

# For Vision and Responsibility

The manifesto of DiEM25's German electoral wing



# Demokratie in Europa: A new, rebellious party

Nowhere is there more irresponsibility than in German politics. Whether through intent, incompetence or cowardice, the politicians in power are doing a bad job.

The facts:

- **Millions of people today have fears of decline or of the future, receive too little pay, are exploited, oppressed or discriminated against.**
- **It is getting hotter. The frequency of heavy rain, floods, droughts and forest fires is increasing. Our livelihoods are in danger.**
- **More and more people around the world are on the run, oppressed, persecuted and threatened.**

Those who are elected to take responsibility do not do so. They fail to implement effective improvements. Worse still, in many cases they become stooges of those who profit most from injustice and environmental destruction.

Political failure also means that power and money have been concentrated in fewer and fewer hands for years. Business and politics are merging. Banks and corporations can act as they wish because they seem too big to be controlled. Entire policy areas are being declared purely technical issues, thus removed from the democratic process.

**We are heading towards a feudal society in which the few rule over the many.**

Those in power talk a lot and seem very busy. But nothing they do is enough to stop this development. On the contrary, it's being accelerated! There is no vision, no ambition to change fundamentals, no sense of departure.

Reason enough for a rebellious party!

## Social security. A Green New Deal. Peace.

Because all social and economic conditions are man-made. Consequently, they can also be changed by people. That is what we stand for.

- We exist to fight for **social security**. Our plan guarantees everyone a secure pension, access to affordable housing, access to excellent health care, a fair distribution of care work and the right to work.
- We exist to fight for a **Green New Deal**. With massive investments in the economy, energy supply, mobility systems, the building sector and agriculture, we want to create millions of good and secure jobs. Our goal is climate neutrality by 2030.
- We exist to fight for **peace and global justice**. We want to break the arms and surveillance spiral, decriminalise migration and end the exploitation and oppression of the Global South.

In one sentence: **we fight for the return of vision and responsibility.**

## Real democracy and shared prosperity

This includes addressing the biggest questions of our time: Who gets to decide and own? And who does not?

This starts with the European Union. Today, entire policy areas are largely removed from democracy by being declared "apolitical", "purely technical" or "neutral". We are fighting against depoliticisation and for a united, democratic Europe. Because Europe must be democratised or it will disintegrate!

But real democracy and shared prosperity do not end at the doors of parliaments. It must also apply in the economy: One person, one vote. We want to democratise common goods and share social prosperity fairly. In a diverse society, we guarantee a safe and dignified life for all.

**Realistic, radical, rebellious.**

Our goals are realistic, rebellious and radical. They are more fundamental than the visionless and irresponsible politics of the Establishment. They go beyond the usual proposals, because the usual proposals are not enough.

And they also breathe a fresh, new ethos into politics because we are both European and internationalist. We are an inseparable part of the European movement DiEM25 and the Progressive International.

With this programme we lay the foundations for our work. Nothing in it should be unyielding: except the attitude that underlies it. We want to continue listening, learning and discussing, with you!

This programme is just the beginning.

Demokratie in Europa - DiEM25

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# 1. Invest: Shared prosperity for the many

## **What is it about?**

The first chapter is about money. We explain how we can finance a first-class social system, climate protection and excellent infrastructure.

## **Why is this important?**

Without massively increased government spending, there will be no energy and mobility transition, no secure pensions, no affordable housing, no reliable health system - in short, no shared prosperity for the many.

Often it seems to fail because of money. But it does not have to be. Shared prosperity is possible - if we democratise our monetary system and break down the barriers in our own minds.

## **How do we do that?**

We want to facilitate higher government spending by focusing on a modern, enabling monetary policy. This means that we no longer see money as a limited resource. States do not have to collect money before they can spend it. On the contrary, states create the money they spend themselves. If they want to spend more, this is possible in principle.

The current rules and laws in Germany and the EU prevent us from making important investments and exacerbate inequality more and more. We therefore want to change the rules of the game in monetary policy. This also includes a fundamental reform of the euro.

## **3 key objectives:**

- Abolish the debt brake
- Pragmatic solutions to enable immediate investment
- Democratise the euro

## Government spending: Money is not a limited resource

The understanding of monetary and fiscal policy in large parts of the Federal Republic of Germany is outdated and wrong. It regards the state as one economic actor among many that has to budget with scarce resources. We reject this image. The fact that state spending is artificially limited mainly benefits a capitalist class, but harms the middle class, the poor and the planet.

We want to use the possibilities of modern monetary policy to create well-paid, meaningful jobs, to invest in forward-looking technologies and industries, to fight the climate crisis and to put the social systems on a secure footing permanently and for all. Our society faces great challenges - but a shortage of money is not one of them.

We know that labour, natural resources, human health and the health of our planet are limited resources. Money, on the other hand, at least for states with monetary sovereignty, is not a limited resource. We can afford to do what we want to do. In the Eurozone, monetary sovereignty has been limited by political decisions, but nevertheless there is already a lot of room for manoeuvre that we want to use. In the medium term, we want to abolish the artificial restrictions of the Eurosystem.

Contrary to what is often assumed, government deficits are not bad per se. Money created by the state does not have to be paid back. Government deficits are therefore wealth gains for the population. A state's spending is our wealth. The real deficits are not the balance sheets of a state, but the deficit in good jobs, the deficit in environmental protection, the deficit in educational justice and the democratic deficit due to extreme wealth inequality.

A massive increase in government spending is imperative for social, environmental and economic reasons. The only limit is actual inflation. Because there is no excessive inflationary pressure in the Eurozone despite the expansionary monetary policy of recent years, massively increased government spending is possible and makes sense. The goal of such a policy must be price stability, full employment with reduced working hours, social progress and the protection of ecosystems and the climate. To safeguard the Eurozone against inflation from supply shocks, we are

working to eliminate acute bottlenecks and support the development of European and local production capacities.

- **Rethinking the rules of the budget game**

We stand for the deletion of the debt brake from the Basic Law without replacement, the end of the European fiscal pact, the abolition of the European deficit limits and all other monetary and fiscal policy rules that unnecessarily restrict the state's ability to act. We also want to enable the direct financing of government spending via the European Central Bank. In contrast, we consider private banks as intermediaries between states and the central bank to be superfluous.

- **Achieve immediate progress through pragmatic solutions**

We will implement creative workarounds if there are not the necessary majorities for the above measures. For example, public investment companies or development banks (e.g. KfW and the Landesbanken) can be instructed to greatly expand their activities in social and ecological areas. Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance can use tradable tax credits to expand its financial leeway despite existing deficit limits.

- **Refinance existing debt through the ECB**

In order to provide immediate relief to the states of the Eurozone, including Germany, and to free up fiscal policy room for manoeuvre, we advocate a complete refinancing of their existing debts by means of interest-free loans from the ECB.

- **Fundamentally rethink the sales tax**

States with monetary sovereignty do not depend on tax revenues for their expenditure - this also applies to turnover tax. Taxing corporate sales unnecessarily inhibits their purchasing power as well as that of consumers and thus has a negative impact on the economy. Moreover, unlike the taxation of corporate profits, it does not

help to combat market imbalances or social inequality. We are therefore in favour of levying VAT in future only for the purpose of steering consumption towards certain goods and services, e.g. those that are harmful to health. All other forms of business should be exempt from VAT. In order to continue to guarantee the sovereignty of the federal states, we want to replace the regulation that the states are entitled to part of the sales tax with constitutionally protected direct payments from the federal government to the states.

- **Secure municipal finances in the long term**

Municipal services must always be secured and available to all. We therefore want to put the finances of the municipalities on a secure footing in the long term. Municipal budgets should be financed by per capita allocations instead of volatile, cyclical municipal tax revenues and fees. We want to support small municipalities in particular with higher per-capita allocations. The federal government should provide the regions with the necessary funds for this. Cyclical social expenditures should not be part of municipal obligations, but should be paid directly by the federal government. We want to relieve heavily indebted municipalities through refinancing by the federal government.

## Currency: Democratising the Euro

Through monetary union, the member states of the Eurozone have largely relinquished their monetary sovereignty. At the same time, there is no European statehood, so that the citizens of the euro states have lost control over their currency to an elite of bankers and civil servants. We want to change that. We want to democratise the Euro by placing monetary policy entirely in the hands of elected parliaments.

We recognise that the Federal Republic of Germany has played and continues to play a decisive and leading role in the de-democratisation of monetary and fiscal policy in Europe. We further recognise that the Federal Republic has used and continues to use its economic and political power to blackmail Eurozone member states and impose neoliberal reforms and austerity policies. We are aware of the suffering and misery into which these policies have propped up millions of people across Europe and stand in solidarity with them.

We reject the prevailing neoliberal, market-neutral paradigm of the European Central Bank. Monetary policy must aim at sustainability, social security and prosperity for all European citizens.

- **Respecting the economic sovereignty of our neighbours**

Germany must not be the disciplinarian of Europe. We demand an end to Germany's blackmailing economic policy. Never again should the Federal Republic participate in forcing other states into neoliberal reforms and austerity policies. Democratically legitimised parliaments must regain full control over fiscal policy at their jurisdictional level.

- **Reverse forced privatisations**

European infrastructure is not a bankrupt estate. We advocate the restitution of formerly public companies that were privatised as part of austerity measures and sold to Germany, for example Greek airports to Fraport AG.

- **Making the ESCB transparent and democratic**

Our goal is a Federal Republic that works to democratise the euro and the European System of Central Banks (ESCB). There must be no intransparent and informal bodies with great power like the Euro Group and the Troika. Like any other policy field, monetary policy must be subject to public and democratic control. The basic features of European monetary policy should therefore be controlled and steered by the European Parliament in future. The day-to-day business should be taken over by a finance minister appointed and controlled by the European Parliament. As long as this is not the case, meetings of the Eurogroup should be streamed live on the internet to allow a minimum of transparency.

- **Realigning monetary policy**

The Federal Republic should advocate new rules for the European Central Bank. We advocate a new mandate for the ECB consisting of price stability and full employment with reduced working hours, social progress and the protection of ecosystems and the climate. Via the directive competence of the European Parliament, the ECB should be able to be mandated to contribute to an active, modern and ecologically sustainable European industrial policy by means of strategic appeals (window guidance), fiscal policy incentives or direct market intervention. In order to reduce the so-called carbon bubble in the banking system, the ECB should no longer accept fossil assets as collateral. The prevailing idea of a so-called inflation-stable unemployment rate (NAIRU), which claims that a certain level of unemployment - a kind of reserve army of unemployed - is always necessary to avoid inflation, we consider a bad (and wrong) indicator that plunges millions of

people into poverty and lack of prospects. It should no longer guide the ECB's actions.

- **Achieve macroeconomic balance**

We aim to reduce economic imbalances within Europe by substantially strengthening German domestic demand and introducing a European Clearing Union (ECU). In it, countries with high trade surpluses will be fined, which in turn will benefit countries and regions with trade deficits. In the medium term, trade flows in the EU internal market are to be balanced and equal prosperity is to be created in all regions of the continent.

- **A common fiscal policy at EU level**

We advocate the expansion of a common European fiscal policy, under the control of the European Parliament and a European Finance Minister elected by the European Parliament. This includes, in particular, the possibility of financing expenditure through deficits and the levying of taxes. In the long term, we will create the necessary conditions for the establishment of a united European Republic.

- **Securing the state monopoly on currency**

In order to guarantee the state's ability to act and to prevent speculative bubbles, we resolutely reject a weakening of the state currency monopoly in the Eurozone in favour of competing private-sector currency alternatives (so-called stablecoins). We therefore want to ban the exchange and payment with stablecoins. Instead, the digital euro and a European People's Bank e-wallet should facilitate digital payments. To tackle the enormous power consumption of proof-of-work cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin, we want to ban exchanges and payments with them as well. We want to support blockchain applications that promise real societal benefits by research and implementation.

## 2. Green New Deal: Good Jobs & Climate Neutrality by 2030

### **What is it about?**

It is about climate protection and good jobs. We advocate for a Green New Deal - the only investment programme that provides climate protection, social security and democracy.

### **Why is this important?**

We are facing three crises: The climate crisis, a social crisis and a crisis of democracy. The climate crisis threatens our livelihoods. The social crisis manifests itself in precarious working conditions, stagnating wages and fears of social decline. The crisis of democracy endangers our peaceful coexistence.

None of the classical parties has a convincing plan to solve these three crises. That is why we have worked out a Green New Deal that does justice to the magnitude of the challenges.

### **How can this be done?**

We need to invest massively in good jobs and climate protection and strengthen the power of citizens. To this end, we want to support companies in converting to climate-neutral production, transform the energy supply and finally expand a reliable mobility network. We want to shape construction and agriculture in a socially and ecologically responsible way. With new democratic institutions, we want to subordinate the state to society.

Our historical model is the ambition and willingness to experiment with the New Deal of US President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Not all of our ideas will lead to the goal. But in them is the spirit of Roosevelt, who said: "[...] take a method and try it. If it doesn't work, admit it honestly and try another. But the main thing is that you try something!"

### **7 key objectives:**

- Support small and medium-sized enterprises in the ecological transformation

- Completely decarbonise German industry by 2030
- Put regional energy supply in the hands of citizens
- Expand low-cost, environmentally friendly, interregional mobility
- Develop local transport concepts through citizens' assemblies
- Efficient and ecological construction
- A Green New Deal for Europe, financed by Green New Deal bonds (Green Bonds)

## Economy: Social-ecological industrial policy

Our goal is a genuine Green New Deal. Through massive investments in the socio-ecological transformation, we want to create secure, well-paid jobs, climate neutrality by 2030 at the latest, while respecting the available residual emissions budget, as well as significantly improve public services of general interest.

Nevertheless, the Green New Deal is not a programme for endless growth as an end in itself. We do not measure our success by indicators such as gross domestic product, but focus on what really matters: ecology, health, shared prosperity and self-determination.

In order to manage the socio-ecological transformation, we propose that the Federal Republic actively engage in industries and sectors that are strategically important for the Green New Deal - for example, through tax incentives, subsidies, purchase guarantees, favourable credit conditions, direct investment in enterprises, the development of state-owned enterprises, support for cooperatives and socialisation. Depending on the sector, situation and goal, we want to choose an appropriate tool. Especially in the areas of health and nutrition, housing, transport, energy, digitalisation, recycling and agriculture, the state should intervene much more strongly than before so that the socio-ecological transformation can succeed.

Furthermore, we want to strengthen localisation and European sovereignty wherever possible. "Made in Europe" or regional value chains reduce the danger of global supply shocks and bottlenecks, secure prosperity and increase control over working and environmental conditions in production. We reject global supply chains that serve only to maximise profits but for which there is no other need.

- **Green New Deal bonds instead of unproductive speculation**

For years, the ECB has been flooding the market with money to promote investment - so far with little success. Instead, a lot of money flows into speculation with financial products or real estate. We want to redirect speculative capital into productive investments by mandating the state development bank KfW to issue Green New Deal bonds (Green Bonds). The capital collected is to be lent at very favourable

conditions to companies and municipalities that are willing to drive forward the socio-ecological transformation. Furthermore, innovative start-ups that improve climate and ecological balances with their offerings are to be supported with venture capital. The Federal Republic is to guarantee the bonds.

- **Supporting small and medium-sized enterprises in the ecological transformation**

We want to support small and medium-sized enterprises in their ecological transformation by providing unbureaucratic credits of up to 100,000 Euros per year per company, which can be used to make investments in energy efficiency and sufficiency as well as environmental protection. We also want to support climate-neutral companies through tax relief.

- **Completely decarbonise German industry by 2030**

We want to completely decarbonise CO<sub>2</sub>-intensive German industry, for example iron and steel production, refineries, cement plants and the chemical industry, wherever technically possible, by means of a deadline regulation. The federal government is to bear 75 percent of the costs for the conversion of the plants, and KfW and the state banks are also to offer favourable decarbonisation loans. We want to support demo and pilot plants that use state-of-the-art climate-neutral production processes and aim to consistently build a circular economy with up to 100 percent of the costs. We want to prohibit the continued operation of plants that are not fully decarbonised after 2030 despite technical feasibility.

- **Building the circular and regenerative economy**

To reduce the destruction of ecosystems and the overexploitation of nature, we are committed to building a circular and regenerative economy. We want to exempt small and medium-sized companies that specialise in recycling and upcycling from

corporate tax for five years. Furthermore, we want to extend the life of products with a comprehensive right to repair and an extended warranty.

- **Expanding hydrogen production**

We support the production of green hydrogen for applications where there is no other way to decarbonise, i.e. in the steel, chemical and cement industries, in aviation, shipping and heavy transport, and for storage. Since the production of green hydrogen involves considerable energy losses, it is not a solution for the transport and heat transition. We want to revise the national hydrogen strategy for the rapid expansion of production capacities. With long-term subsidies and incentives, we want to create a stable framework for the domestic market ramp-up on an industrial scale. We want to rededicate the existing gas infrastructure to the transport of hydrogen and expand it where necessary. The core of national hydrogen production must be the domestic expansion of renewable energies. We reject the import of hydrogen produced on the basis of fossil fuels (so-called blue and turquoise hydrogen), as well as the import of green hydrogen from countries of the Global South as long as they cannot cover their own demand on the basis of renewable energies.

- **Establishing European chip production in state hands**

The socio-ecological transformation must also be a digital one. In order to secure the growing demand for integrated circuits in the long term and to reduce international dependencies, we advocate the massive development of chip production in Europe. In doing so, we favour the establishment of a state-owned company in order to be able to stand up to international competition and catch up on technological advances - comparable, for example, to Toyota, which was subsidised by the Japanese state for decades.

- **An ecological research offensive**

We want to generously support universities and companies in their research into new technologies, materials and processes that reduce CO2 emissions or protect or reduce the burden on ecosystems. The results of research must not be patented, but should be made available worldwide under a public domain licence.

- **Unbureaucratic and digital funding programmes**

Funding programmes that are intended to accelerate the socio-ecological transformation of the economy must be able to be applied for, accessed and administered quickly, unbureaucratically and digitally. In order to guarantee this, we want to establish a task force for "Agile Funding Programmes" in the Federal Ministry of Economics, which will mediate between institutions and responsibilities, find pragmatic solutions together with companies and continuously improve processes.

## Energy: Sustainable and secure supply for people and the economy

We are committed to a socially just energy transition by 2030. A sustainable, secure energy supply for people and the economy is an important basis for a future worth living for all people.

The principle of climate justice guides our actions. Energy supply must be secured without destroying the environment or the livelihoods of people in Germany and abroad. We therefore want to tie the allocation of public funds to criteria of climate justice.

- **Citizens' ownership of regional energy suppliers, municipal utilities and local infrastructure**

We want to put both the regional energy suppliers and municipal utilities as well as the local infrastructure in the areas of electricity, gas and heat in the hands of citizens. The people themselves should decide locally which energy sources are used. Profits from the production of electricity and heat should flow back to the citizens. The acceptance of any form of regional energy production would increase enormously in this way.

- **Extensive use of waste heat in local and district heating networks**

Local and district heating networks are a very efficient way of jointly supplying households and industry with energy for heating and hot water. We want to combine different producers here, such as residual heat from industrial processes, but also larger natural sources, such as geothermal energy from deeper layers. The use of these networks should be prioritised and promoted, and the energy sources should also be made climate-neutral.

- **Rapid conversion of public buildings and infrastructure to climate neutrality**

The public sector should set an example in the implementation of climate protection measures. Therefore, we want to immediately initiate the necessary investments to make both state buildings and infrastructure climate-neutral. In this way, construction companies, planners and public authorities will be able to quickly gain valuable practical experience with the climate retrofitting of buildings.

- **Right to self-sufficiency in renewable energies**

We call for the introduction of a fundamental right to self-sufficiency in renewable energy. Currently, the possibilities for both homeowners and tenants are severely limited. We want to reduce bureaucracy in licensing procedures and promote local models that generate electricity where it is consumed.

