



# NETWORK FOR A **FREE SOCIETY**

AUGUST 2020

<https://www.networkforafreesociety.org>





# Network for a Free Society

Our Annual Report from August 2019 to July 2020

**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.**

Even if we believe government has a legitimate role to play in controlling the Coronavirus pandemic we should all be concerned at the opportunities it gives them to increase their control over all of us. Our mission 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 free societies.

## The Ripple Effect of Ideas

In 2015 a young Burundian human rights activist, Aimable Manirakiza, travelled for four days by road to get to a Students for Liberty event in Kenya because he was desperate for solutions to the despair and poverty in his country. He was inspired by his first introduction to ideas about free societies and particularly happy to receive a CD of classical liberal texts in

French on the CD which he read avidly.



*Quiz launch at Bujumbura University. 150 students including 7 teams from different faculties all competing to qualify for the championships*

In the next two years he started SFL chapters in 8 universities in Burundi, 5 in Rwanda and 7 in D.R.Congo and an inter university quiz contest involving 1000+ students annually has since been

run between them. It is based on the Institute of Economic Affairs book Foundations of a Free Society by Eamonn Butler. Its translation into French, the French CD and CDs in another 8 languages were developed and funded by NFS.

On the cover: Above: *Volunteers preparing for an event with the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation in Kabul.*

Below: *The Islam and Liberty Network's conference on the Islamic Case for Religious Freedom.*

In 2018 he handed the flourishing SFL groups to others, notably Monia Wakana and founded the Centre for Development and Enterprise: Great Lakes, based on the principles of a free society, to reduce the obstacles to prosperity and opportunity in Burundi, Rwanda and DRC. Other SFL alumni joined him as volunteers and they have already succeeded in reducing barriers to economic opportunity in Burundi.

Bindu Espoire first learned of these ideas as part of SFL in the D.R.Congo and by taking part in the essay contest at his university. He was as inspired as Aimable by Foundations of a Free Society and wanted to replicate what Aimable and his team had achieved in Burundi.



*Bindu exploring the ideas in the book on Radio Simba a popular local radio station*

With help from them CDE: D.R.Congo was launched late in 2019. In March 2020 Bindu is able to introduce a group of students to these ideas with the book a Beginners Guide to Liberty from the Adam Smith Institute in French. Also to a broader group of people on Simba and other radio stations. It was very likely the first any of these audiences had heard about

free societies let alone owned a book or CD that they could study at their leisure.

Although the support of others was also seminal, especially Students for Liberty and Atlas Network, both Aimable and Bindu believe that the CD in French and in

*A Beginners Guide to Liberty being explored with students in Democratic Republic of Congo*

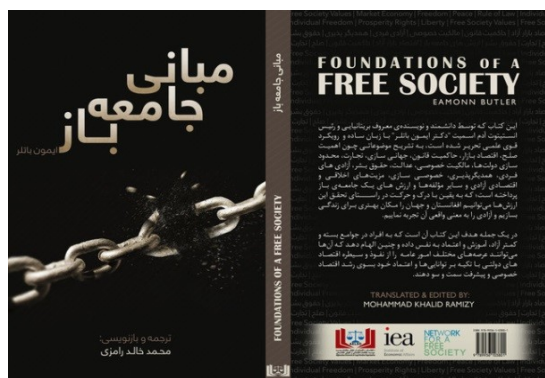
particular the book ‘Foundations of a Free Society’ which is on it were crucial to them really understanding the principles and foundations of a free society and being able to pass those on to so many others so relatively fast and successfully.



