

Atlas Network's review of the worldwide freedom movement

FREEDOM'S CHAMPION

WINTER 2023

Arizona Psychologist

Cuts through
Corruption
to Heal Her Community

 ATLAS
NETWORK

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On the Cover: Dr. Carol Gandolfo holds her Arizona psychologist license. Goldwater Institute helped pass legislation in Arizona to ensure valid out-of-state occupational licenses are recognized in the state, then defended Carol's application in court when the licensing board retaliated against her support of the bill by illegally denying her application for an Arizona license. *Photo / Jane Ferrell*

MISSION

Atlas Network increases global prosperity by strengthening a network of independent partner organizations that promote individual freedom and are committed to identifying and removing barriers to human flourishing.

VISION

Our vision is of a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where the principles of individual liberty, property rights, limited government, and free markets are secured by the rule of law.

STRATEGY

Atlas Network cultivates a network of partners that share this vision. To accelerate the pace of achievement by our partners in their local communities, Atlas Network's unique Coach, Compete, Celebrate™ strategic model inspires our partners to improve performance and achieve extraordinary outcomes.



Coach

Atlas Network provides world-class seminars, workshops, mentoring, and other learning opportunities that inspire professionalism and build community among our independent partners.



Compete

Atlas Network offers grant and prize competitions that fuel our partners' efforts to develop, innovate, and succeed.



Celebrate

Atlas Network fosters camaraderie and stokes ambitions among our partners by celebrating their greatest accomplishments through events and media outreach.



Atlas Network has been a four-star Charity Navigator member since 2008.



Atlas Network is a GuideStar Exchange Platinum-Level Participant.



Atlas Network's donation payment processor is certified to PCI Service Provider Level 1, the most stringent level of certification available.

**FREEDOM'S
CHAMPION**

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**ATLAS
NETWORK**

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Rays of Hope During Dark Times



Sometimes it feels like I must squint to see the good news that's obscured by tragic and worrisome headlines in our daily papers. Gruesome attacks on Israeli civilians shock the conscience and prove that civilization has intractable enemies.

As the U.S. presidential campaign heats up, we get regular reminders of our political leaders' flaws and, to my mind, the mistake we've made in growing governments' powers. There is now a lot at stake when we choose the lesser of evils.

Still, I find hundreds upon hundreds of reasons for hope thanks to our partner network. Our 2023 Templeton Freedom Award winner from the Philippines shows how well-designed policy reforms have opened industries to investment and breathed new life into the economy. Our partners in Greece have brought their country back from the economic brink. Our partners in Argentina shifted the Overton Window away from the Peronism that suffocated the economy. Seeds planted by our friends have flowered into a home-grown Iranian liberty movement. In Africa, growing ranks of freedom activists are determined to fulfill George Ayitey's dream for a "Cheetah Generation" that creates a prosperous future by rejecting the statist legacy of colonial governments.

Our partners in the U.S. also make a difference. Our cover story shows the impact of a breakthrough occupational licensing reform, achieved by our friends at Goldwater Institute, which is the

Our loyalty should be toward the ideas and institutions necessary to sustain freedom over the long-term.

subject of a new Atlas Network documentary. Also, this year we celebrated FIRE (the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression) as a Templeton Freedom Award finalist, for restoring respect for the First Amendment on a non-partisan basis. During this polarized moment in history, we can be tempted toward short-term thinking: "how will this play for my preferred party over the next news cycle?" Our loyalty should be

toward the ideas and institutions necessary to sustain freedom over the long-term.

Atlas Network's partners exemplify the long-term perspective that is lacking in so many spheres of modern life.

I am mindful that this asks a lot of our donors too. We've experienced serious setbacks for freedom during the 2020s, and Thomas Paine's words tend to ring in my ears, "These are times that try men's souls ..."

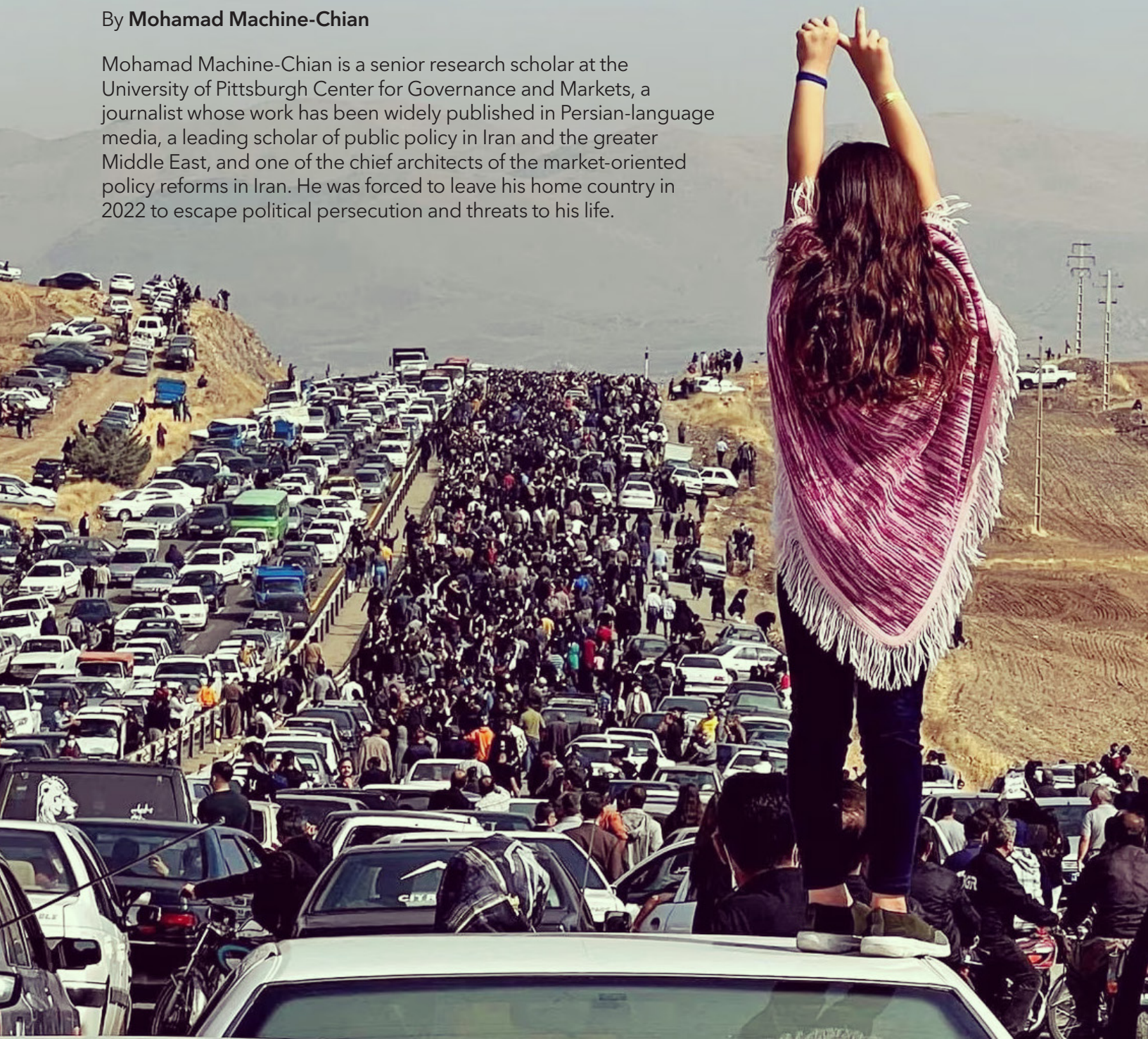
But what was true in 1776 is true today. Those who stay committed to freedom will deserve "the love and thanks of man and woman," and there are many, many reasons for hope in our cause. You'll read about them in these pages.