- **Photovoltaics and storage technology made in Germany**

After Germany had its own production capacities for a long time, large parts of photovoltaic and storage technology now come from outside Europe. In order to achieve the climate goals, we want to massively expand research and production capacities in Germany again. To this end, the Federal Republic of Germany should guarantee the purchase of a part of the products produced (for example in combination with a photovoltaic obligation for new buildings) and thus create investment security.

- **Expansion of a European, intelligent electricity grid**

The European electricity grid is the basis for a secure long-term supply in Germany. With the expansion of renewable energies, fluctuations in production must be balanced out in a large-scale and intelligently operated grid. The further expansion of connections to our neighbouring countries and beyond is an important step. These

connections between countries also strengthen our cooperation in other areas and thus serve European understanding and unification.

- **Climate-neutral energy supply for households**

Providing a climate-neutral heat supply for our houses and flats is a significant goal for the people of Germany, which we support to the best of our ability. We want to promote efficient technologies and support the reduction of energy consumption through renovation and insulation. Households should be supplied with electricity from renewable energies, climate-neutral local and district heating, solar and geothermal energy and biomass produced in agriculture.

- **Tie subsidies to sufficiency criteria**

We want to continue the promotion of energy efficiency (the implementation of processes using as little energy as possible). However, the existing programmes lack sufficiency as a decisive factor, so that the question is not only how to make a process efficient, but also whether the process as a whole makes sense. We advocate that subsidies be directed towards a massive reduction of resource consumption in meaningful places.

- **Water supply as a public good**

The supply of water as the most important foodstuff - as a basis for life in general! - must under no circumstances be subjected to private-sector interests. Water resources must remain in public hands. We want to remunicipalise water resources that have already been privatised. The decision on distribution should lie with the citizens of the region. We therefore advocate that local water rights be negotiated in citizens' assemblies.

- **Progressive electricity tax instead of EEG levy**

The EEG (German Renewable Energy law) levy is a heavy burden on households with normal consumption. We want to abolish it and replace it with a progressive electricity tax. Every household and company should have a tax-free electricity budget. We want to tax above-average consumption in order to provide incentives for energy-saving behaviour.

- **Use targeted feed-in tariffs**

In order to speed up the expansion of renewable energies, we want to introduce a state feed-in tariff and use it in a targeted manner where it would otherwise not be possible to operate economically or where the expansion is progressing too slowly.

- **Stop subsidies for fossil fuels**

Every year, the German government grants billions of euros in climate-damaging subsidies in the fossil energy sector and partially conceals them. According to an analysis by the Forum for an Ecological-Social Market Economy, these subsidies amount to 17 billion euros. In order to meet the climate targets, we want to disclose the subsidies of fossil energy sources immediately and stop them completely.

- **Stop the climate crisis by radically reducing CO2 emissions**

We need a rapidly rising CO2 tax for the industry to stop the climate crisis and fulfil Germany's international commitments under the Paris Climate Agreement. The level and increase of the tax will be designed to achieve climate neutrality for the industry in Germany by 2030.

The CO2 tax is unsuitable for the private sector until alternatives in the areas of housing and mobility are available for everyone. In order to implement the rapid conversion of basic private areas of life to climate-neutral technologies by 2030, we

want to massively promote the conversion of building energy supply and mobility with state funds.

## Mobility: Free mobility and secure supply for all

Mobility is a fundamental right. Therefore, we want to ensure free and safe mobility for all without destroying our livelihoods. We therefore rely on environmentally friendly means of transport and infrastructure, which we use collectively and efficiently.

- **Inexpensive, environmentally friendly, interregional mobility for people all over Germany**

We want to make mobility offers and infrastructure fair for all. Instead of the Federal Transport Infrastructure Plan, we want to create a nationwide plan across all modes of transport that incorporates the greenhouse gas reduction targets of the Paris Climate Agreement.

- **Rail as the first option for long-distance travel**

Railways must become the backbone for cross-modal mobility in Germany and the first option for long-distance travel. To this end, we want to expand the route network, also by reactivating disused railway lines and expanding automation and electrification. Furthermore, we want to make the offer more affordable by ending the profit orientation of the railways in a first step and socialising them in a second step. We want to better integrate regional transport associations and public transport into the railway's transport offer.

- **Expansion of European long-distance travel (including night trains)**

There must be a better, sustainable offer for European long-distance travel. We therefore advocate the expansion of the European route network and cross-border connections in cooperation with neighbouring countries. More cities must be

connected to European long-distance transport. For long-distance travel, we want to significantly expand the range of night trains.

- **Good bus connections and sharing services**

In addition to rail transport, there must be reliable interregional mobility services for all. To this end, we want to significantly expand bus connections and sharing services. Especially the latter, and thus a better occupation of cars with passengers, can ensure the reduction of congestion on our roads and a smooth flow of traffic. We want to coordinate timetables across the federal states. Our goal is an effective, joint use of existing resources in means of transport and infrastructure. Especially in rural areas, we want to promote flexible and low barrier mobility offers to make people mobile who do not have (regular) access to a car.

- **Developing a modern cycling infrastructure**

In order to make cycling more attractive, we want to expand the cycling infrastructure. For this purpose, we want to preferentially expand existing paths, as in the Netherlands, in order to minimise land sealing and resource consumption. Furthermore, we want to support municipalities financially in order to expand municipal bicycle rental and bicycle subscriptions, parking facilities, improved signposting, the provision of (digital) cycle route maps and the provision of other bicycle-related services.

In order to promote commuting and environmentally friendly tourism, we want to expand supra-regional cycle routes, especially within the framework of the Eurovelo network.

- **Subsidies for modern bicycles**

Germany should become a country of cyclists. That is why we want to generously subsidise the purchase, production, upgrading and repair of bicycles and cargo bikes

in Germany. Every person in Germany should have access to a cheap, comfortable and modern bicycle.

- **Paraffin taxation to reduce climate emissions from air transport and reduce noise pollution around airports**

We advocate a tax on paraffin in order to finally effectively reduce harmful emissions in air traffic. Less air traffic also means a reduction in noise pollution around airports and an increase in the quality of life for the people who live there. As long as there is no international taxation, e.g. by the international civil aviation authority ICAO, we want to conclude bilateral taxation agreements. In the EU, we want to push for the extension of emissions trading to emissions from flights that take off in the EU.

- **Orientation of private transport towards climate neutrality**

In the context of climate change and the ecological crisis, it is no longer appropriate to build new roads for car traffic and to massively expand existing ones. The expansion of access routes often has fatal consequences for cities, which then have to deal with even more traffic. We want to guarantee everyone's mobility without building new roads. As in Wales, we want to freeze all new road building projects to bring transport policy in line with climate targets.

On motorways heavily affected by commuter traffic, we want to reserve a lane for buses and carpooling. In some regions outside major French cities such as Lyon or Grenoble, extra lanes for carpooling are already a reality, as are digital carpooling stations, carpooling apps and direct subsidies for drivers who offer carpooling.

- **Equitable allocation of public space for mobility**

Public space is limited and needs to be shared equitably, based on people's needs. At the moment, cars often take priority over other modes of transport. We want to give much more space to pedestrians and cyclists. We want to make footpaths more

attractive and equip them with a minimum width on which two wheelchairs or prams can pass each other. Furthermore, we want to further increase the accessibility of footpaths and provide more possibilities for crossing streets.

We want to prevent further land sealing. We need park construction instead of car park construction in order to improve the quality of life of road users with a more pleasant local climate.

- **Standardise traffic rules in Europe**

In order to ensure a better traffic flow, prevent accidents and reduce harmful exhaust fumes, we advocate the standardisation of traffic rules in Europe. We support the introduction of a speed limit on motorways, following the example of our neighbouring countries. We also want to adapt speed limits on other roads in order to put people and not cars at the centre of traffic planning. This also applies to cities. As in Paris, we want to introduce 30 km/h zones in cities as a matter of principle.

- **Mobility premium instead of climate-damaging subsidies**

We want to align subsidies with climate protection and social justice. Rich households continue to benefit disproportionately from distance allowances, company car taxation and purchase premiums. We want to replace all these instruments with a mobility premium for all, i.e. a voucher available for the purchase of bicycles, bicycle repairs, train tickets, vouchers for carpooling or other mobility offers.

- **Expansion of the charging infrastructure**

We want to significantly expand the charging infrastructure for electric cars. Charging facilities must be made available at all publicly accessible car parks, making electric cars and other vehicles more usable.

- **Support the development of alternative energy sources**

We want to promote the development of climate-neutral energy sources, e.g. electric propulsion, as well as the development of climate-neutral, electricity-based fuels (power-to-liquid). We want to abolish support for so-called bridge technologies such as "natural" gas.

- **Develop bus and train stations into mobility hubs**

We want to develop bus and train stations into easily accessible, barrier-free mobility hubs that bundle various sharing services such as ridesharing, bikesharing and carsharing. Especially in rural areas and outside of cities, we advocate for convenient connections of cycle paths to train and bus services, similar to the Mobility Hubs in Groningen and Drenthe in the Netherlands.

- **Municipal sharing services**

In order to prevent digital monopolies or nudging of users towards less sustainable mobility options (e.g. taxis or scooters instead of walking), we want to support municipalities in setting up municipal sharing services.

- **National strategy for rural mobility provision**

In order to create a perspective for people in rural areas who do not own a car, cannot drive or want to part with their car, we advocate the development of a national strategy for safe, sustainable rural mobility provision, as well as the provision of the necessary means of implementation for municipalities and federal states.

- **Urban and rural planning to combat urban sprawl**

To counteract the car-centred infrastructure development of the last 60 years and thus car dependency, we advocate traffic-avoiding and compact urban and rural

planning. This includes preventing the designation of new building areas in peripheral locations as well as incentives to move into existing houses.

- **Right to home office**

To reduce traffic and enhance rural areas, we want to enable more people to choose their place of work. To this end, we want to introduce a right to home office for all occupational groups where working from home is possible.

- **Safe and sustainable logistics to supply the population: prioritise regional supply networks and reduce long-distance traffic**

Regional supply networks such as farms with farm shops and the local production of important goods reduce long-distance transport and dependence on global supply chains. We therefore want to oblige and support districts and municipalities to work out a concept for the development of a regional supply and circular economy with all local actors.

- **Electrify and reduce heavy goods traffic**

We want to electrify heavy goods traffic. To this end, we want to test overhead lines on motorways in detail. If the tests are successful and the electrification of heavy goods traffic on roads proves to be ecologically sensible, we want to advocate the construction of 500 km of overhead lines per year. In addition, we also want to examine the possibility of allowing larger vehicles with more axles for electrified heavy traffic in order to conserve roads and use energy more efficiently.

Furthermore, we want to test electricity-based fuels, produced with renewable energies, for use in heavy transport. Our goal is the complete decarbonisation of heavy goods transport by 2030 at the latest, the reduction of empty runs (e.g. with the help of digital logistics platforms), the shortening of delivery routes and regional (circular) management to reduce the volume of logistics traffic.

## Building: Ecological, social, inclusive and creative

The construction sector is one of the most resource-intensive economic sectors worldwide and must make a significant contribution to compliance with the Paris Climate Agreement. Our goal is a climate-neutral building stock by 2030.

The construction and operation of buildings in Germany is responsible for about 40% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and for 55% of waste generation. 90% of the mineral raw materials used in Germany are used annually to produce building materials and products. At the same time, the average household size is decreasing and new dwellings are becoming larger on average. In rural regions, younger people are moving away and older people are often left behind in large houses with inflexible floor plans. This leads to a constantly increasing demand for housing. To reverse these trends, we want to think about the long-term use of buildings as early as the planning stage.

In order to achieve the climate goals, we want to renovate and convert the building stock on a large scale: ecologically, socially, community-promoting, inclusive and creative with new building forms and innovative, recyclable materials. To achieve this, we want to follow successful examples such as the use of recycled concrete in Switzerland or the use of wood even for high-rise buildings such as in Prinz-Eugen-Park in Munich.

Our goal is a new way of building that enables sustainable and social living and working for all. This can only be achieved with far-reaching political guidelines that promote the emergence of a new, alternative construction industry with well-paid and meaningful jobs and apprenticeships.

- **Efficient and ecological construction**

Resources such as sand are scarce worldwide and must therefore be used sparingly. After coal, oil and gas, cement production is the fourth largest CO<sub>2</sub> driver. The production of cement is responsible for 8% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We

therefore want to promote building methods such as lightweight construction, which use materials and resources much more efficiently.

Materials should only be allowed to be used where their properties make sense. They must be biodegradable or reusable so that there is no waste after the buildings are used. With our proposed CO2 tax on environmentally harmful materials as well as with a primary building materials tax, we want to promote the use of secondary building materials and the use of ecological alternatives such as clay, straw and hemp.

- **Minimum energy standard for new buildings**

To reduce the energy demand of new buildings, we need better energy standards. The Building Energy Act (GEG) and KfW subsidies only address the use phase of energy consumption: the emissions and thus the energy consumption from production (grey energy) are not taken into account, although they account for about 50% of the energy consumption in the life cycle of new buildings. We want to introduce a minimum energy standard for new buildings that also includes the manufacturing energy in order to meet the requirements for a climate-neutral building stock.

- **Climate-neutral conversion instead of new construction**

We want to prioritise the conversion and upgrading of buildings instead of new construction. Such prioritisation reduces resource consumption, leads to less land sealing, prevents vacancies and avoids demolition. To this end, we want to launch a nationwide buyback and redevelopment programme to enable warm-rent-neutral conversions.

- **Building for longevity and recycling**

New buildings must be planned consistently over their entire life cycle in the sense of a circular economy. To this end, we want to introduce a mandatory CO<sub>2</sub> and life cycle assessment of all phases of use. In order to orient buildings towards longevity, the needs of all generations should have to be taken into account in building planning. We also advocate that the recycling of a building must be taken into account and priced in as early as the construction planning stage.

- **Climate-resilient buildings**

In order to mitigate the consequences of global warming, which can no longer be prevented, and the associated extreme weather events such as heat and heavy rain, we want to test climate-resilient buildings and new urban planning concepts. In particular, we want to unseal and plant areas and massively expand green roofs and facades.

- **Creating communal areas and spaces**

We want to create more communal areas in towns, villages and settlements and increase the number of communal spaces. We want to reverse the trend towards maximising rentable space through legislation and more municipal housing construction. Together with residents and urban planners, we want to create a new social building culture that offers spaces of retreat for everyone as well as spaces for community and gathering. In cities with a tight housing market, we want to reduce the average flat size for new buildings.

- **Cities for all**

Inclusive and barrier-free construction must be standard in public and socially used buildings to enable all people to participate in social life. We therefore advocate that people of different cultural and social backgrounds live together through appropriate urban planning.

- **A new, contemporary building industry**

In order to quickly create the conditions for a new, contemporary building industry, we want to include education about the effects of the building sector and the new possibilities for ecological and social building in the curricula of universities and vocational schools. We want to offer companies and employees in the construction industry free participation in further education programmes. A new state seal should certify and distinguish buildings according to social-ecological criteria.

# Agriculture and Ecosystems: Forgotten Knowledge for a Secure Future

We want to harness forgotten knowledge for the communal use of our land (including rivers, lakes and the sea). Therefore, we advocate for a so-called "Ancient Future", i.e. a return and appreciation of traditional practices and knowledge. "Hutewälder", haymaking, hazelnut and reeds are examples of traditional farming practices and plant species that can form the basis of a nutritious and eco-effective diet. Our goal is agro-ecological farms and regional distribution cooperatives as the recognised backbone of our society.

- **Redesigning agricultural and fisheries policy**

The federal government's agricultural and fisheries policy must be redesigned. To this end, we want to develop a strategic plan that realigns national and EU agricultural and fisheries policies. The aim is to ensure that 100 percent of subsidies are earmarked for ecological and social purposes, to limit direct payments per farm and to reduce payments according to size in order to implement a shift towards supporting small and medium-sized farms and local economic cycles.

- **Supporting the shift to sustainable agriculture and forestry**

We want to support agriculture and forestry in converting to sustainable management by fully compensating non-self-inflicted yield losses that occur during conversion and subsidising additional expenditure without red tape. No agricultural or forestry enterprise should have to bear financial losses due to the conversion to sustainable management.

- **Structural change in favour of small farms**

In Germany, the ongoing structural change through the concentration of land, fishing rights and farms in fewer and fewer large corporations is working to the

disadvantage of producers, the environment and the socially disadvantaged. Even the marginal and socially problematic organic trend cannot counteract the overall decline in Germany. We want to reverse this structural change and stop corporate concentration. To achieve this, we want to apply anti-trust law more strictly in land law as well as in the food industry and de-bureaucratise the system in favour of small farms.

- **Stabilising and securing the harvest**

The existing agricultural system is increasingly failing because of its own logic: decreasing yields with the use of fertilisers and pesticides, rapidly growing resistances of "pests", rising prices and health effects of consuming the end products offered by the system are consequences of an overall decline. We therefore want to tie agricultural subsidies 100 percent to socio-ecological purposes and thus stabilise crop yields. In addition, we want to immediately introduce a linkage of subsidies to climate data, which will also secure yields in the future.

- **Promoting diverse crops**

The industrial food chain relies on only 16 plant species for 86 percent of global food production. Within these dominant species, it is estimated that 75 per cent of their genetic diversity has been lost to extinction. Almost 50 per cent of our total societal plant research resources are squandered on one species - maize. We therefore want to bring about a massive diversification of research and provide government support for agriculture without monoculture. We see permaculture as a guiding principle.

- **Ending industrial factory farming**

We want to end industrial factory farming in Germany, as it causes great suffering to animals, depletes our soils and pollutes groundwater. Worldwide, factory farming is currently responsible for 18-20% of greenhouse gas emissions and must therefore also be ended. Instead, we want to promote near-natural grazing to preserve

ecosystems. We want to reduce animal stocking densities and free our agriculture from its export orientation.

- **Plants as the basis of our food**

We want to stop the widespread damage to critical ecosystems by animal agriculture and actively reverse the damage to planetary functions, ecosystem services and biodiversity. To do this, we want to put food systems at the centre of tackling the climate crisis and promote a shift to a healthier and more sustainable plant-based diet. Plants should be the basis of our nutrition.

- **An agency for ecosystem regeneration**

In order not only to protect ecosystems from further destruction, but also to regenerate or restore ecosystems already affected in Germany, we advocate the establishment of an Agency for the Regeneration of Ecosystems under the Ministry of the Environment. The agency should create well-paid jobs in cooperation with municipalities (and as part of a government job guarantee) to, for example, unseal land, implement measures to increase biodiversity in cities and rural areas, renaturalise quarrying sites and re-wet peatlands.

## Decide: The Green New Deal from Below

Our Green New Deal is about empowering people to make their own decisions about the future of their communities. Investment decisions should therefore be made primarily at the local and regional level, with the democratic involvement of the population, especially through citizens' assemblies.

- **Regional regulations for renewable energies through citizens' assemblies**

The energy transition requires a rethinking of the energy market, in which citizens and communities are involved as suppliers and consumers. This is not possible on the basis of current laws. Laws and regulations must not slow down or prevent the expansion of renewable energies and must be adapted accordingly. We want to carry out these adjustments by means of citizens' assemblies involving the regionally affected people.

- **Developing local transport concepts together**

We want to develop local mobility concepts through citizens' assemblies in collaboration with citizens, especially in rural areas. We want to support civic engagement, such as the provision of citizens' buses, and integrate it into local public transport. Through citizens' budgets, the people of a municipality should have more say in the use of funds from the Green New Deal.

- **Tackling the agricultural transition together with farmers**

We want to achieve a socio-ecological turnaround together with farmers and all people working in agriculture. That is why we advocate open dialogues and meetings to jointly develop support programmes and conditions for agriculture. Instead of the representatives of international agricultural and seed corporations, we want to give a

voice to the people who work every day in fields, greenhouses and stables for our food.