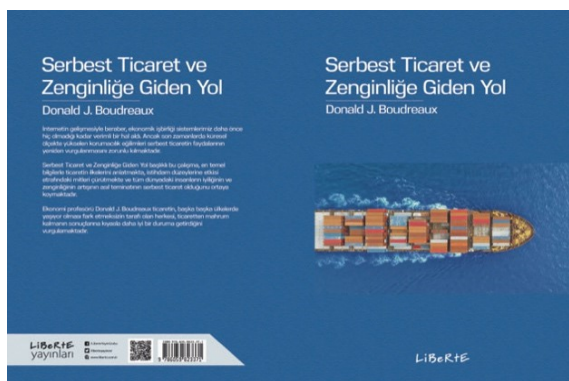
NFS is delighted to have been able to support these efforts to increase understanding of the creative power of freedom by supplying 8700 copies of the CD and several thousand books in French, as well as funding the quiz and other events including their Freedom Week.

## Translations and Publications in Report Year August 2019/July 2020

### *Foundations of a Free Society in Dari*



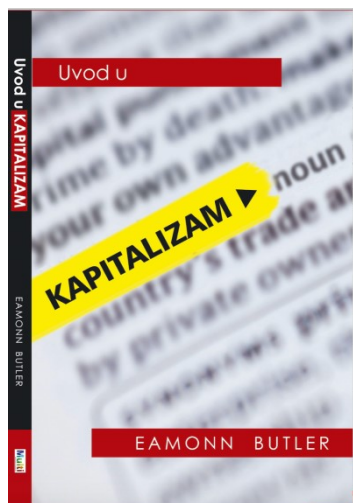
### *Free Trade and How it Enriches Us in Turkish*



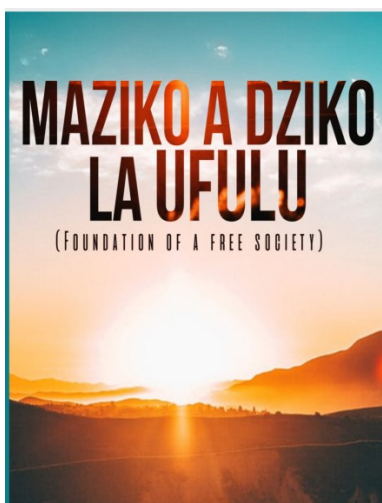
It is hard for some of us to imagine living in a country in which no one understood or believed in the concept of a free society and with no access to texts in their language that explored and explained the role that rule of law, protection of private property, open markets and free speech play in creating an environment for opportunity, enterprise and prosperity.

But this is the situation for millions around the world who as a result see no escape from the poverty and repression that engulfs them because they do not understand the relationship between freedom and human flourishing.

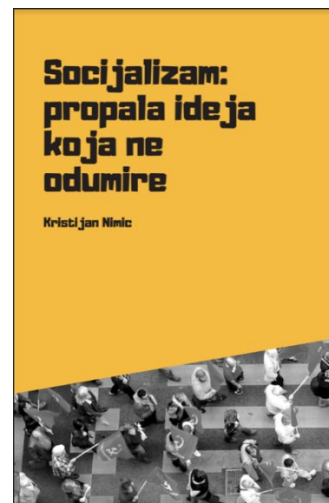
### *An Introduction to Capitalism in Bosnian*



### *Foundations of a Free Society in Chicewa*



### *Socialism: the Failed Idea that Never Dies in Serbian*



NFS was able to support many such translations and publications by our partners in the 2019/20 report year thanks to generous donors for this work especially the Sarah Scaife Foundation. We also supported their dissemination in hard or soft copy through seminars, conferences, blogs, articles, radio programs etc. and on the mini-libraries of classical liberal texts on CDs of which thousands are taken up annually by students worldwide.



