



**STUDENTS FOR LIBERTY**  
A F R E E R F U T U R E

THE **SFL** WAY

# THE SFL WAY



## OUR GOAL OUR VISION

A freer future.

## WHAT DO WE DO OUR MISSION

Educate, develop, and empower the next generation of leaders of liberty.

## WHO ARE WE?

We are the largest pro-liberty student organization in the world in terms of leaders, countries represented, and events.

We are thoroughly trained and professional. We have a high level of understanding of the ideas of liberty and can clearly and effectively explain the economic and philosophical rationale for the issues we stand for.

Rising above partisan politics, we engage in open and civil discourse over how to best promote freedom in all aspects of our lives. We respect that everyone comes to their justification for liberty in their own way and we are supportive of them in that journey. Through increasing awareness of our emotions, we are able to manage and control them, leading to improved interpersonal relationships and empathetic communication with people with other viewpoints.

Liberty creates a better world and our message surrounding the ideas are welcoming, positive, and inspiring.

# WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?



## PEACE, LOVE, LIBERTY

War is a negative-sum game. There should be a presumption against war in favor of restraint. War is minimally justified in self-defense responding to a direct violent attack.

Protectionism is detrimental to all parties and leads to conflict. Free trade is cooperative, positive-sum, and increases the likelihood of peace. Domestic policing is not war and should not be militarized either in equipment or tactics.

## FREE EXPRESSION, NO EXCEPTIONS

Censorship undermines our ability to engage in the process of discovering truth. Freedom of expression includes the right to challenge ideas, publish ideas, protest, practice religion, and associate with others in whatever manner is mutually consensual. Private individuals and institutions have the right to set their own rules for expression and association but may be challenged by others who recognize that censorship is harmful.

## LESS MARX, MORE MISES

Free markets allow individuals to earn mutually beneficial gains from trade. Government interventions such as subsidies, bailouts, licensing, and other selective corporate privileges distort the flow of information and incentives that lead entrepreneurs to find opportunities to create mutual benefit for themselves and others.

Regulations often shield incumbent businesses from competition. Since government interventions benefit some at the expense of others, they create incentives for unprincipled cronies to seek benefits at the expense of others.

## OPEN SOCIETY, GLOBAL COMMUNITY

Individual rights are not derived from government or citizenship. Individuals have the right to free association, contract, and trade across national and state borders free from government interference. Infringement of these rights harms both parties to these exchanges equally, as well as many other consumers indirectly.

Current welfare and trade policies are a barrier to the successful free movement of goods and services. The redistributive state creates an endless spiral of debt, envy, and misaligned incentives. Civil society and markets are the best way to help the poor.

## **PROPERTY, PRIVACY, PROGRESS**

Everyone has the right to privacy in their personal and private property. Government encroachment on privacy undermines security by harming the ability of individuals to secure themselves and destroys trust within the community.

New technologies help individuals improve their security and well being and their development should be unencumbered by government intrusion or regulation.

## **DON'T TREAD ON ANYONE**

Respect for individual rights means everyone is treated equally under the law. Everyone deserves to be treated with dignity even when they are accused or found guilty of a crime.

Government agents are not exempt from or above the law and should be equally held accountable when they commit crimes. We should demonstrate tolerance to those who peacefully practice lifestyles or hold beliefs or preferences different from ours.

## **FREE TO CHOOSE**

The nanny state treats adults as children. Personal freedom means individuals choose what is best for their own body and mind according to their own risk tolerance without interference from the government. It is morally wrong and both legally and fiscally imprudent to criminalize victimless personal choices related to drugs, sex, food, gambling, and other lifestyle choices.

Virtue cannot be mandated, and coerced virtuous behavior is inauthentic and likely to instill resentment rather than well being. But we don't endorse or encourage any substance abuse.

## **THINK GLOBALLY, ACT LOCALLY**

Social problems are best solved through mutual aid in civil society at the local level. Centrally planned and one-size-fits-all solutions fail to take individual differences into account.

A flourishing multitude of private solutions allows for innovation through experimentation and discovery of new approaches for constant progress in improving the condition of the worst off and disadvantaged.

## **LIVE FREE & PROSPER**

Environmental and demographic challenges are often used by media and politicians to push for radical state interventions that come with many unintended negative consequences. This is often flanked by the belief that growth is limited.

Contrary to such fear-mongering, history has repeatedly shown that human ingenuity, markets, and technological progress are the best solutions to the most challenging problems of humanity - including diseases, food production, or environmental challenges. We endorse market responses to the great challenges in society. Free and independent science is the best tool to make our world a better and more prosperous place.