- **Establishment of a European social-ecological network**

In order to promote cooperation and the exchange of experiences on socio-ecological transformation between municipalities, regions, citizens and farmers, we want to establish a socio-ecological city network. It should bring together existing European cooperation programmes such as URBACT III, the International Urban Cooperation Programme (IUC) and the European Network for Rural Development (ENRD) and provide them with a larger budget.

### 3. Social security: guaranteeing a first-class social system

#### **What is it about?**

It is about social security - i.e. pensions, housing, health, care, equality and work. Our goal is to guarantee a first-class, future-proof social system for everyone.

#### **Why is that important?**

Because the public social system is the foundation of our society. It should take away people's fear of old age, homelessness, poverty and illness. At present, however, it does not do that, on the contrary. Instead of providing comprehensive protection, old age, housing, poverty and health are increasingly becoming a source of worry and fear.

We therefore advocate a complete overhaul of our social system, with guaranteed first-class care and social security for all.

#### **How is this to be done?**

First and foremost, by taking pensions, housing and health largely out of the hands of the free market. The profit motive is fundamentally opposed to our vision of a first-class, future-proof social system. Instead, we want to provide and guarantee social security publicly.

In the areas of work and equality, we advocate new offers and rules to enable all people to live a free, self-determined life.

#### **6 key objectives:**

- A state pension guarantee
- Expropriate large housing corporations
- A land reform
- Improve services and quality of health care
- The introduction of a welfare income
- A job guarantee

## Old-age security: Secure pensions for all

The German pension system does not deliver on the promise of a dignified, financially secure life in old age. Pensioners who are acutely affected by old-age poverty are forced to supplement their inadequate pension income with part-time jobs or collecting deposit bottles despite their advanced age, and the demographic change in Germany will lead to a further drastic increase in the number of those affected in the future. Therefore, we demand a fundamental reform of the statutory pension insurance, based on the principles of justice, solidarity and equal treatment - because poverty in old age is not a law of nature.

- **The unconditional pension guarantee**

We want to make pensions secure again - for everyone. To do this, we must overcome the outdated pay-as-you-go system. Instead, we advocate the introduction of a 100 % state-funded, non-contributory, uniform, unconditional pension guarantee that provides everyone with an adequate income in retirement - well above today's average pensions, so that pensioners are not worse off. We only want to limit the pensions of people with very high pension entitlements, such as top federal civil servants. This is possible because our society as a whole is becoming more and more productive, even though fewer people are working. Fewer people therefore produce more social wealth than in the past. A state-funded pension ensures that everyone benefits from this wealth in retirement and is allowed to grow old with dignity.

In contrast, we reject a funded state pension that invests in the international stock market because it merely shifts the financing of national pensions onto other states and their workers, thus further exacerbating global inequalities and tensions.

- **Enabling inflation-protected savings**

Although the unconditional pension guarantee should be sufficient to cover an average living wage in old age, we would like to give citizens the opportunity to set aside part of their income in a state pension fund, which guarantees savers an inflation-adjusted return of exactly zero % and is paid out at the beginning of retirement. The money saved remains in the fund throughout the entire investment period and is not invested in the financial market, as is the case with conventional private pension schemes, and is therefore independent of share prices and interest rate developments. The inflation gap is closed by state funding when the money is paid out.

- **Abolish the civil servant privilege in old-age provision**

The existing regulations exempt civil servants from the obligation to contribute to the statutory pension insurance. Our model of an unconditional pension guarantee ensures exemption from contributions for all persons throughout their working lives, effectively abolishing the civil servant privilege. Instead of a pension, retired civil servants thus enjoy the same pension level and privileges as everyone else. There is no longer any discrimination or preferential treatment of pensioners according to the type and extent of their activity in working life.

- **For a uniform pension system throughout Europe**

The harmonisation of European social policy is both a prerequisite and an expected consequence of the necessary harmonisation of living conditions in Europe. This must also aim at the gradual harmonisation and, ultimately, the socially just merging of state pension systems within the framework of a European social union. Such a uniform European pension system would establish the same retirement age and the same pension level for all European citizens, thus effectively combating old-age poverty and social envy beyond national borders. The Europe-wide unconditional pension guarantee thus makes an important contribution to the development of a

European common sense and to the further growing together of the European population.

## Housing: Not a commodity, but a human right

Housing is not a commodity, but a human right. In order to protect it, we want to withdraw rental housing, especially in cities, from the profit-driven market and transfer it to non-profit, communal ownership. Only the end of profit orientation in the housing sector will permanently solve the worries and needs of countless people whose rent ties up a large part of their disposable income or who cannot find a suitable flat for themselves and their family.

To this end, we aim for a massive expansion of municipal housing stock - in the long run, at least 70 percent of all rental housing should be in municipal hands. Where necessary, municipal housing institutions should also build new housing units themselves. With the participation of the citizens and the help of outstanding architects, we want to create affordable, modern and ecologically compatible housing with a high quality of life.

Because the fundamental contradiction between the profit interests of investors and the interests of tenants cannot be resolved even by means of earmarking and price fixing, we reject new construction by private investors wherever building land is scarce.

In order to help tenants in the short term, we want to take immediate measures to slow down and cap rents quickly and effectively.

- **Democratic management of municipal housing stocks**

In order to ensure the democratic participation of tenants in municipal housing, the housing stock should be managed by municipal institutions under public law. They should not be profit-oriented, but should concentrate on securing, expanding and modernising the housing stock.

- **Expanding financial leeway for municipalities**

In order to give municipalities the necessary financial leeway to build up municipal housing stocks, the federal government should finance appropriate measures such as construction, pre-purchases and expropriations. If the current federal government gets in the way, we want to instruct municipal housing companies to use housing bonds or long-term loans to raise the money they need to be able to act immediately. Interest and instalment payments can then be raised from rents. In case of changing majorities in the federal government, the latter can take over the liabilities in order to further relieve tenants and municipalities.

- **Exercising municipal rights of first refusal**

We want to encourage and support municipalities in exercising their statutory pre-emption rights for land, houses and flats and thus transferring housing stock permanently into municipal, non-profit ownership. To this end, we want to strengthen the legal security of pre-emption rights for municipalities.

- **Expropriate Deutsche Wohnen & Co**

We advocate the communalisation of the housing stocks of large corporations, if necessary by expropriation. We expressly support petitions such as Deutsche Wohnen & Co. Expropriate.

- **Communal instead of private new building**

Where necessary, we want to promote the construction of new municipal housing quickly and decisively. On the other hand, we reject private new construction in municipalities with scarce building land, even with earmarking and price control or as leaseholds, in order to protect tenants from the profit interests of private investors in the long term.

- **Liveable, healthy, inclusive and ecological housing**

In order to make new and old housing stock liveable, healthy, inclusive and ecological, we want to make additional funds available to municipalities. With the participation of tenants, neighbours and the support of outstanding architectural firms, we want to create diverse, experimental and humane architecture that focuses on the health and well-being of people and the environment.

- **Rent-neutral climate refurbishments**

Climate protection and social concerns must not be played off against each other. That is why we want to guarantee rent-neutral climate refurbishment. We want to oblige landlords and housing companies to maximise the energy efficiency of their houses and flats by 2030. One hundred percent of the costs for materials and installation are to be reimbursed from a state climate renovation fund. Rent increases due to energy-efficient renovations must be excluded.

- **Form tenants' unions**

We encourage the formation of tenants' unions along the lines of those in Sweden and London in order to stand up to landlords.

- **Non-discriminatory housing**

To end massive discrimination based on racism in housing allocation, we want to introduce anonymous applications. Independent bodies should check whether potential tenants meet the landlord's credit criteria. Viewings should be open to all people who meet the creditworthiness criteria and should be decoupled from the application process. People who have been looking for housing for a long time or meet other social criteria should receive an additional priority notice with their credit rating, which is obligatory for landlords.

- **Rent moratorium in the face of acute social crises**

In the face of acute social crises, for example the Corona pandemic, we want to create a possibility to issue rent moratoriums. Until the end of an emergency, rents are to be frozen at pre-crisis levels and terminations and evictions are to be ruled out.

- **Purchase right for residents when selling houses**

When a house is sold, the residents are often evicted from their neighborhood in the medium term. We want to give residents a privilege to buy the houses in which they live and to manage them on a cooperative basis. The prerequisite is the agreement among the residents and the establishment or membership of a cooperative. We want to support self-managed property with cheap loans through KfW and the Landesbanken.

- **Nationwide rent cap and effective rent brake**

In order to stop the rapid increase of rents in many cities, we want to enact a nationwide rent cap. Municipalities are to be empowered by means of the rent cap to set municipal maximum rents. Furthermore, we want to tighten the rent brake. The possibility of rent increases should be limited to two percent per year without exceptions. We want to instruct authorities to take action against non-compliance with fines and criminal prosecution.

- **Land tax should no longer be apportioned to operating costs**

In order to relieve tenants directly, we want to prohibit the apportionment of property tax to operating costs.

- **Limit the apportionment of modernisation costs**

Modernisation must not lead to unaffordable rents. That is why we want to limit the distribution of modernisation costs incurred to the annual rent to four per cent and cap it at 1.50 euros per square metre for eight years.

- **Protection of tenants against termination of their tenancy**

In order to better protect tenants, we want to exclude the right to terminate new tenancy agreements for owner's use. For existing tenancy agreements, we want to exclude tenants who are over 60 years old or who have lived in the flat for more than 20 years from being forced to terminate their tenancy agreement. In addition, only partners, children or the landlord should be allowed to occupy the flat.

- **Reform of land law**

We advocate a reform of land law in urban and rural areas. Its perpetuity and indispensability can only be protected through public ownership. Only public permission to use it enables justice and preservation of a finite resource.

- **Restrict capital movements**

In order to prevent global speculation with housing and cross-border money laundering, we want to restrict the movement of capital between the EU and third countries for real estate. Housing and real estate should no longer be sold to people or companies who do not have or will not take up residence in the EU after the purchase.

- **Homelessness: Housing First**

We advocate a paradigm shift in measures for homeless people. People without shelter should not have to qualify for housing, but (as in Finland) should be provided

with housing without any preconditions or advance payments. In this new, secure starting position, it is easier for those affected to develop a perspective with the support of social workers. Municipal real estate companies should keep a certain contingent of flats available in order to be able to help quickly. We reject violent evictions of homeless people seeking shelter in public places.

- **Prevent evictions**

After rent arrears have been paid, we want to completely rule out notices of termination and evictions. Evictions that lead to homelessness should not be carried out.

- **Effectively regulate Airbnb & Co.**

In order to give municipalities the means to effectively regulate housing that is not used for its intended purpose, we advocate a nationwide law prohibiting the misappropriation of housing. The registration of housing offers on platforms such as Airbnb should only be possible with a valid registration number. Municipalities with a tight housing market should be allowed to decide for themselves whether and for how long flats may be rented out. Private, non-commercial landlords should be able to apply for their registration number online without red tape.

- **Protecting commercial tenants**

In order to stop displacement in heavily frequented areas and the development of monostructures, we want to better protect owner-managed shops and businesses. We advocate the removal of time limits on leases for tenants who run small, owner-operated, non-profit or cultural businesses. We want to limit commercial rents by means of a cap on commercial rents.

- **Democratise land and urban planning**

In order to democratise land and urban planning, we want citizens and residents to be involved in the development of spatial and land use plans by means of citizens' assemblies or neighbourhood councils.

## Health & Care: Excellent public care

Physical and mental integrity is a human right and must never be used as an object of profit for corporations. We advocate that hospitals, health workers and other service providers in the health sector should be funded exclusively by the state. This would eliminate the two-class society in health care that is created by private and statutory health insurance.

If the profit motive is removed, people will once again be at the centre of the healthcare system. In this way, everyone can expect the best quality of care, regardless of income. In addition, good salaries and working conditions can be created, especially for nursing staff.

- **Guarantee instead of insure**

Health care is not a luxury good, but a fundamental right for every human being. For this reason, we want to anchor precisely this right in the Basic Law or in a future European constitution. At the same time, the quality of care must not be dependent on income, status, nationality, gender or the like. That is why we want to end the two-class society in today's health and care system. We want to replace all statutory and private health insurances with a uniform and state-financed health system. In this way, the regressive social contributions that burden poor people in particular will disappear, as will the unequal treatment of people with private and statutory insurance. The wasteful and unnecessary bureaucracy of the countless health insurance companies will also be eliminated.

- **Improving services and quality**

In addition to fair financing of the health system, the services covered must also be revised. A state, an authority or a body cannot and must not make blanket decisions about which treatment or medication is or is not made available to patients. This decision must be made jointly by doctors and patients. All evidence-based medical

services that are considered necessary by both parties must be available to patients free of charge. Only experimental procedures or medicines or those whose effectiveness has not yet been clearly proven by studies should have to be confirmed by two additional doctors. We want to reimburse external costs that are a prerequisite for the use of health services, such as tickets for public transport or interpreting services.

- **Digitising the health system**

In order to make patient care as efficient and simple as possible, the entire health system should be digitalised. Electronic patient files and electronic prescriptions should give patients and doctors access to all medical data such as diagnoses, treatments, medication, etc. In addition to patient care, data protection should be a priority. In addition to patient care, data protection is a top priority. Access to personal data may only take place at the explicit request of the patient, which can be revoked at any time. An additional national patient portal should provide citizens with all the information they need about hospitals, practices, preventive care, check-ups, etc.

- **Extend sexual and reproductive rights**

Women must have the right to self-determined family planning. Therefore, we want to fully legalise abortions and abolish sections 218 and 219. Furthermore, we advocate that training to perform abortions should become part of specialist training. The costs of an abortion should be fully covered by health insurance. Contraceptives should be available free of charge. We want to abolish VAT on hygiene products.

- **Guarantee 1:1 care during births**

Women who give birth should have the right to personal, caring and loving attention and to excellent medical and psychosocial care. To this end, we want to create additional positions in clinics. In the medium term, we want to guarantee 1:1 care for births.

- **Addressing the nursing crisis**

The pandemic in the last two years has shown us how important nursing staff is for all of us. But demographic change will also place increasing demands on nursing staff. That is why we need 100,000 new jobs in nursing professions in the medium term. However, recruiting care workers from abroad is not compatible with a Europe of solidarity in the long run and also leads to wage dumping in the care sector. Instead, the nursing professions should finally be paid and appreciated according to their performance. Wages and working conditions should be set in nationally uniform and binding tariffs. The entire care sector is to be financed by the federal budget. However, care is to be organised at the state or municipal level in order to meet the different needs that prevail locally. In addition, we want to improve working conditions by democratising medical institutions.

- **Right to psychological counselling and psychotherapy**

We are committed to ensuring that everyone has the right to free, timely psychological counselling or psychotherapy. In order to secure and expand psychological care, every psychotherapist and medical psychotherapist should be allowed to provide therapies for patients in all recognised therapeutic procedures and to bill them via the statutory health insurance. Analogous to medical care, the duration of treatment or therapy should be universally adapted to the patient. We reject the prescribed capping of therapy hours. We want to create special therapy offers for people with experiences of discrimination and promote corresponding training.

- **Dealing with drugs**

The current prohibition of drugs has failed. The consequences of the current drug policy are a waste of police resources, criminalisation of users, no functioning protection of young people or prevention in the face of a constantly growing number of users. We advocate a new paradigm by fighting the negative consequences of

drug use and at the same time leaving each person the freedom to determine his or her own consumption behaviour.

Dealing with drugs, users and addicts is a health policy issue and not a case for the police. For this reason, we want to completely decriminalise drugs, following the example of Portugal. Consumers should not be prosecuted but, if necessary, receive support from addiction counsellors. We also want to create additional consumption rooms and free drug-checking services in Germany to enable addicts to use drugs safely and to offer them the support they need. The sale of drugs should take place in licensed shops to ensure the safe protection of minors. We want to prohibit advertising for drug purchase and use.

- **High standards of care and health throughout Europe**

To guarantee people across Europe the right to high standards of health and care, we advocate European minimum standards of public health care. We want to support regions where these standards are not achieved financially and, if necessary and desired, with know-how.

- **Building a self-sufficient European health care system**

In order not to be dependent on global supply chains in acute health crises such as a pandemic, we advocate the establishment of a self-sufficient European health care system. Important aids and medicines should be produced in Europe and, ensured by an extended guarantee obligation, should also be available in sufficient quantities in an emergency.

- **Price fixing for medicines**

In order to prevent the abuse of monopolies and patents in the pharmaceutical industry, we want to introduce price fixing for medicines, based on benefits, development and production costs.

- **Ensure gender-sensitive research**

Until now, medical research has often been based on studies with predominantly cis-male subjects. Through guidelines and additional research, we want to ensure that medicines and medical procedures are safe and effective for all genders.

- **Reform the Patients' Rights Act**

The legal enforcement of claims for damages by people who have suffered a treatment error usually fails because the patient can prove the doctor's error, but not the causality between the treatment error and the health damage that occurred. This regulation disadvantages multimorbid patients. Therefore, we want to introduce a reversal of the burden of proof. In addition, we advocate for a liability fund and a patient advocate's office based on the Austrian model, for people who cannot or do not want to face a legal dispute.

## Equality: redistribution of care work

Care work should be fairly distributed. We are therefore working to close the so-called gender care gap, i.e. the unequal distribution of care and household work between the sexes. By means of incentives, extended rights and a care income for women, parents, families and carers, we want to enable self-determined and equal gainful employment and care work.

- **Introduction of a care income**

Caring for others, such as caring for the elderly or looking after children, is valuable work and should be remunerated accordingly. The current care allowance or social benefits such as child benefit do not do justice to this. We therefore advocate for a care income that adequately pays full - and part-time care work - i.e. that is at least oriented towards the minimum wage. For a person with the highest care level, i.e. 24-hour care, this means an income of at least 7200 euros according to the current situation.

- **Enabling flexible care work**

In order to allow employees greater flexibility in care work, we want to guarantee more employees a reduction in working hours with the subsequent right to return to the old working hours. To this end, we want to extend the Part-Time Act to all employees who are entitled to a reduction in working hours under the Part-Time and Fixed-Term Act, as well as to all people who reduced their working hours during the corona pandemic, for example to care for children. In addition, we want to introduce the possibility of temporary time off from work.

- **Time off for fathers and co-mothers after childbirth**

To enable fathers and co-mothers to spend time with their child immediately after the birth, we advocate a two-week leave of absence (with full pay) for fathers and

co-mothers after the birth. Such time off enables fathers and co-mothers to take responsibility for parenthood at an early stage and thus strengthens families with equal rights. We also want to introduce the "5+5+2" parental leave model, following the Icelandic example. The non-transferable parental leave of five months each can be taken together or independently within 36 months after birth. The additional two months can be divided flexibly. Single parents can take the entire parental leave period. The maximum possible parental leave is 36 months per child.

- **Free day care places**

Currently, there is a shortage of 342,000 day-care placements in Germany. We want to create these Kita places and enable fee-free care in small groups.

## Employment: Right to good work

No one should have to experience involuntary unemployment. Our goal is therefore genuine full employment. If there are not enough jobs available in the private sector, it is the responsibility of the state to guarantee the right to work for everyone.

Productivity gains in the private sector should be passed on to workers in the form of higher wages and shorter working hours. We want to fight precarious employment and unfair or unequal pay.

We see automation as an opportunity to replace unattractive or unhealthy jobs. We reject the destruction of good jobs for the sake of profit.

- **Introduce a nationwide job guarantee**

Everyone should have the right to a meaningful, well-paid job in the public sector that promotes the common good. Municipalities should provide suitable offers that are tailored to local social and ecological needs as well as the wishes and abilities of the workers. The Job Guarantee is a voluntary offer for citizens, not an obligation. It is not intended to compete with the private sector, but to create meaningful jobs in areas of public interest, such as education, care, arts, environmental management, urban maintenance and security. Unnecessary, meaningless, bureaucratic jobs (so-called "bullshit jobs"), on the other hand, must not exist. Because the job guarantee is open to anyone, it sets a nationwide effective minimum wage and minimum conditions. The necessary funds are to be provided by the federal government's monetary possibilities.

