



2025 IMPACT REPORT

SPREADING LIBERTY & PROSPERITY IN AFRICA



TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Executive Summary	
02	Foreward Message from the Executive Director	
03	About The Liberalist Centre	
04	Our Theory of Change	
05	2025 at a Glance	
06	Impact Dashboard	
07	Program and Projects (JLF CFA NALP)	
08	Policy Engagement and Advocacy	
09	Capacity Building and Training Reach	
10	Publications	
11	Stories of Impact	
12	Award & Recognition	



TABLE OF CONTENTS CONT.

13 Partnerships, Sponsorships and Collaborations



14 2026 Strategic Outlook and Upcoming Projects



15 Appreciations & Acknowledgements





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, the Liberalist Centre deepened its commitment to advancing the ideas of liberty, free markets, and limited government across Nigeria and Africa.

Throughout the year, our work centred on rebuilding the intellectual foundations of public discourse. Through journalism, events, and conference, we invested in shaping how freedom is understood, discussed, and defended. Our flagship Journalism for Liberty Fellowship expanded beyond Nigeria into Kenya and Zambia, supporting a new generation of journalists to engage critically with governance, markets, and human rights and to translate complex ideas into accessible public narratives.

A major milestone in 2025 was the Conference of Freedom Advocates held in Abuja, which brought together over 100 participants from across Nigeria's civic, media, academic, and policy communities. The conference created a rare space for serious dialogue on liberty, governance, and reform, fostering cross-sector collaboration and strengthening networks of individuals committed to advancing freedom-oriented ideas in their respective fields.

Our media and research outputs remained central to this mission. The Liberalist published 130 original articles in 2025, while fellowship alumni contributed an additional 30 in-depth pieces. We also released the Freedom in Africa Report in both print and digital formats, offering a continent-wide perspective on the state of freedom and serving as a reference for journalists, researchers, and civic actors. Complementing this work, we published The Liberalist Magazine, Issue 1 (Volumes 1 and 2), consolidating long-form analysis and feature stories into a lasting publication.

Beyond outputs, 2025 was a year of consolidation and clarity. The Centre refined its programs to prioritise depth, intellectual rigour, and long-term influence over scale. We strengthened partnerships, tested new models through pilot initiatives, and invested in people as the primary carriers of ideas. While many of the changes we seek are gradual, the year marked meaningful progress in shifting narratives and sustaining a culture of serious engagement with liberty-oriented ideas.

As we look ahead, the Liberalist Centre remains committed to its long-term vision: a society where prosperity is created by free individuals, and liberty is understood as a moral and practical foundation for human flourishing.



FOREWARD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

If we changed every political leader in our country tomorrow, would our problems disappear? I have often asked myself this question. And over time, I have realised the honest answer is no.

Sometimes, when people talk about problems in society, they focus on politics, leaders, or government. But there is something more fundamental that shapes everything else. It is ideas.

Because leadership is shaped by culture, and culture is shaped by ideas, what people believe about individual freedom and the role of government will eventually shape the kind of society we live in.

The Liberalist Centre was established because we believe that good ideas matter and that, just as good leaders or good government can change a country's trajectory for the better, so can good ideas lay the foundation for sustainable change.

We operate on the conviction that when people understand the ideas of liberty (individual freedom, free market, and limited government), they can change the trajectory of their country, and that a society becomes prosperous when individuals are free, and institutions and leaders are accountable.

Through our programmes in 2025, we worked hard to spread these ideas in practical ways.

But 2025 was also significant for another reason.

We launched the Freedom in Africa Report (F[in]AR), a first-of-its-kind publication offering a continent-wide perspective on the state of freedom. It was produced to move conversations beyond opinion and into evidence. F(in)AR provides data, analysis, and clear explanations about political and economic freedom across Africa. Specifically showing that the only true and reliable path to prosperity is a free and open continent.

Alongside it, we published The Liberalist Africa (Magazine), also a first of its kind in our space. The magazine brings together long-form investigative stories, features, and analyses focused on how the fear of freedom is the genesis of Africa's underdevelopment.

While most of what we preached was abstract, we made sure our outputs were focused and measurable.