Brad Lips
Chief Executive Officer,
Atlas Network

The Rise of Iran's Liberty Movement

By **Mohamad Machine-Chian**

Mohamad Machine-Chian is a senior research scholar at the University of Pittsburgh Center for Governance and Markets, a journalist whose work has been widely published in Persian-language media, a leading scholar of public policy in Iran and the greater Middle East, and one of the chief architects of the market-oriented policy reforms in Iran. He was forced to leave his home country in 2022 to escape political persecution and threats to his life.



In Iran's changing political climate, the rise of the liberty movement has really caught the world off guard. Many experts find it surprising to see this push for individual freedom taking off in a place that's been dominated by collectivist ideas for the better part of the last century.

This movement has been marked by its poetry. During the protests last year, a young Iranian musician made a song based on popular trends and often-repeated demands of the Iranian people on social media. The song became the closest thing to an anthem for the Woman, Life, Freedom movement and went on to win a Grammy. This song captures the rise of the liberty movement in Iran. It begins with individual rights and autonomy, criticizes the planned economy and the poverty it has caused, and ends with "For freedom, freedom, freedom." I am proud of this movement.

Our partnership with Atlas Network was pivotal in driving this substantial shift in Iran. We've nurtured a generation of Iranian writers, translators, journalists, content creators, and artists. Our primary strategy was to introduce, promote, and defend the values of liberty and a free society in Iran. Initially, we focused on translating classical literature on liberty. The stream of carefully curated and well-translated material soon found its audience among like-minded intellectuals, rapidly expanding our network.

This swift growth, however, drew the regime's attention to our activities. After our first encounters with the regime, we knew we couldn't grow as an organization, so we decided to decentralize our efforts as much as possible. We trained, supported, and promoted the work of our young members, helped them with introductions and recommendations to publish their work in magazines and newspapers, and encouraged them to start groups, projects, events, and organizations.

Our staff meetings, which began as an exercise to review and improve the translations of our younger members, evolved into weekly gatherings and spirited discussions around ideas, values, and policies. These meetings grew into a staple of the Iranian intellectual scene over a few years. These discussions continued online, on campuses, and in book clubs organized and operated by volunteers, helped and supported by core members of our network.

An overwhelming majority of Iranians were in favor of free markets and criticized the failing planned economy



↑ Mohamad Machine-Chian speaks at Atlas Network's 2022 Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner

The next step to broaden our reach was to further develop the rhetoric of liberty in Iran. We found out that the negative connotations associated with terms like "capitalism" were one of the main barriers preventing many people from endorsing the ideas and values of liberty. For example, if you asked people about capitalism, many would react negatively or at least remain hesitant about it. However, if you asked people about the bazaar, whether it should remain independent from the state, its importance to society, the role it plays in both providing goods and options, and its traditional role in the welfare of the community, and how (in bed with the state) it can lead to monopolies and become the enemy of the community, almost everybody—historically, traditionally, and culturally—would understand those dynamics.

An overwhelming majority of Iranians were in favor of free markets and criticized the failing planned economy. So, while on an intellectual level, we continued to promote and defend the liberal tradition, especially in policy advocacy and policy reform, we avoided labels and focused on the message and its merits. We also adopted certain terms that made it easier for ordinary Iranians to understand and endorse our values. For example, we adopted the term "Azadikhah" to self-identify, which means a person who seeks and wants liberty. This ap-

proach made it possible for people of all backgrounds and intellectual persuasions, previously hesitant to support a liberal movement, to join the liberty movement. The traditional older generations joined us for our defense of bazaars and promotion of our commerce heritage. Many people from both left and right backgrounds joined us through our nonaggression campaign against interventions and violence incitement of the regime in the region, from Ukraine to Israel. Members of younger generations found us through our immensely successful Normal Life campaign and women's equal rights and autonomy campaigns.

For a long time, Iranian people have been dismissed by the international community as the extension and backbone of the criminal autocratic regime in Iran. Furthermore, Iranian's efforts to challenge the regime have been reduced to insignificant internal politics of a closed

While Iranian people are fighting for their own freedom, the impact of a free Iran on the region and the world is undeniable, and I submit, worth helping.

off nation. The rise of the liberty movement in Iran, the values and demands of the protests, however, clearly showed the world that Iranian people reject and are willing to challenge the fundamental values of the regime and aspire to join the free world as a peaceful nation.

Tom Palmer's invaluable experience and advice in dealing with and organizing against autocratic regimes, Brad Lips' vision, patience, and problem-solving attitude in dealing with our unusual situation, and Matt Warner's inspiring approach to development helped our initially

aimless individual efforts become a nationwide movement in one of the most liberty hostile environments on earth. While Iranian people are fighting for their own freedom, the impact of a free Iran on the region and the world is undeniable, and I submit, worth helping. I hope friends of liberty around the world will recognize the potential of our liberty movement and contribute to our efforts by supporting Atlas Network and their unsung project in Iran.

↓ Starting in September 2022, demonstrations erupted across Iran in response to the killing of a young woman, Mahsa Amini, by the Morality Police for "improperly" wearing a hijab. For months, protestors took to the streets—risking arrest, injury, and death at the hands of police—to call for civil and political rights, the repeal of harsh religious laws, and even an end to the current regime.





WE WANT TO SEE YOU!

Save the date now for our 2024 events.

Each year Atlas Network hosts events that convene our partners to learn more from each other and accelerate the sharing of best practices. Join us at one of our upcoming gatherings to be inspired by our network and to learn more about our regional approach to advancing human freedom and dignity.

