree of economic freedom and limited government by the [Economic Freedom of the World Index](#) and [Index of Economic Freedom](#).

In turn this is surely related to the unequal access to texts that explore and promote the relationship between freedom, opportunity and prosperity. Although the internet has greatly improved access to knowledge for so many people there are still millions in Africa and Asia who are not covered and where there is access it is often too slow, or intermittent or expensive for most people.

Consultants McKinsey's reported internet penetration in sub-Saharan Africa was 16% in 2016 and was hoped to rise to 50% by 2025. And a [2017 report](#) from the Policy Research Institute of Market Economics in Pakistan stated under 50% of the population have a mobile and only 10% have access to broad band which is one of the lowest rates in South Asia. Having a mobile and having a smart phone are two very different things.

In 2006 in order to reach the huge number of people in the world who had no idea of the relationship between freedom and opportunity, we produced a mini-library of classical liberal texts on CD, Ideas for a Free Society. It could be sent fairly easily and cheaply to partners who worked with students virtually anywhere in the world and provided access to about 125 wonderful texts.



2nd and 3rd editions followed plus CDs in Russian, Chinese, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Arabic and French which have been made available in about 70 countries. Some 150,000 of the English and French versions have been sent and many more copies made in country.

We expected that demand would drop off as internet access increased but due to spotty and expensive access this has not happened so we want to highlight the work of some of our dedicated partners who use the CD and its texts as a main plank of their student outreach.

Burundi

[Students for Liberty in Burundi](#), ran an outstanding program with 10 universities in Bujumbura in 2016. First they ran sessions discussing issues about the institutions that underpin free societies and the importance of trade. This was followed by a quiz contest with questions from the French translation of the book Foundations of a Free Society which is on the French CD, and NFS funded both the translation and the French CD which has been so popular in Africa and without which none of this would have been possible. The first round was between teams within each university with the final being between the winning teams from each university.

It generated a great deal of enthusiasm and interest as you can see in the photos and this year they are repeating the [project](#) but have added universities the DR Congo and Rwanda, countries in which we don't think there are any groups currently promoting these solutions to poverty.

Burundian students jostling for their chance to get a CD, Ideas for a Free Society in French



Nigeria

[The African Liberty Organisation for Development](#), ALOD runs very popular and effective students seminars in many East African countries and also give every student the mini library of classical liberal texts onto CD because otherwise they would have no access to them. They have probably made about them available to about 8000 students over 5 years.

CDs and books ready for students at St Peter's Middle School, Osun State, Nigeria. Nov16



Afghanistan

[The Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation \(AELSO\)](#) was set up in 2009 to promote the values of individual freedom and the CDs have been central to their program where teachers and students speak English as well as being available in their library. They do many other inspiring things besides including a radio station with over 1000 listeners a day.



Sierra Leone:

Our friends from the [Institute for Liberty and Policy Innovation](#) in Ghana led a group to Sierra Leone which has recently been ravaged by war and Ebola to help their colleagues in that country set up the [Sierra Leone Liberty Group](#) who work to spread the ideas more widely in Sierra Leone. As there are literally no books anywhere in that country that cover the ideas of freedom they can do little without the tried and tested texts CDs.

CDs in English waiting before a seminar for participants to collect as they entered



Zimbabwe:

[The Coalition for Market and Liberal Solutions](#) (COMALISO) took a stand for four days at the Harare 2016 Book Fair. They were promoting the concepts of liberalism (European definition), showing videos from the Acton Institute and giving copies of the handbook *Know Your Property Rights* as well as the mini library of classical liberal texts on CD to all those who visited them. Over 200 signed their register although there were many more who were too nervous to put their name on the list but nevertheless delighted with the CDs and books on offer.

Students in Zimbabwe collecting up books and CDs as an introduction to the benefits of a free society



Malawi

[The Centre for Free Market Enterprise](#) (CFME) ran a debate contest in 2015 culminating in a finals in 2016. The first round involved 1,652 students all of whom received CDs and more were given to the university libraries. A condensed replay of the final was shown on National Malawi TV.

Their next [project](#), a Free Society Initiative, consisted of seminars in 4 different colleges and universities which were attended by 568 students with 160 of them eager for further involvement with CFME. Again CDs and the book *Why Liberty* were distributed both to participants and also to students who were not at the events.

Excitement hots up in the Finals of the debate Championship in Malawi



Tanzania

Students for Liberty and the Uhuru Initiative (UIPE) jointly organised an inaugural one day seminar for SFL Tanzania on November 5th. The purpose was to increase the numbers of young people with an understanding of, and interest in the philosophy of liberty and the importance of liberty to entrepreneurship so they then can promote it themselves

There were 107 people at the event which was a full house and since then SFL Tanzania have held meetings at other universities to set up SFL chapters there too.

1000 CDs were created in Tanzania for this and other events.

Everyone at the first meeting of Tanzanian Students for Liberty is holding a CD



Uganda

In October 2016 [African Students for Liberty](#) hosted their first event in Uganda at the Nkumba University in Kampala with 93 students attending from 7 universities and 3 colleges. Students for Liberty Uganda was founded at it and a number of meetings have now been held at other universities including an inter university seminar on entrepreneurship at Kisubi University. The CD has been a major part of their outreach because without any of the ideas of Bastiat and Smith as well as many young talented writers it would be very difficult for the students to develop their thinking further.

Very well turned out students waiting for participants with CDs and books



NFS has made the CDs in French and English available to partners in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Malawi, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda and Zimbabwe this year. Others in Pakistan, Nigeria, Kenya, Malaysia and Turkey already had stocks and our friends in Armenia make the CDs themselves as needed. The Friedrich Naumann Foundation say they use them wherever possible in Africa and in future will be putting the content on memory sticks because computers cannot always take a CD now. A number of the texts are available on various websites and on the NFS [resources](#) page.

Once again a **huge** thank you to our **wonderful donors**, our **inspirational partners** and other friends for all they have done during 2016 to increase understanding of the power of freedom in places where it is so much needed.

Please support this important work in 2017 - there are still millions of people who have no idea

that there is a solution to the misery and poverty in which they live and no way to find out unless we can help our partners reach them.

If you believe in the creative power of freedom and want many more people to benefit from it, in the future, we hope you will be inspired by this work and support it in 2017. With a simple click, you can [donate](#), and/or [forward to a friend](#) . (You can also [unsubscribe from this list](#) if you prefer not to receive these updates.)

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