But beyond events and programs, 2025 was also a year of growth for our organisation. We improved our programmes and built stronger partnerships across Africa and beyond. We focused on doing more and on doing better.

While we know that change does not happen overnight, history shows that every strong society is built on strong principles. Also, every generation must decide the kind of future it wants to build. And at the Liberalist Centre, we have decided to build a free and flourishing Africa.

We understand that if we truly want to build a better Africa, we must understand the values that make societies thrive. In 2025, we took important steps in that direction. And we will keep going.

To our partners and supporters, thank you for believing in this mission.



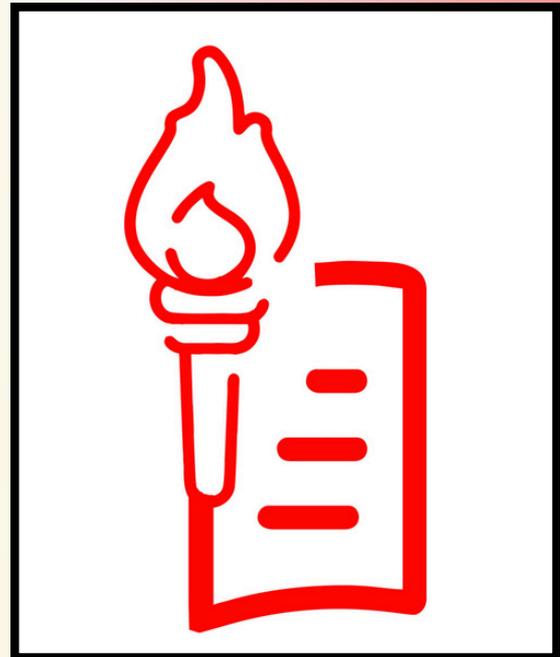
Abdullah Tijani

ABOUT THE LIBERALIST CENTRE



Liberalist Centre is a Nigeria-based think tank advancing individual freedom, free markets, and limited government as foundations for human flourishing and sustainable development in Africa. Founded in 2021, the Centre operates at the intersection of ideas, policy, media, and leadership development.

Through educational programs, media advocacy, research, and public engagement, we cultivate a deeper understanding of liberty-oriented values and their relevance to Africa's political and economic realities. Our work is anchored in the belief that informed citizens, free institutions, and accountable governance are essential for prosperity



Establishment

Founded in Nigeria in 2021



Vision

A society of free and flourishing individuals.



Mission

To enhance life quality by spreading liberty and prosperity through media, research, and advocacy.

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



Societies rarely collapse overnight. They decay quietly, beginning in the realm of ideas, long before failure appears in laws, institutions, or livelihoods. In many African societies today, including Nigeria, this is the real crisis, not simply bad governance, but bad ideas that have eaten deep into our public life and governance.

The Liberalist Centre exists because we believe that ideas matter and that liberty remains the sustainable foundation for human flourishing. Our theory of change says that policy is downstream of culture, and culture is downstream of ideas. To change outcomes, we must first change the climate of ideas.

Across the continent, public discourse often glorifies state power while shrinking the moral space of the individual, and economic hardship is met with calls for more government control of economic freedom. Over time, these narratives are internalised, and harmful policies come to feel inevitable.

We intervene at this foundational level ideas. We believe freedom must be understood before it can be defended, and defended before it can be institutionalised. Our work is not about partisan opposition, but about rebuilding the intellectual and moral case for liberty in ways grounded in lived African realities. Through research, journalism, and outreach, we translate ideas like the rule of law, free markets, limited government, and individual rights into human narratives of dignity and consequence.

Because ideas require carriers, we invest in influencers like journalists, student leaders, and civic thinkers who can articulate them with clarity and courage. As these ideas circulate, narratives shift, and public expectations change. Even when reform is slow, public opinion shifts, and that shift is all that matters.

We understand that the journey from ideas to policy is long and requires patience. History shows that lasting reform is preceded by intellectual groundwork. Ultimately, we seek a society that understands only free people can create lasting prosperity.

