



Manifesto of the International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY)

Last revision: Istanbul, December 2011

Introduction

The IFLRY Manifesto is the core document that outlines our values and beliefs which unite the young liberals, democrats, radicals, centrists and libertarians who are members of the International Federation of Liberal Youth.

Ch1 -The Individual

The Individual is cause and limitation of all politics. It is the cause, because politics has just there to fulfill tasks, where individuals cannot balance their interest by themselves. The individual also sets the limitation by its possession of universal human rights. Dignity and freedom of the individual are the basis of all our political ideas and concepts.

Everybody is equal in freedom, independent of ethnicity, gender, heritage, culture, religion, or sexual orientation. It is our common goal to defend the freedom of the individual where it is challenged, where it has been lost, we aim to reinstitute it.

We are convinced that each individual needs to pursue its own goals for happiness and lives according to its own concepts, to live a satisfying life with decisions made by itself and with self-responsibility.

Education must be available to everybody. It is of the greatest importance that education should be free of political or religious influence. The education of an individual is of fundamental importance to himself and society. Individual development is at the core of liberal thought, as we believe that every individual has specific talents, which should be developed.

Ch2 - Society

The rights of the free individual also apply to the voluntary cooperation of free individuals. In other words: a liberal society is a civil society, with a clear separation of religion and state, where people enjoy the freedom of peaceful assembly and association, freedom of expression, freedom of cultural identity, freedom of religion, freedom of ethnicity, freedom of gender, freedom of heritage, and freedom of sexual orientation.

Liberals persuade the equality of rights of all citizens, the rule of law and the freedom of belief. We believe that the development of any society involves its expansion by inclusion of diversity: cultural, linguistic, religious, and ethnic. Modern society is based on the totality of cultures of all citizens and not only a part of them.

Ch3 - Economy

The foundation for individuals to make their own choices in the economic sphere is the free market. As liberals, we do not see a significant role for the government in all matters regarding the economic life of the individual, as it has the freedom to deploy its talents as it wishes and it has proprietary rights of the fruits of his labour.

Liberals firmly believe in the free market for private goods, we also recognize that when it comes to environmental aspects, we need to accept that collective action is necessary in order to commit to goals that are feasible in making a difference, whether in the position of consumer or producer. Solutions should ideally be based on market mechanisms and property rights. Modern technology and private enterprise need to be seen as the best means to create a better environment rather than as obstacles towards it.

Ch4 - State

For liberals, the state is the guarantor of citizens' rights and freedoms and of society security, without it defining goals and pursuits but only following them. These guarantees can only be achieved in a state with democratic and transparent structures.

We believe that individuals have all rights over their body, their mind and their fruits of his labour. Hence, we favour a limited role of the state with its main functions being: to uphold the rule of law, contract law and property rights in particular, to create equal opportunities for all and to ensure the enforcement of human rights.

Democracy is a driving force of continuous reform and an instrumental way of ensuring a free society, while it imposes on the individual the responsibility to respect the opinions and rights of others within their community. A modern, liberal society based on freedom and reason can only be maintained through democratic government since only democracy can ensure the fundamental human and civil rights of the individual. Democracy is the political system, which to the greatest extent possible is capable of respecting personal freedoms and gives the best preconditions for individuals to fully develop their personalities and realize their hopes and needs. Only by integrating liberalism and democracy can both systems fully develop.

An essential condition for a liberal democratic society is the strict separation of powers into an executive, a legislature and a judiciary. All three branches must subject themselves to public scrutiny and must account for all their actions through clear and transparent procedures and free and easy access to information.

Ch5 - International Order

A global civil society composed of freely associating individuals who are dedicated to human rights and individual freedom is the most powerful tool in overcoming the forces of coercion, fundamentalism and totalitarianism. As liberals, we therefore stress the importance of international cooperation to promote and secure the universality of human rights, which extends across borders and continents.

We recognize that individuals involved in international trade and societal exchange have a high interest in peace and stability in our world. They can function as an effective stop to war and conflict. We therefore strongly reject protectionism, nationalism, welcome globalization and support the free, uncensored exchange of ideas as well as the opportunity for people to travel. We recognize that individuals involved in international trade have a high interest in peace and stability in our world and can function as an effective stop to war and conflict. We therefore welcome globalization and strongly reject protectionism and nationalism.

Facing the need to prevent conflicts and solve global problems, we call for intense international collaboration that goes beyond the mere pursuit of narrow state interests. Such collaboration can be promoted by more transparency and democracy within international organizations, particularly mentioning the United Nations.