

WTA members, observers and friends:

The WTA was pleased to sponsor four of our African taxpayer leaders (**Hopeson Adorye, Priscilla Afriyie, Jeffrey Amoako, and Isaac Sarpong** (all from Ghana)) to



attend the **African Liberty Forum** hosted by **Atlas Network in Accra Ghana on June 9<sup>th</sup>**. As well, **Vince Chipatuka (Zambia)** and **Isaac Sarpong (Ghana)** were selected to attend an intense three-day leadership training program put on by Atlas following the forum. Vince and Isaac came away better networked and trained to campaign for bringing transparency and accountability to their respective countries.

At the same time as the [Atlas Liberty Forum](#) in Ghana there was one taking place in London in partnership with the [Institute of Economic](#)

[Affairs](#). Our Secretary General Sarah Elliott, was able to participate and reconnect with several European taxpayer groups from Spain, Croatia, Ireland, UK, and the US. In the process, Sarah met with our newest WTA member, the [Ukrainian Economic Freedom Foundation](#) started by **Maryan Zablotskyy**. Based in Kiev, the organization has already initiated Ukraine's first Tax Freedom Day campaign which took place on June 13<sup>th</sup>! Congratulations to them!

Another new WTA member is [Union de Contribuyentes](#) in Spain. Started by **Juan Pina**, they have since hired Civismo's **Cristina Berecht**, whom they met at the WTA Conference in Berlin. Great connections being made via the WTA! They too publish a Tax Freedom Day, which fell June 30<sup>th</sup> in Spain.

Other notable **Tax Freedom Days** are the following: **June 7<sup>th</sup> for Canada, June 2<sup>nd</sup> for the United Kingdom, May 26<sup>th</sup> for New Zealand, and April 11<sup>th</sup> for Australia.**

Sarah is collecting **Tax Freedom Days** from all over the world and learning how various organizations are calculating them so we might provide consistent data and teach other interested organizations how to calculate the same. If your organization calculates a Tax Freedom Day for your country, please share with Sarah along with information on how the number is calculated. Sarah can be reached at [sarah.elliott@worldtaxpayers.org](mailto:sarah.elliott@worldtaxpayers.org).

Also, as I mentioned in my last letter, I'm a big advocate of think-tank and advocacy groups working together and sharing resources where available. One such opportunity is [Atlas Network](#) that provides training opportunities on a variety of fronts. If you're at all interested in improving your management, communications and fundraising, I strongly encourage you to register for their [Leadership Academy](#) and get on their list to learn about the various in-person and on-line training resources they have available. Many of our taxpayer leaders (including some of my staff in Canada) have benefited

tremendously from their programs. **Marusa Pozvek**, who is starting the taxpayer group in Slovenia, is now an Atlas Academy graduate. Congratulations Marusa!

We are sad to say good-bye to **Martin Napisa** of the [Kenyan Taxpayer Association](#), who is leaving the association after 8 great years. We wish him the very best in his future ventures; and we look forward to working with his successor, Wolde Wesa.

### **Poverty Inc:**

The multi-award winning documentary about how international development and aid is affecting third-world nations, Poverty, Inc., is now available on Netflix (as well as other platforms too – see [here](#))! Check out the trailer: <http://www.povertyinc.org/about/>

The West has positioned itself as the protagonist of development, giving rise to a vast multi-billion-dollar poverty industry. And while the business of “doing good” has never been better, the results have not been particularly good. Drawing from over 200 interviews filmed in 20 countries leaders in the developing world are growing increasingly vocal in calling for change.

The film is the initiative of the [Acton Institute](#), and I was pleased to be in New York City last year to see them win the prestigious [Templeton Freedom Award](#) for production of this film. I encourage everyone to watch it as it relates broadly to the array of often well-intended, but often misguided government efforts to “cure” poverty.

### **Campaign Ideas:**

Trying to come up with a new campaign and to earn media attention and move taxpayer issues forward? How about starting a Debt Clock! [Lipa](#), founded by **Davor Huić** in Croatia, had a monumental first year with the launch of their Debt Clock in the center of Zagreb. See the report attached on how they were able to influence government and put the politician’s “feet to the fire” as it relates to government spending and taxation. It’s a great model to follow. <http://worldtaxpayers.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Lipa-Public-Debt-Counter-Final-Report.pdf>

A couple other fun ideas (apologies to anyone that has already seen these). The [Australian Taxpayers Alliance](#) did a tongue-in-cheek video “the Coalition of Obsoltete Industries” to protest taxpayer bailouts of the taxi cartel unable to compete with modern alternatives like Uber:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tjZchYXMmA&feature=youtu.be>.

In one of our Canadian provinces we had our mascot “Fibber” follow politicians during their re-election bid who had previously broken their promise not to raise taxes <https://vimeo.com/164176238/3bb030a534> (spoiler alert: they lost!).

### **Resources:**

Two really good e-mail lists I recommend you get on. One comes from fundraising consultant **Ben Case** who puts out a regular “**Tip o’ The Morning.**” You can sign up here: <https://visitor.r20.constantcontact.com/manage/optin?v=001MI-0eo6KbPqTdrFSx2uCTbO-i-zBPn3a>.

Also, **Kevin Gentry** who works with the **Koch Foundation** sends out a fundraising “**Tip of the Week.**” Kevin further organizes occasional conference calls with authors and experts in various fields. The calls are exceptional! All this information can be had by e-mailing [Kevin.Gentry@kochps.com](mailto:Kevin.Gentry@kochps.com) and asking to be added to his list.

### **Visits:**

Thank-you to **Benoite Taffin** and **Eudes Baufreton** of the [French Taxpayers Association](#) who generously hosted me in Paris in June. They presented me with a wonderful calendar put out by the association that colourfully demonstrates each month the various taxes paid in France. The calendar proudly adores my office wall and reminds me “*je dois travailler sur mon francais.*” If you’d like to receive one you can do so by clicking here: <http://www.contribuables.org/2016/07/droits-de-succeSSION-et-donations-miss-contribuables-de-juillet-porte-le-deuil/>, A calendar is a wonderful way to recognize donors and keep your name in front of people year round!

In closing I’d like to encourage you to please visit our [website](#) and our [Facebook group](#). Our community is only as strong and as beneficial as we choose to make it. So please, work with our Secretary General [Sarah Elliott](#) to feed good content into our network!

Keep up the fight!

### **Troy Lanigan**

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