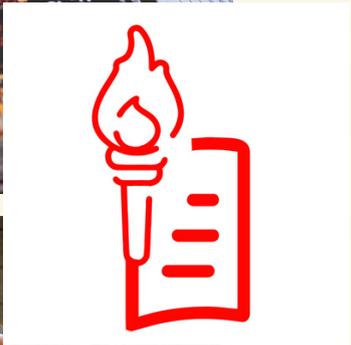


2025 AT A GLANCE

The year 2025 represented a consolidation of the Liberalist Centre’s growth trajectory and a deliberate shift from pilot-scale interventions to institutionally grounded, multi-country programming. Our work spanned education, media, policy, and conference, reaching diverse audiences while maintaining depth and quality.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

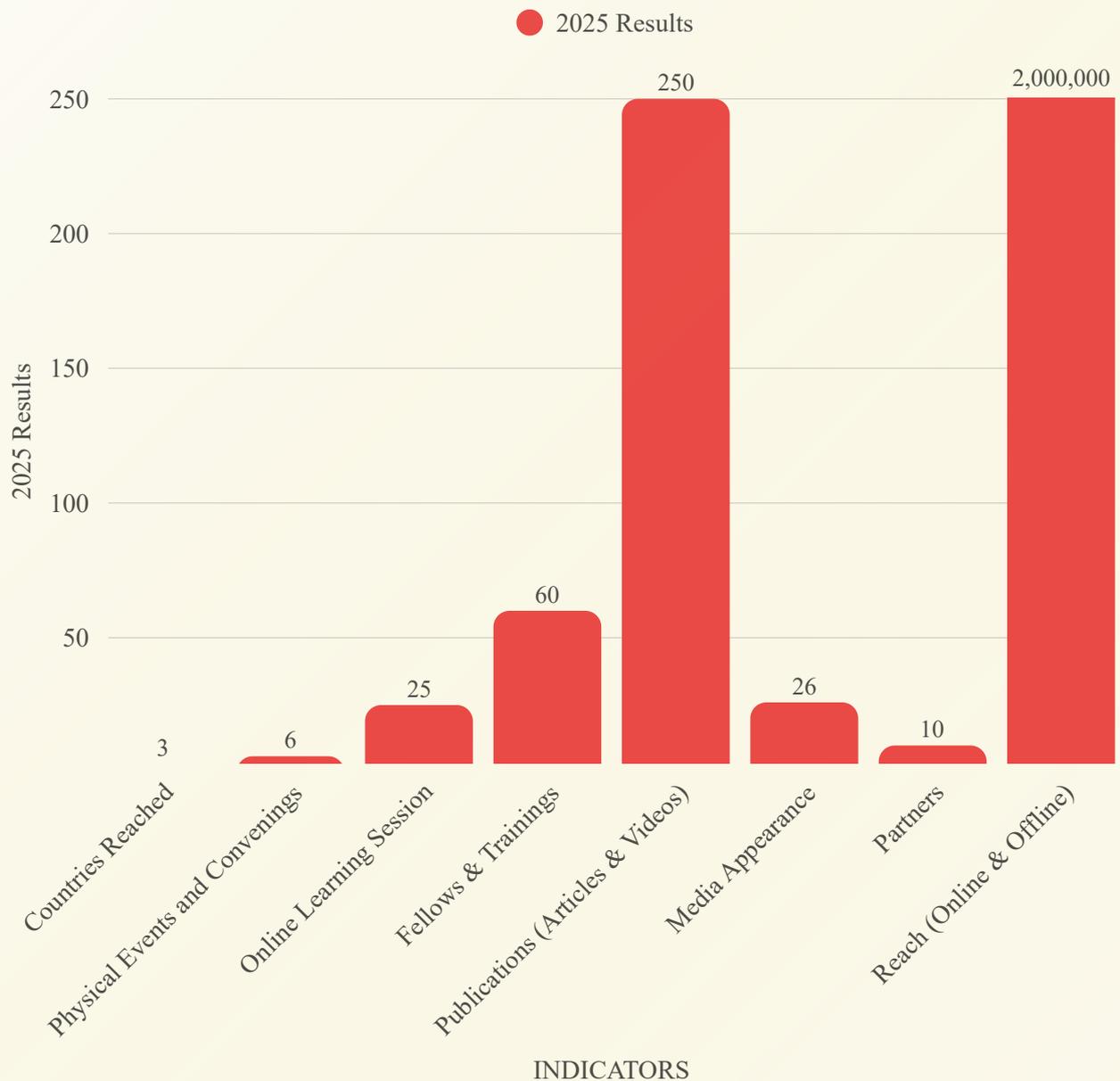
- Expanded operations across Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, through our Journalism for Liberty fellowship Program, participated in intercontinental engagements through AU–EU (Youth & CSO Forum), Atlas Network (African Liberty Forum), and Freedom Fest.
- Transitioned from event-based engagement to programmatic pipelines with measurable outcomes



