

A MORE ACTIVE AND INCLUSIVE IFLRY

My name is Anders, I am a member of Liberal Youth of Sweden (LUF) and this is my candidacy to become Vice President of IFLRY at The General Assembly in Istanbul.

My candidacy is about working towards a more active and inclusive IFLRY.

With active I mean that IFLRY needs to do more, but also be better at being seen while doing it. By inclusive I mean that IFLRY needs to be better at strengthening members from underrepresented regions but also that IFLRY needs to become more legitimate within all of the member organizations.

More people needs to be involved in globalising freedom!

WHO AM I?

I am born and raised in Gothenburg where I currently study at the Gothenburg School of Business, Economics and Law, pursuing my double bachelors degree in International Relations and Economics. Apart from my university studies, I am also a student of The Foreign Academy at Stockholm Free World Forum. Before my studies in Sweden I spent about 1,5 years in The Czech Republic and Poland where I worked with translation and customer service.

ME AND LUF!

I became active in LUF 2010 based on it's stands on international solidarity and migration. Since then I have had local assignments, been chariman of a fund called The liberal refugee fund that distributed money to undocumented refugees in need of help, worked for LUF as a campaign co-ordinator and administator nationally, I am also a member of LUF's International commitee.

ME AND IFLRY!

I sincerely believe in international co-operation on all levels, i'm interested (and educated) in International politics which led to my interest in IFLRY as well as my drive to strengthen it.

Last year I attended both the General Assembly in Vienna and The Executive committe in Santo Domingo and I am also a current member of IFLRY's free trade programme. My experiences of IFLRY is that it's an important forum for dialouge, an amazing meeting place for liberals and, during the right circumstances, a powerful force for change.

MY LIBERALISM

Every liberal has his/her own definition of the term and his/her own views on how to change the world. For me, I believe that each individual has a responsibility for his/her own future but see the need for a small and effective state to guarantee basic rights. I think that democracy, rule of law and respect for human rights are a necessity to build a liberal society. I am also an internationalist. The same time, the struggle for free movements of individuals, goods and services goes hand in hand with all of the above mentioned. My main global issues are Migration, Gender equality and Trade. On the European level I'm interested in European integration.

PLATFORM

Our organizations come from different areas of the world and though our conditions may differ we share many challenges, interests and goals. We currently face a hostile world with populism and nationalism on the rise in most countries. In that environment, liberals need to act as a counterweight and fight for more democracy, freer individuals and freer markets. Through IFLRY we have an opportunity to work together in order to strengthen each other. We need to make better use of that.

My candidacy is about working towards a more active and inclusive IFLRY.

With active I mean that IFLRY needs to do more, but also be better at being seen while doing it. By inclusive I mean that IFLRY needs to be better at strengthening members from underrepresented areas but also that IFLRY needs to become more legitimate within the member organizations. To be considered legitimate an organization needs to be considered relevant. I think IFLRY needs to be better at promoting itself, that means more and better social media activity but also to be more present within member organizations.

REACHING OUT

Social media offers a great possibility of reaching out to all members as well as prospective ones.

It's a great way to spread awareness of our ideas and also great platforms for campaigning.

Last year, LYMEC arranged some good campaigns that targeted specific questions, such as the Greek referendum on its bailout. IFLRY's possibilities of campaigning in specific questions is more limited but there are areas where we can all unite and where there is campaigning to be made. The EC in Santo Domingo last year adopted a plan on an international campaign to end the drug war, proposed by Junge Liberale. That is one good example of a campaign that most of us would be able to participate in.

Ahead of the autumn General Assembly, I think that the IFLRY Bureau, regional members and Programme Managers should propose a strategy on online campaigning. I think that strategy should include an "Activist network", meaning a network of individual members who want to take part in creating and spreading campaigns, through social media but also locally. In our organizations we have a lot of good politics and IFLRY can be a tool in spreading it.

BEING RELEVANT TO MORE

IFLRY should not just be a forum for International committees and executive branches but needs to be visible for all members, and relevant to more. Whenever I am in a country where there are liberal organizations I try to visit them and that is something I want to continue with as Vice President. I think that the Bureau should try to visit as many national events of organizations as possible but there are of course limitations in terms of time and resources.

