



Short report for ELF event “Liberalism and Gender Equality – Crafting New Policies 2018” in Madrid, 2018/11/08–2018/11/10

November 14th 2018 Stockholm

The seminar took place at the Marriott Auditorium Hotel, in the outskirts of Madrid and gathered 21 participants from 9 different countries. The focus of the seminar was to encourage liberal policies for gender equality, through a mix of sharing the experiences among the participants, as well as inspiring expert input and best-practices from a broad setup of speakers and panelists.

The program involved several different sessions, specifically focusing on two perspectives. The Thursday afternoon presentations on “Defending Secularism” showed how liberals globally have a common struggle against religious forces hampering women’s rights and consolidating gender roles. A panel on Friday morning offered a variety of solutions for more gender equality in local politics. On Friday a session on the implications of honor-based oppression combined the two, pinpointing the structural oppression against young girls and boys upheld by their families. The grand finale of the seminar was a resolution drafting workshop where the participants discussed and decided on minimum requirements for liberal parties’ gender equality work. On Saturday morning the much-appreciated exercise ended with a visit by two ALDE Bureau members and the president of Liberal International, who gave their comments on the task.

As the seminar took place during the ALDE Party Congress, the participants were also given the opportunity to follow parts of the undertakings of the congress, as well as strengthen their networks with the European liberal family.

Evaluation forms are yet to be reviewed. However, direct feedback from participants have been overwhelmingly positive. From our perspective as organizers, the event succeeded with the aims outlined. Participants have enriched their set of knowledge and capacities in promoting equal societies – in Europe and in its neighborhood.