

Atlas Network's semi-annual review of the worldwide freedom movement

# FREEDOM'S CHAMPION

WINTER 2021

Alumni  
in Focus:  
Joanna Baron



The 2021 Templeton  
Freedom Award Finalists

The 2021 Sir Antony Fisher  
Achievement Award

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

Michael Krupp

A HARROWING ESCAPE

## Afghanistan at Twilight

New *Borderless* and *Hablemos Libertad* Podcasts



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Cover: Morning in Kabul, Afghanistan. Khalid Ramizy is executive director of the Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization. When the country's republican government fell to the Taliban in August, he and his wife Nilab led a harrowing escape with the help of the freedom movement network. Read more about his journey on page 4. Photo / Mohammad Rahmani / Unsplash

**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.



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

# Thankful for freedom



I am sending you this message on the eve of Thanksgiving, and I am feeling especially grateful for loved ones, the simple wonders that fill our days, and the resilience and generosity of the extended community around Atlas Network.

Your gifts sustain a committed team with a high-leverage strategy for helping more people enjoy the fullness of life. We certainly encounter dispiriting setbacks, as you'll read about in our cover story about Khalid Ramizy and the Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization. But the setbacks only amplify why we need to work harder for the cause we love.

This is not a time to be discouraged. There is progress being made every day by the partner network you help with your donations to Atlas Network. If you are able to join me in the days ahead, when we convene our Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in Miami on December 13-14, you will see first-hand the amazing accomplishments of our Templeton Freedom Award finalists and our Smart Bets Class of 2022 (see page 10), among others.

If you can't join me in Miami, please put an Atlas Network event on your 2022 calendar. See page 17 for dates you can join us in Mexico City, Kyiv, and New York City.

Since our last issue of Freedom's Champion, our team has been busy: providing training and in-depth consultations to key leaders in our movement, launching a new web site with updated branding, achieving impact with our award-winning First Week Out documentary and our podcasts; and starting up our new Center for Asia & Oceania.

None of this happens without your support, and I am tremendously grateful.

There is a Jewish prayer I heard once that stuck with me. It began with a lengthy expression of gratitude for all the blessings that fill our days, and ended with an appeal to God: "Help me contribute to a more just and compassionate society, so that all may share your gifts in the joy of freedom." It is a line that very much sums up what Atlas Network is all about. I feel privileged to work with you toward these ends.

Brad Lips  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Atlas Network





As the U.S. pulled out of Afghanistan, it left a chaotic scene in its wake. As the Taliban reclaimed power, many who had advocated for the principles of a free society became targeted in violent reprisals. Atlas Network quickly and quietly mobilized to help the CEO of Afghanistan Economic and Legal Studies Organization (AELSO), Khalid Ramizy, escape the country. Dr. Tom G. Palmer recently spoke to Khalid, now safely abroad.

# Afghanistan at Twilight

## *A Harrowing Escape*

**Dr. Tom G. Palmer:** Tell us about your work going back the last ten years in Afghanistan.

**Khalid Ramizy:** Afghanistan suffers from extremism and communistic ideologies and needs institutions such as AELSO to counter such backward ideas. Classical liberal ideas are both inspiring and practical.

We had very limited resources but an important mission to educate every Afghan about their basic human rights and to spread the ideas of liberty. Although advocating for principles such as pluralism can be life-threatening in a place such as Afghanistan, AELSO has a dedicated team and the support of partners worldwide, especially in Atlas Network, and that made a big difference.

**Tom:** One of AELSO's impressive accomplishments is the establishment of projects and starting autonomous organizations, including a grassroots organization.

**Khalid:** We concluded that for the ideas to spread, they could not be too centralized in their organization. We don't work to take over a state, like communists or Taliban, but to make a society strong to defend the rights of the people. So we helped new groups to start and to grow. During the last decade we worked hard to sup-

port youth groups in Afghanistan. So many matriculated through our programs that we established White Assembly, which became the most powerful liberal youth movement in the country, working in 19 provinces and with more than 10,000 active members.

Another is the Silk Road Station, which we started in 2015. Through it we reached hundreds of thousands of young people with programming in three languages promoting classical liberal values such as peace, liberty, and tolerance. In 2019, the station established a cooperation with four well-known national FM radios of Afghanistan to increase our reach. In 2020, our radio programs reached more than 600,000 people.

We also worked to help people understand liberty deeply. AELSO Academy offered seminars, workshops, conferences, webinars, and videos to educate people about libertarian ideas and equip them with the arguments and skills to promote equal rights and liberty in their communities. Through June 2021, more than 6,000 individuals

participated in the programs of AELSO Academy. Second, we helped students to start Liberty Clubs to apply liberal democracy ideas locally to counter radical extremism. Through Liberty Clubs we involved more than 5,500 public and private university students.

**Tom:** Radio is an important medium in Afghanistan, but you also produced quite a few books on the economics of free markets, liberal democracy, Islam and liberty, classical liberal principles, public choice economics, and much more.

**Khalid:** One achievement that will affect the country for many years is the availability of important texts explaining free society values in national languages of Afghanistan. Books by Frédéric Bastiat, Adam Smith, Eamonn Butler, and your books, my friend, and Common Sense Economics, and the important work edited by Nouh El Harmouzi and Linda Whetstone on *Islamic Foundations of a Free Society*. Extremists may burn them, but they will not burn them all. Violence can kill one person, but ideas can live in many people and we want the ideas of liberty to survive to help our people live as free people.

Those books are in many places in Afghanistan and we took them to many parts of the country and many schools and colleges with our Tolerance and Prosperity Caravan. Equality for Afghans is also another initiative which worked with legislators to reform national law to become more in line with international laws and liberal ideas about women's rights, for example.

**Tom:** What are your own hopes for the future?

**Khalid:** The collapse shocked everyone, not only Afghans, but all the world witnessed such a swift loss of so much. The only thing which can make us hopeful at this hard time is that, because of our work and achievements in the last decade, the seeds for freedom are already in the country. We trained a new generation to stand against radicalism and for liberty. Beside all the challenges, we are so hopeful and happy that at least there is a real movement to keep the dream of freedom alive. And Taliban are already finding that the people of today are not the same as those they terrorized when they were in power previously.

**Tom:** How was your mission and your strategy crafted to work in a country with such a multiplicity of ethnicities, languages, and religious identifications, with substantial histories of enmity?

**Khalid:** Our strategy was three-fold: 1) focusing on the youths because they believe in change and open discourse; 2) promoting values of a free society within the context of Islam; and 3) utilizing domestic capacities and giving them opportunity.

