

STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY QUARTERLY

SUMMER 2016

GOODBYE NANNY STATE,

HELLO LIBERTY

STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY SPARKS

#NONANNY DEBATE



**#NONANNY
SPOTLIGHT:** *SFL vs.
Lifestyle Regulation*
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*Introducing Wolf von
Laer* PG. 2

**LIBERTY IN EAST
AFRICA:** *Over 100
attend EASFLC* PG. 10





Letter FROM THE NEW CEO

By Wolf von Laer

During my five years as a Students For Liberty leader, I co-founded European Students For Liberty, started the Local Coordinator Program there, served as ESFL chairman, and have worked since April as SFL's Director of Professional Development. I am deeply grateful to SFL because it has made me into the person I am today. I grew up within the organization and became a better liberty advocate, thinker, and young professional due to SFL.

It's especially empowering to know that I shared this experience with the countless others whose lives SFL has changed for the better. It is through the lens of this experience that I view the amazing stories of our volunteers here in the United States and worldwide.

With every event, protest, conference, and argument raised in the name of liberty, our ideas reach new people. We educate today's students about the importance of a free society while empowering them to stand up for their rights

and the rights of others. Our students and alumni learn powerful lessons every day and become leaders capable of achieving incredible things on campus today and in business, academia, politics, nonprofits, and journalism tomorrow.

I invite you to read through these stories with the same perspective in mind. Each leader we produce goes on to multiply our impact by every life they touch. And every one of these "multipliers" has a story just like mine. Just last year, we trained over 1,500 multipliers and organized close to 100 conferences around the world.

Classical liberalism is a set of ideas that is optimistic about people's ability to improve their own and other people's lives through collaboration and exchange. Students For Liberty has proven this to be true by showing that young, dedicated, and passionate people can change today's world for the better. Examples from this report include our North American and European students' activism against the nanny state, the growth of

"I AM INCREDIBLY EXCITED TO BE SFL'S NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER. SFL'S IMPACT ON MY LIFE AND ON THE WORLD MAKES ME PROUD TO CONTRIBUTE MY TIME AND ENERGY TO FURTHER GROW SFL."

-Wolf von Laer

EsLibertad in the face of Latin American socialism and populism, as our third successful East Africa Regional Conference—which brought important new ideas to young people in Kenya, Uganda, Congo, Burundi, Eritrea, and Nigeria.

I am incredibly excited to be SFL's new Chief Executive Officer. SFL's impact on my life and on the world makes me proud to contribute my time and energy to further grow SFL. We have achieved much in the last decade, but the free society we envision is still far away. Free speech is under attack. Left- and right-wing ideologues advocate for policies that would limit our liberties and force everyone to live life according to *their* plan. Every generation has to stand up for the ideas of liberty. We are vigilant, and we value principles over expediency. To quote Tom Palmer: "I know that when there is a cry for liberty, peace, and justice, Students For Liberty will be there."

Students For Liberty and our thousands of student volunteers stand up for freedom! They can only

do this with your help as supporters, friends, mentors, and fellow travelers on the road toward the freedom we all need and deserve. With your help, I am confident that SFL will become the predominant force for classical-liberal ideas around the world!

Sincerely & For Liberty,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wolf von Laer'.

Wolf von Laer
CEO

CAMPUS COORDINATOR RETREAT INSPIRES STUDENT LEADERS TO SPREAD LIBERTY ACROSS NORTH AMERICA

By Daniel Pryor

Student leaders enrolled in SFL's Campus Coordinator Program visited Towson University from July 22-24, 2016, for an exciting weekend of training, networking, and planning for the upcoming academic year.

The purpose of the weekend retreat was to forge lasting friendships between incoming Campus Coordinators (CCs), build upon their natural talents, and create region-specific strategies for spreading the ideas of liberty to their fellow students.

According to both staff and CCs, three themes in particular stood out at the retreat. First, the level of creativity and passion exhibited by CCs was felt to be even higher than previous years, with an array of exciting new projects being planned in all regions. Second, several student leaders expressed their appreciation for the diversity of opinions and backgrounds represented during the weekend, which reflects SFL's wider commitment to being a big tent organization in the liberty movement. Third, the decision to place extra emphasis on regional planning for the upcoming year was welcomed; CCs devoted nearly six hours of the retreat to devising innovative outreach strategies and brainstorming about regional conferences.