Latin America Liberty Forum

MARCH 21–22, 2024 | SAN JOSÉ, COSTA RICA

Europe Liberty Forum

MAY 23–24, 2024 | MADRID, SPAIN

Africa Liberty Forum

JULY 11–12, 2024 | DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

Asia Liberty Forum

SEPTEMBER 20–21, 2024 | NEW DELHI, INDIA

Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner

NOVEMBER 20–21, 2024, NEW YORK

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Marion Mitchell

Interview by Atlas Network's **Jennifer Porter**



Marion Mitchell is a mother, a world traveler, and a long-time friend of the freedom movement. She spoke with Atlas Network's Jennifer Porter to discuss why supporting liberty-focused organizations is important to her and why she decided to join the Fisher Legacy Society, Atlas Network's planned giving program.

Jennifer Porter: How did you get involved in the freedom movement to begin with? What was your introduction to Atlas Network back in 2006, and why have you chosen to support us since?

Marion Mitchell: My mom was always passionate about freedom. She had a college friend who worked at Foundation for Economic Education (FEE), and I remember her talking to me about Von Mises, Hayek, and Leonard Read when I really didn't understand any of it, but I saw how it energized her thinking. My first experience was a multi-day FEE seminar in Irvington-on-Hudson. Guest presenters included Tom Palmer and Vernon Smith. After that I started following Cato and attended several Cato University seminars. I sent my daughters to Cato University during their college years. When Tom joined Atlas Network, I had never even heard of it ... but I quickly found my new home!

Jennifer: What excites you most about your involvement with Atlas Network and the role we play in the worldwide freedom movement?

Marion: I've lived overseas quite a bit: Iran, Indonesia, London, and Melbourne. Those were great experiences for me, and I got something positive out of every place. At Atlas Network events it's so easy to make connections. It's exhilarating to meet heroes of freedom such as Yeonmi Park and Jianli Yang. Since I had lived in Jakarta, when I met Rainer [Heufers] from Center for Indonesian Policy Studies I saw immediately a way to say "thank you" for

the great years we spent there long before.

Jennifer: What is a memorable experience you have had through your involvement with Atlas Network?

Marion: My first Atlas Network event was a small donors tour in Guatemala. I had been to Honduras, El Salvador, and Venezuela before, but that was tourism. Thanks to the Atlas Network tour, I made wonderful friendships in Guatemala and at Universidad Francisco Marroquín that wouldn't have happened if I had gone as a tourist. I've gone back several times. I jump on every Atlas Network event I can now!

Jennifer: Why did you decide to join the Fisher Legacy Society? Why do you believe Atlas Network is worthy of being included in your will?

Marion: It was not a hard decision to join the Fisher Legacy Society. I believe in the work Atlas Network does and the way we go about it—grants, training, and programs for scholars, refugees, entrepreneurs, and everyday problem-solvers. I love knowing about and celebrating the contributions that our friends and partners are making. I especially love learning about small, out-of-the news countries and problems being solved to the betterment of the lives of the poor. I know that even modest donations can have an outsized impact in those situations. How great is that?!

Jennifer: Membership in the Fisher Legacy Society shows a profound commitment to building a better, freer future. What do you hope the future of freedom will look like?

Marion: Years ago, Atlas Network sent me a poster which now hangs in the heart of my home. I see it every day. It includes a quote from Brazilian writer Joaquim Nabuco: "Educate your children, educate yourselves in the love for the freedom of others, for only in this way

will your own freedom not be a gratuitous gift from fate. You will be aware of its worth and have the courage to defend it."

I hope that my grandchildren will live in a peaceful and just society. I hope that as they grow, they will understand with grateful hearts that "to whom much is given, much is required." It is striking to me that I see so many to whom very little has been given and yet they are doing so much with what little they have. I would like this message to be more understood in the context of freedom as well as the context of prosperity. A grateful heart is my hope for the future.

Jennifer: What would you say to someone who is considering joining the Fisher Legacy Society?

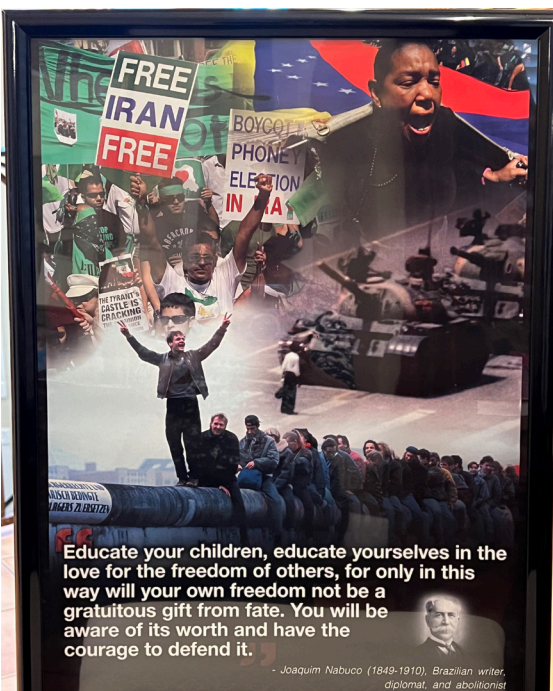
Marion: If you love Atlas Network, you know it. Then why not commit to leaving a gift behind so the work continues? You can change the gift or tweak it if you need to, but you've decided. You can continue to think about the amount. I think it's just good to get off the fence and say "yes" to something you love.

Jennifer: As a longtime supporter of the worldwide freedom movement, do you have a message for Atlas Network's 500+ partners around the world?

Marion: Always remain hopeful. New doors are always opening. Allow yourselves time to rest and refresh. Inspiration may come in the pauses. We are so proud of you for stepping up and serving your communities. Go, team Atlas Network!

↓ **Marion** with Izabela Patriota, director of Development at Ladies of Liberty Alliance, at Atlas Network's Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner 2023.

✓ The poster Marion received displaying a quote from Brazilian author Joaquim Nabuco.





Make Global Freedom Part of Your Legacy

Since 1981, Atlas Network has helped organizations around the world unshackle the power of individual liberty, free enterprise, and voluntary cooperation. This is a multi-generational project, and we need your help to carry it forward.

Make empowering global freedom part of your legacy. Contact our team at legacy@atlasnetwork.org to learn more about including Atlas Network in your charitable plans for the future. Already made this commitment? Let us know so that we can welcome you to the **Fisher Legacy Society**.



Liberty on Film

In their individual missions to give back to their communities, Dr. Carol Gandolfo and Dr. Lara Stookesbury had to stand up to overly restrictive—and even corrupt—occupational licensing boards in their states, highlighting the challenges faced by workers in many professions across the United States. Atlas Network's latest film series tells their stories and the stories of our partners who stood with them.

Scan the
QR code to
watch the
films now.





↑ Faisal Al Mutar, founder and president of Ideas Beyond Borders, accepts the Smart Bets Pitch Competition Award and explains why the Atlas Network community is special to him.