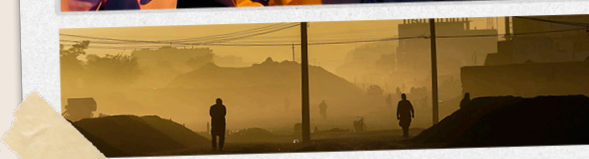
We worked particularly with university students who are most open to discussions and participation in academic and intellectual gatherings. Explaining these values from the standpoint of Islamic teachings was based on the conservative nature of our society and our own heritage. We also used different languages and respected personalities from different communities.

**Tom:** How many people did you reach with the ideas of liberty?

**Khalid:** In 2020 alone we reached more than 610,000 people, with more than 4,000 books distributed.

**Tom:** Are you and your colleagues now safe?

**Khalid:** The National Security Department of Afghanistan told me my name was on the lists of militant groups and that they would kill me. The NSD sent me warnings until the last days of republican government that





I should be careful and reduce my movements or leave the country for a while; but I never thought to leave the country because my mission and work for the Afghan people was important. I remained in the country until the last possible moment.

After the collapse of the government and takeover of the Taliban—and as they searched for me—finally, I decided to leave my country and my entire life to survive and to continue our work. I intend to continue the mission of supporting Afghan people, especially youths, to stand against the extremists in the country and to promote the ideas of liberty.

I owe a lot to our international friends such as Mr. Brad Lips and you, Tom, from Atlas Network, and Mrs. Linda Whetstone from Network for a Free Society of U.K. You all worked around the clock after the collapse of Kabul to help me leave the country. You were successful. Now I am in a safe place in Turkey and working to support our freedom network in Afghanistan.

After I left the country the Taliban froze our organization's and my personal bank accounts. They searched for us widely.

I would like to add that not all our colleagues are safe at the moment. There are active threats to their lives. Extremists are scared of our ideas and of our team's dedication to positive social changes. But despite the threats, we work with more energy for promoting democratic and free society values.

**Tom:** What can you share with our readers about how you escaped the country? And what are your plans for the future?

**Khalid:** After the takeover of Kabul by the Taliban, it seemed totally impossible to leave the country. It was hard to make the final decision to go into hiding even as our friends from Atlas Network and our other partners were trying their best to get us evacuated.

Shortly before they occupied Kabul, I went to the bank to withdraw cash, because I didn't have any. When I went

to the bank, there were many people in long queues. They were insisting, not to the bank personnel, but to the guards, to please give our money to us. So many people were crying. They knew they were in a very bad condition.

When I opened my Facebook mobile, I saw that Jalalabad, a city close to Kabul, had fallen. I knew that Kabul would soon follow and that they would take everything. I decided to go to our office as quickly as possible. I called an emergency meeting as the Taliban were entering the city. We decided that at least we should send some documents to some safe places and to destroy the rest. We immediately closed the office since the Taliban were targeting civil society organizations, and especially leaders. It became very dangerous.

One achievement that will affect the country for many years is the availability of important texts explaining free society values in national languages of Afghanistan. Extremists may burn them, but they will not burn them all.

**Tom:** How did you manage to evade the Taliban kill squads and patrols?

**Khalid:** I changed my location and my look several times, with scarves, glasses, different clothes, and so on. I wore traditional clothes and hats. I was totally looking like a Mullah. In my trek from the office to my first safe location I witnessed very shocking things. Tears came to my eyes as I watched more than a decade of work wash away in front of me.

I thought that everything that we did for the country was finished—that it would be destroyed.

I ventured among different safe locations with important documents. My friends in each place provided fresh information about Taliban activity in certain parts of the city, telling me "Khalid, you have to change your location." And I navigated safe houses with the support of our colleagues from international organizations. They gave us the opportunity to get out.

**Tom:** So you made for the airport? What was it like?

**Khalid:** It was very difficult to get to the airport in one piece. My colleagues and I wore disguises and I deleted everything on my phone. I gave all my documents to my wife to hide in her clothes as I believed the Taliban would search only me. I was right.

The Taliban didn't search my wife's pockets or handbag. I was very well prepared to answer all their questions. In the first few checkpoints I didn't let on that we were going toward the airport, and it was critical that those first few allowed our movement.

On those days the Taliban assigned their suicide attackers on the way to the airport. I am sure that we passed by more than 200 suicide attackers on our journey to the airport.

Those moments were the worst in my life. I left an entire life behind and was only traveling with a small bag toward the airport.

It was not also clear at which checkpoints the Taliban would identify and kill us. But fortunately, we successfully entered the airport and reached the U.S. soldiers who had control of the inside perimeter of the airport. After going about 24 hours without food or washrooms and under direct sunshine just 10 meters away from the runway, finally our plane came and took us out.

You know, I didn't lose hope. We will continue to promote liberal democratic values, reaching areas where we were unable to venture in the past due to ongoing war, creating a national conversation on the compatibility of Islam with the ideas of a free society, translating and publishing books, and producing more radio and online content.

**Tom:** It seems that many people were surprised by the Taliban takeover, including even the Taliban. What led to such a rapid collapse, after two decades of foreign military presence and the hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars that were pumped into the country?

**Khalid:** Many things immediately come to mind: a shocking level of corruption, social exclusion of villagers, lack of quality education, extreme poverty, monopolistic behavior by government and warlords, foreign interference from Pakistan, lack of unified voice against the Taliban from the U.S. and NATO, and fractured morale among the Afghan security forces and national government. There were also some strategic failures that led the country into chaos.

Those failures are rooted in both Karzai's and Ghani's presidencies. Besides that, receiving an official audience in Qatar and a deal that did not include Afghans, only the U.S. and Taliban, provided the Taliban a lot of legitimacy. Multiple trips made by their representatives to different countries, mainly Pakistan, in addition to signing formal agreements with world powers, contributed extensively to the chaos in Afghanistan. And we should not forget the corruption that was fueled by so much foreign aid. It was like dry wood for a fire. The money from foreign governments was so much and it went to the most corrupt people and made them stronger and weakened our weak democracy.

**Tom:** How does the modern Taliban compare to that of twenty years ago?

**Khalid:** Unfortunately, there is no ideological or funda-



mental difference between the Taliban of 1996–2001 and the Taliban of today. They conduct violence in a systematic way and spread disinformation for their own benefit.

It is important not to isolate the country again, because it may easily become once again a safe haven to terrorist organizations.

The Taliban do not accept any kind of differences. In their view, anyone who advocates for their rights and beliefs has disrupted order, and he—and especially she—is an enemy of Islam and of the Taliban. In one of the last press conferences, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid declared any kind of protest illegal and forbade journalists to cover these movements

without permission. They used weapons to suppress civil protests and women's advocacy, and some journalists were arrested and severely tortured in recent days.