The opening day saw attendees introduced to the roles and responsibilities of a CC, as well as the mission of SFL. However, the highlight of the first day was undoubtedly Dr. James Lark's keynote address, which was met with much enthusiasm. Dr. Lark emphasized the importance of being respectful when discussing ideas with those

who do not share the aims of the liberty movement, he entertained the audience with his approachable and light-hearted style.

Saturday morning was dominated by the first regional breakout session, whilst a Q&A with SFL's Board of Directors took place in the afternoon. Following dinner, CCs attended elective training track sessions on topics such as marketing and academic programs. This year's retreat was the first time such sessions were provided, and attendees were pleased with this opportunity for specialization. The final session of the day was a keynote speech by Tom Palmer, titled *Why We Fight*. In his speech, Tom took CCs through the history of young people in the liberty movement and impressed upon them the importance of continuing to passionately defend liberty across the world. The second day of the retreat ended with an extended social, giving CCs a further chance to network and build friendships.

The final day of the retreat was largely spent expanding upon regional plans developed earlier in the weekend and culminated in each region presenting their respective strategies in front of the whole group. Student leaders were also taught the basics of communicating the ideas of liberty in person and online.

The incoming CCs departed from Towson energized and well equipped to take the fight for liberty to their respective institutions. SFL cannot wait to report on their successes throughout the next year! ♦

Daniel Pryor is a
Communications Associate for SFL.



FREEDOM FEST RECEPTION with Steve Forbes

By Mary Crane

Students For Liberty was pleased to host Steve Forbes in Las Vegas, Nevada, at the annual FreedomFest gathering. Over 140 individuals joined outgoing SFL President Alexander McCobin and nearly 50 SFL Campus Coordinators who served as volunteers at the event.

Forbes was introduced by SFL supporters Mike and Lori Yashko of Naples, Florida. Forbes spoke on the necessity of Students For Liberty to become a larger force for good in America, and hit multiple themes outlined in his new book, co-authored with Elizabeth Ames, called *Reviving America: How Repealing Obamacare, Replacing the Tax Code and Reforming The Fed will Restore Hope and Prosperity*.

Forbes encouraged SFL supporters and students alike not to give up on liberty, or give in to tyranny. Forbes reminded attendees of SFL's accomplishments in faraway places like Brazil, and said those examples should serve as reminders of the work that can be done—and in many cases is being done—here in the United States. Students enthusiastically embraced Forbes' call to keep fighting the Establishment and to continue recruiting new voices to the movement.

The reception raised over \$10,000, and donations are still coming in! ♦

Mary Crane oversees Membership & External Relations
for SFL's Development team.



What our Students had to say about Freedom Fest

"It was the best time of my life! I got to reconnect with older friends and acquaintances from the liberty movement in addition to meeting new friends and expanding my network. Not to mention I got to meet quite a few of my political idols!"

- Hebing Wang, Former Campus Coordinator

"FreedomFest is an amazing opportunity for any liberty-minded individual. Not only do you get to see inspiring speakers—you form friendships which will last for the rest of your life!"

- Michael Hall, SFL Summer Intern

"FreedomFest was a fascinating experience, providing the opportunity for me to strengthen my relationships with former employers, fellow activists, and brilliant minds. I attended a screening of "Can We Take a Joke?" which gave me new ideas for free speech activism. I learned so much about public speaking and communication from watching those I admire in the movement deliver compelling talks."

- Liz Wolfe, Campus Coordinator

"FreedomFest is one of my favorite events of the liberty movement. I am so grateful that Students For Liberty has made it possible for me to attend this incredible convention for the last two years through the provision of their student scholarships. This year, I had the opportunity to meet esteemed speakers, network with hundreds of individuals in the movement, partake in several special events, and enjoy the social environment of sunny Las Vegas."

- Kelsi Dornquast, Campus Coordinator

"FreedomFest was a wonderful opportunity to meet new young activists, and reconnect with familiar faces in the movement. I enjoyed helping SFL solidify their relationship to the liberty community and its supporters. This is an invaluable opportunity that I would encourage students to participate in next year."