- **30-hour week for all**

We want to support enterprises in introducing the 30-hour week. We want to subsidise 100 per cent of the additional costs associated with the reduction of working hours, such as increased personnel costs, in the first year, 75 per cent in the

second and 25 per cent in the third year. After a transitional period in which these subsidies are open to all companies, the 30-hour week is to become law.

- **Income guarantee for workers in CO2-intensive industries**

We want to decisively drive forward the socio-ecological transformation and thereby create thousands of good, green jobs. On the other hand, we want to get out of CO2-intensive industries such as the extraction and burning of coal. To ensure that workers do not have to accept losses, we want to create an income guarantee for employees in those industries that can no longer be operated in the course of the ecological transformation.

- **Public contracts only with good wages**

In order to create more jobs that are covered by collective agreements, we advocate for a Federal Collective Bargaining Act. It should stipulate that the federal government may only award contracts to companies that pay their employees according to collective agreements.

- **Good wages for entire sectors**

To ensure that good wages are paid in all companies in a sector, we want to make it easier to declare collective agreements generally binding. To this end, we want to reform the Collective Bargaining Act.

- **Prohibit fixed-term contracts without material grounds**

Fixed-term employment contracts are often used as a power strategy to make it more difficult for workers to represent their interests. We therefore want to ban fixed-term contracts without a material reason. Testing should not be a material reason, as this is already covered by the possibility to agree on a probationary period.

- **Regular employment relationships in the gig economy**

We want "freelance" contractors in platform companies to receive the same social benefits as contractors in regular employment, so that they cannot be further exploited in their position as "freelance" contractors. In addition, a higher level of data protection and privacy for contractors should be ensured in this framework, so that e.g. suppliers are not permanently monitored by platform operators.

## 4. Peace: For a new peace movement

### **What is it about?**

We want Germany to be a peaceful, open, safe country for all. We see the European continental and Mediterranean area as a space for peace and progress. Global justice and internationalism are the basis for our survival.

### **Why is this important?**

Because many people in Germany still live in great insecurity. Because numerous conflicts on the eastern and southern borders of Europe endanger peace. And because millions of people around the world are suffering from war, persecution, hunger or oppression - often enabled, promoted or deliberately accepted by those in power.

We want to do everything in our power to end violence and injustice and promote peace.

### **How can we do this?**

By limiting the power of the arms industry and the military, police and security authorities and by strengthening the rights of migrants. By transforming European foreign policy into a peace policy. And by finally ending the exploitation and oppression of the Global South.

### **Six key objectives:**

- Reliable data protection for the population
- Worldwide high-quality health care
- Abolish Frontex and replace it with a search and rescue mission
- Stop the relocation of external borders
- Global nuclear and military disarmament
- International debt justice

## Germany: For a peaceful, open, safe country

The Federal Republic of Germany is not yet a country in which all people can feel safe. We want to change that and make Germany a peaceful country for all its inhabitants.

We emphasise and support the need of all people to live in safety and to have their human rights respected. In view of Germany's history, openness and willingness to help those seeking protection are self-evident.

A peaceful and trusting coexistence of all people is the basis for prosperity and our ultimate goal. We resolutely oppose fundamentalist and fascist aspirations or misanthropy.

- **A state for all**

We want a state that is not necessarily territorially anchored, but is an administrative structure that has permeable borders and keeps an eye on the people who live or want to live together there in peace. An inside and an outside "merge" in a permeable space in which everyone is welcome. Every state activity should only serve the people and not abstract state goals to which the citizen must submit.

- **Internal security for residents**

We advocate that only a state conceived as open should have a narrowly defined monopoly on the use of force. We only want to tolerate military force for a transitional period until it is no longer necessary. We want to equip the security forces, which serve peace in the everyday lives of the people, at most in such a way that they have at their disposal what is necessary to exercise this power of peace. Under no circumstances may the armament have a threatening character (e.g. at demonstrations). We want to closely monitor their work through independent parliamentary control bodies.

We consider police work to be useful for the protection of fundamental rights and the constitution, the population as a whole and democratic institutions against attacks by terrorists. This important work must not be privatised under any circumstances.

- **Help for the homeless**

We want to help homeless people and not leave anyone in involuntary homelessness. Regardless, we oppose any hostility towards homeless people. The devaluation of homeless people quickly turns into hostility, exclusion and violent attacks. We firmly reject the widespread utilitarian thinking - that homeless people are idle and do not contribute to society, therefore they are useless and therefore worth less than other, working people. To end discrimination against homeless people, we want to raise the issue publicly and draw attention to anti-human practices. We reject eviction actions and banishment from cities and public spaces. We want to improve the training of security and law enforcement officials in dealing with the homeless. We want to publicly commemorate the homeless people murdered by the National Socialists. We recognise the criminalisation of homeless people until 1967 and in the GDR until 1989 as contrary to human rights and campaign for compensation.

- **Peaceful citizens without weapons**

Peaceful citizens are not armed. We want to impose strict regulations on the private possession of weapons and restrict their use in sport and hunting.

- **Reliable data protection for the population**

Data giants like Google maintain extensive collections of our data, to which domestic and foreign secret services can gain unhindered access. This does not guarantee the protection of the population. We want to reliably protect end-to-end data

encryption and thus fight mass surveillance without any prior warning. If private data is read, it must be a legal requirement that the data subject is informed immediately. In addition, we want to introduce a regulation that requires discovered IT security vulnerabilities (zero-day exploits) to be reported directly to the manufacturer and not to better-paying third parties, so that these vulnerabilities can be eliminated directly and data systems remain unaffected.

- **Abolish domestic intelligence services**

The past has shown that the domestic intelligence services do not fulfil their tasks and lack democratic control. The Military Counter-Intelligence Service (MAD) is not able to protect the German armed forces from extremism, especially right-wing extremism, the Federal Intelligence Service (BND) repeatedly cooperated with repressive dictatorships and uses illiberal practices, and the Office for the Protection of the Constitution (Verfassungsschutz) is not able to protect the constitution, as could be observed in the NSU complex. Therefore, we want to abolish the domestic intelligence services (State Offices for the Protection of the Constitution and the Federal Office for the Protection of the Constitution) and hand over their portfolio of tasks to the civilian investigation and prosecution authorities (police and public prosecutors), so that they can deal with this in a constitutionally accountable manner. Furthermore, we will introduce close parliamentary control of the BND and the MAD.

- **The Bundeswehr in public life**

The Bundeswehr, like any military, is fundamentally opposed to a free and liberal and thus peaceful society. For this reason, the Bundeswehr must visually disappear from public space (e.g. through advertising or wearing a uniform). Furthermore, we want the Bundeswehr to be banned from advertising at schools, universities and the employment office.

- **Legal protection for all people**

We want everyone to have access to justice without financial barriers. Public prosecutors' offices should not be bound by instructions, a practice still practised in Germany that violates European law. This opens the door to politically motivated and other abuses. We want to introduce an independent democratic supervisory body to prevent undesirable developments.

- **Resocialisation instead of punishment**

We want to rethink the prison system. The focus must be on resocialisation, not punishment. The Norwegian penal system can serve as a model here. Work in prison must be voluntary and paid at least the minimum wage. Prisoners should not have to pay for their accommodation.

- **Standing up for humanism and democracy**

We stand for humanism and democracy. As the people showed in 2015 during the migration crisis and again and again, a humanist society is possible. This means helping people in need, giving them security and the right to life. Our policy is based on the Geneva Conventions, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the EU Charter of the Fundamental Rights of Every Human Being. We understand the legal words "of every human being" literally and not as "of every human being born within the EU".

- **Uniform treatment of migrants**

We advocate that no distinction is made between so-called "political" and "economic" migrants or refugees. It is a fictitious distinction that leads to discriminatory policies and a discriminatory society that disempowers those who have arrived and ultimately pushes them into underemployment, exploitation and to the margins of society. We recognise that migration is an extreme circumstance and rarely happens voluntarily and lightly.

- **Fast, fair and conclusive asylum procedures**

We want to implement fast and fair asylum procedures without undermining the legal guarantees of asylum seekers. To this end, we want to abolish the bureaucratic separation of asylum claims and asylum applications and speed up the procedures. In addition, procedures should be completed so that an end is put to the constant extension of residence tolerations, which denies people a dignified life. Furthermore, access to legal assistance must be granted from the day of entry into the EU.

- **Recognising and supporting new arrivals**

We want to grant access to language courses and qualification from the very beginning and without differentiation between migrants with "good" or "bad" prospects of staying. We also want to implement unrestricted access to education and vocational training and introduce full recognition of foreign degrees and vocational diplomas. This will enable people to build a dignified life for themselves according to their work experience and qualifications.

- **Right to work for migrants**

In our system, migrants are kept in a state of illegality and then have to do unskilled, low-paid work. We therefore want equal rights for asylum seekers so that wage dumping can no longer take place. All must be entitled to the same rights, benefits and protection as other workers. The job guarantee will prevent the playing off of different population groups against each other and offer a well-paid job to all.

- **Access to health care for all**

We want to provide equal and unrestricted access to physical and mental health care. In addition, we want to guarantee the necessary help to particularly vulnerable groups. Therefore, staff specially trained in trauma should process the admission of women\* and minors and provide psychological help. Furthermore, shelters must be a safe place for women\* and minors where they do not have to be afraid.

- **Enable family reunification**

States are obliged under international and European law to protect the family. On the basis of non-discrimination, persons enjoying subsidiary protection (non-recognised refugees) must have access to the same rights as recognised refugees. Another major obstacle for beneficiaries of international protection to access family reunification is the high level of documentation that Member States may require when submitting an application. We want UNHCR to assist in obtaining the necessary documents. We also want to respect the right to family reunification and apply a broader definition of family members to include not only people who are part of the nuclear family.

- **Improving reception facilities**

In the current situation, attempts are being made to make reception facilities more flexible by lowering standards across the EU. Instead of standardising European reception facilities and reducing them to the lowest common denominator, we want to introduce minimum quality standards that are directly implemented in all member states. Reasons for flight such as gender or gender identity must be taken into account in accommodation.

- **Strengthening the municipalities**

We want to make more capacities and resources available to the municipalities. We want to provide them with the personnel and financial resources they need to help migrants, especially during their time of arrival.

## Europe: A space for peace and progress

The humanitarian crisis and the deaths in the Mediterranean, the lasting economic crisis for large parts of the population, the ongoing conflicts especially in the periphery and an incipient climate catastrophe show that Europe is not the continent of human rights and peace it likes to be portrayed as.

Our aim is to make the European continental and Mediterranean area a space of peace and progress through a new lived humanism, disarmament and the Green New Deal for Europe.

We are committed to finally putting an end to the deaths in the Mediterranean and leading the EU back to its values. We want to see no more fossil fuel extraction in Europe and the Mediterranean, i.e. no new drilling taking place and no new gas pipelines being built. Instead, we are counting on a common sustainable energy union of the European countries and the neighbouring countries in the South and East.

- **Border regions as meeting places**

We focus on activities that promote and foster peace and friendship. In border regions, relations between people unfold through friendly relations with each other, which are also often culturally based. Catalonia, the Basque Country, Moldova, Germany/Belgium, Germany/Luxembourg, Germany/France, Greece/Turkey, Romania/Hungary, Austria/Czech Republic are just a few European examples of this fact. We want to promote cultural and sporting exchange in such border regions.

- **Formation of a pan-European security architecture**

Existing conflicts, such as the one in Ukraine, can only be defused and eliminated through a pan-European security architecture involving all European countries. We want to build this pan-European security architecture and thus make NATO

superfluous. The core objectives of this security architecture are to be joint disarmament, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and peaceful coexistence throughout the continent. We want to equip the military forces that cannot be dispensed with in a transitional period for defence in such a way that they are not perceived as a threat either internally or externally.

- **Living a peaceful culture**

We want to address emerging and ongoing conflicts proactively and non-violently through mediation and manage them through civilian-oriented peacekeeping measures with a neutral mandate. In societies that have experienced conflict, we want to work actively to come to terms with what has happened and to restore justice. We want to break the hegemony of violence in our culture and replace it with lived values of a peaceful global humanity.

- **Ending the policy of threats**

We consider threat politics in any form, whether as a punitive goal, in international politics or as a military means, to be outdated and not sustainable. Threat politics only works through the artificial construction of an image of the enemy. Insisting on security interests and acting accordingly (for example, arming to achieve deterrence) ultimately leads to political instability and is diametrically opposed to peace. In order to end the age of threat politics and armament, Europe should work for cooperation between all countries with the aim of destroying all military means.

- **Respect for existing commitments**

We want to implement and respect the existing treaties and commitments of the EU and its member states on humanitarian action. We stand for the respect of the internationally protected fundamental right of non-refoulement by EU member states as well as by countries working in partnership with the EU (e.g. in the case of Libya). Asylum applications must not be rejected by invoking the concept of "safe third

country" or "first country of asylum", as this would mean the de facto end of the right to asylum in the EU.

- **Abolish Frontex and replace it with a search and rescue mission**

Thousands of people drown in the Mediterranean every year. Non-governmental organisations have been filling the gap of SAR (Search and Rescue) missions for years and are punished for their life-saving missions with harsh criminalisation and restrictions on missions. Only the EU can comprehensively coordinate the saving of lives in the Mediterranean, but for this to happen, saving people must become the top priority. Any military or coast guard intervention in the Mediterranean aimed at fighting smugglers' boats must be stopped, because the best fight against smugglers is to open safe routes. The example of the Greek-Turkish border shows that increased border surveillance with the support of Frontex has led migrants to choose more dangerous routes.

Frontex is part of the problem and not the solution. We therefore want to abolish Frontex and use the agency's resources to launch a European search and rescue mission in the Mediterranean that exceeds the scope of the Italian Mare Nostrum operation. Our goal is the full responsibility and commitment of state actors to fulfil their mandate to save lives at sea.

- **Evacuate camps on Greek islands**

We advocate for the evacuation of all camps on the Greek islands but also along the Balkan route and elsewhere. We want to distribute the people to host communities in Europe. We want to end the so-called "hotspot system" of migration control and quickly improve the living conditions of migrants. The detention of immigrants in closed reception centres must be ended, especially the internment of children.

- **Common European Asylum Procedure**

We want to abolish the Dublin procedure and replace it with a Common European Asylum System (CEAS), which respects international and European law and guarantees the fundamental rights of migrated people. The right of non-refoulement must be guaranteed - we must not send people back to places where they face persecution, torture and other human rights violations.

- **Stop the externalisation of the external borders**

We want to stop the externalisation of EU borders and migration controls. States outside the EU are currently encouraged to prevent migrants from travelling further or to intercept and send them back (e.g. EU-Turkey Agreement, EU-Sudan Agreement or EU-Libya cooperation). The aim here is to prevent migrants, including asylum seekers, from entering the jurisdiction or territory outside their own country without individually assessing the merits of their claims for protection.

We therefore want the immediate suspension of any externalisation of EU borders and migration controls, the rejection of the Global Approach to Migration and Mobility (GAMM) and to live up to the EU's responsibility by allowing people to seek protection on European territory. We also want to develop a sustainable long-term strategy based on human rights in cooperation with civil society and experts.

- **Supporting humanitarian work**

We want to stop the criminalisation of humanitarian aid immediately. We want to thank fishermen, firefighters and other people who rescue migrants instead of punishing them. Ships of private search and rescue NGOs should be released immediately so that more lives can be saved. Civil society already shows through the commitment of groups and movements such as Sea Bridge or Seawatch that there is a social interest in making Europe a place for all. We want to support these organisations financially, institutionally and operationally.

We additionally want to introduce specific EU visas for human rights defenders, persecuted opposition activists and other activists to enable rapid evacuations, but also conference participation and international networking.

## Global justice: internationalism or extinction

We recognise our historical responsibility and know that our actions have facilitated the climate crisis and environmental degradation.

It is the consequences of a system in the interests of finance and agribusiness that is largely responsible for the current mass extinction of all non-human life on our planet, global warming, soil erosion, water scarcity, agrochemical pollution and the perpetuation of imperialist oppression and extermination of fellow indigenous people and small farmers in the Global South.

We consider the destruction of the environment and the climate as an attack on humanity. Destruction must be considered an injustice and a crime against humanity when it is committed or tolerated by states or corporations.

We want to fight climate change together and resolutely and create a world that allows humanity to live in harmony with the environment. Because if we do not finally think internationalistically, we will become extinct.

- **Expanding international cooperation**

We want to expand cooperation in all areas, but especially in science, culture and the economy. This cooperation must take place on an equal footing, and the distribution of any form of capital must be fair. We advocate a stronger treaty framework on international waters and Antarctica, as well as the creation of a treaty framework on the sharing of outer space.

As part of Progressive International (PI), we want to fight for a peaceful world and global justice together with our allied organisations and friends.

- **Natural international solidarity**

In times of a global pandemic, solidarity becomes a duty. In Germany, publicly funded research has contributed to the development of a first-in-class mRNA vaccine against COVID-19. This is an enormous achievement. However, the effectiveness of vaccines for those who do not have access to them is zero. The fact that a small number of vaccine manufacturers monopolistically control how much vaccine is produced and where has led to a severe shortage of vaccine doses. Billions of people are without access to vaccines.

Donating surplus vaccines to developing countries, while important, is not a sustainable solution - the problem of vaccine shortages is one of both distribution and supply. This challenge is complicated by the fact that Germany and other high-income countries want to offer booster vaccines to their citizens while billions of people are still unvaccinated. There are skilled manufacturers around the world who, with a temporary suspension of intellectual property rights and the necessary transfer of knowledge and technology, could produce billions more safe and effective vaccine doses needed to combat the pandemic. It is essential that countries in the Global South can produce their own vaccines and dramatically increase their supply. We need vaccines for all people - more than ever.

We are therefore committed to ensuring that German and European pharmaceutical companies share the life-saving mRNA vaccine technology quickly and transparently with qualified manufacturers around the world. This includes working with the World Health Organization's COVID-19 Technology Access Pool and the mRNA hub in South Africa. We support the temporary suspension of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on intellectual property. Germany must take immediate and frontline action to ensure that the world's population can be fully vaccinated as soon as possible, and action must set an example for future epidemics and other global events.

- **International debt justice**

No one deserves to spend a lifetime paying interest on loans he or she took out to save the life of a family member, to get an education or to feed children. We want a truly internationalist solidarity movement that makes clear the links between debt and (racialised) capitalism and that aims for justice, not just short-term relief.

We live in a world of debt. The extent of global "debt" cannot be overstated. Different dynamics - hedge funds raking in profits in a pandemic, students struggling to get an education, micro-borrowers on the brink of bankruptcy - are different manifestations of the same basic structural mechanism at the heart of the global financial system: the endless cycle of privatised gains and socialised losses. Simply put, the rich get richer while the poor - by design - remain poor.

We want to end this cycle, together with solidarity movements around the world and as part of Progressive International (PI), and build a plan for a new just international financial architecture.

- **A new development policy**

The daily lives of billions of people on this planet are determined by post-colonial structures of exploitation. This reality ranges from international military affairs and violent border security to global trade and health agreements. As a basis for development policy, we want a serious reflection on colonialism and its continuing legacy on the part of the former colonial powers, including Germany.

We want a paradigm shift in development cooperation that leaves behind the racist narrative of donor and recipient states. Instead, international funds should be understood as reparations for colonial crimes and the significant culpability of industrialised countries like Germany for the climate crisis. Since those countries especially suffer from the consequences of the climate crisis that historically have hardly contributed anything to greenhouse gas emissions, Germany and Europe have to compensate accordingly and contribute to a decarbonisation of national economies as well as to the renaturation of societies in the Global South.

We want to overcome the Eurocentric notion of the superiority of Western development and upgrade and support indigenous socio-ecological structures. This is necessary not least because 80% of the remaining forests on the planet are protected by 370 million indigenous people.

- **Protection for regional self-sufficiency**

In our economic system, there is often international competition to undercut social, human rights and ecological standards. This also leads to the fact that real wages in Germany have hardly risen in recent years.

