



NETWORK FOR A **FREE SOCIETY**

AUGUST 2019

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Network for a Free Society

Annual Report Summer 2018 to Summer 2019.

In his book *Enlightenment Now* Stephen Pinker quotes Peter Bauer, “Poverty has no causes. Wealth has causes” and goes on to explain them as “...market economies can generate wealth prodigiously while totalitarian planned economies impose scarcity, stagnation and often famine.”

Similar conclusions have been reached by many other respected authors such as Johann Norberg and William Easterly and recently Rainer Zitelmann’s *The Power of Capitalism* and Kristian Niemietz’ *Socialism the Failed Idea that Never Dies* back them up convincingly with real life examples of capitalist successes and Communist/Socialist failures.

So if the causes of wealth are well known why is there still such poverty and insecurity that millions of people every year feel compelled to risk their lives making perilous journeys in search of the opportunities to support themselves and their families that those in higher income countries take for granted?

It can only be that they either don’t know that the causes of wealth are well proven (e.g. The Human Freedom Index or World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index) or see no chance of them being replicated in their own countries. So a prerequisite to an end to the heart breaking mass movements of poor people is for there to be a better understanding of the principles and foundations on which market economies are based and moves to install something along these lines in their own countries.

As so many people in the world have no access to such information our mission is to make the ideas more widely accessible in countries and languages where they are currently not available. Working with trusted local partners, who understand the circumstances in their particular countries, we support the translation and publication, promotion and exploration of relevant books and mini libraries on CDs which continue to be very popular where internet connections are too slow or expensive to access information otherwise.

All the projects in this report were fully or partly supported by NFS.

On the cover: Above: Sharing a joke when working on market based policy solutions in Lebanon. Below: Concentrated note taking at the Media Training in Tanzania

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

Translations and Publications in 2019

This year we have the biggest program of translations, publication and promotion of classical liberal texts ever. They are a work in progress with most of the projects finishing later in the year but we are excited that there will be 4 new books available in Farsi and in Turkish, 2 in Indonesian, Nepalese, and Sinhalese and one each in Bosnian, Serbian and Dari. Some will also be published in Arabic.

Titles include *Foundations of a Free Society*, an *Introduction to Capitalism* and *101 Classical Liberal Thinkers* published by the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) in London and written by Dr Eamonn Butler. *Free Trade and How it Enriches Us* by Professor Donald Boudreaux, *Socialism; the Failed Idea that Never Dies* by Dr Kristian Niemietz from the IEA and a *Beginners Guide to Liberty* edited by Richard Wellings and published by the Adam Smith Institute.

All of them will make the concepts of a free society accessible to new audiences in all those countries.

Ahead of the curve translations of the books on Capitalism and Trade are already available in French. They are being explored and discussed with student groups in Rwanda, Burundi and the D.R of Congo by the Centre for Development and Enterprise: Great Lakes. Communications teams of about 20 people in each country will promote them more widely through blogs, newspapers, radio and TV where possible.

Students in Goma, D.R.Congo proudly holding up their copies of an Introduction to Capitalism after a seminar on it led by Aimable Manirakize, CEO of CDE: Great Lakes



The books have been in great demand in this area where there are currently no books of this sort. ‘We try to manage well despite the very large number of people who want to have the books, especially that of The Introduction to Capitalism. I never thought that books will make a lot of impact to our target groups. ...thank you for giving us this precious gift... if there are possibilities please assist us with funds to print more copies for them.’

Education Weeks – a new concept for 2019

In some parts of the world where there are not only no accessible texts to enable people to explore the values, foundations and effects of free societies but also very few, if any, who can teach these topics or lead discussions.

So this year we supported some of our African partners to have a respected facilitator take part in a number of events over a week so that not only students, but business people, journalists and those involved in the political process could also learn more about the topic. We were extremely grateful that Dr Patrick Mardini from Lebanon and Dr Brian Baugus from the USA agreed to do this for us.

Liberty Sparks Education Week in Tanzania

Liberty Sparks team led by Evans Exaud put on an action packed week in June. 200 applicants were received for 30 places for the Media Training which was facilitated by Prof. Brian Baugus and journalist Rejoice Ngwenya from Zimbabwe amongst others. Classical Liberalism, Internet Freedom and Media Censorship were amongst the topics discussed.

A 2 day Young Scholars Colloquium was next with 30 from Malawi, Kenya, Uganda, Zimbabwe and Tanzania chosen from 120 applicants. 12 were winners of the 2018 Free Market Great Debate, 10 were Students for Liberty leaders, and 10 were selected from a previous Liberty Sparks program. So everyone already had some understanding and was keen to learn. Brian sent out readings in advance and topics covered with these young intellectuals were entrepreneurship and development, rule of law, limited government and Christian social teaching.

The theme of The Uhuru Conference on the following day was “Entrepreneurship and Leadership: Hope for Tanzania.” 250 were selected for the event from 600 applicants with 197 eventually attending which was the highest number Liberty Sparks has ever had and the screening process ensured strong candidates.