IMPACT DASHBOARD (SUMMARY)



IMPACT DASHBOARD Summary



"Our activities directly impacted participants across West, East, and Southern Africa, while digital outputs reached audiences in over 20 countries".

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS



Our programs represent the core vehicles through which the Liberalist Centre translates ideas into action. Each program is designed with a clear problem statement, theory of intervention, and measurable outcomes.

1 JOURNALISM FOR LIBERTY FELLOWSHIP (JLF)

The 2025 cohort was structured as a three-country fellowship spanning Nigeria, Kenya, and Zambia. The program combined competitive selection, intensive physical bootcamps, mentorship, editorial support, and micro-grants for publication.



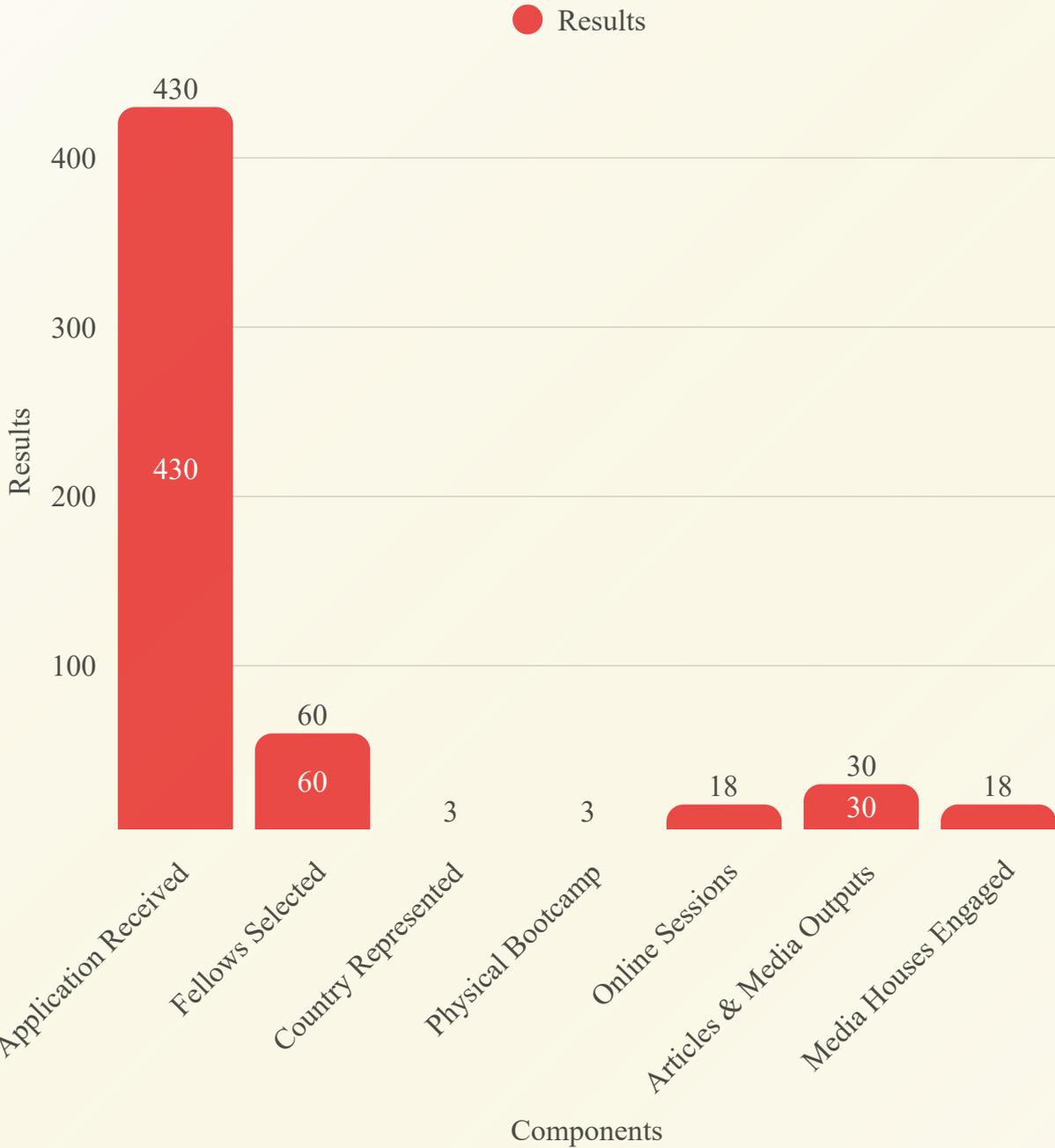
Key Activities

- Open call and selection process across three countries
- Three physical bootcamps (one per country)
- Weekly virtual training sessions, book reviews, and editorial clinics
- Mentorship by senior journalists, editors, and policy experts
- Publication grants and placement support

Outputs & Outcomes



Outputs & Outcomes



Top Fellow Publications



Throughout 2025, fellows of the Journalism for Liberty Fellowship published stories across national, regional, and international media platforms. These publications addressed themes such as youth resistance, free expression, informal markets, digital freedom, governance, and civic accountability, amplifying liberty-centred narratives across Africa and beyond. Below are some of the outstanding publications.

East Africa's Gen Z Are Rising Against Power

East Africa's Gen Z are rising against entrenched power, from Kenya's Finance Bill protests to growing resistance in Tanzania and Uganda.

By Caleb Koyo | September 24, 2025



By Caleb Koyo

[← Back to Articles](#)



Economics

What Soweto Market Shows About Trade and Trust Beyond the Noise

By Lawrence Nacidze | 2025-02-09