State sovereignty is increasingly limited by the legalisation of corporate interests in the context of free trade and investment protection agreements. Agreements such as TTIP, CETA and Mercosur are negotiated behind closed doors under the strong influence of the business lobby. The state's room for manoeuvre to enact laws for the common good is becoming smaller and smaller, because companies and investors can sue states in undemocratic international arbitration courts if such laws lead to profit losses.

We therefore want to actively support less industrialised countries in effectively protecting their own economies in order to build local and regional structures and become less dependent on imports from richer countries. We also want to remove undemocratic international arbitration tribunals from all international agreements.

- **Transparent and fair supply chains**

Global value chains put pressure on working conditions. This is especially true in countries that rely on low-skilled and low-value export sectors (e.g. cereals, textiles, garments) or in countries that are heavily dependent on the extraction of raw materials. As value chains are organised more and more flexibly and the most profitable location is always chosen, the producing countries are in fierce competition with each other. To attract foreign investors, they are forced to create incentives in

the form of tax breaks, low labour and environmental standards or so-called special economic zones (enclaves subject to special economic and labour regulations). As a result, it is estimated that more than three quarters of workers in low-income countries are in precarious employment.

We want to commit German and European companies to human rights and environmental standards for their entire value chains through corporate due diligence. Those affected along the value chain should be able to sue in the country where the company is based in order to claim their rights. To this end, we want to implement a comprehensive legal regulation at the level of national, EU and international law.

- **Fair distribution of value added**

There are compelling reasons to restructure the existing international division of labour in order to regionalise and localise trade relations and promote shorter value chains. The social and environmental costs hitherto outsourced by companies must be reflected in the price of a commodity or (pre-)product.

In order to minimise the volume of traded goods, we want to promote circular economy and sufficiency by the state. Shorter value chains are also more resilient to shocks such as the consequences of the Covid 19 pandemic. In addition, regional trade means a smaller ecological footprint.

- **International tax justice**

International taxation needs to more accurately reflect value creation. Currently, taxable profits generated in global value chains are allocated among participating countries according to the value added in each country. Value added is measured in monetary terms. This leads to injustice, as low prices for labour and goods from poorer countries reflect power differentials. Digitalisation exacerbates these trends as it shifts value creation even further towards sophisticated services. It also enables various forms of tax evasion.

To counteract these effects, we want to work towards a new form of progressive taxation in a global system. Countries where little monetary added value has been created due to cheap labour and commodity prices must receive a proportionately higher share of the total amount of taxes paid.

- **Fair trade instead of free trade**

Free trade promises prosperity and international understanding. It is advertised as a global division of labour that is supposed to bring benefits for all. But power relations, the continuation of colonial structures and the profit interests of multinational corporations are usually not mentioned. Less industrialised countries are left behind stronger economies that have gained a competitive advantage over the last centuries. They are therefore reduced to exporting raw materials and cheap products, while economies like Germany benefit from high-value exports (machinery, vehicles, services, etc.). This further increases global inequality. In addition, free trade fuels the climate crisis through long transport routes and the clearing of rainforests for agricultural land.

We want to restructure world trade, starting with EU trade. Regional production should be promoted in order to shorten transport routes. We want to terminate existing agreements and renegotiate them with the aim of improving working conditions and environmental standards. In the process, power asymmetries and colonial injustices should be recognised and addressed.

- **Shared prosperity worldwide**

Combating the causes of flight as a central goal of current German development policy must not mean fighting refugees. Instead, trade, industry and agriculture must be put at the service of employment and ecological balance. Development policy goals can only be achieved if agricultural, industry and trade policies do not - as is currently the case - have a counterproductive effect.

More production in the Global South will help create jobs and prosperity. We want to fight together and in solidarity for globally shared prosperity for all people.

- **Fighting hunger and implementing food sovereignty**

Although farmers produce enough food to feed 1.5 times the world's population, about one billion people go to sleep hungry every night. In addition, there are nearly two billion sufferers of "hidden hunger" (chronic micronutrient deficiencies) and a steadily growing number of overweight people.

The greed for profit of a few is destroying all diversity of life on our planet. Only one percent of farms cultivate more than 70 percent of the world's arable land. And yet small-scale food webs feed 70 per cent of the world's population. Small-scale farmers work with an estimated 7000 species worldwide. And although traditional indigenous territories now cover only 22 % of the world's land area, they preserve 80 % of our remaining terrestrial biodiversity.

We want to correct this grotesque imbalance and transform the global value chain into regional cycles. This is why food sovereignty is our first priority as a development policy goal. In addition, the development of resilient structures in the areas of trade, education and health must be promoted. Development policy projects should not be selected and implemented according to Western ideas of profit maximisation, but must serve to build and strengthen local structures. In authoritarian states, greater cooperation with civil society groups and initiatives must be sought. Development funds must not be used as start-up financing for the private sector, as is often the case at present.

- **Dismantling of all border fortifications**

Every human being must have the right to move freely on this planet, to leave countries and to enter countries. Segregation neither serves its purpose nor is it compatible with a peaceful world. It is an anti-human idea that has been shaping our world for too long. Closed borders lead to inequality and death, so our goal is to

keep them open and to consistently dismantle existing walls, barbed wire fences and other border fortifications.

- **Worldwide nuclear and military disarmament**

We want to live in a world without weapons of mass destruction so that people do not have to fear annihilation. We therefore want to ban the possession of weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, biological and chemical). For us, there is also no such thing as "world police" sent on so-called peace missions. Such forces pose a threat to peace at any time.

We know that German and European arms exports contribute to the movement of refugees across the planet. We recognise that the causes of this forced migration lie in European actions in world history and the present. We therefore want to ban exports from the German arms industry immediately, with the aim of abolishing arms production altogether. We also want to drastically cut the budget for armaments and the research and development of new forms of warfare, such as robotics and cyber warfare. Internationally, joint military disarmament and corresponding treaties must be enforced.

- **Ban the export of digital surveillance technology**

We want to ban the export of digital surveillance technology that is used to monitor and prosecute journalists, whistleblowers, opposition figures and activists. For technology that at least enables surveillance and prosecution (dual use), we want to introduce strict export controls that are linked to the observance of human rights and freedom of the press.

- **End unilateral and harmful sanctions**

International sanctions have become an instrument of coercion and collective punishment. We want to use this instrument only as a last resort and in limited areas,

completely excluding sanctions on essential goods and services. Only trade in tools of civilian oppression and armaments can be sanctioned in exceptional cases. We also want a definitive end to the imposition of unilateral sanctions and European complicity in supporting them.

- **International jurisdiction**

We want to work towards a powerful international jurisdiction. War crimes must be punished, no matter who commits them, where they are committed and for what purpose. The only exception to this can be a general amnesty if this makes sense for the peace process.

Furthermore, we want responsibility for other types of crimes to be accepted internationally. Criminal fines must not only be recoverable by companies, as this is simply calculated in, but individuals must also be able to be held liable for their deeds.

In addition, we want to redesign international law to support the ideas of justice and equality - it must then also grant reparations. Such reparations could take the form of compensation to individuals, groups and countries for violating basic norms of humanity that have underpinned international law since its inception.

# 5. Diverse Society: Combating Discrimination and Misanthropy

## **What is it about?**

It is about how we can achieve and maintain an open, diverse society. And it is about how we want to deal with discrimination and group-based hostility.

## **Why is this important?**

Because very many people are still oppressed and discriminated against. That is not compatible with a democratic society. In order to enable everyone to live a free and self-determined life, we must above all sensitise people to structural discrimination and combat it effectively.

## **How can this be done?**

First, by trying to understand them. To do this, we want to pay attention to the intersectionality of discrimination. Often people are discriminated against, not only because of one, but several causes.

Secondly, by understanding that we are also part of the problem. Discrimination is deeply rooted - in our history and society as well as in our own structures and minds. We want to make it visible and raise awareness.

Thirdly, by changing existing structures that discriminate or promote discrimination. We want to support those affected and their organisations.

## **Seven key objectives:**

- Guarantee participation
- No discrimination for LGBTIAQ+
- Self-determination for all
- Reduce racist stereotyping
- Combat anti-Semitism
- Defend religious freedom
- Extend legal aid

## Police violence: raising awareness, prevention and consistent prosecution

The task of security authorities such as police, customs, constitutional protection or fire brigade is to protect our democratic society and to guarantee the fundamental rights of all people. Unfortunately, many people have very different experiences when dealing with these state agencies - sexist, homophobic, anti-disability and racist.

Every single racist, sexist, homophobic, anti-Semitic or otherwise anti-human rights incident is not only an attack on the person concerned or on an individual group, but an attack on a free, diverse society as a whole. Therefore, we strongly advocate for prevention and awareness-raising measures, but also for the consistent and uncompromising prosecution and legal prevention of violence and discrimination by security authorities.

- **Expand awareness-raising and evaluation**

Current police work is not sufficiently evaluated. We therefore advocate permanent evaluation by anti-discrimination officers. Furthermore, we want to create psychological counselling services for staff in all investigative authorities. For all police officers, especially those who have been on duty for a long time, we want to introduce regular mandatory training, knowledge updates and awareness-raising seminars, for example on de-escalating communication techniques or human and civil rights.

- **Abolish racial profiling**

Racial profiling is not only incompatible with the principle of equal treatment and the presumption of innocence, but also reinforces stereotypes and promotes structural racism. Actual crimes are not prevented by racial profiling. We advocate for the complete abolition of this practice.

- **Establish external investigative bodies**

Every year, thousands of cases of disproportionate police violence are reported. Nevertheless, there are hardly any convictions, which suggests a structural problem. To remedy this, we want to establish external investigation units. They should be responsible for investigating allegations of serious police violence and other human rights violations by the police (e.g. torture practices). As in Scotland, they must be equipped with extensive criminal investigation powers and be heterogeneous in its composition, i.e. also include staff without police training and ties.

- **Video surveillance under neutral supervision**

The German police, through video surveillance - which is currently subject to their supervision - generally have the role of the controller of the recordings in the first place.

In order to protect citizens, however, data collection and storage would have to take place under neutral supervision. The power of disposal over the recordings should not lie with the police. In order to protect citizens, we are also in favour of the above-mentioned video surveillance and recording of persons taken into custody, despite data protection concerns. We want to oblige police officers to wear so-called body cams, which cannot be switched off while on duty.

- **Reform admission requirements for police training**

We want to reform the admission requirements for police training. As in other fields of study, shortened training or extended internships in social or human rights-oriented organisations and institutions should become part of the admission requirements.

- **Changing the existing principle of legality**

The current strict rule in Germany that police officers must immediately report a possible crime committed by colleagues (as witnesses), because otherwise they are complicit by hesitating, is counterproductive in practice. Every person who gets into a violent situation that he or she may not have expected needs time for a confidential discussion afterwards. The existing principle of legality, on the other hand, inevitably leads to psychological overload for the police officers concerned (colleagues of the police perpetrators). We therefore want to give police officers a period of at least 48 hours after the occurrence of disproportionate police violence to file a complaint.

# Racism: For a society without discrimination!

We are committed to overcoming racism. We reject and strongly condemn every form of racism, ethnopluralism, biologism and cultural essentialism.

- **Extend the Equal Treatment Act**

We welcome the General Equal Treatment Act as well as the work of the Federal Anti-Discrimination Agency, but consider them insufficient to overcome racism. In order to implement the EU Equality Directives, UN Resolution 2142 (XXI), which calls for the "Elimination of all forms of racial discrimination" and minimum standards going beyond this, we want to expand the Equal Treatment Act together with those affected and associations of those affected.

- **Deletion of the "race" concept**

We support the replacement of the long outdated "race" term from the Basic Law and in all other applicable laws and regulations, as the use of the word "race" suggests that there are in fact different races of people. Furthermore, we endorse the "Jena Declaration" of the German Zoological Society, which understands the concept of race as "the result of racism and not [as] its precondition". We therefore want to replace the term "race" with discrimination on "racial grounds".

- **Compensation for the genocide of the Herero and Nama peoples**

We advocate that the genocide of the Herero and Nama in the colony of German South-West Africa during the years 1904 to 1908 be recognised as genocide. It must be anchored as such in the curricula and in the culture of remembrance. The descendants of the victims must be compensated.

- **Inclusion of groups with experiences of racism**

In order to create an anti-racist, anti-discriminatory and democratic policy and society, we want to better involve groups with experiences of racism in democratic procedures. These include, for example: Black and Person of Colour (BPoC), Roma, Sinti, Travellers, Yenish, Pavee, caravan dwellers, Forains, refugees, Russian-Germans, contingent refugees, migrants, expatriates and Sans-Papiers (undocumented migrants). We want to support affected people's associations in opposing any group-based misanthropy. We are very concerned about the increase in racist attitudes and attacks in recent years. We want to fight them with all means. In doing so, we refrain from simple blaming, especially of workers, but look at structural causes such as the historically deep-rooted connection between capitalism and racism.

- **Expand youth work critical of racism**

We want to further develop youth work critical of racism by following the guidelines of the Amadeu Antonio Foundation.

- **Reduce racist stereotyping in the media**

In order to reduce racist stereotyping in the media, we want to involve representatives of associations of people affected by racism more in the broadcasting councils and revise guidelines with the Press Council.

- **Raise awareness of racism among public authorities**

In order to sensitise public authorities and other state institutions to racism, we advocate the comprehensive training of all staff. In addition, we want to promote the creation of counsellors and advice centres to better support those affected by racism.

- **Day against Racism and Day for Human Rights to become a public holiday**

In order to further sensitise a broad public to the issues of racism and human rights, we advocate declaring the International Day against Racism on 21 March and Human Rights Day on 10 December as public holidays.

# Gender Equality & Sexual Diversity: Self-Determination for All

Heteronormativity and the idea that there are only two genders are tacitly accepted as politically and socially "normal". People who fall outside this norm are marked as "other" and continue to be excluded. We therefore support the right to sexual and gender diversity in society and to self-determination.

To enable all people to live a free and self-determined life, we want to stop discrimination in law and in all areas of life.

- **Sexual self-determination**

A person's gender identity must be self-determined. We therefore want to abolish any indication of gender in public documents. Where this is not possible, we want to make it possible to change the gender entry in an uncomplicated way and free of charge. In this context, we explicitly consider it insufficient to provide only the options male, female and diverse, but advocate the free choice of gender entry, or at least the extension of the options, in consultation with self-advocacy groups of those affected.

- **Making name changes possible**

A person's name is also part of their right to free development. We reject the judicial hearing and approval of name changes for trans\* and inter\*gender people as a superfluous additional hurdle. Instead, we want to reform the law on names along the lines of English law: Everyone should be allowed to take on one or more names of their choice, without judicial approval.

- **Stop medically unnecessary gender reassignment surgery on children**

We campaign for an immediate halt to medically unnecessary gender reassignment surgery on intersex\* children. Just like conversion therapies, they are interventions in

physical and mental integrity that violate human rights and must therefore be prosecuted as criminal bodily harm. The victims must be recognised and compensated.

We want to finance gender reassignment surgeries on persons capable of giving consent as medically necessary interventions. They must not be excluded from coverage as supposedly cosmetic or unnecessary operations, or treated differently from other recognised surgical procedures.

- **Stop discrimination in the health sector**

We are committed to raising awareness of discrimination in the health care system, for example in relation to homophobic blood donor regulations or insensitive language that creates unnecessary hurdles when seeking medical services.

Transsexual men often experience the examinations at the gynaecologist as a traumatic experience because the gynaecologists are often overwhelmed in dealing with these patients. This leads to diseases not being recognised because patients cannot or do not want to face the discrimination and the traumatic experience again. We want to work towards developing gynaecologists' offices into a safe space instead of a place for traumatic experiences.

We are also campaigning for the removal of Gender Identity Disorder from the ICD, where it is listed as F64 in the list of mental illnesses.

- **Equality in law**

We want legal equality in all areas of law and recognition of lesbian, gay, bi\*, trans\*, inter\*, a\* and queer people. To achieve this, we want to fight gender-based violence and sexual harassment and abuse. In all public institutions, we want to set up equal opportunities commissioners and trust centres to receive complaints from citizens about homophobic and sexist attacks. We want to expand hate crime laws to include anti-sexist, anti-transphobic and anti-homophobic provisions.

- **No discrimination for LGBTIAQ+ parents**

We want to end discrimination against LGBTIAQ+ parents in the joint exercise of child custody and recognise the parenthood of same-sex couples. Furthermore, we want to develop a legal and social framework with social and psychological structures in which co-parenting can be experimented with, whereby more than two people can, may and should exercise parenthood and custody (e.g. a lesbian and a gay couple agreeing to co-parent their children together).

- **Mandatory consultation and quotas**

To ensure that the voices and perspectives of women\* and the LGBTIAQ+ community are heard in the Bundestag and parliaments, we advocate for mandatory consultation of feminist and LGBTIAQ+ organisations in all decisions in the parliamentary context that affect women and people of the LGBTIAQ+ community socially and politically. Furthermore, we support the creation of quotas for women\* and LGBTIAQ+.

- **Expand psychological care units and support structures**

We want to expand psychological support units for women and LGBTIAQ+ victims in all parts of the country, especially in small communities and rural areas as well as at universities, colleges and schools, so that they can be reached quickly and at low thresholds. In addition, we want to create social support structures (feeding-housing) for people who are socially excluded because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

- **Stricter judicial ethics in cases of gender-based violence and discrimination**

Gender stereotypes or the assumption of the existence of a rape culture must not be used to defend an accused person, as has often happened in the past. We want to

create measures to enforce a stricter judicial ethic. We want to include the term "femicide" for the murder of women for gender-specific motives in the penal code.

- **Stricter media ethics on gender-based violence and discrimination**

The media should not reproduce social stereotypes that justify violence and stigmatise victims (victim blaming). We therefore want to work with the Press Council to improve guidelines for the media on how to refer to incidents of gender-based violence and discrimination.

- **Include sexual diversity in curricula**

We support educational measures that contribute to the acceptance of the diversity of sexual identities, rainbow families and ethnic and cultural identities. For this, we want to add basics from gender theory to the curriculum so that the culture of gender inequality, stereotypes and discrimination can be dismantled from an early age.

- **Campaigns to break down social stereotypes**

Together with feminist and LGBTIAQ+ organisations, we advocate for publicity campaigns to dismantle societal stereotypes of patriarchy and increase acceptance of gender diversity and multiple sexual orientations.

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- **Celebrate International Day Against IDAHOBIT**

In order to reach out to the whole of society, we want to make the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia, Interphobia and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT) a public holiday on 17 May. We also advocate for the introduction of an associated theme week in schools.

- **Inclusive and gender-neutral language in the public sector**

We advocate for the use of inclusive, gender-neutral language in the public sector and, through procurement law, in publicly funded jobs.

## Sexism: Stop discrimination against women\*

We condemn all forms of gynophobia, misogyny, sexism and anti-feminism. Underlying them is a fundamental rejection of the emancipation of women\*. For us, emancipation is an indispensable step towards achieving a democratic society - a process that is far from complete.

Equality for women\* is a prerequisite for any other participation and equality, because 50.8% of the population are women\*. To discriminate against them is to include less than half of society. We therefore support feminist movements in their diversity. Their recognition that gender roles and stereotypes are social constructions is fundamental to our politics. Sex or gender are not "given by nature", but are man-made and thus changeable.

- **Effectively closing the gender pay gap**

Women still earn significantly less than men. We want to close the so-called Gender Pay Gap by tightening the Pay Transparency Act. All companies should be obliged to check their salary structures with recognised procedures and to inform their employees about it. Failure to do so will be sanctioned. In order to effectively support those affected, we also want to introduce a right of action for associations. In addition, we want to raise the status of nursing and service professions, in which the majority of workers are women, by bringing the wage levels in these professions into line with those of more male-dominated professions.

- **Gender-critical education**

Sexist attitudes are already taught in childhood. That is why we advocate gender-critical education - that means teaching children at an early age that girls and boys have the freedom not to behave in a "typical" way. We also want children not to be taught stereotypes about "men/boys" or "women/girls" about what they must be able to do, how they should feel and who they are allowed to love.

