



March 2009

Please forward to other young liberals
(or liberals young at heart)

IFLRY organises a seminar on LGBTQ rights in Strasbourg

Young liberals from all over Europe and beyond convened in the European Youth Centre in Strasbourg, France, for an IFLRY seminar on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer (LGBTQ) rights from February 22nd until March 1st. The IFLRY team was composed of two IFLRY representatives; Jelena Spasovic and Sarah Wong and the representatives from the member organisations were; Slaven Klobucar from HNS Croatia, Juan Ayala from YDA USA and the representative of the partner organisation IGLYO was Simon Maljevac from Slovenia.



The aims of the event were to assist in educating its member organizations to develop a liberal youth strategy and for the participants to develop an IFLRY campaign on the worldwide promotion of LGBTQ rights. The results of the seminar will be used as bases for an IFLRY campaign, as it was presented in plans made by participants, the campaign should reach its full capacity at the end of year. Commenting on the outcome of the event, IFLRY Vice-President Jelena Spasovic stated that "This study session provided essential input from young liberals from around the world. In the next few months, IFLRY will be launching a new campaign on the promotion of LGBTQ rights. As liberals, we should strive to help people from countries where there are problems when it comes to recognition of LGBTQ rights and support them in fight for equal rights for everyone."

If you have any questions please contact IFLRY VP Jelena Spasovic at jelena@iflry.org.

New Bureau representative

IFLRY Bureau would like to announce to our member organizations that YLDA has appointed their representative to the IFLRY Bureau. We would like to give a warm welcome to our new bureau member, Chee Wey Hng. Chee was elected as Secretary General last year on the YLDA board and he is a member of Parti Gerakan Rakyat in Malaysia. Chee was an active participant at the IFLRY EC held in Manila – Subic in 2008.

We are looking forward to work with Chee Wey Hng on the Bureau. To get acquainted or for questions, please contact Chee at cheeway@iflry.org.

IFLRY Trainings in the Southern Caucasus

IFLRY Secretary General Bart Woord is traveling around the Southern Caucasus throughout March in order to conduct various trainings for local liberal youth organizations and other non-governmental organizations. With the support of the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, he is visiting Azerbaijan, Georgia and Armenia and will meet with IFLRY's member organizations in these countries. The trainings and seminars focus on capacity building, the use of information technology in political communication and political networking.

For more questions, contact Bart via bart@iflry.org.

Members of the Core Committee Appointed

The IFLRY Bureau has appointed the members of the Core Committee for the rewriting of the IFLRY Manifesto, following the decision by the most recent Extraordinary General Assembly in Kiev in December 2008. The Core Committee shall coordinate the rewriting process and ensure the participation of all the Member Organisations in this process. The members of the Core Committee are:

Mahmoud Farouk - EULY (Egypt), Peter Bamfo - GHALSA (Ghana), Ben Sylla - RJR (Cote d'Ivoire), Jeroen Benning - JOVD (Netherlands), Bruno Teirlynck - LVSV (Belgium), Luc Panta - GIV (Italy), Christina Bach Harboe - RU94 (Denmark), Lukas Schweiger - LUF (Sweden), Jan Pawlak - Project Poland (Poland), Mexhide Spaijda - LUF (Sweden).

For any questions on the nomination process or the Core Committee in general, please contact IFLRY Secretary General Bart Woord bart@iflry.org.

Project Managers for Belarus and Cuba Appointed

The IFLRY Bureau has recently appointed two new Project Managers to increase IFLRY's activity with regards to two particular non-democratic countries: Belarus and Cuba. Karin Brissman (LUF - Sweden) is the Project Manager for

Belarus and she has previously worked on the Belarusian political situation through the Liberal Students from Sweden as well as the Swedish International Liberal Center (SILC). Jordi Villanueva (JNC - Catalunya, Spain) is the Project Manager for Cuba and is currently also International Officer of JNC, through which he has been involved on a regular basis in addressing the human rights situation in Cuba. You will certainly hear more from them soon, but until then you can contact them via jordi@iflry.org and karin@iflry.org respectively.

The Geneva Summit

The International Federation of Liberal Youth, as part of a multinational coalition of 25 human rights organisations, will gather leading human rights, democracy and anti-racism activists from around the world for a summit in Geneva on April 19, 2009, on the eve of the U.N. Durban Review Conference. Entitled the Geneva Summit for Democracy, Human Rights and Tolerance, the activist gathering will be held one day before the UN world conference on racism, to support its objectives of promoting universal human rights through the eradication of discrimination, intolerance and persecution.