By Lawrence Nacidze

How the Ban on Abdulkareem's 'Tell Your Papa' Song Deepens Nigeria's Culture of Silence

Despite widespread and social media's condemnation, NBC is yet to lift the ban, and this action exemplifies the government's increasing intolerance for dissenting voices.

By Abi Inalegwu | May 22, 2025



By Abi Inalegwu

DEVELOPMENT CASE | TOP STORIES

Guardians of the garbage: How scavengers quietly sustain Nigeria's comatose waste ecosystem

by Guest Writer | October 5, 2025 11:03 am



By Daniel Nworie

Bond or Bail? Kenyan Forces Weaponising Law Against Civil Protesters

Exorbitant cash terms and prolonged pretrial detention have turned what was meant to be a protection into a barrier to justice

by NELLY MADEGWA

Audio By Vocalize



By Nelly Madegwa

Opinion | Rule of Law

Reporter's Diary: How My Camera Became a Target in a Zambian Court

A firsthand account of press intimidation and the shrinking space for liberty in Zambia.

By Anna Mwila | June 22, 2025



By Anna Mwila



Podcast: Voices of Freedom

Podcast
Fighting Misinformation, Defending Liberty: How Media Literacy is Becoming Nigeria's New Civic Weapon
By **Abi Inalegwu**
1.5k Views — 4 Min Read
Last Updated: August 14, 2025 8:57 Am
Share f X @ ↻ ↗

By General

Podcast
Social Media, Propaganda, and the Struggle for Truth: Researcher Cole Praise Speaks on "Voices of Freedom"
By General
1.3k Views — 4 Min Read
Last Updated: August 20, 2025 11:47 Am
Share f X @ ↻ ↗

By General

Social Media Now Biggest Tool for Propaganda, Says Researcher
Add comment · 6 months ago · 2 min read
of Freedom

By Jollofmash

Podcast
Fake News Merchants, Election Propaganda and Scams: ICIR Journalist Nurudeen Akewushola Dissects Disinformation on "Voices of Freedom"
By General
1.4k Views — 4 Min Read
Last Updated: August 27, 2025 11:39 Am
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By General

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS CONT.