- Liz Jaluague, Former North American Executive Board Member

OUR NONANNY CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS LIFESTYLE FREEDOM ACROSS THE WORLD

By Yaël Ossowski

What began as an experiment with a few memes and photos exposing the growth of government intervention into our personal lives has turned into a global fight against the Nanny State and paternalistic policies. Started by local activists and students in Europe, it has now become a huge movement in Canada and will be increasingly featured in the United States and South Asia.

In pushing forward with this activism, Students For Liberty's goal is to foster a civil society that does not accept further infringements on consumer choice and individual responsibility. We want to show global regulators and policy-makers that further paternalism in consumer choice won't be tolerated by Millennials.

What do we mean by saying Nanny State policies? Any kind of limitation of consumer choice—be it tobacco control, liquor bans, sugar taxes, veggie days, bans of car sharing services like Uber, Airbnb purges, or gambling monopolies. Students For Liberty fights for consumer choice and less government interference in our daily lives and decisions.

Prompted by World Tobacco Day on June 1, our Canadian activists took to Parliament Hill to hand

out "No Nanny" plain-packaged chocolate bars to legislators and federal employees. The chocolate bar labels warn that chocolate "severely raises the risk of obesity" and therefore it "may kill you."

David Clement, North American Programs Director at Students For Liberty, was present in front of Canada's federal parliament on Tuesday to hand out the chocolate bars to protest the proposal for plain packaging of tobacco products, due to be introduced by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government.

"The Trudeau government's plan to force tobacco companies to use plain packaging on their products is a paternalistic, nanny-state policy that will fail to reduce smoking rates," said Clement. "Three years' worth of government evidence from Australia shows that plain packaging has not reduced smoking rates, the volume of tobacco consumed, or youth smoking."

Across the Atlantic, armed with plain-packaged chocolate bars, #FreeToChoose t-shirts, and #NoNanny stickers and gear, Students For Liberty activists across Europe have been holding a series of debates and events on lifestyle regulation.

Thus far, events have been held in Brno, Czech Republic; Warsaw, Poland; Belgrade, Serbia;

Reykjavík, Iceland; and Vilnius, Lithuania, including debates with government ministers, leaders from civil society and industry, and activists for lifestyle freedom.

Debating parties included ministers of health, representatives from health NGOs, entrepreneurs, and several parliamentarians. These are prime opportunities to hand out our branded merchandise and reinforce the idea of lifestyle freedom.

SFL Serbia hosted its own debate entitled: "Alcohol and Tobacco: State or Personal Choice?"

The debate was held just before winter break, but that didn't stop dozens of students from taking part in this hot debate.

"Citizens should have the right to make all decisions concerning themselves. The State should not be a regulator that decides which behavior is acceptable, and what isn't," said Rastko Petaković, a local attorney who argued for the individual action side.

His opponent was Slavica Đukić Dejanović, a current MP and former minister of health in the Serbian government. Students have been engaged in all of these events



and have sent a clear message that they don't need a nanny telling them how to live their lives or what they should consume.

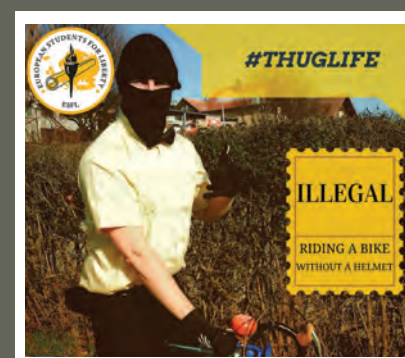
German Students For Liberty ran 40 graphics this summer to highlight the absurdity of the Nanny State. These memes were promoted on social media and spread like wildfire. This allowed our activists to promote the next German Regional Conference, which will take place in Heidelberg, focusing specifically on freedom of choice. Nearly one percent of all Germans have seen our memes and graphics featuring the Nanny State campaign.

Even more, several of our activists launched the #ThugLife picture contest, looking for pictures of absurd regulations being broken everyday. With microsites such as www.regulate.eu, SFL

utilized gamification elements in order to convert interested Millennials into active advocates for consumer choice. A German version of this quiz site can be found on www.genussfreiheit.org, the Canadian version available at NannyState.ca, and more regional sites will be coming soon.