Atlas Network's 2024 Smart Bets

Each year, Atlas Network's Smart Bets program selects 10 high-potential partners for a variety of unique opportunities, including general support grants, special networking and co-creation summits, and early access to Atlas Network Academy courses. This year's Smart Bets partners hail from the United States, Indonesia, Iraq, the Dominican Republic, Spain, Tanzania, Brazil, and Germany.

On September 27, 2023, Atlas Network held the Smart Bets Virtual Pitch Competition, showcasing each partner's chosen focus for the upcoming year and inviting investors to decide which three organizations would compete for the grand prize at Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner. Judges chose American Conservation Coalition, Ideas Beyond Borders, and Liberty Sparks as the three finalists who would compete in New York City.

At Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner 2023, the finalists made their case in front of an audience of hundreds of attendees. Judges selected Ideas Beyond Borders and their "Open for Business in Kurdistan" initiative as the winner of the US\$50,000 grand prize. The two runners-up each received a US\$25,000 prize.

Read on to find out more about all our 2024 Smart Bets partners and how these organizations will leverage this accelerator program to scale up their impact.



UNITED STATES American Conservation Coalition

The American Conservation Coalition (ACC) is building a liberty-minded environmental movement that provides young people with an alternative to the top-down, big-government mindset that has dominated the mainstream climate space for so long. Through its grassroots membership program, ACC aims to reach 40,000 members by the end of 2024, 65,000 members by the end of 2025, and 100,000 members by 2026.



WISCONSIN, UNITED STATES Badger Institute

The Badger Institute's experts seek to be the leaders in statewide policy debates by expanding and building a new, loyal, and engaged audience, and giving them the information they need to effect meaningful policy change. Funding of this new initiative will increase the Badger Institute's reach by at least tenfold to more than 120,000 people over two years.



INDONESIA Center for Indonesian Policy Studies

The Center for Indonesian Policy Studies (CIPS) engages with and empowers Indonesian youth. Content on the most popular social media channels, where young Indonesians consume information, will guide them to CIPS Learning Hub's YouTube channel, the first online platform by an Indonesian think tank explaining the principles of free markets and open societies. The new platform will also be promoted through on-campus events for students and lecturers.



UNITED STATES Free the People Foundation

Free the People Foundation is launching a new portfolio of entertaining content that broadens the reach of its message. Free the People will use this expanded audience to grow its dedicated community, exploring and populating alternative social media platforms and channels to create "A MarketSpace of Ideas."



IRAQ Ideas Beyond Borders

The "Open for Business in Kurdistan" project will transform the new business start-up environment in Iraq's Kurdistan region. The two-year project will achieve three key outcomes: 1) the launch of a new one-stop registration website providing entrepreneurs with control over the forms needed to register their businesses within 24 hours; 2) a one-million-view social media campaign driving new business registration; and 3) pro-business legal reform via the region's parliament.

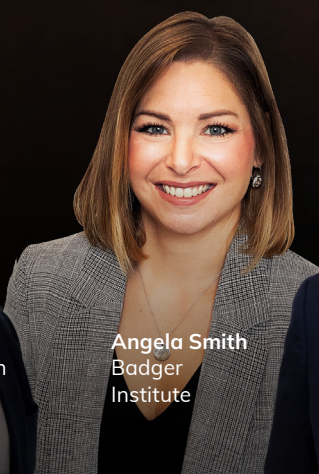


DOMINICAN REPUBLIC Instituto OMG

Instituto OMG proposes establishing the foundations to increase and strengthen the competitiveness of the Dominican Republic, turning it into a true investment and business hub. The prioritized areas to improve are as follows: 1) property, contracts, and liabilities; 2) legal entities; 3) foreign investment; 4) digital transformation; 5) permits; and 6) the broader labor market.



Chris Barnard
American Conservation
Coalition



Angela Smith
Badger
Institute



Anton Rizki
Center for Indonesian
Policy Studies



Terry Kibbe
Free the People
Foundation



Faisal Al Mutar
Ideas Beyond
Borders



SPAIN

Institut Ostrom Catalunya

Institut Ostrom Catalunya will execute an end-to-end advocacy campaign that will lead to profound regulatory reform in Catalonia. The policies will unlock new economic opportunities and boost industrial entrepreneurial activity in the region by cutting the burdensome regulations affecting urban planning, administrative licensing, and permitting.



LIVRES

BRAZIL

Livres

Leading a movement in defense of liberalism, Livres informs Brazilian society to popularize liberal ideas, empowers leaders to develop activism and social projects, and reforms policy by providing intellectual support to key decision-makers. From updating Brazil's tax and regulatory structure to advancing free trade and spurring privatization, Livres supports "freedom in full"—personal and economic liberties. In 2019, Livres also launched a project to help Brazilians who wish to be exempt from mandatory military service, benefitting over 2,000 young adults to date.



TANZANIA

Liberty Sparks

Tanzania's Economic Freedom Index scores reflect the prolonged time and effort to trade internationally in the country. Currently, Tanzania's economy is distant from the frontier and performing poorly. Liberty Sparks wants to realign the various roles and functions of government agencies while removing the barriers to trade, improving economic performance in Tanzania.



GERMANY

Prometheus

The mission of Prometheus is to identify, support, and train the next generation of freedom entrepreneurs. Selected fellows will receive €20,000 (about US\$22,000) in funding and continuous mentoring. For 100 days, they will learn firsthand what it means to be a "freedom entrepreneur" by working together in the Prometheus co-working space.



Montana's Frontier Institute wins 2023 Smart Bets Impact Award

As part of the Smart Bets program, partners have the chance to win the Smart Bets Impact Award and its US\$25,000 prize, which is presented to the organization that achieves the greatest progress toward a better world during the 12 months of the program. At Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner 2023, Montana's Frontier Institute was announced as the winner of the 2023 Smart Bets Impact Award and its US\$25,000 prize for their outstanding work to implement a market-based approach to making their state an affordable place to live.

Frontier Institute's Big Sky, Big Opportunity project focused on reforming the state constitution and regulations to slash the bureaucracy surrounding land use and housing construction. These reforms loosened restrictive zoning rules, strengthened landowner's rights to build more housing on their property, and sped up the permitting process to get home builders to work more quickly. Their plan was embraced by Governor Gianforte and a sweeping bipartisan coalition in the state legislature, who implemented many of the organization's recommendations. Frontier Institute's success garnered attention across the United States and even internationally. Through their newly established Center for New Frontiers, the organization will lead the way toward even more reforms in the 2025 state legislative session.