- **Examine pink-blue marketing - undoing gender**

We want to support parents in modelling an egalitarian gender image. We want to prevent, where possible, the unconscious early learning of stereotypical gender attributions with far-reaching effects, from gender-based violence to the gender pay gap. To this end, we want to investigate the effects of the "pink-blue trap", i.e. marketing practices that teach children stereotypes about clothes, toys and entertainment from an early age. Depending on the results, we can imagine advertising bans for these kinds of products.

- **More women's\* shelters**

Women\* in our society are still victims of violence because of their gender and are discriminated against in private, public and professional life. To counteract and prevent violence against women\*, we want to create more women's\* shelters. The shelters should be barrier-free, as women\* with disabilities in particular are victims of domestic violence.

- **Nationwide hotline for women\* who experience violence**

In order to be able to directly support women\* who experience violence, we advocate the establishment of a nationwide 24/7 hotline free of charge with multilingual staff, which can also be used by users with hearing disabilities. Explicitly, we envisage real-time texts, total call services, relay services and emergency call apps.

- **Improving prevention**

We advocate that stalking and catcalling are finally taken seriously as criminal offences. We want to oblige authorities to develop measures for the prevention of femicide. Victim protection must be at the centre of all regulations and laws in this area. In addition, we want to improve the exchange of best practices and problem analyses with a federal-state committee.

- **Comprehensive appointment of gender equality commissioners**

We want to achieve the nationwide appointment of gender equality commissioners at the federal, state and municipal levels. They should be mandatorily involved in all relevant legislative procedures and check the status of the implementation of the Istanbul Convention.

The goal of an emancipated society with equal rights needs civil society commitment in addition to laws and institutions. To this end, existing structures such as associations and NGOs must be strengthened and more financial resources must be invested in cooperation.

- **Quota for leadership positions**

We advocate a quota for leadership positions. At least 50 per cent of all positions on boards of listed companies and public companies should have to be held by women\*.

- **Destigmatise voluntary sex work**

We support the bodily self-determination of women\*.

Therefore, we want to destigmatise voluntary sex work and the offering of sexual services by reforming the Prostitution Protection Act. We want to fight violence, forced prostitution and human trafficking more strongly. As a matter of principle, we want to grant victims of human trafficking an unrestricted right to stay, as well as expand access to leniency and witness protection.

- **International Women's Day as a public holiday**

In order to commemorate the long struggle of feminist movements, which continues to this day, and at the same time to draw the attention of the general public to the problems of discrimination against women, we want to make International Women's Day on 8 March a public holiday.

## Anti-Semitism: Continuous education

We condemn anti-Semitism in all its forms. We are aware of the special historical responsibility of the Federal Republic of Germany for the crime of the Shoah. The industrial murder of six million Jews is an unimaginable crime against humanity, which shows us what anti-Semitism in its worst form led to.

All the more important today is the determined fight against all forms of anti-Semitism. The increase in anti-Semitically motivated crimes throughout Europe, but also especially in Germany, shows us that anti-Semitism is a problem that we must continue to fight today. This is by no means an "imported" problem, as right-wingers and conservatives like to claim. Rather, anti-Semitism is a deep-seated, structural problem in German society that runs like a thread through European intellectual and cultural history from the anti-Judaism of the Middle Ages to the witch mania of the early modern era, the anti-Semitic agitation of Martin Luther and the anti-Semitic writings of political thinkers like Martin Heidegger.

In view of the long history of anti-Semitism in Europe, it unfortunately cannot surprise us if anti-Semitic stereotypes and conspiracy theories are again rampant today. Conspiracy theories in particular almost always fall back on well-tried anti-Semitic explanatory patterns. They refer to "Jews" as "string pullers", "well poisoners" and "child murderers" in order to find supposedly simple answers to the complex questions of our time. We see othering and stereotypical devaluation as deep-seated culturally mediated processing mechanisms for crises. We welcome the Jerusalem Declaration in this regard, as it offers a clear, if not exhaustive, definition of anti-Semitism.

Due to the deep, structural anchoring of anti-Semitism, there are no simple patent solutions to abolish anti-Semitism in our societies, but only continuous, critical and sensitive reappraisal, information and empowerment.

- **Raising awareness in schools and education**

We know that the word "Jew" is used as a swear word in schoolyards. The reason for this is an obviously insufficient sensitisation and educational strategy, coupled with deep-seated anti-Semitism. We therefore want to promote the expansion of the existing culture of remembrance, but also the targeted sensitisation of pupils to anti-Semitism as well as the systematic processing of any cases of anti-Semitism in schools by social workers and psychologists together with the further sensitisation of the teaching staff. We want to support civil society organisations in their important anti-discrimination work and see education towards free and democratic individuals as a crucial means against the perpetuation of anti-Semitic resentment.

- **Protection of Jewish institutions**

It is the primary task of the state to ensure the protection of Jewish institutions. This should not be done as a concession, but as a mandate from the Basic Law, Article 6, to guarantee freedom of religion and freedom of opinion. Protection must be regulated uniformly throughout Germany, as federalism currently results in different regulations in each federal state, which leads to superfluous bureaucracy and makes it difficult to act.

Furthermore, the question is whether those who are supposed to provide protection are at all suitable when right-wing extremist chats and groups are being uncovered by security authorities on a continuous basis. These can no longer be played down as "regrettable individual cases". When protecting synagogues, we cannot risk having those standing there who agree with anti-Semitic slogans at Corona deniers' demonstrations or consider Jews to be the root of evil.

Congregations must not be left to bear the costs incurred or be unable to afford certain precautions. No deductible for protective measures: Fences, bollards, entrance gates, video surveillance and also private guards must be financed without red tape. Other Jewish institutions should also be able to publicly finance security costs.

The protection of discriminated minorities goes beyond the protection of Jews. That is why we also want to set up a nationwide "Fund for the Support of Victims of Political-Extremist Violence" based on the Berlin model. Furthermore, we want to develop a long-term nationwide strategy. In any case, the protection of Jewish institutions must be permanently promoted.

## Antiziganism: Protect against discrimination and persecution

As the report of the Commission on Antiziganism has shown, up to 60 per cent of people in Germany still harbour attitudes towards Roma, Sinti, Travellers, Yenish and other persons and groups that are characterised by stereotypes, aversion and/or hostility. The groups stigmatised as "Gypsies" by the majority society experience social and state exclusion and discrimination. We oppose all forms of antiziganism.

- **Include antiziganism in curricula**

We advocate that the persecution up to and including expulsion, pogroms, internment, forced sterilisation and the state-organised genocide of Roma, Sinti and other persons and groups by the Nazis be included in the curricula and dealt with in detail in the classroom.

- **Sensitise authorities to antiziganism**

We want to sensitise the staff of public authorities and public institutions to antiziganism through further training and better involvement of those affected.

- **Stop deportations**

There are no safe countries of origin for people affected by antiziganism. We therefore want to stop deportations and expand offers of protection and support.

## Anti-Muslim racism: protection for Muslims

We condemn all anti-Muslim racism, i.e. the generalised rejection and stereotyping of Muslims.

In Europe in general and Germany in particular, Islam in its diversity and Muslims are often portrayed as homogeneous and monolithic, especially by staging "Islam" as "dangerous" or at least as "foreign". However, the construction of "Islam" as an enemy image has nothing to do with reality. There is no more "Islam" than there is "Christianity".

Like any other group-related human hostility, anti-Muslim racism is not "just" unfriendly treatment for Muslims or those who are thought to be Muslim, but leads to Muslims more often becoming victims of hate crime and violence and to structural and institutional discrimination. We therefore support programmes and initiatives that raise awareness and combat anti-Muslim racism.

- **Prevention programmes for anti-Muslim racism**

In view of the increase in discrimination against Muslims in our society and the rise in hate crime, of which the attack in Hanau is a sad highlight, we want to make anti-Muslim racism a stronger focus of prevention programmes.

- **Promotion of initiatives and federal commissioners for anti-Muslim racism**

In order to stop the devaluation of Muslims, we want to systematically support civil society organisations, victims' associations and victims and create a federal commissioner for anti-Muslim racism.

## Inclusion and participation: Diversity as an opportunity

We see diversity as an opportunity that should unfold in a variety of ways, especially in public spaces. To ensure it, we want to guarantee participation in all areas of life for all people.

We reject rejectionism and disablism, i.e. the generalisation or pejorative attitude towards people with disabilities, chronic illnesses or neurodiversities, in all forms. That is why we call for a change of perspective. "Normality" must not be the standard. All people are diverse with different abilities. The exclusion of people is the problem, not the diversity of people. People are not disabled, they are disabled by society. The wheelchair is not the problem, the stairs are.

We refuse to treat people with different physical or mental abilities as if there is something wrong with them. Such treatment is an expression of a derogatory attitude. This is why Germany ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also refers to other conventions that have been established to enable participation along other dimensions of discrimination (intersectionality), among others. We pay special attention to monitoring compliance with these conventions.

Together with the representatives of the relevant groups, we want to regularly evaluate existing structures with regard to their inclusivity and effectiveness.

- **No financial disadvantages for participation**

The granting of participation benefits must not lead to financial disadvantages for their recipients. We advocate that those in need and their relatives no longer have to pay for the goods, services or medical therapies necessary for participation out of their own funds.

- **Ensuring employment for people with disabilities**

The statutory employment quota of five per cent of disabled people is only met by 4.1 % of private employers. We want to impose fines on employers who do not meet the requirements in the future. We want to increase compensatory levies so that it is more worthwhile for companies to comply with the employment obligation. We want to support companies financially to make the necessary changes and purchases for a barrier-free and inclusive workplace, such as ramps or the conversion of sanitary facilities.

- **Minimum wage and labour rights in workshops**

Workshops for people with disabilities reinforce exclusionary tendencies. That is why we are determined to integrate people with a disability into the world of work. As long as there are workshops for people with disabilities, we are committed to ensuring that the minimum wage and all other regulations of labour and co-determination law also apply there. In the medium term, we see the transformation of WfbM (workshops for people with disabilities) into non-profit enterprises under equal ownership and management of all those employed in them as a goal.

- **Expand counselling services**

We want to expand low-threshold and free counselling services for victims of discrimination and their relatives - especially for people affected by discrimination based on disability, chronic illness, racism, anti-Semitism, sexual and gender identity, age discrimination or socio-economic factors.

- **Barrier-free building and housing**

We want to guarantee barrier-free building and housing. The current regulations are insufficient and underfunded. Therefore, we want to make new public buildings, including municipal housing stock, completely barrier-free and adapt existing buildings as far as possible. We want to finance housing conversions that help to

ensure participation. We want to regularly evaluate and improve regulations, ordinances and laws with those affected, representatives and academics.

- **Inclusive education**

Public schools and colleges/universities should be places of the greatest possible equality of opportunity. To promote this, we want to support research and pilot projects for inclusive pedagogical concepts such as the so-called Universal Design for Learning (UDL). We want to equip educational institutions with accessible infrastructure and complementary services such as distance learning. We explicitly envisage that guidance systems for the blind, hearing loops and the use of sign language should be included in all educational institutions. We want to enable teachers and pedagogical staff to participate regularly and free of charge in further training on inclusive pedagogy. In the future, inclusion must be an integral part of the curricula for future teachers and pedagogues.

- **Involvement in broadcasting councils**

We see a distinct lack of representation of people with disabilities in the media. Therefore, we advocate for the inclusion of diverse people in broadcasting councils as well as an adjustment of the funding guidelines for German film funding.

- **International Day of People with Disabilities as a public holiday**

In order to encourage the entire public to change their perspective, we advocate the introduction of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December as a public holiday.

## Age Discrimination: Protecting Children and Seniors

Age is still one of the major factors of discrimination - children and young people are discriminated against on the one hand, and senior citizens on the other. We are determined to fight age discrimination and to implement measures that protect young and old people from discrimination.

- **Ratification of the UN Conventions on the Rights of the Child**

We advocate the full ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **No minors in the Bundeswehr**

We categorically reject the inclusion of minors in the German armed forces, as this violates the protective principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- **Contact points for children and young people**

In order to better protect children and young people, we want to create psychological, social and legal contact points that enable them to assert their rights against their parents if necessary.

- **More co-determination for pupils**

We want to strengthen and expand the democratic co-determination rights of children and young people through youth parliaments and student representatives. It should be mandatory for them to be involved in all matters that affect them.

- **Enabling work in old age**

Adults should have the right to actively participate in working life, regardless of their age, if they so wish. We therefore want to eliminate regulations that force people into

involuntary retirement. Income of pensioners should not be counted towards pension payments and should not be subject to special taxation.

## Rule of law: Making the law accessible

We want to guarantee access to the rule of law to all people, regardless of their financial, linguistic, intellectual and social possibilities. That is why we are committed to improving access to the rule of law, especially for marginalised people.

- **Extend legal aid**

In order to facilitate access to justice for people who have experienced discrimination, we want to expand legal aid. By this we envisage that people must have the right to legal aid, both in civil and criminal law, regardless of their financial means.

- **Integrate international norms and conventions directly into German law**

In Germany, human rights and international conventions are not directly enforceable because the dualistic system applies here. This means that international law must first be explicitly integrated into national law in the form of laws in order for them to become enforceable. We want to change this. International law, and thus also human rights law, should enter into force immediately upon signature. This means that international law will become German law as soon as it enters into force.

- **Extending the right of associations to sue**

In order to give victims' associations the possibility of asserting anti-discrimination claims by victims through the legal process, we want to expand the existing right of associations to sue to a genuine right of associations to sue, following the US model of class-action lawsuits.

## 6. Common property: democratising social ownership

### **What is it about?**

That central areas of society, such as the banking system or the internet, should not belong to a wealthy elite, but to all of us. We are campaigning for the democratisation of these areas.

It is also about common goods such as education and culture. We want to promote them, protect them and give them space for development.

### **Why is this important?**

Because the current banking and financial system and the digital sphere have a great influence on our lives, but are hardly subject to democratic control. Because a few decide the fate of many. Because the abuse, greed and irresponsibility in these areas are out of control.

Education and culture, on the other hand, deserve our unconditional protection. In times when a nationalist international is attacking our freedom all over the world, we defend and strengthen the ideas of an open and free society.

### **How is this to be done?**

We want to develop public alternatives to the existing financial and digital oligopolies. We want to regulate the financial system and the digital economy much more closely than is currently the case.

We want to reform the education system in order to promote the potential of every human being. In art and culture, we advocate more freedom.

### **7 key objectives:**

- A European Unconditional Basic Dividend
- Establish the European People's Bank
- Ban speculative transactions for private banks

- Provide internet for all
- Create digital commons
- Open education across borders
- Democratise cultural institutions

## Prosperity: A fair share for all

No human being starts with nothing. We all benefit from the work and achievements of those around us. Without roads, no Amazon. Without teachers, no employees for VW. Without agriculture, no Lieferando. We therefore believe that the wealth of individual companies is largely based on social prosperity.

Our goal is that all people - universally and unconditionally - benefit from this prosperity. To this end, we want to introduce a European Unconditional Basic Dividend.

- **A European Unconditional Basic Dividend**

We advocate the introduction of a European Unconditional Basic Dividend (Universal Basic Dividend). Such a basic dividend is the first step towards an unconditional basic income. It would be paid out every year and would allow all Europeans to benefit from Europe's prosperity.

The basic dividend will be distributed from a fund made up of assets, taxes on companies' profits, and revenues from patents and other intellectual property rights based on public funding.

- **Universal Basic Income**

Everyone has the right to a dignified, free and participatory life. That is why we want a universal, unconditional basic income that is not tied to anything in return and is paid to every citizen over the age of 16. A universal and unconditional basic income frees people from the tyranny of the labour market, abolishes humiliation at the welfare office and allows people to refuse exploitative employment, which is essential for a well-functioning labour market and a civilised society. An unconditional basic income ensures socio-cultural participation and allows people to pursue important activities outside the labour market (experimenting in art & culture,

studying, caring for others...). The basic income does not replace other benefits (child benefit, health insurance, etc.) but is only one pillar of a fair social system. The level of the basic income should be above the national poverty risk threshold of 60 percent of the national median equivalised net income, currently around 1100 euros.

## Financial system: breaking the power of the banks

Instead of promoting the common good, today's financial system is primarily a source of instability and insecurity. We want to reform it fundamentally. At the core of this is to ban unproductive, speculative financial products and to prohibit banks from engaging in speculative activities. Banking must become boring again.

Because banks are able to put new (giro) money into circulation by granting loans, they have enormous economic power. Their profit motive often prevents them from using this power for the common good. They participate in credit-driven price bubbles and finance businesses and projects with a poor public welfare record. In the short term, we therefore want to tie lending more closely to ecological and social criteria.

In parallel, we want to strengthen and expand public banks. In the medium term, public banks, above all a European Volksbank, should completely take over account management, payment processing, lending, real estate financing and opportunities for saving.

- **Establish the European People's Bank**

In order to implement possible monetary policy measures such as one-off helicopter money or an inflation-adjusted savings account for retirement, the ECB today relies on the diversions via commercial banks. We want to increase the flexibility of the ECB and break the social, non-democratically legitimised power of big banks by advocating the establishment of a European People's Bank (practically implementable as a branch of the ECB), hundred percent funded by the EU states, which would allow citizens to keep their financial assets securely and without interest or fees in a Dispo free basic account. As a public competitor in the banking sector, the European People's Bank is initially not authorised to grant loans, but merely acts as a provider of said basic account. The long-term goal of the European People's Bank, in turn, is to expand its balance sheet to cover a large part of Europe's financial assets and eventually replace the private banking sector.

- **Introduce digital central bank money for private use**

While banks and governments mainly use digital central bank money - the electronic form of cash - for their payment transactions, Europe's citizens have to make do with the giro or book money generated by commercial banks when they make a transfer or receive a digital payment. Book money is a mere promise of payment from the bank to its customers and is usually hardly backed by real central bank money. We want digital central bank money in the form of a digital euro to be available to Europe's citizens and businesses. This is to be achieved by automatically converting the deposits of all natural and legal persons who open an account with the European People's Bank from book money into digital euros. Central bank money that the commercial banks gain through transactions with the European People's Bank may in turn not be used by them for the expansion of book money. Payments with digital money must continue to be possible anonymously, e.g. by prepaid money card.

- **Direct lending by public development banks**

In the medium term, we want to make it possible to grant loans without private banks as intermediaries. To this end, the development banks should also build up capacities to examine and grant loans internally.

- **Criteria for business loans**

Bank loans for enterprises that are not fully covered by equity capital are to be guided by social and ecological criteria. The catalogue of criteria should be drawn up and regularly updated by a citizens' council drawn at periodic intervals and define binding interest surcharges and exclusion criteria for loans that do not meet the criteria.

- **Guarantee responsible lending**

In order to guarantee responsible lending, loans granted should not be allowed to be resold, but must remain on the bank's balance sheet. We want to prohibit the

purchase and sale of credit default swaps. Financial assets such as shares should not be accepted as collateral because of their volatility.

- **Ban speculative transactions for private banks**

Private banks should no longer be allowed to engage in speculative transactions, but should concentrate on granting loans. They are to be prohibited from trading in real estate, shares or financial products such as derivatives.

- **Unbundling the (international) banking system**

In order to ensure transparency and control, we want to prohibit banks from establishing subsidiaries or branches operating outside Europe. Existing subsidiaries and branches are to be integrated into the parent company or completely spun off by a deadline. In case of infringement, the licence of the bank concerned should be revoked.

- **A debt brake for banks**

In order to improve the resilience of banks and prevent them from becoming systemically important ("too big to fail"), we want to gradually increase the non-risk-weighted capital ratio (leverage ratio) to at least 10 percent and limit banks' assets.

- **Limit overdraft interest rates**

Overdraft interest rates are too high in Germany. To protect people from over-indebtedness, we want to cap them at a maximum of two percentage points above the central bank's key interest rate.