**Tom:** What will AELSO's work look like now?

**Khalid:** We are publishing books and translations, going virtual for a while, and eventually exploring possible conversations with the authorities in the country to fully resume our work. While we hope to continue our efforts to promote our philosophy in Afghanistan, the lives of our team members are our immediate priority.

**Tom:** Just what do you think are the prospects for a future of peaceful toleration, respect for individual liberty, and free-market prosperity in Afghanistan?

**Khalid:** Afghanistan is in the midst of economic and political crisis. Engaging with the international community and fulfilling their demands is the only option available for the Taliban. It is important not to isolate the country again, because it may easily become once again a safe haven to terrorist organizations. If the world isolates Afghanistan again, I am sure that the situation will get worse and terrorist activity will rise. I have not lost hope.

**Tom:** How can our readers help you and the people of Afghanistan?

**Khalid:** By nullifying negative stereotypes about Afghans, and by fundraising to support the freedom advocates still in Afghanistan. Their lives remain in danger. Supporting the work of AELSO and our partners and network over the next year is critical. We know so many partners helped us and when we can, we will help them, too.





# Dr. Tom G. Palmer



At Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in Miami, Atlas Network will honor Dr. Tom G. Palmer with the Sir Antony Fisher Achievement Award for his career of service advancing freedom around the world as he prepares to help Atlas Network launch our Center for Asia and Oceania in the years ahead. We look forward to Tom's continued leadership in developing our network further. Ahead of the honor ceremony, Atlas Network CEO Brad Lips spoke with Tom.

**Brad Lips:** Tom, you're admired not just as one of our era's great scholars of liberty, but for your bravery. When was the first time you put yourself in harm's way for the values you believe in?

**Tom Palmer:** I wouldn't count myself as brave. I'm just generally not afraid of other people. That's not the same. Anyway, I had some unpleasant scrapes and arrests in the USSR and when smuggling across Communist borders books, photocopiers, paper, and so on. But I was never at real risk in the way that subjects of those tyrannies

were. I was shot at and had some minor injuries working in Iraq. I saw some things that I wish I didn't remember. Having guns fired at you or pressed against your head or belly is an experience that's hard to describe. You don't act like you might predict. You become hyper calm and strangely focused, or at least it seems to do that to me. Anyway, you get one life; if I were to spend mine for the liberty of my fellow humans, it would be well spent.

**Brad:** In this edition of *Freedom's Champion*, Khalid Ramizi describes the ordeal of escaping the Taliban. What was your take-away from that recent event?

**Tom:** Two big things. First, the Afghan state that U.S. tax dollars built was hollow and brittle, precisely because it was paid for by a foreign government. There's a lesson in that. I'd observed its fragility in my visits, the last in December of 2019. Second, it really matters for liberty champions to know that they're not alone. They're members of a network. We drew on it to rescue our Afghan friends; friends helped from all over the world. Solidarity is a classical liberal virtue. People should know that if they need help, others will help them, and reciprocally. It makes us all so much stronger and more resilient.

**Brad:** I remember you making a similar point at a conference you organized in Tbilisi for Cato in 2006 before you joined our team. I found very poignant how you talked about the "favor bank."

**Tom:** It's an old idea. I got the term from Prof. Randy Barnett, an admired friend. I tell young people and people who are struggling to accept help to take "favors" now, when they have little to offer in return, and to pay back by helping other people when they can. When I was a lad, I bought used books through the mail from P.K. Slocum, a bookseller. She was a wise lady and a deep and sincere libertarian. She let me buy books on credit and even gifted me books she thought I should read. She sent me battered books by Erich Maria Remarque and Hayek and Spencer and Spooner and others, but she also wanted me to read anti-libertarian thinkers—Marx, Lenin, Mussolini, Trotsky, Stalin, etc., so I could rebut them. In one of Lenin's books I recently consulted—*The State and Revolution*—she had penciled, "To Tom, from Comrade PK." She helped me to appreciate the struggle for liberty. She died in 1978. I could not repay her many kindnesses, which hurt, but every time I give a book to a young person, I remember her and many other people who have helped me. I return their kindnesses, as they understood, by helping others.

**Brad:** What do you think of the health of our community today, and the future of Atlas Network?

**Tom:** I'm bullish. The investments of time, thought, and resources provided by our sponsors, our board of directors, and our colleagues have hugely increased our effectiveness, in measurable positive returns on investment. What used to be seat-of-the-pants reckoning is now systematic and businesslike. That's not to say there's no use for judgement, for what Aristotle called *phronêsis*, but that's been greatly magnified by institutionalized processes. At the center of our transformation have been principled liberty-loving businesspeople, such as our recent board chairs, Dan Grossman, Linda Whetstone, and now Debbi Gibbs. Dan retired from his business and applied his decades of business experience to help Atlas Network and other groups to budget properly, to trim costs, to streamline processes, and to make us so much more effective; Linda, or Agent W, as I started to call her years ago, brought such strategic focus and such wisdom to making hard choices, as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of the liberty movement all over the world; Debbi, another entrepreneur, is laser-focused on applying sound business practices to boost our effectiveness and to sharpening our mission focus.

Our thousands of supporters give up their own enjoyment to make our work possible and we owe it to them to get the most impact for what they have entrusted to us. Gerry Ohrstrom, who's leaving our board, is a focused value investor, as was our late and much missed friend Don Smith. They stressed adding value in everything one does. It shows. It seems that not hating businesspeople, but instead admiring people who add net value to the world, whether as carpenters or hedge fund managers or truck drivers or farmers, helps us to focus on the bottom line: is this activity making the world on net freer, more just, more prosperous than some other use of the resources? And lastly, I'm happy that our younger colleagues are so capable and so dedicated. I've no plans to die any time soon, but if I do, I will die knowing that the movement for liberty will be sustained by people who really "get it" and who care deeply about our mission and who are committed to excellence. That pleases me.

**Brad:** What are you most excited about, looking to the future?

**Tom:** One is the continuing revival of real liberalism, not the straw man of "neoliberalism," but the real deal, the classical liberalism that liberated our species from slavery, poverty, and degradation. It's back and it's more sophisticated than in its heyday. We're also increasingly engaging the whole person in our movement, not only the parts of our souls that host linear thinking about causes and effects, costs and benefits, incentives and behavior, but also the emotional and affective parts of the soul that care, that love, that are moved and that move us. The political

For the rational arguments and the empirical evidence to reach people, you have to engage the whole person. You need to engage the mind through the heart.

Atlas Network's Center for Asia and Oceania encompasses Central, East, and South Asia in addition to the region that embraces Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia, and the Pacific Island nations.

scientist Aaron Wildavsky used to say, "They'll care what you think when they think that you care." For the rational arguments and the empirical evidence to reach people, you have to engage the whole person. You need to engage the mind through the heart. For too long classical liberals have been smeared as all mind and no heart—the alleged social coldness of liberalism, and that is so wrong, but it's partly our fault for not engaging the heart. I hope that the new book Matt [Warner] and I wrote—*Development with Dignity*—will correct that, because we integrate the affective and soul-moving with reasons and evidence about the policies and the mentalities that lead to flourishing.