Mónika Melo
Instituto OMG

Martí Jiménez
Institut Ostrom
Catalunya

Evans Exaud
Liberty Sparks

Magno Karl
Livres

Florian Hartjen
Prometheus

The Templeton Freedom Award 2023

Awarded annually since 2004, Atlas Network's Templeton Freedom Award is named for the late investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton. This prestigious award honors Sir John's legacy by recognizing Atlas Network's partner organizations for exceptional and innovative contributions to the understanding of free enterprise and the advancement of public policies that encourage prosperity, innovation, and human fulfillment. The award is generously supported by Templeton Religion Trust, and was presented live during Atlas Network's 2023 Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in New York City. The winner received a \$100,000 grand prize and the runners-up each received \$20,000. Learn more about our finalists—and winner—below.



↑ Heather Templeton Dill (president, John Templeton Foundation, far left) and Brad Lips celebrate with the 2023 Templeton Freedom Award finalists and winner.



STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY
A F R I C A

AFRICAN STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY

AFRICA

The freedom movement is growing in Africa like never before, and African Students For Liberty deserves much of the credit. Alumni of their educational and professional development programs have established more than 20 think tanks across the continent. Today, most free-market organizations in Africa were founded or are led by former Students For Liberty leaders. Their fast-growing alumni program collaborates with nearly 500 active SFL alumni throughout the region, and their extremely competitive African Liberty fellowship program has produced numerous writers and pro-liberty policy analysts who have taken up key positions in government. The organization's work has equipped what Ghanaian economist Dr. George Ayittey called Africa's "Cheetah Generation" to shape a future where all Africans can enjoy the benefits of freedom and prosperity. African Students For Liberty is also the winner of the 2023 Africa Liberty Award. Turn to page 22 to find out more!

↓ **Linda Kavuka** (director, African Programs) and Jorge Jraissati (director, Alumni For Liberty) celebrate African Students for Liberty's win of the 2023 Africa Liberty Award with Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips and Chair of the Board Debbi Gibbs.



bikalpa
— an alternative —

BIKALPA—AN ALTERNATIVE

NEPAL

Motorbikes are an essential form of transportation in Nepal, but inadequate and often corrupt administration of motorbike licensing leaves many drivers waiting years to legally operate a vehicle. To maintain their livelihood, Nepalis are often forced to drive without a license, risking high fines, demands for bribes from officials, and even prison. Working from their homebase in Nepal's Koshi Province, Bikalpa—An Alternative brought widespread attention to this injustice, spurring popular protests and gaining the attention of millions online. In response, the provincial government expanded the number of offices issuing motorbike licenses, slashing wait times from years to two weeks. By forcing the provincial government to rethink its approach to motorbike licensing, Bikalpa secured the provision of this critical necessity for 4.5 million potential riders. For their impact, Bikalpa—An Alternative was named the winner of the 2023 Asia Liberty Award.

↓ **Basanta Adhikari** (director, Bikalpa—An Alternative) and members of his team celebrate winning the 2023 Asia Liberty Award.





FIRE

**FOUNDATION FOR INDIVIDUAL
RIGHTS AND EXPRESSION**

UNITED STATES

As others have shied away from principled defense of free speech, the Foundation for Individual Rights and Expression has stepped up, championing First Amendment rights for all Americans. Their Expanded Litigation Program joins with allies across the political spectrum to bring and support legal cases centered on free speech and open expression, with the aim of shaping a robust First Amendment jurisprudence—and FIRE is winning. Since the nonpartisan organization began litigating in 2014, they've won 23 court cases, struck down 38 overly restrictive campus speech policies, and won nearly \$3 million dollars in damages for victims of censorship. As illiberal institutions and government clamp down on Americans' right to free expression, FIRE is ensuring that freedom has a voice.



INSTITUTO LIBERAL DE SÃO PAULO

BRAZIL

In a country where millions of people have long faced senseless legal roadblocks to start a small business and make a living, Instituto Liberal de São Paulo's groundbreaking Freedom to Work initiative identifies the Brazilian states and municipalities that failed to implement or need to improve the country's Economic Freedom Law—and then works with policymakers in those jurisdictions to advance the law's implementation or enhance current laws to unleash the potential of Brazil's small and medium enterprises. With much more planned, the project and its partners have already benefited over 14 million Brazilians with a business environment without burdensome permitting or business licensing requirements, providing everyday people the right to earn a living with their chosen business—or finally receive legal status for a company they've spent years building.

Scan the QR code

to access our online hub
for the 2023 Templeton
Freedom Award where
you can find out more
about each of our finalists.





LITHUANIAN FREE MARKET INSTITUTE

LITHUANIA

In Lithuania, overbearing regulations blocked non-EU migrant workers from obtaining legal work permits that could solve the country's growing labor shortage. Lithuanian Free Market Institute provided a multidisciplinary framework for reducing labor migration rules and helped to change the climate of opinion on demographic and labor market solutions. Regulations and wait times for migrant workers were slashed, providing a boost to Lithuania's economy and more job opportunities for Lithuanians and migrant workers alike. This shift in public policy and mindset now paves the way for further regulatory easing in labor migration and provides a blueprint for deregulation in other areas of public administration.



FOUNDATION FOR ECONOMIC FREEDOM

PHILIPPINES

For nearly a century, restrictive laws in the Philippines paved the way for monopolies and stifled foreign investment in telecommunications, transportation, and renewable energy—making these crucial public services less accessible. Thanks to the Foundation for Economic Freedom's seven-year effort, the Philippine government amended the country's Public Service Act and the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Renewable Energy Act, opening the door to foreign investment and competition in these key industries.

These changes give ordinary Filipinos more affordable and reliable access to wireless broadband internet, mass transportation options, and more. And now, renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and tidal energy can help provide electrification in even the most remote areas. In what was previously the world's third most restrictive country for foreign investment, market competition is already bringing better services and energy access at lower costs for over one 100 million Filipinos.



→ **Joseph Angeles**, member of the board of trustees at Foundation for Economic Freedom, accepts the 2023 Templeton Freedom Award on behalf of his organization, celebrating FEF's second time winning the prize.





ATLAS NETWORK AND TEMPLETON FOUNDATIONS

Aligned Visions of a Freer World

In Appreciation of the Philanthropies Founded by Sir John Templeton

By **Brad Lips**

Sir John Templeton once generously said to other donors in front of our team, “I get more bang for the buck with Atlas Network than with any other group.”

Perhaps this is why—when he wrote the charter that would govern three philanthropies he founded—Sir John included Atlas Network as a “favorite charity.” He even went so far as to identify the writings of our founder Sir Antony Fisher as a resource for understanding his interests in promoting freedom and free enterprise.

By the time of the John Templeton Foundation’s first multi-year grant to Atlas Network in 1999, *Money* magazine had published an article calling him “arguably the greatest global stock picker of the century.” He had trailblazed the idea of globally diversified investing and was a pioneer of mutual funds, seeing the latter as “America’s Answer to Karl Marx” as they allowed ordinary people to own the means of production through voluntary arrangements.