Conference speakers included Professor Brian Baugus, Rejoice Ngwenya and Evans Exaud, CEO of Liberty Sparks. After lunch the winners of the Liberty Sparks 2018 Great Debate, (funded by NFS), who had already attended the Young Scholars Colloquium, took part in a debate on free markets. Speakers were also interviewed by different media including ITV, Channel Ten, Nipashe and Mwananchi.

The Uhuru Dinner began with Speed networking. Every two minutes the people on one side move along one seat so everybody meets someone new



The Uhuru Gala dinner was the first time that Liberty Sparks had been able to run an event of this sort and business people and 110 current and potential partners came to learn about the work they do.

On the final day Brian and Evans spent time with 60 men and women who had taken part in on line training for entrepreneurs provided by Liberty Sparks and developed by Brian Baugus with some of his pupils at Regent University in the USA. The purpose was to discuss the barriers facing businesses in Tanzania.

A Busy Week in Burundi, Rwanda and D.R Congo, June 2019

The Francophone Symposium, run by the Center for Development and Enterprise, was a series of two-day interactive round tables exploring the fundamentals of liberalism inspired by the Socratic discussion format. 68 students applied from Rwanda, Burundi and the D.R.Congo with 30 selected based on their experience and understanding of the issues. Each was sent readings from liberal thinkers about solutions to social and economic problems so they would be well equipped for the upcoming discussions.

The Great Lakes Economic Summit followed on June 5th at the Kings Conference Center in Bujumbura with 120 participants from the fields of business, academia, the media, the regulatory agencies and the Ministry of Finance and of Commerce. Dr Mardini spoke on regulatory barriers to free enterprise and particularly the consequences of regulation on the creation of companies. He concluded that the three

factors that will bring prosperity to the region are economic freedom, the rule of law and property rights. Other speakers supported him.

25 journalists and bloggers discussing the role of free societies in reducing poverty



On the final day 25 (47 applied) journalists, bloggers, TV animators and communications experts from the D.R.Congo, Rwanda and Burundi gathered at the French Institute of Burundi for the opportunity to discuss The Role of the Media in the fight against poverty based on the principles of a free society.

There was a daily press conference with at least 19 reports from 12 media outlets including television and radio.

Tolerance and Prosperity Caravan, Afghanistan

Our long term partners The Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation (AELSO) arranged an ambitious Tolerance and Prosperity Caravan with the aim of promoting, liberty, tolerance and opposition to radicalism in four provinces outside Kabul. They wanted to increase understanding of these concepts and other classical liberal values among young people, Islamic scholars, civil society activists and journalists in Afghanistan.

They also ran the 4th Annual Human Rights Club for 40 young intellectuals to learn about basic human rights and classical liberal values, which unfortunately ran into trouble when threatened by unfriendly factions so they broke it down into smaller groups to make it less obvious. They also continued with their Silk Road Radio Station which is now broadcast by the national radio as well.

The Tolerance and Prosperity Caravan included a conference in 4 major provincial cities with around 200 participants in each, 20 smaller discussion events for an exchange of views, distributing relevant books including Islamic Foundations of a Free Society and giving away mini libraries on CD as well as 12,000 leaflets being delivered.

60% of the caravan was completed in 2018 and the remaining 40% in spring 2019 although some changes of plans were necessary because of security problems.

The final 2-day conference in Mazar e Sharif City



The final 2-day conference held in Mazar e Sharif City was well attended with a number of government officials, students, scholars, policy makers, journalists and others from civil society. It was covered by more than 20 members of the national and international broadcasting and print media. Agreements for cooperation were signed with three prestigious universities and a young classical liberal network was established there which AELSO will support and work with in the future

Should you have the right to choose your own career?

The Student's Organization for Liberty and Entrepreneurship, (SOLE) conducted a training in Yambio, South Sudan on academic liberty and mentorship in June 2019

76 students, 28 boys and 48 girls took part in a debate on whether you should be able to choose your own career or someone else should choose it for you in a country where the traditions are not for individual choice particularly where girls and women are concerned and discussions about freedom are not welcome.

The aim was to encourage the students to consider how much freedom they should have in these sorts of choices and understand their rights to participate in a learning environment that emphasizes mutual respect, tolerance, and free inquiry. They became interested in learning more about liberty and how it contributes to prosperity. The students then discussed their own career choices.

Students in South Sudan discussing whether they should choose their own careers



The 10th Khanaspur Residential Course in Pakistan.

NFS has supported this five-day flagship event of the Alternative Solutions Institute in Pakistan (ASI) for the past 10 years. The main purpose is to introduce young people in Pakistan to the concepts of the philosophy of rights and economic freedom and to develop a network of potential change makers in favour of individual freedom and limited government.

The 35 participants, who each have to pay a subsidised fee, are selected from about 300 applicants on the basis of leadership potential and contribution to society. They

All eyes on Dr Khalil Ahmad who has been responsible for a big increase in interest in a liberal agenda in Pakistan since he read George Soros' The Open society and turned from teaching communism to teaching classical liberalism



each receive a manual of the writings of well-known economists, political scientists and liberty champions. There are now 300 alumni of this event which added to the 5000 alumni of the other seminars run by ASI form a strong and growing constituency of thinkers and influencers promoting a free society in Pakistan.