The Conference of Freedom Advocates (CFA) is our flagship convening, designed to bring together civil society leaders, policymakers, scholars, journalists, and reform advocates to interrogate Africa’s political economy and governance challenges.

2 CONFERENCE OF FREEDOM ADVOCATES (CFA)

Under the theme *"Inspire"*, aligned with governance reform and economic freedom, CFA 2025 served as both a convening and a platform for thought leadership. The conference also marked the official unveiling of the [Freedom in Africa Report](#) and [The Liberalist Magazine Issue 1&2](#)

CFA 2025 strengthened the Liberalist Centre’s positioning as a credible convener and amplified reform-oriented discourse within Nigeria’s civic and policy ecosystem.



Key Outcomes

- One-day high-level conference with 100+ participants
- Panels on governance, economic reform, civic space, and human rights
- Launch of the Liberalist Centre’s Freedom in Africa Report
- Launch of The Liberalist’s hard-copy magazine, “The Liberalist Africa”
- Networking and coalition-building among reform actors
- Featured in 18 media outlets and TV stations in the country.



PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS CONT.



University campuses in Nigeria remain largely disconnected from sustained, structured engagement on individual liberty, free markets, and limited government. While students are often exposed to political debates, they rarely receive principled, ideas-driven education that connects freedom-oriented thought to practical leadership, advocacy, and policy influence.

3 NEXT ADVOCATES OF LIBERTY PROJECT (NALP)

This gap weakens the pipeline of young reformers equipped to shape Nigeria's future civic and economic discourse

The Next Advocates Liberty of Project (NALP) was conceived to address this challenge by embedding pro-liberty ideas directly within university campuses and nurturing a new generation of informed, values-driven student advocates.



Key Outputs

- Delivery of structured liberty education sessions within the university environment
- Formation of an initial cohort of student liberty advocates
- Increased student interest in policy debates, civic engagement, and freedom-oriented ideas
- Development of a scalable campus model for future replication



POLICY ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

In 2025, the Liberalist Centre participated in AU–EU forums, national policy roundtables, and international consultations. Key themes included migration, trade liberalisation, and media freedom. Our Director of Programmes Eric Mobu, representing the Liberalist Centre at the AU–EU Civil Society and Youth Forum in Luanda, Angola, contributed to the intricate drafting and negotiation of policy recommendations presented to the Ministers and Heads of State, drawing heavily from the findings and policy recommendations contained in our newly launched



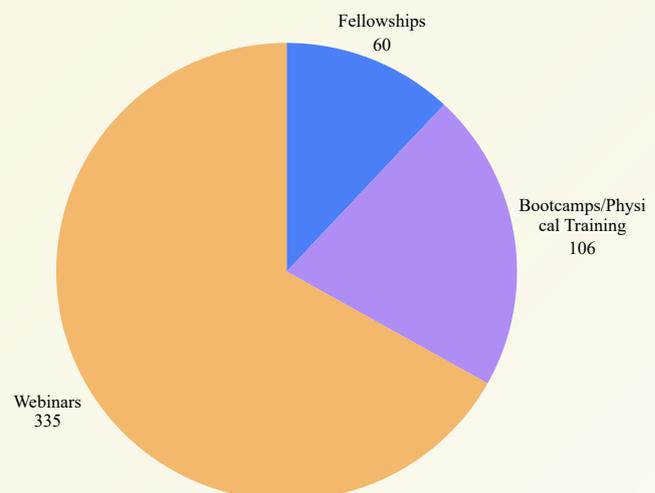
It was an opportunity to bring the voice of the Liberalist Centre to a global platform. These recommendations later became influential components reflected in the [Joint Declaration](#), adopted at the Heads of State Summit. Specifically, [Articles 40 to 44](#) of this Declaration, addressing migration and mobility, echo many of the principles and ideas championed by Eric’s working group. This is a major institutional win for us, as it demonstrates that the Liberalist Centre is contributing to frameworks guiding international cooperation and policy development between Africa and Europe.

Also representing the Liberalist Centre at the Freedom Fest Conference in the United States our board member Anna Suberu and Sanni Johnson, Anna facilitated a breakout session on Speak Freely, citing the work we do at the Liberalist Centre in advancing free speech and media freedom through our Journalism for Liberty fellowship program and the Liberalist Magazine across Africa over the last 4 years.