Going forward, Students For Liberty will continue to press on the issue of lifestyle freedom, hoping to give voice to the millions of young people who only wish to be left alone and to make their own decisions about their lives. Here's to #NoNanny in all of our lives! ♦

Yaël Ossowski is SFL's Senior Development Officer.



SFL ALUMNUS LAUNCHES NEW CLASSICAL LIBERAL THINK TANK IN CANADA

Leo Plumer is a former Senior Campus Coordinator and Regional Conference Director for Students For Liberty. He is now a Founding Director at the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Economic Freedom, based out of St. John's, Canada. SFL caught up with Leo to discuss his new venture.



What do you hope to be your impact in the first year?

Over the next year, we really hope to build a dedicated base of people engaging with us and bring attention to the ideas we have been promoting. We hope to continue to establish ourselves as a voice for market-driven solutions in the province, and have solid plans to roll out a series of new commentary pieces and research reports to do just that. We also are looking forward to continuing our educational programming, and are set to follow up our first university seminar—focused on the work of Milton Friedman—with a student seminar on public choice theory for this fall. But most of all, we ultimately hope to be influencing what is said in the House of Assembly!

What is the purpose of your new think tank?

Our fundamental raison d'être is to promote market-driven solutions to public policy challenges facing Newfoundland and Labrador.

By starting this new organization, were you able to apply some principles or ideas learned during your time as an SFL leader?

Absolutely. Having regular meetings and coming up with short-, medium-, and long-term action plans are critical to keep the ball rolling—things I emphasized while a Campus Coordinator. I have become very familiar with outreach and connecting to the public, as well as with event planning. We're going to have to connect with dozens of people and organizations outside our personal networks to succeed, and expanding this network of people you can call on is something CCs do all the time. In fact, I now have a base of resources I would have otherwise never had without that experience. Strategically speaking, the power of ideas in social change was hammered into me while at SFL, and we plan to focus in on this full-tilt, especially over the next year. The ability to lead, influence, communicate, and organize are skills you learn in SFL that you will use over and over again. The thing is, you only get better at it. ♦

What problems are you addressing?

Like the rest of Atlantic Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador have had a long history of social, political, and economic underdevelopment. In the 2000s, we struck oil, and by 2008 the money came flowing in, reducing fiscal burdens and bringing new prosperity. By the mid-2010, we had a class of nouveaux-riches, and oil royalties funded a massive chunk of our budget. The government somehow kept posting deficits even in these boom years, with the public sector exploding in size. Not surprising, oil prices dipped pretty dramatically, and we were sent spiralling into deficit in 2015-2016. People are livid, and the future looks bleak: an aging and poorly educated population, no high-growth industries, a fiscal black hole, etc.

The cause of all of this misery throughout our history has been a dysfunctional political culture, poor institutions, and abysmal public policy, especially on the economic front.

STAY IN TOUCH WITH

ALUMNI
FOR LIBERTY

www.alumniforliberty.org

**EASTERN AFRICAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
EMPOWERS OVER 100 STUDENT LEADERS**



By Linda Kavuka

On June 17-18, 2016, libertarians from Kenya, Uganda, DR Congo, Burundi, Eritrea, Nigeria, and the United States converged on the Catholic University of Eastern Africa's Jubilee Hall for the third annual ASFL East African Regional Conference. The participants were required to apply in order to attend the two-day conference. In the end, 109 of the best applicants were invited to attend.

Linda Kavuka, Chairperson of the ASFL Executive Board, gave the opening remarks. SFL African Programs Director Olumayowa Okediran proceeded to enthuse the audience with the first presentation of the day, in which he passionately made the case against barriers to movement and trade.

One highlight of the conference was Local Coordinator Teklemariam Bekit sharing a moving personal experience concerning immigrants and the challenges they face. He expressed his disapproval of the repatriation of the Somali refugees at Dadaab and instead suggested that the refugees should be absorbed into the community and granted asylum.