Language	Title	Countries
Armenian	Foundations of a Free Society. Free Trade & How it Enriches Us,* School of Thought: 101 Great Liberal Thinkers.	Armenia
Arabic	An Introduction to Capitalism, Islamic Foundations of a Free Society,**	Morocco, Tunisia.
Bosnian	An Introduction to Capitalism.	Bosnia
Chicewa	Foundations of a Free Society.	Malawi; Zimbabwe ; South Africa; Zambia
Dari	Foundations of a Free Society.	Afghanistan
Farsi	Free Trade & How it Enriches Us,* Socialism; The failed Idea that Never Dies,*** An Introduction to Capitalism,	Iran
French	An Introduction to Capitalism, Free Trade & How it Enriches Us,* A Beginners Guide to Liberty,****	Burundi, Rwanda, D.R.Congo, Ivory Coast.
Georgian	Foundations of a Free Society	Georgia
Hindi	Public Choice: A Primer	India.
Indonesian	Free Trade & How it Enriches Us,* An Introduction to Capitalism.	Indonesia
Nepalese	Foundations of a Free Society, An Introduction to Capitalism.	Nepal
Serbian	Socialism: The Failed Idea that Never Dies,***	Serbia.
Singalese	A Beginners Guide to Liberty*****	Sri Lanka
Spanish	Foundations of a Free Society	Venezuela
Turkish	Free Trade & How it Enriches Us, An Introduction to Capitalism, Socialism: the Failed Idea that Never dies, School of Thought: 101 Great Liberal Thinkers.	Turkey
Ukrainian	Foundations of a Free Society	Ukraine
Urdu	Foundations of a Free Society	Pakistan

*Titles in blue were translated and published in the report year 2019/20. Titles in black were translated & published in earlier years but are being disseminated this year or are in the process of translation. Those without \*s were written by Dr Eamonn Butler. \* by Dr Donald Boudreaux. \*\*Edited by Dr Nouh el Harmouzi and Linda Whetstone. \*\*\* by Dr Kristian Niemietz. \*\*\*\*Edited by Richard Wellings. All were published by the Institute of Economic Affairs except A Beginners Guide to Liberty which was published by the Adam Smith Trust.*

## The AELSO Academy

The Afghan Economics and Legal Studies Organisation have been promoting free society values for many years.



*Young Leaders Summit, Rana University, Kabul with 380 students & human rights activists taking part*

Their academy includes major conferences; training sessions on tolerance, human rights, rule of law a market economy and other free society values; round table/exchange of view sessions in three Afghan provinces to debate the compatibility of Islam and free society values

and capacity building sessions for other Afghan organisations with similar missions.

They run their own very successful Silk Road Radio Station, produce webinars in Dari which is also understood in Iran and Tajikistan, produce education videos monthly, translate and publish classical liberal books and the Dari version of the CD which they call ‘Ideas for Peace and Prosperity’. The CDs and books are distributed widely at universities, conferences; meetings etc. and their programmes connect with thousands of people every year.

150 people, including many news agencies, attended their ‘Peace, Tolerance & Prosperity in Islam’ conference held in Paktia Province one of the least secure regions in Afghanistan. Well known Islamic scholars spoke and ideas from “Islamic Foundations of a Free Society”, which AELSO translated into Dari in 2018, were discussed. Copies were given out as well as the CD “Ideas for a Free Society” to those who read English. Copies in Dari had run out and the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition in Dari had not yet arrived from the printers.

300 attended their conference ‘Think big! Peace, Liberty and Prosperity’. In Kabul in October 2019.

*Panel at the Event*

This included all women panels and was covered live on Tolo News TV and more than 27 other media organisations.



## Venezuela: Students for Liberty Translation, Publication and Seminars

NFS funded Venezuelan Students for Liberty to print 500 copies of Foundations of a Free Society in Spanish, because they had no books about free societies to share with students, and to distribute and promote it.

*Rafael Arraiz Lucca leading a discussion in Caracas*



They efficiently arranged seminars and other events to explore and discuss the concepts in the book with Venezuelan students. These included 11 seminars based on the different chapters of the book in Caracas, Barinas, Merida, Maracado and San Cristobel, each with a respected facilitator, with a total of 249 students taking part.

In addition 224 students visited their Liberty Spots at 7 universities where they met students, discussed the issues with them and gave them copies of the book. Finally 50 students attended the small conference they ran in Caracas while their energetic social media campaign on the book reached a total of 61,786 with 3858 interactions and 14 blog posts were published.

## Making the Muslim Case for Freedom

Network for a Free Society has supported the Islam and Liberty Network, whose mission is to explore and promote a Muslim case for freedom, since its inception at the Mont Pelerin Society meeting in Istanbul in 2011. So we are delighted by its well-deserved successes in the last twelve months as it builds the intellectual case for religious, economic and political freedom within Islam.