The Geneva Summit will be a unique opportunity for activists to place on the international agenda some of the world's most pressing human rights issues and situations, to ensure that the U.N. makes the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights a reality for millions of victims of discrimination and repression around the globe. More information on the [Geneva Summits](#) website.

If you want to participate on behalf of IFLRY, please get in touch with IFLRY Secretary General Bart Woord (bart@iflry.org). Please note that IFLRY cannot cover accommodation or food costs.

NUV Celebrates 100th Anniversary

On the 31st of January, IFLRY full member Norge Unge Venstre (NUV) celebrated its 100th anniversary in Oslo. IFLRY Secretary General Bart Woord attended the celebrations and addressed the crowd that consisted of both current and former NUV members, including several IFLRY alumni. Bart thanked NUV for its continuous international engagement and support for young liberals in different parts of the world. NUV has been active for many years with activities related to, among others, the human rights situations in Belarus, the Western Sahara and Iran.

To find more information please go to the [Liberal News Centre](#) on our website.

Statement: International Young Liberals Proud of Venezuelan Students

A referendum that abolishes constitutional term limits to the presidency passed in Venezuela on Sunday. The democratic opposition struggled against a governmental campaign that took advantage of its economic and political monopoly to push through these undemocratic changes. The International Federation of Liberal Youth (IFLRY) is proud of all those brave young people who have worked tirelessly to stop the continual erosion of democracy in Venezuela and hopes they will continue to do so in the future.

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New Intern at the IFLRY Office

Hello! My name is Sabine Nygrund and as some of you already might know, I'm the new intern at the IFLRY office in London. My six month long internship started in late January and so far I have really enjoyed my time at the office. I especially like the international atmosphere and being in contact with people from all over the world sharing the same liberal values. In Finland I'm a student of political science at the Åbo Akademi University in Vaasa. Being able to work at IFLRY is really a good way of putting studies into practice as well as learning a lot about the function of an NGO.

Sabine is a member of the Finnish youth organisation Swedish Youth (Svensk Ungdom) and her internship is sponsored by the Foundation for Swedish Culture in Finland (Svenska Kulturfonden). The internship involves assisting the coordination of IFLRY Office and the organisation of upcoming events such as seminars, the EC, research and correspondence. You can contact Sabine directly by e-mail: intern@iflry.org.



Postcards from the world - Bureau blogs

Sudan, Brazil, Cuba...some thoughts and tools from the world

Judges at the International Criminal Court have decided to indict and issued a warrant for the arrest of Sudan's President for war crimes in Darfur. President Bashir was charged with crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, for actions in Sudan's Darfur region.

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Azerbaijan's Upcoming Referendum

Since the middle of February I have been living in Azerbaijan, one of the three Southern Caucasian states. It is a particularly interesting time: the government has put forward almost 30 changes to the constitution and has called for a referendum to take place on the 18th of March.

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[IFLRY at the PACE in Strasbourg](#)

IFLRY was invited to Strasbourg to join and assist the meetings held by the ALDE (Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe) group during the 1st part of the 2009 Ordinary Session of the PACE (The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe) meetings in Strasbourg 26-30 January 2009.

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[Geneva Summit for Human Rights](#)

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[IPL documentary Cuba y los Elefantes](#)

IFLRY Full Member IPL from Peru (www.ipl.com) is launching its documentary 'Cuba y los elefantes' (Cuba and the Elephants) on the 18th of March in Lima (Peru) to commemorate the anniversary of the Black Spring. The documentary is about how people is surviving these days, the view of the black market as the only way of having meal and a denounce to the strict rules the regime have put in Cuba.

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[Lukashenka tests Europe](#)

On the Charter '97 Press Center, Zmitser Dashkevich - leader for Young Front - claims in an interview, that the latest arrests and judgments in Belarus against opposition-members is a way for president Aleksandr Lukashenka to test Europe and see whether they will condemn him or not for violations against human rights.

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[Juventude Democratas Magazine \(BRAZIL\)](#)

This is Juventude Democratas magazine. In this edition you can know more about our organization and about our activities for the year of 2009 and the activities that we had last year.

[read more](#)

IFLRY, the International Federation of Liberal Youth, is an international political umbrella organisation promoting cooperation among youth and student organisations to spread liberal values.

[Learn more about IFLRY >](#) [Member organizations >](#)

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