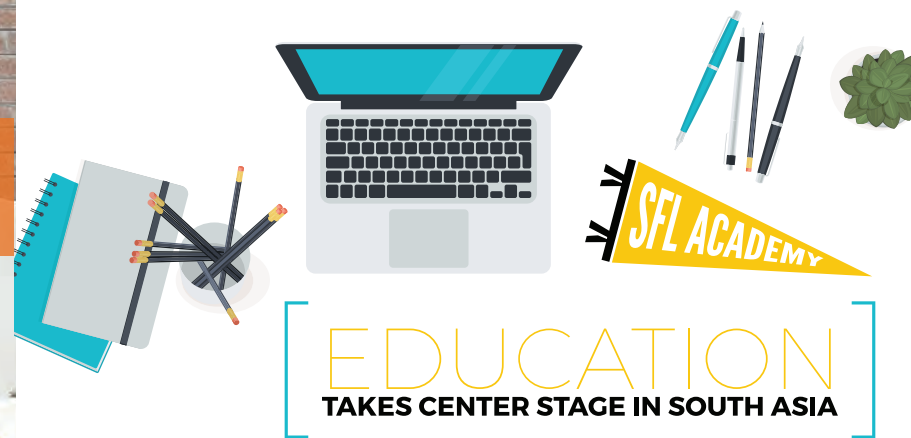
Vice President of Atlas Network Tom Palmer gave the keynote address and final presentation of

the opening day. He discussed the philosophy of liberty in relation to Africa and broke down the major principles of free markets and their benefits to the audience.

The award-winning film "Poverty Inc." was also screened at the conference, for the first time in the region, courtesy of Eastern African Policy Center. Japheth Omojuwa, Editor of AfricanLiberty.org, railed against the ill effects of subsidies and corruption. He illustrated his point using Nigeria as an example, arguing that subsidies imposed on common commodities such as kerosene had caused the commodity to become more expensive. He insisted that the government shouldn't interfere with the free market.

The EARC 2016 evening socials at the Celcius Restaurant marked the end of the annual conference, where participants were able to network and socialize. This conference attracted some of the best minds in the region, and they have been empowered to act as champions of liberty and join our efforts to grow the libertarian community in Africa. ♦

Linda Kavuka is Chairperson of the African SFL Executive Board.



By Abhinav Singh

In South Asia SFL, we realized that students who understand the philosophy of liberty are the most committed to SFL's vision and values. Therefore in 2016-17, South Asia SFL has decided to focus on SFL's education capability. We want to improve our academic support for the region to increase the effectiveness of the leadership and improve retention in SFL and the broader liberty movement. As a result, our training for this academic year includes a series of educational modules designed to deepen our student's understanding of libertarian philosophy, economics, and law.

This year's Local Coordinator Program will dedicate the first semester to a rigorous training in classical liberal thought involving weekly readings along with online Socratic-style discussion seminars and a research project. In the second semester, LCs will choose one of the four tracks—Communications, Academic Programs, Activism, or Events—to complete training and contribute to projects using the skills developed in their chosen area of responsibility.

We are also utilizing Socratic Seminars by hosting SFL Colloquia in which students will participate in roundtable discussions with an expert on a specific theoretical or policy topic. An SFL Colloquium will be a day-long event in which around 15 students discuss a text read in advance to examine its meaning and implications following the Socratic method of shared inquiry.

We have also restructured the South Asia Executive Board, shifting away from the Regional Director model to one in which each member of the Board is responsible for a specific capability area across South Asia. This allows each member to specialize in his or her role, ensure accountability, and develop his or her professional skills.

These initiatives will allow us to have deeper engagement with our audience and bring more students from South Asia into the liberty movement. If we can educate and inspire students to take up the cause of liberty, it will ensure the growth and success of SFL and the broader liberty movement in South Asia. ♦

Abhinav Singh is South Asia Programs Manager for SFL.



Prepare for SFL's most innovative Regional Conference season!

Our European and North American Regional Conference (RC) season is approaching fast. Last year, we held 19 conferences in Europe with more than 3,000 attendees. North America saw another successful round of Regional Conferences as well, bolstered by our SFL Focus Series of one-off events on hot topics such as free speech and free market environmentalism.

2016 is going to be even better! We're a dynamic, growing movement, and our plans for this year reflect that fact. European Students For Liberty has arranged an astonishing 24 conferences this year. Meanwhile, our North American conferences will—for the first time in SFL's history—individually focus on specific themes within the liberty movement, ranging from protectionism to technology and innovation!

With the help of our dedicated organizers and student volunteers, SFL will educate young people interested in the ideas of liberty across Europe and North America. Our European and North American conferences take place everywhere: from Iceland and Armenia to Mississippi and Toronto.