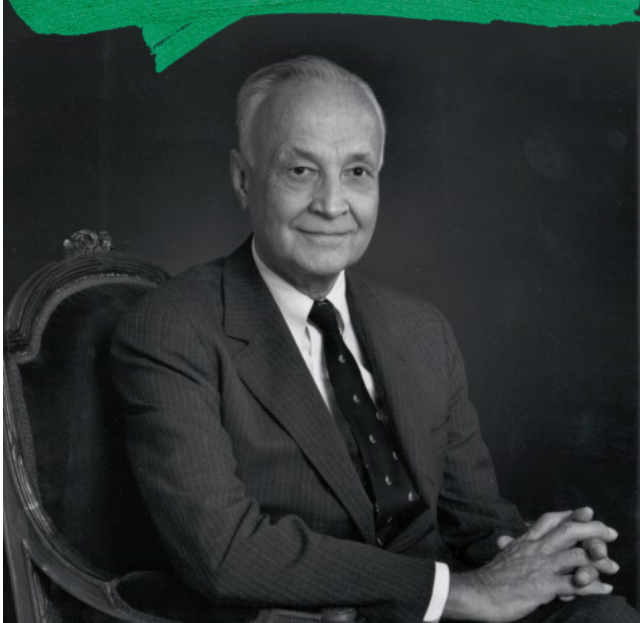
Just as he bucked conventional wisdom as an investor, Templeton’s philanthropy did not conform to others’ expectations. He allocated most of his fortune

to what he called “the humble approach in theology and science,” believing that new spiritual information could be generated via the scientific method. His focus on “Big Questions” was almost completely unique in a philanthropic world that typically focused on established methods of charity.

Sir John explained his interest in Atlas Network as a going-against-the-grain strategy to help the world’s poor: “There is a great deal of philanthropy addressing the symptoms of current poverty, but surely it would be more cost-effective to prevent future poverty.” Preventing future poverty requires institutions and policies conducive to wealth creation, and he saw Atlas Network partners as an essential part of putting those institutions and policies in place.

Sir John praised our founder during our twentieth anniversary celebrations in September 2001 for opening his eyes to the importance of spreading appreciation for free enterprise:

“It was over 20 years ago that my good friend, Sir Antony Fisher . . . helped me understand better the benefits for all people worldwide by keeping government very small, and by continually opening wider the incentives for invention, efficiency, discovery—all of which result from free competition. I donate to Atlas Network to help over 100—maybe they said tonight 150—other think tanks that are working all over the world to help people understand the great benefits of free competition.”



Those remarks were made within a mile of the Pentagon, only a week after the 9/11 attacks. We were tempted to cancel the event—all air traffic into DC had been closed, after all—until Sir John adamantly insisted that it was more important than ever to celebrate the values of freedom. Sir John found a flight to Ohio and a Greyhound bus to get him into Virginia on time for what I remember as a genuinely moving evening: the first chance for many friends of Atlas Network to reconvene after the terrorist attacks.

John Templeton had trailblazed the idea of globally diversified investing and was a pioneer of mutual funds, seeing the latter as “America’s Answer to Karl Marx” as they allowed ordinary people to own the means of production through voluntary arrangements. ”

In 2004, we launched Atlas Network’s Templeton Freedom Award program with the support of the John Templeton Foundation, and it has been sustained through funding from the Templeton Religion Trust. Sir John was enthusiastic about how prizes raised the profile of important ideas and incentivized new thinking in important areas. Perhaps earlier than many of us, he saw that Atlas Network was perfectly positioned to elevate the performance of the entire freedom movement by practicing what we preach: free competition. By the time this edition of *Freedom’s Champion* is in your hands, we will have announced the grand prize winner of the twentieth year of the Templeton Freedom Award.

I beam with pride thinking about how much the Templeton Freedom Award—and its worthy recipients through the years—have advanced values dear to Sir John’s heart. From property titles for the poor to textbooks on free markets for formerly communist societies, winning projects have shown how real lives are transformed for the better via free-market ideas.

Of course, the John Templeton Foundation (and the philanthropies Sir John established in the Bahamas, Templeton Religion Trust and Templeton World Charity Foundation) directly fund many important projects on freedom and free enterprise, in addition to what happens through their grants to Atlas Network.

We are grateful as an organization to continue to collaborate with them to serve the vision that Sir John developed for using his philanthropy to help an ever-widening portion of humanity know the blessings of liberty.

Jorge Velarde Rosso

Atlas Network partners in their own words

Jorge Velarde Rosso is founder and academic director at Libera Bolivia, a free-market organization based in La Paz, Bolivia, focused on improving policy and educating young people on the ideas of freedom.

Freedom and responsibility are inseparable, so if I wanted to work for a more prosperous, fair, and free Bolivia, I felt I had the responsibility to start something new to achieve that goal.

I was only 25 years old, and if there had been any group or think tank that promoted freedom in Bolivia, I would not have gone to the trouble of starting one from scratch. But in 2011 there was no such organization. The socialist government of Evo Morales was at the peak of its national and international popularity, and talking about ideas of freedom was stranger than usual in South America.

After starting my career as a university professor, I began hosting small seminars and inviting students who I thought might be interested in learning new ideas—ideas of classical liberalism they would not hear at university. I had graduated only three years before, so I knew the professors and the content they taught.

Fast forward to 2015; I returned to Bolivia after studying for my master's degree in history in Buenos Aires, and although I returned to university teaching, I decided to dedicate more time to starting up LIBERA, a think tank dedicated to the ideas of classical liberalism. Juan Pablo Chamon, one of the first students to join my 2011 seminars, was finishing his studies, and I proposed working together to create a think tank that would make a difference in Bolivia in the



middle and long term. We dedicated our full-time efforts towards that goal. The challenge was—and still is—to have short-term successes too, because you can't reach a long-term goal just on dreams.

We began giving workshops for young people on solving poverty through entrepreneurship. This work allowed us to reach around 6,000 young people of all socioeconomic levels in La Paz, even in rural areas. What encouraged us most was seeing students becoming interested in the ideas of freedom. Young people understood that businesses and economic freedom were important for their personal future and for the country. I can confirm that a change of ideas is taking place in Bolivia and that it has a lot to do with training and working with young people.

Since then, LIBERA has grown constantly, and we have been working on several different projects, always maintaining a focus on spreading the ideas of freedom in Bolivia, especially with young people. We have two intensive training programs, which consist of weekly sessions throughout the year, and we are working on a documentary miniseries about popular commerce in Bolivia (*Sabemos Vender Bien*), to mention just a few.