ILN won the Atlas Asia Liberty Award in April this year for their faith-based Muslim Case for a Free Society project including their most recent three international conferences. These were in Kuala Lumpur in 2017 on Democratic Transitions in the Muslim World, in Islamabad in 2018 on Building Islamic Foundations for the Open Market and in Jakarta on the Islamic Case for Religious Freedom.



A recent video on the Muslim Case for Freedom has been watched over 15,000 times and a podcast on Islam and Religious Liberty had over 200 participants.



## Armenian Liberty Student Organization

The big challenge in Armenia is both the lack of teachers who support or promote the concept of a free society and lack of books on the topic. So ALSO translated Foundations of a Free Society into Armenian, and then persuaded Taron Simonyan, one of the few classical liberal leaders in the country to lead a series of lectures on it. He was prominent in the 2017 Velvet Revolution and then won a seat in their parliament and here he is taking one of the seminars in a room in their parliament building.

*Student at a seminar holding up a copy of Foundations for a Free Society in Armenian*

The economics student holding the Armenian translation of the book was very inspired by it and has recently suggested that as a means of getting more students to study it, he runs an essay contest asking students to suggest an innovative solution to a current problem in Armenia based on the ideas in the book. The prizes for the best three would be a computer which would be particularly interesting to many students who cannot afford a computer of their own. This is a project we would hope to support as funding and priorities permit.





## A Busy Week in Uganda

Ugandan think tank Action for Liberty and Economic Development ran a hectic week of education in 2019 including a conference on Entrepreneurship and a Free Society at Makerere University with 73 young professionals, journalists and think-tank leaders participating from South Sudan, Burundi, Kenya and Rwanda.

Next was a National Students Symposium at Mkumba University which attracted an audience of 68 students new to the concept of a free society. Many of them signed up for future participation with ALED and the university strengthened its commitment to partner with ALED on further such discussions in the university.

The following day the Entebbe Business Summit on Creating an Eco-System that Nurtures Entrepreneurship brought together the business community, policy makers and civil society. It was facilitated by a well-known television commentator and was broadcast live. 300 people turned up although only 200 had signed up for it.

*Entebbe Business Summit on Creating an Eco-System that Nurtures Entrepreneurship*



The penultimate event was a seminar for 31 journalists from 6 media houses on Economic Journalism and Free Markets in cooperation with the Entebbe Journalists Association which promised future collaboration along the same lines. Last but not least was an event on The Market and the Church in Truevine Church which attracted an enthusiastic audience of 167. Dr Brian Baugus of Regent University in Virginia participated in all the events with others supporting him according to the topic and copies of the CD Ideas for a Free Society were given to all participants who wanted to study the issues further.

Mugabi Socrates ALEDS's CEO is a strong supporter of the CD and makes every effort to ensure all students they meet get one.

## The Belief in Lebanon Project

NFS mostly supports projects whose aim is to increase understanding of the values and foundations of a free society rather than the policies which such an understanding might promote although of course we hope and expect that our work will lead to better policies. However given the dire state of Lebanon in early 2020 we agreed to support the Lebanese Institute for Market Studies project to develop policies based on free society values that would be most likely to enable a recovery. The government produced draft reforms and the Belief in Lebanon blueprint builds on those reforms.

From the NFS perspective we were interested in as many Lebanese people as possible understanding about the merits of free market solutions to social and economic problems so that their future thinking and decisions making could be informed by this knowledge. LIMS certainly achieved that by reaching a great many people via social and traditional media and also in person . One of their Facebook posts on the market oriented policies was reached 2,633,089 times with 2,833 engagements and another had 20,775 reaches, 2,808 engagements and 92 shares.

*Seminar in Beirut run by LIMS to explain and discuss the market oriented policies in their Belief in Lebanon Report*



In addition 87 interviews were given in the traditional media through 35 different media outlets and 84 parliamentarians from 10 different political parties received the report including all ministers.