Sessions cover the ideas of Ayn Rand, Milton Friedman and other such eminent writers and thinkers to encourage discussion of the ways in which social and economic problems can be solved. In addition indices such as the Economic Freedom Report, the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Index and the International Property Rights Index are studied to learn how the economic performance of Pakistan compares to other countries.

Economic Foundations for a Free and Prosperous Lebanon

Religious tensions are part of the daily life in Lebanon and they often lead to direct confrontations between sects and religions. The purpose of this two-day workshop was to promote Free Market Economics as an engine of peace and prosperity since it has the ability to become the common denominator of all the conflicting groups. The workshop for 60 staff and activists from 8 political parties is a unique opportunity to bring together parties/ex militias that otherwise would not interact. The objective is to shift the discussion from religion and war to policies that would improve the standard of living for all Lebanese, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Young intellectuals, politicians and political activists learned how to integrate free market principles, when assessing a situation or taking a position on a policy issue.

Groups from different political parties in Lebanon discussing market based solutions to policy problems



Given the hostility between different political/ sectarian factions, several simultaneous workshops were run, where parties can be separated from their rivals. This prevents the discussion from drifting to topics related to civil war and sectarian tensions and centres it on free market policies. In addition the workshop included several common/interactive sessions and there is a total of 3 hours of breaks a day when opposing parties were encouraged to interact.

This workshop is part of a larger program called LIMS Leader Academy. In order to qualify to the workshop, participants were asked first to take LIMS' online program: Connect Lebanon to Prosperity. The online program gathers the largest Arabic free market video collection. Once they had watched the needed number of videos, they could qualify to the workshop.

Caravan of Freedom in Ivory Coast Succeeds Despite Disruptions

The Audace Institute Afrique believes that freedom is the solution to poverty which was the message of their 2019 Caravan to five different towns in the Ivory Coast in May 2019. There was an emphasis on the responsibility that citizens must take in building a better society. The workshops started with participants being asked to talk about the difficulties they face and to identify solutions. Initially all the suggested solutions were for government action.

Then there was a discussion about the failure of the state to help them so far and they were asked to look for solutions without the state whereupon the participants began to suggest liberal solutions themselves.

A large and engaged audience turned out in Daloa despite a general strike



A total of 514 took part, 324 men and 190 women and including 2 radio broadcasts the potential audience was over 15,000 people

The events were held in Aboisso, in Man, in Daloa, and also in Korhogo where the booked hall was suddenly let instead to the International Monetary Fund: disappointed students set about finding another venue themselves. And in Bouake despite day-long disruptions by the Students Union, students determinedly continued the discussions until late.

Comments on NFS projects:

- “Please, please support again Education Week 2020.”
- “I loved your training but the time was not enough”
- “The young scholar's colloquium was very packed and helpful. Thanks so much for organizing such an event. We managed to create a network and we have something to teach others in my country Zimbabwe.”
- “Through this training, I am motivated to spread the ideas of Liberty and grow the family of libertarians. I will conduct this training in Malawi using the knowledge from here”
- “The books contain much sought after treasure.”
- “We have had lamentations from some professors, university readers, journalists, bloggers, politicians and some organizations of the civil society who have not yet had a book donation.”
- “If you want to understand....economics ...the CD of Ideas for free Society can be your best class or teacher”

- “We received hundreds of positive feed backs from these CDs ... (in Dari and Pashto) and plan to make the 3rd version as the universities are using the CDs as a tool to find and read all the books.....”
- “As we distribute the CD to all the universities in our country we received many requests to edit and print the book of Dr Eamonn Butler, *Foundations of a Free Society* in Afghanistan; therefore we plan to do that.”

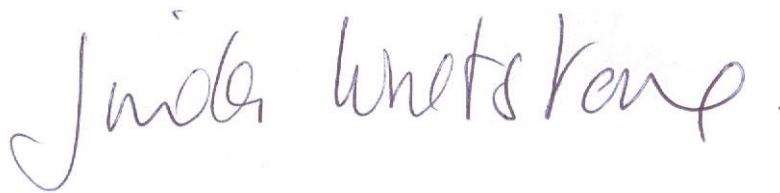
The CD Challenge for 2020.

Somewhere between 150,000 and 200,000 of the mini libraries of classical liberal texts have been distributed in English, Portuguese, Kyrgyz, Turkish, Chinese, Russian, Arabic, French and Dari/Pashto through partners in over 60 countries. People tend to think they must be obsolete but for many reasons this is not so and this year we have supplied them to Uganda, Burundi, D.R.Congo, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan because they are still the best way of distributing these ideas in those countries.

But because newer computers are no longer able to show CDs and for copyright reasons we can't put all the texts on line we need to find a way to make them widely and cheaply accessible on a mobile or computer even where there is not a consistent connection to the internet. Suggestions are very welcome!

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.

Very best wishes to all of you in your efforts to promote freedom.



Chairman, Network for a Free Society

Please support our work if you can by contacting linda@freesocieties.org.

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