I felt to strive for a free society in Bolivia. I had to do something to make that dream a reality! Luckily, I didn't have to work alone to make good ideas happen. So I am infinitely grateful to my team and Atlas Network!

Atlas Network has always been a fundamental ally in the growth of LIBERA. The first grant we received back in 2016 allowed us to buy a projector that was essential in the five years of workshops we gave in schools! Atlas Network Academy training courses were also central to our professional and institutional development. I can say, without exaggeration, that the courses and face-to-face meetings with colleagues across the region and the world facilitated by Atlas Network Academy have been an essential contribution to our work. These opportunities allow us to meet more people, learn from their experience, and, above all, forge friendships that over time will bear fruit in regional projects and initiatives.

In August 2023, we conducted an Economic Freedom Audit in Bolivia with the help of Fred MacMahon and Roberto Salinas León. With these guests we were able to strengthen in Bolivia the serious and professional



↑ **Top:** Jorge (left) and Juan Pablo (second from left) at one of LIBERA's first workshops in 2015

↑ **Middle:** Attendees at LIBERA's 2023 Leadership Incubator retreat

↑ **Bottom:** Jorge (third from left) and Juan Pablo (far left) at Atlas Network Academy's Executive Accelerator program in 2022

work that we have been doing since 2015. That work began with the responsibility I felt to strive for a free society in Bolivia. I had to do something to make that dream a reality! Luckily, I didn't have to work alone to make good ideas happen. So I am infinitely grateful to my team and Atlas Network! We still have a lot to do, but with the great LIBERA team and the support of Atlas Network, I am sure it will be possible.

African Solutions *for* African Problems



Linda Kavuka, known as “Mama Africa,” has dedicated her career to identifying and nurturing potential leaders in Africa through her role at African Students For Liberty. The organization’s success lies in its focus on developing individual talents, with alumni founding numerous think tanks across the continent and playing a pivotal role in advancing classical liberal principles, leading to the organization’s recognition with the 2023 Africa Liberty Award.

Where do leaders come from? We all have our own ideas about how the world could be improved, but it's a much smaller group of individuals who choose to take a stand to actually change their countries and communities.

Linda Kavuka has dedicated her career to finding those with the potential to become leaders and helping them aim higher. Many members of the liberty movement know her as “Mama Africa,” a nickname she earned for her personal connection to the activists she works with and her passion for helping them grow into their roles as tomorrow’s leaders, not just in her home of Kenya, but across the continent.

Linda joined African Students For Liberty, the local branch of the international Students For Liberty (SFL) organization, in 2013 while attending the University of Nairobi. She soon found that SFL provided an excellent platform to pursue her passion—mentoring other young people.

Now as director of African Programs at Students For Liberty, she travels between many countries to visit university campuses, which sometimes requires long trips in packed buses, stays in dingy hotels, or taking risks at locations that are not always safe.

Like many members of African Students For Liberty, Linda was inspired by Dr. George Ayittey, a groundbreaking Ghanaian economist who advocated for free enterprise and political freedom in Africa. He often lamented the fact that poverty in Africa was not a reflection on the people of the continent but of the poor standards of integrity and ideas among Africa’s largely authoritarian leaders. Dr. Ayittey advocated the rise of what he called a “Cheetah Generation”—young, freedom-minded Africans fed up with corruption—to take the reins from the “Hippo Generation,”



↑ African Students For Liberty members participate in an on-campus event.

the old guard of crooked bureaucrats and ruling elites.

Linda’s job is not an easy one. Now as director of African Programs at Students For Liberty, she travels between many countries to visit university campuses, which sometimes requires long trips in packed buses, stays in dingy hotels, or taking risks at locations that are not always safe.

But Linda says it’s worth it to meet the hundreds of young people who possess the potential to be the Cheetah Generation that Dr. Ayittey hoped for. She and her African Students For Liberty colleagues have spent years building a program that provides the resources those young Africans need to transform the continent.

Raising Cheetahs

Many of African Students For Liberty’s programs focus on introducing young people to the core principles and philosophies of classical liberalism. Linda said that broadening their scope to include leadership development was a natural growth for the organization.

“The focus for Students For Liberty in the beginning was setting up groups on campuses,” she said. “When we achieved that goal, we started to see how it would be beneficial to focus on individuals and the impact

that we can make on these individual students. When we began focusing on individuals, we saw a real impact where Students For Liberty have alumni setting up think tanks across Africa and growing the liberty movement here in Africa way bigger and larger than what we would have imagined five years ago.”

African Students For Liberty's success lies in their ability to develop talent. The organization's own leadership structure relies on finding capable individuals among the campus program participants and offering them the opportunity to develop their skills through the coordinator program. Participants can apply to become local coordinators, who lead programs in their community. In this role they can develop leadership skills, and some graduate to national and, eventually, regional coordinator roles responsible for activities in their portion of the continent of Africa.

Many who graduate from Students For Liberty join its sister network, Alumni For Liberty, which continues to engage rising leaders during their careers. Building on their experiences in the coordinator program, alumni can take advantage of additional training and mentorship to prepare them to lead organizations of their own.

Almost two dozen think tanks across Africa were founded by alumni program participants, many of them Atlas Network partners. In fact, the majority of classical liberal organizations in Africa were founded or are led by one of the over 500 alumni program participants.



A Continental Impact

The effect of this model has been astounding. Almost two dozen think tanks across Africa were founded by alumni program participants, many of them Atlas Network partners. In fact, the majority of classical liberal organizations in Africa were founded or are led by one of the over 500 alumni program participants.

Linda said that it has been a long and arduous path, but the impact their work has had on the individuals they have worked with makes it all worth it. She said the example of Aimable Manirakiza, CEO of the Burundi-based Atlas Network partner Centre for Development and Enterprises Great Lakes, shows what individuals can achieve with the right tools.



“We have so many stories of trial and error,” she said, “but never did we give up. We were sure that these guys would make a real impact on a larger community in some time to come. And Aimable Manirakiza is just one person who understood the ideas of liberty, believed in the mission of SFL in advocating for the ideas of liberty throughout the world. And he envisioned it, lived it, and learned to use the platform very well. Today he has a think tank. He has employed a number of young people who are from SFL. He has done so many projects impacting his community, and he’s changing lives by changing laws.”

For their unmatched role in growing Africa's liberty movement, African Students For Liberty was named the winner of Atlas Network's 2023 Africa Liberty Award, and a finalist for the 2023 Templeton Freedom Award.

Linda said winning the Africa Liberty Award was an acknowledgement that although their work takes a different form than traditional think tanks, it's having a valuable impact. “It feels like our work is finally validated,” she said. “We matter even though we are unique and don't do the same kind of freedom movement job that other organizations are into.”