Therefore it is important that IFLRY's work is visible in the member organizations, social media is a big part of that but we also need to work more with activities that includes more people. Arranging Webinars and online events is a good way of doing so. And I also think that IFLRY should encourage member organizations to do the same and offer support in doing so. As liberals we are generally interested in getting to know more about what happens in the world and we need to be each others sources.

Another concrete thing that can be done to enhance all of us is to gather campaign ideas and best practices in a publication for all members to read and get inspired by. Our conditions may differ but we all have ideas, routines and experiences that can benefit others. If elected I would personally take responsibility to make such a publication a reality! I think we should try to create material that is sustainable, also when our generation of young liberals hands over to a new generation.

Keeping good contact with the organizations, and making ourselves available is another way of being relevant. There needs to be a clearer mechanism on how to inform those organizations who weren't at the IFLRY GA or EC. I also believe there needs to be a system with informal ambassadors, International officers or others interested in IFLRY's work, that can help communicate it to members in their organization.

BEING A TOOL

I want IFLRY to be more of a tool for the member organizations. Meaning, a link between members and a source for information. The best practices publication would be one part of that. But I also think that member organizations need to be made aware that they can contact IFLRY in order to receive information of different kinds. Information on how to get in contact with each other but also on training, grants to apply for and more. This information needs to be made available and we need to make sure that that members are aware.

It is also important that IFLRY encourages and supports initiatives of cooperation between members and help facilitate exchanges.

The programmes are an essential part of IFLRY and one that I believe can play an even bigger role. Their work also needs to be seen in member organizations. Setting up the council including Programme managers and The bureau was a good thing to better cooperate and the cooperation needs to be aimed at reaching out. How that is done will of course be different depending on the specific programmes but it needs to be better incorporated in the work of all.

BUILDING STRUCTURE

I am an organizer. I enjoy co-ordinating campaigns, events and to do boring administration. I like when things are structured and predictable. One thing that is neither is our current membership system that I want to look into. I will be honest and say that I don't really understand how it works and that in itself is a problem.

Structure is also necessary in other areas such as defining the mission of the programmes, having a mechanism on how to inform MO's not present at statutory events and in the internal work of both the bureau and the programmes. I think I can be of service in that work.

REACHING FURTHER

It is when the world is the least positive towards liberalism that liberalism is needed the most. And where the world is the least free, that's where liberals are needed the most. Organizations and individuals in these areas needs to be encouraged and supported. We need to expand further.

I think that IFLRY needs to be better at educating youth and to reach more organizations, especially organizations facing hostile environments. Organizations in areas where we are less present. To do that there needs to be a more clear cooperation with organizations such as SILC, Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung and other development organizations. We need them but they also need us and together we can work more actively to also build youth movements around the world.

I have discussed this with SILC recently and i'm happy that they support my ideas and visions.

Providing training is essential. IFLRY has a strong tradition of training and supporting organizations. That work needs to be strengthened.

I hope to be able to participate in putting the Pool of trainers in place and to further develop the training tools of IFLRY.

I believe in regional integration in general, and for IFLRY members in particular. Strengthening the regional cooperation is something I think is particularly important, especially in areas where we are less present. Setting up an Africa Programme is something I want to do and hopefully that could strengthen our presence in Africa.

On the same note, I think it's important to bring up gender equality. In reaching further we also need to think about who we reach. Through the Gender equality programme, IFLRY is strongly working for gender equality. But gender equality needs to be relevant in all parts of the organization, we need to have this in mind when appointing Programme managers, setting up programmes and it has to be relevant throughout the organization. Though this might not be to my advantage I want to urge the General Assembly to take this into consideration when electing the new bureau.

MY (PROSPECTIVE) ROLE AS IFLRY VICE PRESIDENT

I consider myself a productive teamplayer that gets things done.

If I become Vice President I will make sure to use my experiences in campaigning, training and administration in the organizations everyday work. I will be an active Bureau member, towards the office but also towards member organizations, visiting as many as possible and always stay open for dialouge and support.

If elected I want to take the lead in building more channels between the Bureau and the member organizations, I will work hard to implement the ideas I have but also the ideas of others.

I will take the lead on a stronger social media presence, more active interractions with members (webinars etc) and also work hard for a publication on campaign best practices.

This candidacy has been alot about my ideas and visions but making sure to care about what others want is equally, if not more, important. If elected I will make sure to listen, discuss and try to make everyone feel included in my work.

I cannot promise you the world, but I can promise you my dedication to making it better.

