



## Liberties in Lockdown

Please mind the (generational) gap

Zoom Webinar

27 May 2020, 09h30 – 10h30 (CEST)

### ABOUT THE EVENT

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed the rifts between the various groups in our societies. The divide between the old and young appears to have deepened, as the virus has shown how people of different ages are affected in different ways, not only in terms of mortality, but also in terms of impact on daily life.

The statistics make it clear that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected older people. Some have argued that risk groups should isolate until a vaccine is developed, or at least until the crisis weakens somewhat. From a fundamental rights perspective, however, this action would discriminate against the elderly, people with underlying health conditions, and the disabled, and would divide society into two groups: those who are permitted to move about freely, and those who are not. Tragically, in addition to the health risks posed by COVID-19, the virus also means that more and more older people are suffering the effects of social exclusion and isolation, worsened by the fact that many older people are not comfortable with digital means of communication.

The support demonstrated by so many communities for people who are older and more vulnerable has been up-lifting and reassuring, but this support can only extend so far. How can we ensure that these groups don't become relegated to second-class citizens? How can governments provide a just and equitable treatment of these groups? What can the rest of us do to help those who are most vulnerable in this crisis?

These questions, and many more, will be tackled by our distinguished speakers during the eighth online event of ELF's new series – Liberties in Lockdown.

### Further reading / More information

1. European Commission – [Equality](#) (Art. 20 – 26, EU Charter of Fundamental Rights)
2. AGE Platform Europe – [COVID-19: Older persons' rights must be equally protected during the pandemic](#)
3. BBC – [Coronavirus: What's going wrong in Sweden's care homes?](#)
4. Eurostat – [A look at the lives of the elderly in the EU today](#)
5. ELF Publication – [Fear of the Future: Why the world is going to turn out better than we think](#)



## EVENT SCHEDULE

- 09h25** Participants connect to the Zoom Webinar
- 09h30** Opening remarks  
**Daniel Kaddik**, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum
- 09h32** Introduction of the Topic by the Moderator  
**Ronan Mangan**, Policy and Development Coordinator, European Social Network
- 09h35** First intervention  
**Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck**, President of Honour, Liberal International
- 09h40** Second intervention  
**Dragoş Pîslaru**, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group
- 09h45** Third intervention  
**Anne-Sophie Parent**, Secretary General, AGE Platform Europe Secretariat
- 09h50** Moderated debate
- 10h28** Closing remarks  
**Daniel Kaddik**, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum
- 10h30** End of event

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## Speakers' Bios



**Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck**, President of Honour, Liberal International

Annemie Neyts-Uyttebroeck is a Member of the Party Board of Open VLD Belgium. She was a Member of the European Parliament during 3 terms and Vice-President of the High Level Group in the EP on the Middle-East. She has also held numerous positions at the state and federal levels in Belgium, such as: Minister in the Brussels Government, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives and Co-President of the Federal Commission on the Intercultural Dialogue.

Annemie was also President of the European Liberal Party (ELDR) and of Liberal International. Prior to her political career, she taught French in a Flemish secondary school, was Press Officer of the Minister of Justice and held the position of Deputy Chief of Staff of the Vice-Governor of the province of Brabant.

**Dragoş Pişlaru**, Member of the European Parliament, Renew Europe Group

Dragoş Pişlaru is current a Member of the European Parliament, where he is coordinating the work of the Renew Europe Group in the Employment and Social Affairs Committee. He is also a member of the Economic and Monetary Affairs Committee.

An economist by heart and by profession, Dragoş holds a PhD in economics at the National Economic Research Institute (INCE) of the Romanian Academy and an MA in International Relations from the London School of Economics. He worked as a researcher, professor, consultant and successful entrepreneur, eventually serving as Romania's Minister for Labour.

He helped kickstart numerous international projects on social affairs, rural development, social policy, labour markets and digitization, among other topics and ran one of the first start-up accelerators in Romania. He is a firm believer in evidence-driven policy and in lifelong learning and upskilling as vital components for a healthy labour market and a prosperous economy.





**Anne-Sophie Parent**, Secretary General, AGE Platform Europe Secretariat

Since 2002, Anne-Sophie Parent is Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe (AGE), a network of 100 organisations representing some 40 million seniors across Europe in 27 EU Member States, Norway and Switzerland. AGE aims to promote older persons' rights at EU and UN level and voice the interests of the 200 million inhabitants aged 50+ who live in the EU.

Since 2016, she is also Secretary General of the European Covenant on Demographic Change, a large network bringing together subnational public authorities, non-for-profit and profit actors who wish to join forces to promote age-friendly environments in support of active and healthy ageing in cooperation with WHO.

Anne-Sophie is also a member of the EU High-Level Group on Pensions and sits in the Euro Retail Payment Board of the European Central Bank. She also chairs the Financial Services Users' Group set up by the European Commission, and the Advisory Board of the Assisted Ambient Living Joint Programme.

**Ronan Mangan**, Policy and Development Coordinator, European Social Network (Moderator)



Ronan Mangan coordinates the European Social Network's policy and development work and leads on the policy programme co-financed by the European Commission. He has over 11 years experience of working on social policy issues pertaining to child protection and rights, youth, employment, social workforce, refugee and migrant integration and protection.

Before joining ESN, Ronan worked with UNHCR and international NGOs. He has an MA in Social Policy Research and Evaluation from Bangor University, and a BA(Hons) in Social Work with European Pathways from University College Cork. Ronan has also completed studies in European Public Policy from Université de Rennes I and the University of Münster.