ARIZONA PSYCHOLOGIST

Cuts through Corruption to Heal Her Community

Dr. Carol Gandolfo, an experienced psychologist, encountered occupational licensing hurdles that prevented her from practicing in her new home in Arizona, despite holding a valid California license. Even after Arizona passed the Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act to recognize out-of-state licenses, she continued to face resistance from a corrupt licensing board until Goldwater Institute intervened, ensuring Carol's right to practice and highlighting the broader impact on worker's rights.

↑ Dr. Carol Gandolfo meets with a client

Dr. Carol Gandolfo spent years earning a license to practice psychology in California. She's worked with all sorts of clients, from the incarcerated to the developmentally disabled. People who've seen her work say she's a miracle doctor. But Carol insists she isn't; she says she's gifted with simple common sense and empathy, and uses them to connect with clients in difficult circumstances.

But this extraordinary woman faced a problem. When she moved to Sedona, Arizona, her new home state would not recognize her credentials and barred her from practicing psychology. This wasn't Carol's fault; it was a result of Arizona's occupational licensing requirements. As is common across the United States, Carol was required to start the licensing process from scratch in her new state of residence, which meant spending time and money navigating bureaucracy rather than helping clients. Her California license—which remained in good standing—counted for nothing in Arizona thanks to entrenched interests.

New Ways to Serve

Carol was understandably frustrated that her license in good standing was not accepted just because it was from another state. "When somebody puts that much effort into getting a license, why are we having other states that are saying, 'Well, you don't qualify here?'" she said. "I look at all these licenses and something needs to be streamlined."

Rather than embroiling herself in paperwork and corrupt bureaucracies, Carol decided to give her time and talents to her community. Since she couldn't practice professionally, she began volunteering, including helping first responders struggling with stress and trauma and advising a law enforcement task force combating sex trafficking. When a 2013 wildfire destroyed half of the town of Yarnell, Arizona, and killed 19 firefighters, Carol provided her services to survivors, friends, and colleagues of the victims, helping them cope with the tragic loss.

Sedona Mayor Scott Jablow said that Carol went out of her way to serve the town. "I feel blessed to have people like Carol," he said. "I am really happy to be her friend and to know that she's doing the right thing for our community and our residents, especially at the most trying times in their lives."

She still held out hope that she might be able to practice in full again in the future. When she learned about a local effort to help professionals use their credentials

in Arizona without government roadblocks standing in their way, she quickly became an ardent supporter.

Reform Brings Hope

In 2018, Arizona passed the Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act, a groundbreaking new universal licensing recognition bill that required in-state occupational licensing boards to honor any out-of-state license that met a few basic requirements. This law meant that people moving to Arizona from other states no longer had to go through the licensing process again just to use their training and experience in their careers, often saving them hundreds of hours and thousands of dollars.

"When somebody puts that much effort into getting a license, why are we having other states that are saying, 'Well, you don't qualify here?'" she said. "I look at all these licenses and something needs to be streamlined."

This law—the first of its kind in the nation—was designed and backed by the Goldwater Institute, the state's preeminent pro-freedom advocacy organization and an Atlas Network partner. The Goldwater Institute stands up for professionals when occupational licensing restrictions—like the ones Carol fought—are used by industry lobbyists to prevent new competition from entering the market. The Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act helped ensure that Americans can move and work more freely by limiting the power of anti-competitive licensing boards, usually made up of existing businesses and their lobbyists.

Goldwater Institute's Vice President of Legal Affairs Timothy Sandefur said economic liberties are central to the organization's work. "It's something that matters a lot to

↓ Dr. Carol Gandolfo with Sedona Mayor Scott Jablow



me because it's a really neglected part of [the law]," he continued. "There aren't that many people who speak up for the right to earn a living, the right to start a small business, the right to own and use private property."

Unfortunately, when Carol applied for her license under the new law, the Arizona Board of Psychology Examiners (BPE) refused to grant it to her. Incensed that Carol had supported a law that even slightly reduced their power, the board invented reasons to oppose her at every turn. Before the ordeal was over, they would even go so far as to disregard a letter directly from the governor explaining they were violating the law by denying Carol's application.

But Carol didn't have to face down the board alone; the Goldwater Institute's litigation team had her back.

Taking the Bureaucrats to Court

Supporting Dr. Gandolfo's case made perfect sense.

"We really are truly privileged to be able to step in in those cases where there's a vacuum and nobody else would be able to fight back for individual liberty," said Jon Riches, Goldwater Institute's vice president of litigation.

The BPE's pretexts couldn't have been thinner. First, it denied Carol's application to become credentialed in Arizona because she was not a new Arizona resident and because she had earned her doctoral degree from a state-accredited, rather than a regionally accredited, university. Under the law neither of these facts disqualified her. The BPE continued to deny her application, however, in open defiance of the law.

After the Goldwater Institute stepped in to appeal the board's decision, the BPE ceased challenging Carol's credentials and issued her a license to practice. They weren't finished harassing her though, and soon opened a new investigation alleging that her volunteer work with firefighters had amounted to practicing psychology without a license.

It hadn't, of course, but that didn't matter to the board. Goldwater Institute continued to defend Carol in court, knowing that allowing the BPE to win would not only be a miscarriage of justice but would create a precedent of allowing occupational licensing boards to trample on Arizona workers' rights. Goldwater Institute kept up the pressure until the board finally relented, admitting that Carol had done nothing wrong.

A Nationwide Impact

With limitless energy and a seemingly unending list of passion projects, Carol has made a deep, lasting impact on her community. Now that she's finally fully



With limitless energy and a seemingly unending list of passion projects, Carol has made a deep, lasting impact on her community. Now that she's finally fully licensed in Arizona, she can apply her full skillset to doing what she does best.



licensed in Arizona, she can apply her full skillset to doing what she does best. She continues to serve in many of the same volunteer capacities as she did before she received her license in Arizona, but now she's also able to offer low-cost psychological services to those in her community who need her help.

Carol said the experience of trying to get her license was extremely stressful, but after the final hearing with the licensing board she felt joy at knowing she'd be able to work with clients again in an official capacity after 13 years of waiting. "It was such a wonderful day when I knew that now I could actually help people," she said.

Since the Breaking Down Barriers to Work Act was implemented in Arizona, more than 6,500 professionals have successfully obtained licenses under the law. The Goldwater Institute has also helped allies in 15 other states pass similar legislation. For this work the organization won Atlas Network's 2022 North America Liberty Award and was named a finalist for the 2022 Templeton Freedom Award. Their efforts continue to ensure that fewer Americans will need to overcome monopolistic licensing boards just to use their skills and serve their neighbors.

Scan the code to watch Atlas Network's new documentary on Carol's fight for her rights!





There is a great deal of philanthropy addressing the symptoms of current poverty, but surely it would be more cost-effective to prevent future poverty.



SIR JOHN TEMPLETON