I'm also happy to travel again. I'm planning over the next weeks to visit and work with partners in Colombia, Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama, Spain, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and then Miami for Liberty

Forum & Freedom Dinner. I never feel more alive and happy than when I'm working with friends to liberate people from coercion, from humiliation, from injustice. I'm also chuffed, as I learned to say when I lived in England, that I'm working with so many good people across Asia and Oceania—the region that embraces Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Polynesia, and the Pacific Island nations. Travel at present is more difficult here, but as vaccination

rates rise, I expect to be on the road next year to work intensely with partners nearer to home. And building our new Center for Asia and Oceania means I get to work with awesome and inspiring people.

**Brad:** Loyal friends of Atlas Network are curious about where you and your husband, Sonnam, will be living.

**Tom:** Near the Gulf of Thailand. We sold our house in the U.S. and we're building a house with a separate office/studio, so I can close the door and focus. It'll also have a library I designed—with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves and stacks and a brass rail and a wheeled ladder. I used to fantasize about such a library and in Thailand, with some belt-tightening, we can afford it. The house is about 90 minutes from BKK—one of the world's best-connected airports, so I can travel more efficiently. Bonuses: we're near family and our cats love Thailand.

**Brad:** Finally, how about a favorite classical liberal quote that many of us will not have encountered before?

**Tom:** The Austrian novelist and scientist Robert Musil, in his masterpiece *The Man Without Qualities*, noted that "Nowadays only criminals dare to harm others without the help of philosophy."



## ANNOUNCING

# Atlas Network's 2022 Smart Bets



The 2022 Smart Bets class represents 10 rising and established stars in our network that have been selected to receive \$35,000 in funding, with the opportunity to compete for an additional \$50,000 at the Investors Summit for Liberty. The Summit will be hosted by Atlas Network and DonorsTrust on December 15, the day after Freedom Dinner 2021 in Miami, Florida.

## SRI LANKA

### Advocata Institute

#### AdvocataX: Easy Startups

Any new business startup in Sri Lanka has to navigate century-old laws and complicated bureaucracy just to get off the ground. According to research conducted by Advocata Institute in 2019, one-third of small businesses remain unregistered, which limits their access to finance. Advocata is working to create a policy reform package that includes a model start-up law, which will include a prototype that facilitates a digitally enabled process to register businesses. Advocata hopes that this systems-design approach to ushering in business reform will demonstrate to lawmakers the benefits that changing the system could yield.

## BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA

### Association Multi Digital Transformation of Bosnia & Herzegovina

Association Multi seeks to foster the digital transformation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Specifically, Multi believes digitizing public administration, operations of public and private companies, and society in general is key to improving economic and other freedoms of its citizens. They intend to achieve this through a campaign of policy development, education, advocacy, media, and reform to existing policies and regulations.

The two organizations that took top honors in the 2019 Investors Summit—the Property and Environment Research Center and the Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy—went on to become finalists for the prestigious Templeton Freedom Award in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The 2022 Smart Bets encompass three U.S. states and seven countries representing five continents. Without further ado, here are Atlas Network's 2022 Smart Bets:

## NEVADA, UNITED STATES

### Better Cities Project

#### Freedom Should Be at Home Downtown

Better Cities Project (BCP) is devoted to the “last mile” in public policy, highlighting the strategic need for local government reform and an eager audience of elected officials needing solutions. BCP's Freedom Should Be At Home Downtown coalition program leverages locally focused policy ideas from across the freedom movement into a package of ready-made model ordinances and research.

## URUGUAY

### Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo

#### Making Uruguay the First Developed Nation in Latin America

After 15 years of leftist governments, Uruguay is at a crossroads in its history. Despite stable political institutions, significant barriers to economic freedom and open markets exist, and a new, heterogeneous government leaves open the door for necessary reform. Centro de Estudios para el Desarrollo (CED) is spearheading a three-part reform initiative to improve Uruguay's competitiveness: 1) opening the economy to increased international trade, 2) freeing up regulation of the labor market, and 3) reducing costs in markets with very low competition and artificially high costs. After making progress on the first two, CED has set its sights on developing a “Guidebook for Economic Reforms in Uruguay” to outline necessary reforms and provide a roadmap for implementation.

## HONDURAS

### Fundación Eléutera

#### For a Clean Sea and a Prosperous Economy

For the last 15 years, between August and November, the town of Omoa on the Atlantic Coast of Honduras, has been flooded with large amounts of garbage that originates in Guatemala City. This is due to poor municipal management of solid waste. This environmental externality persists despite the repeated failed promises to fix the situation made by both governments, and this drives a lot of citizens to migrate to the United States. Fundación Eléutera has a “green market” plan to improve the situation for the 50,000 people living in Omoa through a mix of public and private lands, property rights, and the rule of law.

## NEW YORK, UNITED STATES

### Human Rights Foundation

#### HRF's Online Activist Academy

The Human Rights Foundation (HRF)'s Online Activist Academy seeks to develop a robust, engaging curriculum to support human rights and pro-democracy activists working in the 95 countries ruled by authoritarian regimes. This curriculum will be tailored to the needs of activists and civil society organizations working in countries under authoritarian rule, including building their capability for financial stability through accessing cryptocurrency funding, and it will be fully accessible in an online learning platform for activists within the HRF and Atlas Network communities.

## LEBANON

### Lebanese Institute for Market Studies

#### Lebanon NOW—Lebanon News and Opinion Website

Lebanon faces several interrelated crises, and its political class continues to peddle fake news and misleading data to justify these failures and promote more of the same. The Lebanese Institute for Market Studies (LIMS) is building a digital media platform that provides credible data, in-depth analysis, reliable information, and free-market recommendations for the Lebanese economy. Their team plans for the LIMS website to become the go-to online platform for journalists, think tanks, international organizations, policymakers, and groups seeking meaningful change in Lebanon. The resources LIMS provides will allow greater transparency, fact checks, civic empowerment of citizens, and informed decision-making.

## CAMEROON

### Nkafu Policy Institute

#### Nkafu Fellows Program

Nkafu Policy Institute has steadily grown since it began work six years ago, developing a strong bench of talented young analysts. Their next frontier is to attract highly experienced senior policy wonks to engage directly with high-ranking policymakers across a wide range of issues. These fellows—each with high-level technical expertise—will anchor core programs at Nkafu, including economic affairs, health policy and research, governance and democracy, and peace and security. This will include creating and facilitating core products such as the annual “Nkafu Budget Report,” the monthly ON POLICY Magazine, quarterly public Nkafu Debates, and a platform for non-political debates to examine issues related to Cameroon's economic development.