This year's North American Regional Conferences are in the final stages of organizing, with details being released across SFL media platforms in the coming weeks. So far, both the Denver RC (October 22) and the Atlanta RC (October 15) have confirmed dates and will take place at the Independent Institute and Emory University, respectively.

For a full list of European Regional Conferences, visit esflconferences.org. U.S. conferences can be viewed at sflrcs.org. ♦

REGISTER TODAY!

EURO: esflconferences.org
US/CAN: sflrcs.org

THE DAY THE GOP DIED

At a Republican National Convention after-party, Students For Liberty and Free the People recorded an original new music video: "The Day the GOP Died." The video—which features some of Students For Liberty's incoming Campus Coordinators—is a brilliant parody of Don McLean's "American Pie." It is performed by SFL Senior Development Officer Yaël Ossowski.

With the release of this music video, SFL and Free the People hope to spread awareness that the GOP, owing to recent developments, is becoming an unsuitable home for the growing movement of young people who support the ideas of liberty. Classical liberalism of the variety supported by SFL and Free the People is popular among young people in America, but is often subordinated to the non-libertarian ideas popular in electoral contests. We're working to change that.

SFL was proud to collaborate with Free the People for the recording of the music video and the event. FTP is an organization aiming to build a vibrant grassroots community of activists who are committed to shifting power away from political insiders and Washington cronies back to local communities and free people. You can view the video here: bit.ly/2aQcmH1. ♦

WATCH THE VIDEO

bit.ly/2aQcmH1

Letter from the CHAIRWOMAN OF ESLIBERTAD

By *Milica Pandžić*

Never in Latin American history has there been a generation like ours. We are a generation that wants to be free and knows how to achieve it. We are a generation that, despite the distances, barriers, and borders between us, has managed to organize itself under one flag. We are a generation that knows freedom is not only an ideal to be defended but a real-world philosophy and a feeling that moves us.

Today, this passion for liberty has inspired hundreds of students throughout the continent. The organization that was born three years ago with only 30 leaders has grown to 300 leaders across 18 countries in the region. However, we shouldn't limit ourselves by looking solely at numbers when we can also focus on individuals. These are the faces that are changing Latin America.

Providing a platform of support, action, and empowerment is what distinguishes *Estudiantes por la Libertad* in the Latin American libertarian movement. We are committed to being the youth who change their present and build their future. That is what overcoming the fear of freedom is all about: being a voice for hopeful optimism and executing great things that show the world what we can achieve by being free.

This year could not be a better example of that. *EsLibertad's* work during 2015-2016 translated into hundreds of events for more than 11,000 young people from Mexico to Argentina, 315 articles read more than 100,000 times, and dozens of free webinars for more than 900 participants. Our activism is not limited to one format, but rather is enriched by a plurality of forms.

During this period, we also assumed the challenge of regionalizing our conferences to spread our message and amplify our impact. The result? eleven Regional Conferences in nine countries with speakers such as Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, current President-Elect of Peru, the Mexican Senator Francisco Búrquez, Ecuadorian cartoonist Bonil, Bolivian journalist Carlos Valverde, Italian businessman Massimo Mazzone, and the Director of the Chamber of Commerce of Caracas, Victor Maldonado, who raised awareness on the importance of economic, social, and academic freedom.

These results are the fruits of much effort by those I have the honor of calling my team. I cannot be more grateful for the work they have done and the experiences created by this inspiring group of people in the *EsLibertad* family. Although this has been the best year for the organization so far there is still a long way to go, and certainly, *EsLibertad* will face even bigger challenges in the future. But for us, the journey to freedom has begun, and to be honest, we are enjoying every step of the way. ♦

Milica Pandžić is the Chairwoman of *Estudiantes por la Libertad*, the Latin American branch of SFL.



DISCUSSING LIBERTY AROUND A BONFIRE AT #GSFLCOLORCAMP

By *Ana Torotadze*

Since 2012, Georgian Students For Liberty has been one of the most active pro-liberty student organizations in Europe. It has always stayed true to its only mission—spreading liberty across Georgia by organizing different public lectures, debates, leadership forums, and annual regional conferences. In last year's ESFL regional conferences season, the Tbilisi RC was the second biggest one. An interest in GSFL's activities grows every year, and Freedom Color Camp was no exception.