<https://liberalistcentre.org/finar/>

CAPACITY BUILDING & TRAINING REACH

Capacity building remains at the heart of the Liberalist Centre’s mission. In 2025, our training interventions and webinars brought together individuals from different countries.

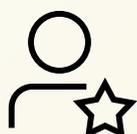




PUBLICATIONS

- Published 130 original articles through our media platform, The Liberalist, addressing liberty, governance, free markets, and human rights across Africa.
- Supported fellows to publish 30 in-depth articles, translating fellowship training into public-facing journalism and analysis.
- Released the Freedom in Africa Report in both print and digital formats, providing a continent-wide assessment of freedom trends and civic conditions.
- Published The Liberalist Magazine, Issue 1 (Volumes 1 and 2), featuring long-form essays, analyses, and feature stories on governance and free market.

STORIES OF IMPACT



"This fellowship is helping me redefine how I report on community issues and liberty. I'm currently working on a feature about informal markets in Zambia and how local restrictions affect traders."

– **Sepiso Mutabe, Zambian Fellow**



"The book review sessions on the IEA text have not only sharpened my writing, but expanded how I think about freedom and the role of media in Nigeria's democracy."

– **Daniel Nworie, Nigerian Fellow**



The Journalism for Liberty Fellowship deepened my understanding of liberal values and strengthened my ability to use journalism as a tool for accountability, free expression, and positive change"

- **Celeb Koyo Kenya**



"It was both intellectually challenging and deeply rewarding, especially as it was my first time focusing on some of these pro-freedom issues in my journalism career."

- **Nelly Madegwa, Zambia**



AWARD AND RECOGNITION



- Fellows selected for the CNN Academy: [Voices from the South: Storytelling for Impact](#)

The Liberalist Journalists Win CJID Journalism Awards



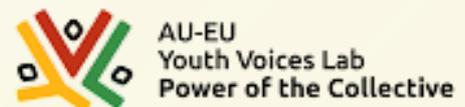
- Our Executive Director and Managing Editor of The Liberalist magazine, Abdullah Tijani, received an award for [Best Fact-Check \(Anglophone\)](#), a testament to his rigorous and principled approach to combating misinformation across Africa. His work during the Kwame Kari-Kari Fact-Checking Fellowship set an impressive standard for accuracy, analysis, and public accountability.
- In the same ceremony, our Staff Writer, Shereefdeen Ahmad, won the prestigious Alfred Opubor Next-Gen Award for the second time for his investigative report on the deteriorating condition of [healthcare facilities](#) in rural Sokoto state. His work amplified neglected voices and showed, in striking detail, the human cost of policy neglect. The judges praised his reporting for its emotional depth, factual precision, and courageous narrative structure.

PARTNERS, SPONSORS & COLLABORATIONS



Around the year the Liberalist Centre worked with African Students For Liberty, Atlas Network, AU–EU Youth Voices Lab, Whetstone Freedom Fund, the Institute of Economic Affairs in the United Kingdom, Impact Center for Policy Research Zambia, Face of Liberty International, iLEAD AFRICA, and YouthHubAfrica. Our media partners include Idea TV, and 3rd Eye TV.

LOGOS OF OUR PARTNERS/DONORS IN 2025.



2026 STRATEGIC OUTLOOK & UPCOMING PROJECTS

- The Liberalist Media Accelerator Program
- Project on Administration of Criminal Justice Act (PACJA)
- Conference of Freedom Advocates Abuja, 2026 (CFA)
- Next Advocates Liberty Project (NALP)
- John Galt School, Nigeria, in Partnership with Atlas Society International
- Youth Civic Engagement and Policy Advocacy Initiative (Y-CEPAI) with AU-EU Youth Voices Lab

APPRECIATIONS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We extend our deepest gratitude to our partners, donors, and dedicated staff who made 2025 remarkable. Your contributions continue to shape the future of liberty in Africa.

For social media, check us at [Instagram](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Linkedin](#)

Email us at reach@liberalistcentre.org

Website
liberalistcentre.org

Here's to a freer, and more prosperous 2026!



THANK YOU