## LOUISIANA, UNITED STATES

### Pelican Institute for Public Policy

#### Defining Louisiana's Future

Many think tanks struggle with finding an audience to consume their research and become activated to champion reform. Pelican Institute has innovated in this space with their owned-audience strategy. Building off the success of their “A School That Fits” education reform messaging campaign, which took off online and eventually was cited in a PBS debate between gubernatorial candidates, Pelican Institute is looking to build their owned-audience strategy to effectively shape the debate about policy in Louisiana.

## CANADA

### SecondStreet.org

#### Health Care Choice

SecondStreet.org seeks to inform Canadians about health reform options that could improve outcomes for patients—including allowing patients the additional option of purchasing insurance using non-government providers of their choosing. SecondStreet.org will continue to produce ground-breaking research into how many Canadians die each year while waiting for government care and tell stories about the real people impacted by the shortcomings of the existing system.



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

# Michael Krupp

Michael Krupp is a longtime supporter of Atlas Network. Our Strategic Partnerships Advisor, Vale Sloane, recently interviewed Michael about his philanthropy and his involvement with Atlas Network.



**Vale Sloane:** Thank you for speaking with me, Michael. What was your original introduction to Atlas Network?

**Michael Krupp:** Ironically, I found out about Atlas Network through the back door. Having a sincere interest in precious metal, I attended a few precious metals conferences, including Freedom Fest. In the early years of Freedom Fest, sponsorship and exhibitors participating in this conference had ties to those operating in the precious metals industry. When perusing the exhibition hall in Las Vegas, I was drawn to the Cato Institute table, discussed what Cato did and gathered some informational materials. It became apparent this way of thinking was ingrained in my DNA as I was immediately drawn into all they had to share on freedom, liberty, free markets, etc. coupled with the inner responsibility of becoming self-reliant and responsible. As our relationship grew, certain individuals within Cato felt my deeper interests might also be aligned with what Atlas Network had to offer. They were spot on.

**Vale:** Why do you choose to support Atlas Network?

**Michael:** The mission and activities of Atlas Network speak deeply to me. Unlike other organizations I am

aware of, Atlas Network has taken the principles of classical liberalism and meaningfully put them into action. They provide the nucleus for allowing the rubber to meet the road—not just discussing and teaching these invaluable ideas and principles but developing and enrolling approximately 500 partners in more than 90 countries to learn about and adopt the practicality of putting them to work in their respective countries and regions.

**Vale:** How does the work of Atlas Network align with your personal beliefs and values?

**Michael:** The answer to this question is what has resonated most deeply with me about Atlas Network. My primary interest and study over the past 45 years has been a deep dive into better understanding and attempting to practice deeper spiritual principles and spiritual truth. This should not be confused with religion although all authentic religions came into existence through the revelators of these deeper spiritual truths. When looking in greater depth into the backgrounds of each of these religions, one is struck in the realization that these higher universal and eternal principles and ideas that came through were identical, whether they came through the revelators of Christianity,

Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Mohammedism, or other legitimate religions. Once the revelator and his closest followers were gone, these teachings in most respects gravitated towards becoming religions, more organized with differing rules, laws, and directives. The initial revelations and teachings were focused on the Oneness of all creation, further focusing on the sacredness, sanctity, and uniqueness of the individual with recognition of his or her individual freedom and liberty to live authentic lives and love for mankind. These universal revelations and truths ushered in the foundation of Mysticism, the underlying but most important link missing in most religions today. When understood and practiced correctly, they bring greater freedom from fear, worry, and anxiety. Atlas Network and Liberalism present universal and eternal principles for living in the world today in greater freedom while Mysticism presents the highest universal and eternal principles for living within Oneself. For me, finding both have become a beautiful marriage.

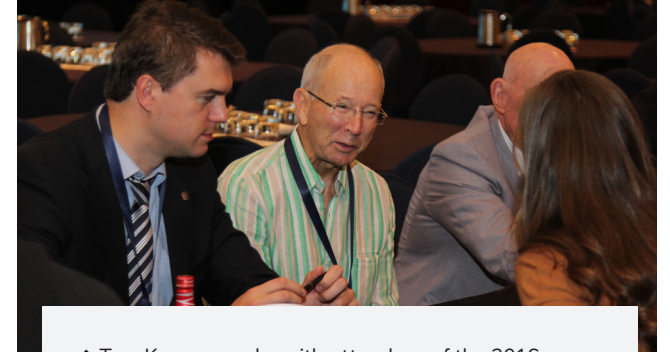
The mission and activities of Atlas Network speak deeply to me ... Atlas Network has taken the principles of classical liberalism and meaningfully put them into action.

**Vale:** What excites you most about being a supporter of Atlas Network and the worldwide freedom movement?

**Michael:** It provides an opportunity to practice and bring greater awareness of specific ideas and principles that can manifest into far greater levels of freedom, harmony, and liberty for most individuals, while providing clearer guidance for governments and organizations. When this is allowed to transpire, these entities will eventually recognize the efficacy of this way of life, gently allowing them to become compassionately interwoven into the fabric of treating and governing its citizenry and the governments in other areas of the world.

**Vale:** What is your fondest memory at an Atlas Network event?

**Michael:** It's not one event as that would be unfair. It would not express my enthusiasm and wonder to continually see participants from around the world come together who are excited and motivated to be the instruments of change, allowing the world to become a better place for all. As far as the internal Atlas Network organization, I am overwhelmed with the privilege and joy felt among this group of individuals. Progressive and defining



↑ Top: Krupp speaks with attendees of the 2016 Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner during the Speed Networking session.



↓ Bottom: Departing Atlas Network Board Chair Linda Whetstone (left), Michael Krupp, and DonorsTrust Philanthropic Advisor Stephanie Lips (right).

inroads from the collaboration and working with each other are unquestionable.

**Vale:** You've been a supporter of Atlas Network for many years—how has the organization grown and changed during your involvement?

**Michael:** Night and day in so many ways. From my vantage point, it has become far more collaborative, professional, effective, and participatory at many levels and in many different areas of this country and the world. Additionally, its efficacy and success have led to greater openness, acceptance, and willingness to meaningfully partner at deeper and more responsible levels.

**Vale:** Many of our partners are operating in challenging countries and face many dangers—what would you say to encourage them?

**Michael:** You are never a failure providing you persist and do not give up. Some projects may not take root and drop away, but that only means a temporary step back, not being a failure. So many seeds have been planted throughout the world. Continue to stay the course and remain focused, trust yourself and others, and know you are on the right side. It is not necessary to be an open spokesman in times of danger, but rather share these ideas with others when they are drawn to you and want to know more. The longer these seeds are nurtured and allowed to take greater root, the stronger will be the impact and success when these beautiful new expressions of freedom and truth break through into the world.