- **Better regulate shadow banks**

Financial market players outside the regulated banking sector, so-called shadow banks, must be better regulated. We want to prohibit funds from granting and taking out loans. We want to ban guaranteed repurchase values for securities.

- **Upper limit for Blackrock & Co**

We want to limit the market power of asset managers like Blackrock in order to prevent monopolies and conflicts of interest and to enable competition. Therefore, we want to limit the amount of assets under management per company. We want to prohibit asset managers who exceed this limit from accessing German and European financial markets.

- **Curbing high-frequency trading**

To curb unproductive high-frequency trading and speculation on the stock exchange, we advocate the introduction of a Europe-wide financial transaction tax of 0.5 percent on the sale of securities that have been in the possession of the seller for less than one year.

- **Prevent commodity speculation**

We want to prevent speculation in commodities. In order to be allowed to participate in commodity trading, each actor should have to prove that he/she has the necessary storage capacities for the commodities purchased.

## Digital commons: public offerings and open standards

The infrastructure of the digital world is largely built on and dependent on the services of private sector providers. Both the physical hardware, in the form of internet cables and connections, radio masts, cloud and data centres, and their software components, in the form of proprietary, data-extracting applications and programmes, are largely the work and property of private IT companies. The digital market, with its characteristic of imposing high fixed costs and low marginal costs on the firms participating in it, favours the emergence of monopolies and oligopolies, with negative effects on pricing and privacy.

We understand the internet as part of an unconditional basic civic service. This means that the state must be active in the digital market. Our goal is to offer a competitive public IT service to everyone.

By developing open standards and guidelines for the interoperability of online services, we also want to ensure that citizens have maximum control over their data and can switch smoothly between digital providers.

- **Providing internet for all**

Germany is the land of dead spots. In terms of both mobile phone coverage and data rates, Germany performs miserably in European and international comparisons, while mobile phone contracts are disproportionately expensive. Fixed-network internet connections based on DSL technology are outdated and obsolete. Rural areas are often not reached at all or only inadequately because closing the gaps would not be profitable for the private network operators. Our goal is therefore to socialise the existing network infrastructure in Germany in order to guarantee all citizens a free radio-based basic broadband internet service up to a certain data rate, independent of the profit logic of the private sector. We will push through a massive state expansion programme of the fibre-optic network in order to be able to guarantee households and businesses in Germany an internet service that is appropriate for the 21st century.

- **Creating digital commons**

Established IT companies often dominate the digital market with their products. This dominance, insofar as it remains largely unrivalled in a particular area, is not only problematic from a competitive point of view, but also creates a network effect that makes it difficult for users to do without a corresponding service. This can be changed by the state acting as a service provider on the digital market with its own open-source public offerings (digital commons). We call for public alternatives in the area of instant messaging, internet-based video telephony, internet search engines, as well as cloud storage and retrieval of image and video content.

- **Enabling public good data aggregation**

We advocate that a free data quota in a publicly operated cloud storage (data commons) be made available to all citizens on a voluntary opt-in basis. The data stored in this way can be analysed algorithmically in anonymised form by licensees and the public administration in order to optimise management processes.

- **Establish standards for interaction with websites**

We want to establish technical and legal standards that guarantee certain qualities for interaction with social media platforms and other websites. Clear guidelines should prevent "dark patterns" such as hiding costs or the unnecessary disclosure of user data, or at least make them unattractive for companies. Users must be able to explicitly consent to how data may be handled. Companies must not take an "all or nothing" approach by making valuable services available only if unattractive, non-essential terms are also accepted.

- **Enable secure communication between platforms**

We want to promote the interoperability of private platforms or online services. For example, it should be possible for a user of one messaging service to send a message to a user of another messaging service, similar to sending an SMS

between different telephone providers. We will work with the providers of such services to define technical standards that allow communication between services of different companies while protecting the privacy of the users.

- **Temporary access to personal data**

We want users to have maximum control over their personal data. Users should be able to interact with online platforms without giving them permanent access to their data. This means that if a user does not currently use a platform or no longer uses it in general, the company may not use the data or must delete it.

- **Store personal data decentralised or locally**

Companies may only store data for as long as necessary and must otherwise support some form of decentralized data storage. Users should be able to store personal data locally, i.e. on their home computer or on a server of their choice. Decentralized storage can also be achieved by means of "data commons," i.e., a publicly accessible database. This decentralization will allow users to switch between platforms without losing their previously stored data.

## Education policy: Youth to carry the future

Education shapes people. The essential purpose of this process is often understood to be people who are able to find their way in (professional) life and hold their own in the (labour) market. However, education can and should include more: People who do not merely exist in the world, but are willing as well as able to actively shape it. People who understand interrelationships and approach the reality of which they are a part with intrinsic interest. Education means conveying potential - and perspectives for using it in a variety of ways.

For this, fair and non-discriminatory education is essential. We want to continuously examine whether there are forms of discrimination, how they manifest themselves, and what goal-oriented countermeasures are to be proposed. We want to minimize the condition of educational success by social factors of origin. Accordingly, educational equity should be proactively addressed in schools, the education system and society. We want to promote inclusion and expand it where necessary.

Furthermore, we think of education as a lifelong project that does not end with the highest degree. It should not only be thought of in terms of adolescents, but also concerns adults. We must continuously examine whether and why people are excluded or "left behind" if they have "missed" certain educational thresholds. We therefore advocate strengthening adult education and promoting literacy and basic mathematics and science education throughout society.

We want to break down educational barriers and disparities. We strive for uniform educational standards and the recognition of qualifications across the board: within Germany and, in the future, throughout Europe. Education must take place in a global exchange, in accordance with the guiding principle of "learning from each other".

We are committed to critically evaluating and redesigning existing educational structures from this perspective. The incentive and goal here is what the Dresden

artists' group Die Brücke formulated as follows: The "belief in development, in a new generation of creators as well as beneficiaries, (...) as youth that carries the future!"

- **Comprehensive offer of all-day schools**

We want to create a comprehensive offer of all-day schools (including catering), because children should have the opportunity to be provided for, regardless of their family situation. School education must be open to all.

- **Promote alternative schools and educational research**

We want to promote and support alternative forms of schooling, but also regulate them appropriately. The same applies to the area of educational research: we want to investigate what findings can be derived from alternative school concepts and integrated into the regular school system.

- **Free education**

(Education) must be completely free of charge. This includes the abolition of the "school fees" that are common in some training professions. We want to critically evaluate and, if necessary, reform the existing public financing of education and the BaFöG (Federal Education and Training Assistance Act) in order to provide everyone with educational opportunities and a free choice of educational path.

- **Strengthening adult education**

Particularly in the context of digitization, we want to expand continuing education and coaching programs for all age groups and make them easily accessible. As the basis of so-called "lifelong learning," we are committed to promoting new or alternative approaches to encourage self-directed or autonomous learning. We want to gear school education to imparting not only knowledge and skills, but also the ability to acquire them later.

- **Networking educational institutions on a European scale**

We want to promote networking and exchange between different educational institutions and structures. This applies within Germany, at the European level and, in the future, globally. We want to evaluate existing offerings and, if necessary, expand or rethink them.

- **Expanding European exchange**

We advocate a universal Erasmus program and an improvement of the European Youth Guarantee program. We want to promote the European exchange of teachers by means of a European teaching position agreement and the strengthening of the European Teaching Corps. Furthermore, we want to further develop the "Structured Youth Dialogue" (engage, connect, empower). In the extracurricular context, we want to support regional and supraregional youth associations and club work and, in addition to traditional student exchanges, also promote travel programs such as those offered by the Franco-German Society and the German War Graves Commission.

- **Rethinking early selection based on performance**

We want to critically rethink the current system of early selection based on performance in school transitions and, if necessary, reform it. In particular, we want to intensively investigate and promote the concepts of (integrated and cooperative) comprehensive schools.

- **Open education across borders**

In the 21st century, it is important to overcome educational federalism as well as national preferences and borders. In this context, individual strengths of the German education system should be presented to the outside world with an exemplary effect, in order to establish the space for an honest culture, where it is okay to make errors, in parallel. "National pride" and fear of change should not stand in the way of

innovation, collaboration and cooperative learning. We want strong, independent, European educational research and advocate abolishing the ban on cooperation. In addition, we want to advocate for teaching materials to be made available to all under a Creative Commons license to ensure open education for all regardless of income.

- **Improve recognition of degrees**

In the course of mutual recognition of degrees, we advocate for an open-ended and unbiased investigation of the real hurdles. This should include not only differences between different German states, but also the artificial hierarchization of degrees that currently takes place between general education and specialized or vocationally oriented educational institutions. Last but not least, effective freedom of movement and exchange of skilled workers should be promoted in this way.

- **Make education more global**

Education should contribute to promoting a humanist and internationalist perspective. This includes not only the critical examination of historical knowledge but also the questioning of historically conditioned prejudices and historically evolved concepts such as the nation or gender. We advocate establishing more critical perspectives in school history lessons and, for example, questioning and historically illuminating evolved power structures such as patriarchy, imperialism and colonialism. In addition, there must also be the possibility to deal with regional and family history, if necessary also critically. In addition, a global view of history must also take place. Here, a Eurocentric bias must be overcome as far as possible for the evaluation of historical importance. For example, in addition to the French Revolution, the Haitian Revolution should also be considered. More recent history in particular must be examined internationally in order to make continuities in imperialism and colonialism more visible.

- **For a living culture of remembrance**

We are committed to ensuring that German history is critically addressed and reappraised in education, research and the media. Accordingly, educational and research institutions should be supported in this task, also financially. We believe that an intensive and critical examination of the topics of colonialism, imperialism, the German Empire and the First World War is necessary, both in the field of historical studies and in society as a whole. We see a particular need to address German fascism and the Second World War, the war crimes of the Wehrmacht and other German paramilitary groups, the Shoah, the Porajmos, and the persecution and murder of LGBTQIA+, political opponents, people with disabilities and other minorities. The post-war history of both German states must be looked at and critically questioned, with particular interest in the SED dictatorship. At the same time, however, we also demand a critical examination of West German post-war history, especially the continuity of German fascism.

- **Toward a holistic understanding of education**

Education should impart more than just knowledge: Life skills. We therefore want to promote a discussion of the economic-social know-how canon versus individualized personality development. We believe that schools and education should address and promote the broad spectrum of knowledge and interests of adolescents and make the best possible use of them in the classroom. In doing so, we want to focus more on added values that cannot be directly quantified. Numerous studies have shown the relevance of music, sports and reading fiction on health, resilience, "well-being," creativity and media and news literacy. We want to place more emphasis on these factors.

In the school system, the promotion of individual abilities and resources should also go hand in hand with a move away from exclusively objectifiable assessment standards. In addition, we advocate practical relevance and explorative learning. Appropriate approaches could be more practical teaching: service training and interdisciplinary learning. In addition to labour market-oriented expertise, as represented by existing school subjects, handicraft and homemaking skills or other

abilities to cope with everyday life should be perceived as educational tasks and taken into account in school and extracurricular learning venues. In addition, there are skills such as critical self-assessment, time management and finding meaning. We want to discuss and introduce topics such as happiness, sustainability and media competence as school subjects.

The constantly changing fabric of life in the 21st century requires an education system that can react flexibly to these changes - and teach flexibly applicable skills. To enable design thinking, project-based thinking, independent goal setting or other requirements not yet foreseeable, a broadly diversified personality development is essential. Individual flexibility is explicitly not understood here in the liberal sense of constant professional reorientation, but rather as Francisco Ferrer expresses his ideal: "We want to create people whose greatest strength is their intellectual independence; Who submit to nothing and no one and are capable of recognizing the good; Who strive to live a thousand lives in one."

- **Thinking society and school together**

Education is a central task of society. School is an important institution of education. We want to address, explore and constantly develop the interactions of society and education as a whole in a contemporary way. We want to establish and maintain extracurricular places of learning: Swimming pools, libraries and clubs, for example, are essential. (Municipal) infrastructure and education are closely intertwined. Expanding the former means promoting the latter.

- **Media are educational tools**

Next to schools, the media have the greatest influence on the acquisition of knowledge and on the establishment of attitudes. We advocate giving researchers and educators more media space to present relevant content and subjecting public service channels not only to journalistic but also to educational demands. At the same time, the independence of educational actors should be strengthened, specifically that of the Federal Agency for Civic Education.

- **Diverse economic theories in universities**

In most universities, only a very incomplete and in parts incorrect view of economics is taught. We advocate a fundamental reform of VWL courses. Students should learn about the full diversity of economic theories and learn to understand and critically reflect on the history of economics.

- **Ensure better inclusion**

To ensure better inclusion in everyday school life for children and people who do not speak German as their native language, we want to end the compulsion to integrate these children into the curriculum as quickly as possible. Instead, we want to focus on individual difficulties and progress. To this end, we want to train more special education teachers.

## Culture & Art: For more rooms of freedom

Culture & art, as self-reflective human practice, form a basic need and are indispensable for an open democratic society. They provide the sphere in which intellectual nourishment is prepared, offering a unique space to critical, visionary, present- and future-oriented thinking. We therefore want to support the practice and facilitate access to culture and art.

We are committed to multicultural spaces that are at the same time spaces of freedom, whose edges are understood as a fluid transition from one to the next, which do not merely separate, but above all connect as tension-laden spaces in between. They are complexly interwoven, filled with a liveliness that comes to bear in all conceivable forms of artistic expression, which in this way contribute significantly to social cohesion and peaceful coexistence.

- **Supporting music education**

We want to ensure that arts education is offered at schools providing general education and that it is anchored in the curriculum. We want to provide better funding for art and music schools. We want to ensure that music education is open to all through support projects.

- **Expanding holistic support**

In the context of arts education and beyond, we explicitly advocate a holistic understanding of art and culture that encompasses not only forms of art and expression that can be objectively evaluated or consumed and exploited. Accordingly, we want to recognize and promote music, theater and drama, painting, dance, sculpture and image processing, writing, poetry, performance, installation, (video) game development, film and photography in their various forms to a greater extent. The support, which is based on qualitative, but in no way on content

specifications, is to be neutral and unconditional and without interference in the freedom of the arts.

- **Cultural exchange in mutual respect**

We reject a foreign cultural policy or even cultural imperialism. Instead, we want to promote a cultural exchange in mutual respect that serves the peace and freedom of all people. In particular, we support translations of cultural works in order to make them accessible to more people.

- **Combating structural discrimination**

We want to give special support to groups that are structurally disadvantaged in the arts and culture. By means of a quota, we want to ensure that management positions in art and cultural institutions are filled in a balanced manner. We want to counter sexual and other discrimination with awareness-raising courses.

- **Democratizing cultural institutions**

We face the huge task and challenge of promoting the democratization of important areas of life. We want to make decision-making processes in cultural institutions more participatory in areas such as curation or budgeting, in order to involve citizens in the daily business of these institutions. Those working in the arts and culture can lead the way. We want to provide additional financial support to institutions that organize themselves using collective democratic principles.

- **End exploitation**

We want to end (self-)exploitative conditions in terms of working conditions and salary. To achieve this, we want to significantly increase funding for art and culture and better control working conditions. We want to guarantee access to social welfare systems for all art and culture workers, even those without institutional ties.

- **Putting art in the public domain**

We regard art as a common good and take a critical view of exclusive private ownership. Where possible, we therefore want to include art in public collections, with the aim of making it accessible to a broad public.

- **Returning looted colonial goods**

We want to return colonial looted goods in full. In doing so, we want to reverse the seizure of intellectual, cultural, religious and spiritual property taken from the countries of origin. There is a right to the return of looted art objects, which were taken during almost 500 years of constant, violent colonialism.

- **Expand European art and cultural funding**

We want to promote and expand border-crossing art and culture projects such as the EU's Cultural Capital Programme and the nomadic Manifesta biennial in and outside Europe. We see increased cultural exchange as a way to develop a global culture of peace.

# 7. Democracy: one person, one vote

## **What is it about?**

The last chapter is about democracy. We want people to be able to live together freely and without constraints. The prerequisite for this is that everyone has a say in the issues that affect him or her. Every vote must count equally.

## **Why is this important?**

There is a neo-feudal development worldwide - also in Germany and Europe. A few people control a large part of the capital. With their financial and economic power, driven by technological progress, they set their own rules. We are fighting against this development. Our goal: one person, one vote.

## **How are we going to do that?**

By democratising companies, reducing extreme inequality, protecting self-determination also in the digital space, preventing monopolies and oligopolies, and fighting lobbying.

## **Seven key objectives:**

- Democratize repurchased shares
- Facilitate the establishment of works councils
- Reduce extreme wealth
- Give constitutional status to the right to one's own data
- Strengthen antitrust law
- Ban paid sideline activities for members of parliament
- Safe harbor for journalists and whistleblowers

## Ownership & co-determination: democracy instead of oligarchy

Our vision is a world in which people live together freely and without constraints. To get closer to this vision, we want to democratise companies and corporations in the long term. "One person, one vote" must also apply in the world of work.

This applies in particular to listed companies. It is not shareholders who create value, but the employees of a company. It should therefore be the employees who make key decisions, such as the choice of management, the distribution of funds and other fundamental decisions that affect the future of the employees and the company.

We consider the so-called ownership of responsibility to be a step in the right direction, but it must be accompanied by an internal democratisation of the company. Voting rights and decision-making power must not be held by a single person, but must be distributed equally among all employees.

We want to encourage small and medium-sized enterprises to undergo democratic transformation, and to accompany and support them in this process. In the long term, democratic companies should become the binding standard.

- **Democratise repurchased shares**

Large companies and corporations buy back their own shares to drive up share prices and management bonuses. We want to work with unions to ensure that shares that are bought back are transferred to a democratically managed ownership fund for employees. Non-retired treasury shares that have already been repurchased should also go to the ownership fund.

- **Share pre-emption rights for ownership funds**

In order to promote the democratisation of companies, we want to introduce a share pre-emption right for ownership funds democratically managed by employees. If a

share is traded among third parties, the fund should be given the right to preferentially purchase the share at the same price. We are committed to supporting such initiatives with subsidies and loans. In addition, we want to create legal conditions for the expropriation of shareholders for the purpose of democratising companies.

- **Tying state support to conditions**

We want to attach conditions to state support for large companies and corporations, for example through favorable loans, subsidies or direct investment. In return, companies that want to be subsidised should have to transfer shares in the company to a democratically administered ownership fund for all employees.

- **Facilitating the establishment of works councils**

We want to make it easier to set up works councils and provide better protection against dismissal for the initiators. We therefore want to strengthen protection against dismissal for employees who want to establish or run for a works council. Preventing or hindering the formation of works councils should become a criminal offense that must be prosecuted by public prosecutors. We want to make it compulsory for companies without a works council to hold an annual secret ballot of their employees, in the absence of the employer, on the establishment of a works council.

- **Strengthening trade unions**

In order to strengthen trade unions, we advocate making trade union dues tax-deductible.

- **Takeover rights for employees in the event of plant closures**

When a plant is closed, the land, buildings and machinery are always sold and the employees laid off. We want to offer employees the option of taking over the plant's means of production and continuing to operate it as a cooperative. The prerequisite is a viable business plan. Through KfW and the state banks, we want to support these courageous new beginnings with favorable loans.

- **Communalising the platform economy**

By means of a development fund and an agency for municipal platform economies, we want to enable municipalities to develop and operate copies of platforms such as Uber, AirBNB or Deliveroo. The boards of such platforms should consist of elected representatives of the municipality as well as elected representatives of the people who offer their services via the platform. We reject international, profit-driven platforms and support municipal regulations and bans.

- **Services of general interest and important infrastructure in public hands**

Areas that tend to create natural monopolies (i.e., companies with high fixed costs and low marginal costs) and areas that are essential for guaranteeing a dignified and participatory life should, in principle, be in state, municipal or, in individual cases, cooperative hands in order to guarantee equal and fair access and democratic control. We support municipalisation and socialisation, particularly in the areas of health, housing, transportation, water, waste disposal, energy and communications.