The idea of this event was to create a different environment where students from several universities in Georgia could enjoy discussions about liberty outside of the academic space. We decided to choose Bateti Lake, one of the most beautiful places in Georgia, for our very first camp. Out of many applicants, 50 of the best pro-liberty students were chosen to participate in the project.

On May 8, the organization team welcomed participants in the city center of Tbilisi, and we hit the road together. Getting to the lake was an adventure in itself. Since the mini bus was not able to take us all the way to the end of the road, we had to hike to the end. This adventure gave the students an opportunity to bond with each other and enjoy a sunny Saturday in nature.

After arriving at the campsite, we discussed classical liberal ideas, the role of government, freedom of expression, individual freedom, and economic freedom, while roasting marshmallows over a bonfire. Students debated topics such as free-market healthcare, gun rights, and public pensions. At the end of the day, students who hadn't known each other before the camp couldn't wait to join us for our next event.

One may ask why we called the camp "Freedom Color Camp." The reason behind this is that the idea of freedom is different for every single person in the world. Everyone perceives it from their own perspective, in different colors. This experience showed us that students are eager to learn about classical liberal ideas in both formal and informal environments.

We are planning to have more events like this one in the future. Moreover, we are excited to announce that this autumn, as in the two previous years, Georgian Students for Liberty will be organizing its third regional conference in Tbilisi, which will host Lawrence Reed and Brian O'Shea as keynote speakers. We're looking forward to seeing you there! ♦

Ana Torotadze is a Georgia-based, Local Coordinator for European SFL.



The Human Cost of Welfare Review

Who receives welfare benefits in the United States? You might think this would be easy to answer. But as Phil Harvey and Lisa Conyers show in their recent book *The Human Cost of Welfare*, it's actually quite complicated.

In their fact-based but easy-to-read exploration of America's welfare system, Harvey and Conyers aim to show how well-meaning programs hurt the very people they're designed to help.



After talking to welfare recipients living in tent cities in Seattle, on native reservations, and everywhere in between, the authors come to a worrisome conclusion. People receiving benefits feel they lack control in their lives, miss working and the fulfillment it brings, and find the welfare system to be impersonal, confusing, and often insulting to their dignity.

The authors make a few specific policy prescriptions, but the book's central message is about the way in which work affects the psyche of individuals, families, neighborhoods, and all of society. Our current welfare programs, through fraud, mismanagement, and unintended consequences, often prevent recipients from working and leave them feeling unfulfilled, trapped, and despondent about their lives.

You can order a copy at a publisher's discount at humancostofwelfare.com. ♦

SFL FLOURISHES IN IBERIA REGION

By Inês Gregório

During the past few months, Students For Liberty in Iberia organized several events and managed to spread the liberty message to many people. In nine regions of the two countries, Spain and Portugal, 13 events took place with over 500 attendees to promote SFL and the values we defend.

The movement of SFL in Spain is growing significantly, and along with that, presence and recognition in different media. In the region of Zaragoza, Local Coordinator David Visús represented SFL three different times on a television program to discuss the electoral situation in Spain. In the region of Madrid, our Local Coordinator Gustavo Vargas also participated in a television program to debate the current state of the public pension system in Spain. Our Local Coordinator in Galicia, Santiago Calvo, represented SFL on a television program where young people were invited to share their thoughts about the political situation in Spain. Moreover, he also writes regularly in regional newspapers.



Additionally, several debates and conferences were organized under different topics that included Brexit and its impact on the future of Europe, TTIP and the free market, feminism, and youth unemployment.

In May, SFL Iberia also organized the Iberian Leadership Forum 2016 to provide incoming local coordinators with their first training and to explain to them the history and structure of Students For Liberty. This included a history of the liberty movement in Spain, as well as communication tools they can use in their activism. During this event, incoming and current local coordinators received several books given to SFL Iberia by the recognized Austrian Scholar Jesús Huerta de Soto. This offer, which has an estimated value of 1500 Euros, included books such as *Human Action*, *Man, Economy and the State*, *Money, Bank Credit and Economic Crises*, and *Road to Serfdom*, amongst others. ♦

Inês Gregório is a Portugal-based Local Coordinator for European SFL.



Faces of SFL





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