# The Templeton Freedom Award

TEMPLETON FREEDOM AWARD

## 2021 Finalists

*Organizations from Burundi, India, United Kingdom, and United States have been named as finalists for Atlas Network's 2021 Templeton Freedom Award*

Awarded since 2004, Atlas Network's Templeton Freedom Award is named for the late investor and philanthropist Sir John Templeton. The prestigious award annually honors his legacy by identifying and recognizing the most exceptional and innovative contributions to the understanding of free enterprise and the public policies that encourage prosperity, innovation, and human fulfillment via free competition. The winning organization receives a US\$100,000 grand prize and the runners-up each receive US\$20,000. The award is generously supported by Templeton Religion Trust and will be presented during Atlas Network's 2021 Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner in Miami, Florida.

Here are the 2021 finalists:



CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

### Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy Initiating Education Choice Reform



Quality education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty, but for decades, West Virginia students have been trapped in a system consistently ranked at the bottom of national rankings, with no alternatives available. Leaders of the Cardinal Institute for West Virginia Policy knew there was a better way, and in 2015 they began a journey to transform education in their state. As a result of their tireless efforts, West Virginia opened to charter schools in 2019, and this year the West Virgin-

ia legislature adopted the Hope Scholarship Program, a nation-leading education reform that provides funding directly to families and students rather than systems. Parents across West Virginia now have the agency they need to make the best decisions for their children, and by introducing competition into the education marketplace, Cardinal Institute has revolutionized educational choice, creating the gold standard for reform and bringing a West Virginia "miracle" closer to fruition.

WASHINGTON, DC

### Cato Institute

#### Working to Eliminate Qualified Immunity



Just a few years ago, "qualified immunity" was an obscure legal concept known only to a small handful of lawyers and legal scholars. Now, it's a household term. Uniting advocacy groups and leaders from across the political spectrum, Cato Institute demonstrated how qualified immunity enables government officials to violate the civil rights of citizens with impunity. Their work to promote public awareness of the topic has been so successful that more than 60% of Americans now favor ending this abusive legal loophole, and legislative efforts

to ban qualified immunity are picking up steam. Several jurisdictions—including Colorado, New Mexico, and New York City—have already banned the legal defense, clearing the way for citizens to bring lawsuits against officials (including police officers) who have violated their rights. Bills to that effect have also been introduced at the national level by members of Congress representing three political parties. Cato Institute's efforts aim to restore the civil rights of every American and give renewed energy to the creed "liberty and justice for all."

BUJUMBURA, BURUNDI

### Centre for Development and Enterprises—Great Lakes

#### Opening Borders to Increase Trade



In the landlocked Central African nation of Burundi, oppressive regulations, complicated bureaucracy, and physical barriers at border posts force Burundians desperate for cross-border trade to enter the informal economy, condemning millions to lives marred by poverty and abuse by border officials. The Centre for Development and Enterprises—Great Lakes (CDE), is determined to reduce these barriers and create the conditions for formal, open trade—and, consequently—for a better life in Burundi. CDE launched their "Fungua Njia" or "Open Road" campaign in 2019, which has culminated in fewer required commercial documents, the elimination of 90%

of non-tariff barriers; the establishment of a simple local travel document to replace costly passports; the reduction of regulatory agencies from 19 to 4; and, most importantly, the legal recognition of over 30,000 women traders, who have finally been extended protection against sexual harassment, illegal seizure of their goods, physical violence, and bribery at the border. These changes have cleared the way for explosive growth in trade that is not only more frequent, but also more affordable and secure. CDE's work demonstrates the power of free enterprise and trade to bring dignity and prosperity to millions of people across Africa's Great Lakes region.



NEW DELHI, INDIA

## Centre for Civil Society

### Securing Legal Protections for Street Vendors

Street vendors are essential to India's economy, accounting for over US\$10 million in transactions each day. But these entrepreneurs often operate at the mercy of local authorities who arbitrarily extort, abuse, and threaten them, seizing their goods and charging them hefty fines. Centre for Civil Society (CCS) has been a consistent champion for street vendors, securing the passage of the landmark Street Vendors Act in 2014. Sadly, implementation of the law has been fragmented and remains

unfinished in states across the country. With sustained research and publicity campaigns on behalf of and in partnership with vendors, Centre for Civil Society has maintained pressure on government officials to protect street vendors' economic rights. Moreover, CCS' work to educate vendors about the law is enabling millions to stand up for their rights, ultimately allowing them to earn a livelihood free from the fines and fear that have prevented them from plying their trade in peace.



LONDON, ENGLAND

## Institute of Economic Affairs

### Revitalizing a Free Trade Champion

Just over 40 years ago, the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) laid the intellectual groundwork for sustained economic expansion across the United Kingdom, and today they have once again helped to lead the country out of crisis. Out of the uncertainty created by the Brexit referendum, the IEA worked to make the most of the opportunity to redefine economic policy in the United Kingdom. For four years they played a significant role in changing hearts, minds, and policy with a clear vision for advancing free trade. Their "Plan A+" program became a media sensation and was champi-

oned by a wide range of policymakers and U.K. leaders who have since implemented dozens of free trade deals worth over US\$1 trillion. Overcoming immense opposition from think tanks, regulatory agencies, social media attacks, and even targeted burglaries, the IEA achieved their most monumental policy contribution in decades. Their steadfast commitment to open trade has helped to secure a more prosperous future for the people of the United Kingdom, rekindled Britain's deep liberal tradition, and created a model to be emulated around the world.



LEHI, UTAH

## Libertas Institute

### Unleashing the Potential of Utah's Small Businesses

Red tape and bureaucracy often discourage aspiring entrepreneurs, overwhelm small businesses, and hinder established companies from reaching their full potential. Utah's Libertas Institute aims to change this stifling environment with the nation's first comprehensive regulatory sandbox. This innovative system allows business owners to seek exemption from onerous regulations, giving entrepreneurs and enterprises time to innovate while providing lawmakers the opportunity to review and repeal outdated or restrictive policies. By decreasing unnecessary regulations, Libertas Institute's regu-

latory sandbox creates a welcoming environment for fresh business ideas. Sandbox programs in Utah have helped dozens of companies serve their customers more cost effectively and efficiently by reducing their regulatory burden. Libertas Institute is encouraging similar sandboxes across the country and hopes to see their policy proposals adopted on the national level. Libertas Institute's concerted deregulation efforts are allowing a new generation of entrepreneurs in Utah to achieve their dreams, making the state a beacon of innovation and opportunity in the United States.