## Taxes: Combating extreme wealth concentration

Taxes are important for guiding consumption, reducing extreme inequality and fighting inflation. They are not needed to finance government spending in states with monetary sovereignty, as described in the chapter on government spending.

We want to use the consumption-steering effect of taxes in particular to protect the climate, ecosystems and health. Low-income households must not be disproportionately affected.

In addition, we want to use taxes to sharply limit and reduce the extreme wealth inequality in Germany. Every billionaire is a policy failure. Billionaires and multimillionaires reflect a system in which the performance and productivity of the many is not fairly rewarded and distributed, but flows into the pockets of the few. In fact, this creates power imbalances and dependency relationships that we reject.

We consider the extreme concentration of wealth to be undemocratic and a threat to democracy, because the greater one's wealth, the greater one's opportunities to exert political and public influence, for example through donations to political parties, municipalities or universities, media ownership, paid association, lobbying and public relations work, or financial opportunities to take legal action to assert one's own interests. Wealthy people have a disproportionately greater influence on public opinion than non-wealthy people, and some of them have an ideology-determining effect. We want to protect democracy by severely limiting and reducing wealth inequality.

- **Stop growing wealth inequality**

Very large fortunes must not be allowed to continue to grow. We therefore advocate a tax rate of one hundred percent on all income above private assets of ten million euros. Business assets and up to three privately used properties (or alternatively, if there are fewer than three properties, additional assets of one million euros for every non-existent property below three) should not be included in the calculation of

assets, but bank deposits and cash, securities, additional properties as well as valuable vehicles, land, luxury and art objects with a market value of 50,000 euros or more should. In the case of jointly managed assets of couples, the upper limit is to be doubled, i.e. twenty million euros. It is not to be considered joint assets, but calculated as it would be distributed between the two after a divorce.

- **Reduce extreme wealth**

Extreme wealth inequality must be reduced. We therefore want to tax very large fortunes progressively: at a rate of one percent per year for assets over 10 million euros, 3 percent from 50 million, 5 percent from 200 million and 10 percent from 500 million euros in assets. Business assets and up to two privately used properties (or alternatively, if there are fewer than three properties, additional assets of one million euros for every non-existent property below three) should not be included in the calculation of assets, but bank balances and cash in excess of this, securities, additional properties and tangible assets such as vehicles, luxury and art objects with a market value of 50,000 euros or more should be.

- **No taxes on inheritances under €500,000 & inheritance cap**

We want to completely exempt inheritances that are below €500,000 from inheritance tax. At the same time, we want to introduce an inheritance cap of €500,000 per heir. In addition, tangible assets such as real estate, vehicles, land, luxury items and works of art that are not sold by the heir should also be tax-exempt and will only be taken into account at five percent of the estimated value when calculating assets. If they are sold, however, a tax of 95 percent of the sales price is to become due after the inheritance ceiling of 500,000 euros per heir has been reached. Bank deposits, cash or securities exceeding the upper limit are not to be inheritable. Business assets of the deceased are to be democratised, i.e. placed in the hands of the employees of the business. Published intellectual property should become public domain. For widowed persons, the assets of the deceased partner are to be inheritable in full and tax-free. To ensure that the upper inheritance limit is

not weakened by multiple inheritances or gifts, we want to consider the total sum, i.e. also include earlier inheritances and gifts.

- **Reforming the law on charitable donations**

In order to limit the political power of individual major donors and to democratize philanthropy, we want to fundamentally reform non-profit law. Every citizen should receive an annual donation budget of 200 euros, which can only be donated to non-profit organizations. For the receiving organizations, these donations are tax-free. All other donations will be taxed at the normal corporate tax rate. For donors, donations above the annual donation budget should no longer be tax deductible.

- **Tax financial market activities fairly**

Interest, dividends and other capital gains, as well as profit margins on the sale of stocks and other securities, should be offset against the rest of an individual's monthly income and subject to ordinary income taxation. We reject a separate (lower) taxation of investment income, as is the case with the capital gains tax.

## Lobbying: Disclose and Combat

Every democracy must be based on the principle of "one person, one vote." We want to disclose and fight the rampant influence of the German, European and global oligarchy and its lobbyists.

- **Ban paid sideline activities**

Being a member of parliament is a full-time job. Therefore, we want to ban any paid sideline activities such as lectures or consulting mandates for parliamentarians in full-time parliaments. Income from other sources (for example, from rental contracts) should have to be reported directly and in full to the relevant parliament and published.

- **Upper limit for party donations**

To ensure that wealthy people cannot buy influence by means of party donations, we want to cap donations to parties at a maximum of €10,000 per person per year. All donations of €1000 or more should be subject to immediate publication. We want to ban corporate donations and party sponsorship.

- **Reduce privileges for parliamentarians**

Excessive privileges for parliamentarians lead to MPs losing touch with the average population, and maintaining power becomes more important than political work for the common good. We therefore want to greatly reduce privileges for members of parliament. Salaries must be based on average salaries. The transitional allowance should be limited to three months. Social security contributions should be payable as in a normal employment relationship. In addition, we want to oblige parliamentarians to disclose their income and assets once a year, as is the case in Greece, for example.

- **A genuine transparency law**

Government data and documents must be publicly accessible - machine-readable and with open interfaces. That is why we want to develop the Freedom of Information Act into a genuine transparency law. There must be no blacking out or withholding of documents. The state must not keep secrets from its citizens - the revelations by Wikileaks and others show this.

- **Transforming the audit profession**

Auditing firms are currently subject to an incentive structure that makes them tend not to report many accounting or balance sheet errors when auditing the annual financial statements of corporations, since their client is the company being audited itself. We want to eliminate this moral hazard by demanding that in future the state financial administration commissions and pays for audits of corporations. Moreover, we will mandate the strict separation of auditing and management consulting firms so that the same people who audit one company's books do not give other companies advice on how to effectively hide inaccuracies in balance sheets. Such a split in the areas of activity also ensures more competition and corporate diversity in a market that has so far been dominated by an oligopoly of just four large corporations.

- **Closing the gaps in the lobby register**

We want to close the gaps in the lobby register. This means that all lobbyists must declare their financial expenditure and objectives. There must be no exceptions for individual interest groups. We also want to add a legislative and executive footprint to the lobby register. It must be documented who was involved in the drafting of a bill.

## Data protection & AI: Self-determination and clear guidelines

The fact that individuals can decide for themselves what data is disclosed and how it can be used is a fundamental right. We want to further strengthen this right to informational self-determination and equip it for future innovations. We will also develop practical guidelines and modern educational programs to promote media and data literacy among companies and citizens.

Artificial intelligence and other systems of automated decision making will fundamentally change our world. We believe that automated decision making has many positive attributes and can help solve problems and promote societal progress, but it also brings serious issues of a technical, ethical and socio-economic nature. Therefore, we need clear rules and guidelines, both at the national and supranational level, on how to deal with automated decision making in the future.

- **Give constitutional status to the right to one's own data**

We advocate that the exclusive disposal of one's own personal data in the context of electronic communication be explicitly mentioned and included as an inalienable fundamental right in the Basic Law of the Federal Republic of Germany, as well as in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

- **Introduce labels for digital products**

We want to introduce user-friendly labels that inform potential users of an online service or buyers of a digital product about critical factors, similar to how nutritional values are listed on food packages. These digital labels should be standardized and summarize important features in a compact, easy-to-understand format. Examples of features might include how and where the data is stored and in which country the company pays taxes. The labels should also apply to those online services that profit from user data, even if the user's registration does not require a conscious payment, e.g., in the form of a membership fee.

- **Integrate critical digital aspects into audits**

We want to oblige auditing companies to obtain information on the quality and security of the technical infrastructure from digital companies, parallel to the annual financial statement. Companies with data on at least 1 million people should be required to carry out penetration tests of their servers/websites/apps in order to prevent data leaks and harmful malfunctions. It should also be ensured that not only the IT department but also all superordinate persons have attended a seminar on data protection. We want to help small and medium-sized enterprises whose annual income is less than fifty times the new costs to implement the regulations unbureaucratically, with subsidies from the government.

- **Enabling non-personalized use**

We want to give users the right to use platforms and other digital services in a non-personalized way, so that their data is not collected and used for purposes that are not necessary for the actual service - for example, for the personalization of advertisements. Control should be carried out by institutions created or existing specifically for this purpose, instead of relying on self-regulation by companies and so-called "market forces" as is currently the case.

- **Uniform, binding standards for automated decision-making**

Fundamentally, we advocate the development and implementation of minimum technical requirements and standards that guarantee transparency, reliability and security. This includes the mandatory use of audited and non-discriminatory databases. Furthermore, we want to introduce ethical standards that prevent any kind of discrimination and exclusion through automated decision-making. These standards should also serve to ensure that the privacy and data protection of all stakeholders can be guaranteed.

- **Define areas of application for automated decision making**

Since automated decision making can be applied in almost all sectors, we advocate for a clear definition of the areas of application as well as for the prohibition of automated decision making in certain sectors. Clear prohibitions should apply in the case of military operations, police investigation, intelligence work, biometric facial recognition, access to government services and social behavior assessment. In addition, clear limits must apply in other sectors, such as medicine and healthcare, as to how far algorithms may be used and in what form the data, some of which is highly sensitive, is made available to them. For those affected by automated decisions, we want to introduce a right to human intervention.

- **Create transparency**

It is becoming increasingly common that users do not really know whether they are interacting with a machine or a real person. That's why we want to advocate that in the future it must be clearly stated whether you are interacting with a machine, in order to create more transparency. In addition, it should be clearer for users which data is processed and how. Everyone should have the right to opt out if they prefer to receive a standard result from an algorithm rather than having personal data used for the result.

## Competition & innovation: preventing the formation of monopolies

Especially in the digital economy, we see an increasing market concentration, which leads to the formation of monopolies. These companies come mainly from the U.S. or China and hardly allow any competition in many areas due to their market power. We therefore need far-reaching measures with which we can create an independent and globally integrated European digital economy.

- **Strengthen antitrust law**

Due to the ever-increasing market power and monopoly formation of large companies, we want to tighten antitrust law. Companies must no longer be allowed to exploit their market power, as they do, for example, by transferring data and integrating within their various services or by exploiting network effects. Above all, we want to enforce antitrust law more stringently in Germany and Europe, which can result in both fines and the breakup of companies as a consequence.

- **Preventing tax evasion**

Under current regulations, digital companies in the EU can move their profits and assets to tax havens. We want to stop tax evasion by companies. This requires stronger cooperation across Europe.

- **Promoting innovation**

To achieve our goal of an independent and globally integrated digital economy, extensive measures are needed to promote innovation. One important aspect is investment in basic government research. Within this framework, we want to make university research work more attractive. We want to tie subsidies for private companies to clear social and data protection conditions.

- **Innovation as a common good**

Innovation should be understood as a common good and not be limited to the economic growth of private companies, but rather take place in an inclusive system in which all stakeholders, such as users, employees and citizens, are equally important and contribute to the common good. This also means that innovations based on public basic research remain in the public domain and may not be patented. Along with this, we want to restrict copyright and reverse the burden of proof so that something remains in the digital public domain until it is proven in a proportionate way that it is protected. We also want to reform copyright guidelines so that the rights of users, authors and innovators are appropriately balanced.

- **Net neutrality and a free Internet**

We want to guarantee net neutrality for all users, regardless of whether this involves mobile data or transmission via cable or DSL. Internet providers must not interfere with users' content, for example by throttling the data transfer speed of certain content or giving preference to other content that is not included in the data volume of mobile tariffs. To ensure a neutral and equal opportunity Internet, all content must therefore be transmitted under the same conditions. In addition, we want to prohibit providers and private companies from censoring or blocking content or websites in a self-organized and extrajudicial manner. This also includes the use of upload filters to remove copyrighted content. If accounts or content are blocked, the reasons for this must be communicated transparently to the affected users and the possibility must be available to request unblocking of this content in an equally simple and transparent manner.

- **Promoting the local economy**

While digital services and platforms can have positive effects on parts of the local economy, they often bring with them far-reaching negative effects. To counterbalance the ever-increasing market power and impact on the local economy, we want to promote the latter as well as platform cooperatives more strongly.

# Freedom of the Press: Protecting Journalists & Whistleblowers

Freedom of the press is the backbone of a democratic society. Journalists and whistleblowers monitor the powerful and expose misconduct and abuse of power. We want to protect them and their work - in Germany, Europe and worldwide.

We are committed to a diverse media landscape and want to counter the increasing oligopolisation of the media. We want to make access to diverse media as low-threshold as possible. This also means that we want to preserve and develop public broadcasting.

- **Freedom for Julian Assange**

We strongly condemn the international persecution, inhumane treatment and torture of Julian Assange. We also condemn the silence of the members of the German government, who have become accomplices through their silent consent. We advocate for the immediate freedom of Julian Assange.

- **Safe haven for journalists and whistleblowers**

Germany and the EU should become a safe haven for journalists and whistleblowers. To protect them permanently from political persecution, we want to issue humanitarian visas without red tape and offer them asylum. The security authorities must ensure that they can live here safely and continue their work.

- **Protection for whistleblowers**

We are working to ensure that the EU Whistleblower Directive is implemented quickly. Protection must be extended to national law and any areas that are in the public interest. We want to oblige larger companies to create internal anonymous reporting offices.

- **Protecting journalists from secret services**

Journalists must not be spied on by secret services. We therefore want to ensure that journalists are protected from any access by secret services, for example under the BND Act, by state Trojans or by software such as Pegasus.

- **Introduce anti-SLAPP directive**

To protect journalists from abusive lawsuits, we support the introduction of an EU-wide directive against so-called SLAPPs (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). Obvious SLAPPs should be able to be rejected at an early stage and their abuse should be punishable. We want to support the victims of SLAPPs financially in their legal defense.

- **Standing up for freedom of the press worldwide**

In foreign policy, we want to stand up resolutely for press freedom. We want to reduce economic relations with countries where journalists suffer persecution and where there is no improvement in sight. We want to tie trade and investment agreements to the protection of a free press.

- **Media vouchers**

In order to give more people access to a diverse range of quality media, we want to make media vouchers available to every citizen, which can be used to take out subscriptions.

# Outlook: A constitution for the European Republic

Today's EU is deeply undemocratic. De facto, it prevents Europeans from exercising effective democratic control in essential areas, such as monetary, fiscal and labor market policy. It is not parliaments that determine the course of European and national policy, but an unelected elite of neoliberal Brussels technocrats, bankers and economic oligarchs, and their thousands of lobbyists, with whom our heads of state and government collaborate in the black box of Brussels institutions. The consequences are massive inequality and poverty, the progression of the climate crisis and increasing disillusionment with democratic governments, leading to the emergence of political monsters across Europe.

At the heart of these crises lies the attempt to remove political decisions from the democratic process by declaring them "apolitical," "purely technical," or "neutral." The price of this depoliticisation is the increasing disintegration of the EU and a democracy that degenerates into a mere facade.

We reject both the EU as it is today and its increasing disintegration. Neither do we want to surrender to the rule of the Brussels technocracy, nor do we want to return to isolated, compartmentalised nation-states. Instead, our goal is the creation of a European democracy in which all people are equal in dignity and rights.

- **Towards the European Republic**

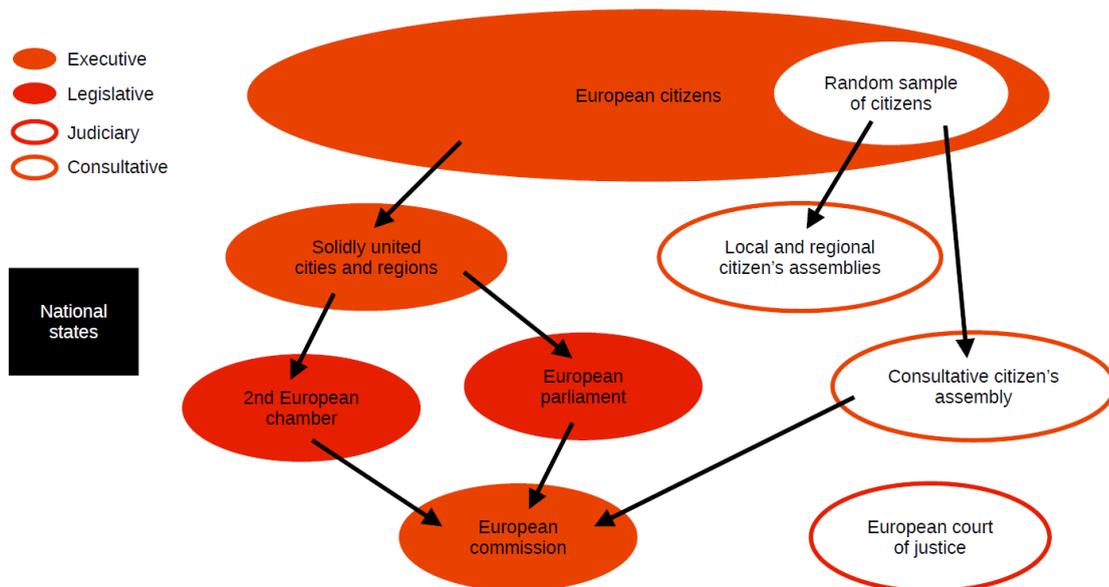
Europe must be democratised or it will disintegrate. Therefore, we advocate the further development of the European Union into a federal European republic with the basic pillars of freedom as non-domination, legal equality, separation of powers and civil society participation. The citizens of Europe should be able to elect a common parliament as well as other legislative bodies. The regulatory framework should no longer be the nation-states, but regions and cities. A constituent assembly should work out and decide on a new social contract for the establishment of the European Republic.

- **European citizenship**

We want to extend European citizenship to a real, non-forfeitable European citizenship. It should be open to all people who were born or grew up on the territory of the European Union or who have been on the territory of the EU for more than three years and who affirm that they will respect and protect the rights and duties that come with European citizenship. European citizenship gives European citizens full social, civil and political rights, which the European Union or a European Republic must guarantee.

- **Establishment of a new fourth power, the consultative power**

In order to link democracy more closely to the citizens, we want to anchor a new fourth power - the consultative body - in a European constitution. The consultative body, modeled on the Irish Citizens' Assembly, should be composed of citizens chosen by lot as a representative selection of society. It will be established at all political levels, from the local authority to the legislative bodies on the higher level. In its legislative competence, it is equal to the other components.



Graphic: Organisation chart of the institutions of a European Republic

- **Lowering the voting age to 16 years**

Whether in climate, education or family policy, young people in particular are often affected by political decisions which they themselves cannot influence by voting because they are not yet of age. We see no reason to allow people to participate in elections only from the age of 18. We would like to grant all citizens the right to vote in all elections from the age of 16 and send them a ballot paper. In addition, we want to improve and expand political education.

- **Democratic right to vote for all**

We see no reason to exclude people from democratic elections because of their origin. That is why we also want to send people without German citizenship who have been registered in Germany for more than one year a ballot paper for all elections in Germany.

- **Independent municipalities and regions**

We want to strengthen the independence of municipalities and regions and protect their autonomy in a united Europe. To this end, we want to transfer competencies to the municipal and regional level. Municipalities should be allowed to regulate local businesses and companies even beyond national requirements. In particular, we want local authorities to be able to impose stricter environmental and occupational safety requirements. Furthermore, we want to enable municipalities to decide for themselves on investments within the framework of the Green New Deal and on the admission of refugees beyond fixed quotas.

- **A European Public Broadcasting Service**

In order to create a European public that is able to control the European institutions and inform the people of Europe, we want to establish a European independent public broadcasting service. We want to expand existing European projects such as the Franco-German television station ARTE.

- **Enforceable fundamental rights in the European Union**

To protect the fundamental rights of European citizens, we advocate for a single Charter of Fundamental Rights, written by and for the wider European public, protecting people at all levels of government and in all places in Europe. We want to financially support all municipalities across Europe to carry out consultation processes. The Charter should apply everywhere on the continent, from the lowest magistrate's court to the European Court of Justice. To this end, we want to delete Article 51 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.

**Carpe DiEM!**

