

**(A summary of)
Our plan for a green,
fair, and opportunity-
rich The Hague**



**Election manifesto
Groenlinks The Hague
2022-2026
SUMMARY**

GROENLINKS
DEN HAAG

CARING FOR ONE ANOTHER

The Hague faces major social challenges in the coming years. The corona crisis has had a extensive impact on our city. Residents in vulnerable situations were hit harder than others. This is why it's important that we help each other. Only then everyone has access to good and appropriate care and assistance, and everyone in the city can count on sufficient income. Income or education should never determine how healthy you are or how old you become. GroenLinks is committed to this.

The human measure and assurance

GroenLinks is already setting a good example in the city administration. For example in the choice of organizations with whom the municipality enters into contracts. The human measure and trust are the standard for everything we do in relation to work, participation, (youth) care and municipal debt assistance. This means that we respect the privacy of our residents, even if they need help. We listen to the experiences and wishes of our residents so that together we can find suitable solutions. After all, everyone is entitled to a good quality of life.

Fair and just

We still have work to do. That requires a budget. For youth care: to be able to help all children and young people on time. For the WMO: to offer people good support. And for welfare: so that residents can build a future suitable to their capabilities. That's why we're pushing for structurally more money from the state and asking something extra from our residents who can afford it. In the meantime we are working on a city where everyone gets the help they need.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

FIGHTING FINANCIAL TROUBLES

- Poverty is the result of an unfair distribution of capital and income. People with money problems should always receive appropriate help immediately. We also focus on structural solutions such as fair wages. The municipality must therefore immediately apply a minimum wage of € 14 per hour for its own employees. In addition, we make the same demand on all organizations with which the municipality enters into contracts.
- One in five residents of The Hague is a minor (under the age of 18) and over 20% of them grow up in a minimum wage household. This is unacceptable. The municipality supports organizations that, for example, arrange laptops or bicycles for families, and intervenes when no (adequate) organization is available. For help with money problems we involve the whole family. With this family-oriented approach we break the chain of problems that are passed on from generation to generation.

CARING FOR OUR RESIDENTS

- Our residents in the most vulnerable situations get the best help. Mandatory contributions must become affordable. We will therefore continue to fully compensate the WMO subscription rate for households with an income up to 130% of the social security standard. And if people have complaints, they should be able to turn to an independent complaints committee.
- GroenLinks wants The Hague to stop tendering in health care and to purchase according to need. This will make it easier to provide appropriate care and simplify cooperation between care providers. We do, however, set high standards for quality and employment. We give trust in return.

UNBIASED WORK AND INCOME

- For good healthcare, education and energy transition, The Hague needs well-trained staff and professionals. We help employers in these three sectors to combat personnel shortages and seek cooperation with the educational institutions that have to train them. We encourage retraining and lateral entry into these professions.
- Many local entrepreneurs had to close during the corona crisis. Hospitality, events, culture, sex workers and non-food stores were hit hard. We create extra opportunities for people with a unprotected position in the labor market, such as young people and flex workers. We also ensure that residents and visitors find their way back to entrepreneurs and our (inner) city.

SUFFICIENT AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Housing is a fundamental right. But this is something that fewer and fewer people can take for granted. Students cannot find a room. First-time buyers are stuck in expensive rental properties and have to compete with investors on the housing market. The waiting list for social housing has risen to more than six years. The need for housing is changing, people are living alone more often, getting divorced more often and the elderly are living at home longer. There are not enough homes for the elderly in which they can grow old comfortably and independently. In recent years, there has been a structural lack of investment in the maintenance of social housing, resulting in people living in poor quality housing in an unhealthy environment.

A fair housing market

The housing crisis is the result of years of right-wing housing policy. Housing has become a market where mainly people with a lot of money and investors can flourish. People with low and middle incomes don't have that chance. In the past 4 years, with GroenLinks in the college of The Hague, several progressive measures were taken to counteract the inequality in the housing market, but more is needed.

Diverse neighborhoods

GroenLinks wants to ensure that there is a place in the city for all residents of The Hague. The housing market should no longer be a source of inequality and segregation between the rich and the poor. We are building mixed neighborhoods with housing for all incomes. Neighborhoods that are attractive and easily accessible, with enough green, education, culture and public transport close by.

Taking back control

GroenLinks wants the government to take back control of the housing market. We do this by regulating where we can and by ensuring that affordable housing is built throughout the city. GroenLinks wants to add as much housing as possible in the city, so that we preserve nature and reduce travel distances. We build homes for those who have the greatest disadvantage: social rent and affordable owner-occupied homes for first-time buyers and those who move on, suitable homes for the elderly.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

HOUSING IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT

- Homes may no longer be bought up by investors who rent them out or sell them on for a big profit. We apply the buy-out protection for the existing affordable and medium living densities in The Hague. At the national level we fight for a self-occupancy obligation for the affordable and medium densities.
- The municipality must be able to act up against abuse of the rental sector such as discrimination, overcrowding, poor maintenance and extremely high rents. GroenLinks therefore wants a mandatory landlord license for all rental housing in The Hague.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- To solve the housing shortage, many more homes are needed for the low and middle income groups. GroenLinks has set the condition that all new buildings must consist of at least 40% social rent and 40% medium rent and purchase. This will prevent the construction of only expensive housing, because it is the most profitable.
- When social homes are demolished, we will require that at least the same number of social housing units in the same rental segment be returned and that there is a return promise for residents.
- We will come to an agreement with housing corporations that they will not sell rental houses.
- The municipality will pursue an active land policy by buying and selling land. This will ensure that affordable land becomes available for housing cooperatives, housing corporations or facilities.