# You are invited to Atlas Network's 2022 Events

Atlas Network events bring together amazing freedom champions to exchange ideas, share strategies, and celebrate successes that create the conditions for liberty to thrive.

## ACCELERATE

Accelerate is the theme of our 2022 events because this moment in history requires the worldwide freedom movement to shift into top gear. Be part of the excitement by joining us at one or more of our events!



## Liberty Forum & Freedom Dinner

*The most inspirational  
event of the year!*

New York City, NY  
November 16-17, 2022



### Europe Liberty Forum

CO-HOSTED WITH  
INSTITUTE FOR  
ECONOMIC LEADERSHIP  
May 12-13, 2022  
Kyiv, Ukraine



### Latin America Liberty Forum

CO-HOSTED WITH  
MEXICO EVALÚA  
(CONDUCTED IN SPANISH)  
June 9-10, 2022  
Mexico City, Mexico



### Africa Liberty Forum

CO-HOSTED WITH  
AUDACE INSTITUT  
AFRIQUE  
August 25-26, 2022  
Online



### Asia Liberty Forum

CO-HOSTED WITH  
FOUNDATION FOR  
ECONOMIC FREEDOM  
September 29-30, 2022  
Manila, Philippines



# First Week Out



Larry Williams spent 42 years in prison. Our short film follows his first week out of prison as he re-integrates into society.

Atlas Network’s first short film produced specifically for film festival consideration has been accepted to 30 festivals in 10 countries.

For those who have lived behind bars for decades, the first week of freedom is often the hardest. Many struggle to get a foothold, return to crime and, eventually, prison. Unfortunately, hard work and a desire for a better life isn’t always enough. That’s where organizations like Atlas Network partner Georgia Center for Opportunity (GCO) come in. They are dedicated to removing barriers to prosperity and human dignity for all Georgians, including those who have served time. GCO has made great strides in helping former prisoners reintegrate into society through programs that make it easier to find and keep work and housing. An example of an independent reentry home is Vital Signs Reentry Home in northern Georgia.

**Larry’s first week out**

After over forty years in prison, Larry Williams spent his first week of freedom in Vital Signs Reentry Home. “This program helps them with food, clothing, shelter, a safe haven for them to get restarted back in life,” said Pastor Lee Robbins, founder of the home. A safe haven is exactly what Larry found at Vital Signs. “People do what they have to to survive in prison,” Larry said. “It’s a blessing to be free.”

**“It’s a different society”**

Freedom might be better than incarceration, but that doesn’t mean it’s easy. “We have to have the ability to be able to cope with society,” Larry said. “It’s a different society than what we left. It’s a big change.



← The Vital Signs Reentry Home in northern Georgia was founded by Pastor Lee Robbins.

↓ The Atlas Network team first filmed with Pastor Robbins in September 2020.



We have to adjust mentally, spiritually, and emotionally. If you don’t, you’re lost. I had some friends who just totally lost their minds. They got out and went right back into the system. They said they couldn’t make it out here.”

**Like a lost sheep**

The lack of opportunity that exists for formerly incarcerated individuals can crush any hope they might have for a brighter future. A dearth of job skills—in addition to the simple presence of a criminal record—makes it difficult to obtain gainful employment. For those who have been behind bars for an extended period, the technology that most of us take for granted is a daunting challenge all its own. “You get your freedom, then you become somebody,” Larry said. “But you have to make a lot of changes in life in order to stay out here in this world.”

Tony Kitchens, a board member for Georgia Center for Opportunity, knows this struggle. “The toughest time for me was when I got out of prison,” Kitchens said. “There was a time I would’ve wanted to go back to prison, because in prison I knew how to survive, but coming out, you’re like a lost sheep.”

**A chance for freedom**

Larry went to Vital Signs on his first day of freedom after 42 years in prison. Besides the basic necessities, the reentry home helped him fill out job applications and learn how to use the internet. “A chance for freedom. It’s ok,” he said. “But I’m trying to get back to work.” The reentry program helped Larry navigate the employment process, and he secured a job at a chicken processing plant. “It’s good work,” he said. “Good

exercise. Having a job is one of the biggest, best responsibilities you can have. The time that you did incarcerated doesn’t set you apart from the next person that’s in society. A job makes you a citizen all over again, makes you responsible for a lot of things in life.”

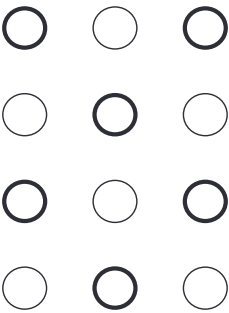
**Opportunity that brings dignity**

“To get returning citizens a job in their first seven days out is critical,” said Pastor Robbins. “We know jobs and opportunities like that bring dignity.” Organizations and services like Vital Signs are essential to helping individuals reenter society on a path toward a healthy and constructive future. Georgia Center for Opportunity is critical to this effort as they break down barriers that stand in the way of that better future. Through their “Ban the Box” campaign, for example, GCO convinced the government to remove from state job applications

the requirement that formerly incarcerated people indicate a past criminal record. Believing that no one’s life and prospects should be defined by their worst day, this makes it easier for them to get an interview and, hopefully, a job based on their merits and relevant skills rather than being passed over due to past mistakes.

Larry’s story is one of success thanks to Vital Signs and Georgia Center for Opportunity, but there are many more people like him who leave prison without the guidance and support he received. GCO is committed to helping them too.

Atlas Network supports Georgia Center for Opportunity through grant funding.



After over forty years in prison, Larry Williams spent his first week of freedom in Vital Signs Reentry Home.







ALUMNI IN FOCUS

# Joanna Baron

My participation in Executive Accelerator was delayed for two years because of personal obligations and pandemic travel restrictions, but I can honestly say that it was the most transformative training I've been to. My only regret is not making it two years earlier.



I began the training as a fairly new CEO of a thriving small organization and came out with a clear road-map of how to magnify Canadian Constitution Foundation's impact over the next five to ten years.

What really distinguished Executive Accelerator from all previous trainings I've taken was how hands-on and interactive it was. We were thrust—on day one—into a case study concerning an organization in crisis with so many internal and external challenges that it stretched my cognitive capacities to consider them all.

The genius of Executive Accelerator was that we were taught concepts and frameworks for solving

problems and guiding decision-making and then immediately asked to apply them both to our own organizations and in real time to the case study with fellow participants. The “meta-level” of seeing my own management style play out in my case study group under time pressure drove home my own personal strengths and weaknesses as a leader. It was not for the faint of heart, but it was immensely illuminating.

The practice of formulating North Stars—specified organizational goals created to help measure success—to help filter our vision and drive our mission into concrete actions and decisions resonated deeply with my team and board.