99 people with a particular interest in social change took part in a two day seminar run by LIMS to learn more about their policy proposals and the free market values that underpin them. There were three different sessions and each session had three different speakers who discussed different economic topics with the participants.



**Each of the projects** in this report were completely or significantly funded by Network for a Free Society and each organiser had agreed that if the virus made it impossible to run the projects as planned they would either be run virtually or the funding would be kept until it was possible to run them later as planned. As yet none of them have had to be put on hold for a significant amount of time.

## **Outputs achieved by NFS in 2019**

In the calendar year 2019 NFS supported the translation and publication of about 15,500 copies of 7 different classical liberal texts in 14 different languages that have been distributed and promoted in 20+ countries.

We also supported the printing of 10,700 of the CDs Ideas for a Free Society, some of them with over 100 classical liberal texts on them, which have been created and explored in 5 different languages in 29 countries in Africa and Asia. We know that in addition other organisations are making their own copies of the CD and putting the contents on memory sticks

136 National Radio and TV stations have covered the NFS funded events and 154 journalists have attended seminars on their role in a free societies.

1766 students have attended small group seminars with in-depth discussions and 3331 students have attended conferences or taken part in quiz or debate contests.

## **Impacts achieved by NFS in this report year**

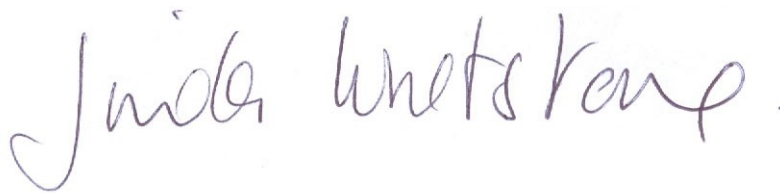
- Dr Ali Hassania from Iran spoke at the Islam and Liberty Networks 7<sup>th</sup> Conference in Indonesia in 2019 on Between “Religious Intolerance”. He was so inspired by the conference themes that he engaged some of his students to write papers on these ideas in an Iranian context. NFS is a long-time supporter of ILN and of this conference.
- Ibrahim Anoba is CEO of AfricanLiberty.Org, a platform that promotes discussion about social, legal and economic issues. He recently told the NFS CEO, discussing the book he is writing on the history of liberal thought in Africa, that his first introduction to classical liberal ideas was when Adedayo Thomas gave him a copy of the NFS CD Ideas for a Free Society with over 100 classical liberal texts on it.
- There is a quote in the Afghan Economic and Legal Studies Organisation 2019 Annual Report about the CDs. “As a university lecturer I found these CDs can enhance the knowledge of students to better understand the foundations of a free society. This is a great source of knowledge ...which if read will indeed lead the Afghan nation towards peace and freedom”
- Gentile Ishara Musimwa is an assistant in the economics department of the DRC, Catholic University of Bukavu where he uses the knowledge acquired at Freedom Week in Burundi and the texts on the CDs in his university courses.

- NFS funded a seminar run by the Islam and Liberty Network in Tunisia in 2019 which traced the foundations of economic, religious and political freedoms in Islam. Tasnim Idriss, a Tunisian English Teacher was chosen to attend from 83 who applied and so impressed CEO Ali Salman that she now works part time for ILN to improve on line output. She was responsible for the video about ILN which was viewed 15.2 thousand times and a popular podcast series.
- In 2019 the Institute of Economic Affairs publication 'Socialism: the Failed Idea that Never Dies' by Kristian Niemietz was translated into Farsi and 1000 copies published and disseminated in Iran. It was so popular that in 2020 a commercial publisher is printing 3000 copies for sale in that country.

**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.**

**Also if you have ideas or advice please do get in touch.**

**Very best wishes to you all in your efforts to increase opportunities by promoting freedom.**



Chairman, Network for a Free Society

Please support our work if you can by contacting [linda@freesocieties.org](mailto:linda@freesocieties.org).

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