The genius of Executive Accelerator was that we were taught concepts and frameworks for solving problems and guiding decision-making and then immediately asked to apply them both to our own organizations and in real time to the case study with fellow participants.

I came back to the office with a strategic plan I feel confident about and that has energized my team. I am using the Executive Accelerator framework with each of my team members to help them have clear direction and confidence in their work.



↖ Joanna Baron attended the 2021 Executive Accelerator training in Tysons, Virginia.

↑ Joanna Baron attended the 2018 Lights, Camera, Liberty workshop in Los Angeles. Here she speaks with some of the Lights, Camera, Liberty cohort.

As someone trained as a lawyer who is very comfortable in the realm of law, policy, and thought leadership, I cannot overstate the value of spending a week learning how to operationalize ideas so that they can actually help make the world a freer place. I'm looking forward to the next level of CEO strategy at Atlas Network's CEO Summit next year!



Los Angeles  
7-10 April, 2022

## Have a desire to influence culture and policy reform through storytelling? We have just the workshop for you!

Lights, Camera, Liberty presents a four-day intensive film training in Los Angeles, where you will be guided by industry experts and participate in a film competition. Ten winners will receive a US\$5,000 grant with consulting support for their film projects, and it could be you!

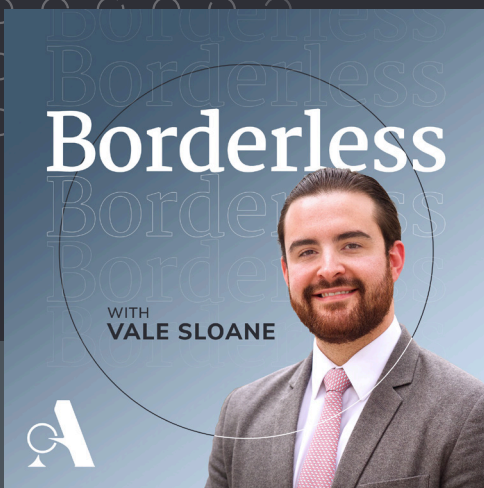
Apply by February 19, 2022 at [AtlasNetwork.org/grants](https://AtlasNetwork.org/grants) to attend the 2022 workshop.







# Have you checked out our podcasts yet?



The AtlasNexus podcast has been updated, upgraded, and rebranded as *Borderless*!

You'll still hear the same great interviews of partners by show host Vale Sloane, but we've added several exciting new aspects. First, you can now watch full episodes on YouTube. It's a great way to get a sneak peek at our beautifully redesigned in-house studio and get to know Atlas Network partners better. Our partners are doing so much good work to advance individual liberty that we had to find a new way to bring all the news to you. That's why we added a partner highlight segment to the podcast. In each episode, Vale sits down with a co-host to discuss a recent partner success story and why it matters.

In recent episodes of *Borderless*, Vale has interviewed Templeton Freedom Award finalists on their nominated projects. Be sure to tune in to learn more about who will be up on stage at Freedom Dinner in Miami this December!



If you can't get enough of *Borderless*, influencer Antonella Marty has a show just for Spanish-speaking listeners!

She talks to influential people in the freedom movement from all over Latin America on issues of economic freedom, political rights, and individual agency. The show covers topics like feminism, the ongoing clamor for freedom in Cuba and Venezuela, and populism from a classical liberal perspective in addition to dispelling common myths such as popular support for Che Guevara and Cuba's education and healthcare sectors.

Don't miss her recent episode with Ruhama Fernández, a Cuban YouTuber and political dissident dedicated to getting the word out about the regime's treatment of those who advocate for freedom.

*Hablemos Libertad* is available on YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and Google Podcasts.

## DEVELOPMENT WITH DIGNITY

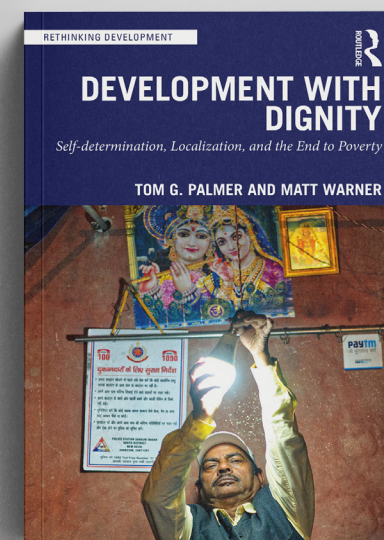
# A New Book by Matt Warner and Tom Palmer

Matt Warner and Dr. Tom G. Palmer have co-authored a new book, *Development with Dignity: Self-determination, Localization, and the End to Poverty*, set to release January 31, 2022. Order your copy today at [Routledge.com](https://Routledge.com).

At a time when the global development industry is under more pressure than ever before, this book argues that an end to poverty can only be achieved by prioritizing human dignity.

Unable to adequately account for the roles of culture, context, and local institutions, today's outsider-led development interventions continue to leave a trail of unintended consequences, ranging from wasteful to even harmful. This book shows that increased prosperity can only be achieved when people are valued as self-governing agents. Social orders that recognize autonomy and human dignity unleash enormous productive energy. This in turn leads to the mobilization of knowledge sharing that is critical to innovation and localized problem solving. Locally-led think tank initiatives have secured dignity and freedom for millions of people and have succeeded when top-down programs from outside have failed. Offering a wide range of interdisciplinary perspectives and specific examples from the field showing these ideas in action, this book provides NGOs, multilateral institutions, and donor countries with practical guidelines for implementing "dignity-first" development.

Dignity is central to establishing the right institutions for prosperity. The mother of Mohammad Bouazizi, the Tunisian man who burned himself when his property was stolen and he was humiliated, concluded, "When he set fire to himself it wasn't about his scales being confiscated. It was about his dignity. Dignity before bread. Mohammad's first concern was his dignity. Dignity before bread." Lasting change that results in prosperity rests on securing equal rights and dignity for everyone.



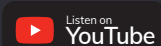
Adults are to be accorded the dignity of 'the equal presumption of liberty and citizen-based democratic political principles' ... **You need this lucid and eloquent book. Read it, right away. No time to waste...**

—Deirdre N. McCloskey,  
Distinguished Professor, Economist,  
and Author



**Read this book and you will be introduced to new perspectives on the power of local knowledge**—rooted in human experience—to fuel sustainable development and to generate the socio-economic wealth of nations.

—Vernon L. Smith,  
Nobel Laureate in  
Economic Sciences



[AtlasNetwork.org/Podcasts](https://AtlasNetwork.org/Podcasts)

[AtlasNetwork.org/Books](https://AtlasNetwork.org/Books)





Atlas Network has taken  
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**MICHAEL KRUPP**