HEALTHY HOMES IN ATTRACTIVE NEIGHBORHOODS

- In all districts of The Hague there will be the prospect of moving on to a different home, to education and to work. Initiatives such as 'Pand ZuidWest' and 'Allekanten' that contribute to society and opportunities for residents deserve structural support and funding.
- Mixed neighborhoods with various forms of living make the city dynamic and bring people closer together. We protect meeting places such as libraries and community centers from being removed due to cutbacks.

SUSTAINABLE LIVING AND PRESERVATION OF NATURE

- On all roofs of the social housing there will be solar panels from which the tenants will directly benefit.
- Private owners in an association of owners (VVE) will be able to participate in the sustainability efforts of the housing corporation. We help make plans and make subsidies available.
- The municipality will make a plan to oblige landlords in the free rental sector to insulate their homes according to the 'Standard for Home Insulation' by 2030.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE

Everyone is entitled to equal opportunities in The Hague. We have already made steps in this direction, but there is still much room for improvement.

Good quality education

Education is important in combating inequality. It is essential that all children in The Hague receive quality education. We are committed to combating the shortage of teachers and providing education that has a place for everyone. We will ensure that there is a place for everyone in education and we will ensure that there is a good connection to the labor market.

Participating and decision making

To really participate, we want to give residents more influence than once every four years during the elections. Through citizens' councils we will discuss important issues with residents and give them a voice. We also expand the participation of children. The participating adults and children are representative of the residents of The Hague.

Accessible city

All residents of The Hague should be able to play sports and enjoy the arts and culture in The Hague. This is how residents meet and inspire each other. To achieve this, the accessibility of the sport, art and culture sectors must be improved. This means accessible buildings, sports facilities and affordability. We want to stimulate this by reversing the cuts in the cultural sector and continuing to invest. This also includes offering spaces to artists.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

GOOD EDUCATION FOR EVERYONE

- Investing in the development of teachers and attracting enough teachers for in The Hague is important. That is why we want to introduce a teacher's scholarship in The Hague, just like it's done in Rotterdam. This way we can encourage teachers from The Hague to keep developing themselves. We also support initiatives to combat the teacher shortage, such as 'Samen voor de Haagse Klas' (Together for the Hague Classroom).
- All children and adults deserve equal opportunities in education. The segregation of different socio-economic groups between different primary and secondary schools is a major cause of inequality. The municipality is investigating what it can do to counteract the inequality between schools. We also combat under-advise and encourage wide scoop classes (different levels). In addition, we invest extra in schools with many students who need more support. The abolition of the compulsory parental contribution should not lead to differences in opportunity between "rich" and "poor" schools, but should actually lead to more equality.
- Every student deserves a suitable internship. Therefore, we are committed to good cooperation between the municipality, schools, companies and organizations, including multicultural student and youth associations. In doing so, we look for a good balance between supply and demand on the labor market. We will actively fight discrimination in internship applications, by involving schools in the classification of internships and by making companies aware of prejudice through training.

INCLUDING RESIDENTS

- We think it is important that from the beginning of the policy process, residents have a say in how the municipal money is spent. That is why we are looking to improve the use of neighborhood budgets and expand it to other neighborhoods. In our approach we take into account the differences between neighborhoods and we pay extra attention to neighborhoods in which residents find it more difficult to approach the council themselves.
- Ideas, experiences and complaints from residents are compulsory in all decision-making. We make use of experts by experience when making policy. Their contribution can be practical or substantive. We provide feedback on how the contribution of residents has been used in making the policy.

THE IMPORTANCE OF CULTURE AND SPORTS

- The Hague's art and culture are the pride of the city. Therefore we will bring the subsidy budget up to standard and invest at least 75 million euros per year in art and culture.
- All residents of The Hague have access to art, culture and sport. As a visitor or as a participant. That is why we will retain the 'Ooievaarspas' and there will be more culture coaches to help children get acquainted with the cultural things. We want to make cultural education a permanent part of education in primary and secondary schools. That is why we are expanding the initiative 'Cultu-uronderwijs op z'n Haags' (Cultural Education the Hague) for primary education to special and secondary education.

EVERYONE CAN BE WHO THEY ARE

The diversity of The Hague is a strength. GroenLinks will not be satisfied until everyone feels welcome, safe and valued in The Hague and can participate in society equally and appropriately.

Exclusion is unacceptable

Every day residents of The Hague are faced with different kinds of discrimination. Skin color, religion, gender, sexual preference, age, background or disability are used against people. Any form of exclusion is unacceptable and we will fight it head-on. The prevention of discrimination is also important, so we want to focus on awareness and connection.

Reflecting the population

Discrimination and racism must stop. GroenLinks wants the municipality to no longer cooperate with institutions and companies that discriminate. We will also make sure that the municipality itself recruits employees from all residents of The Hague. The personnel of the municipality must represent the population of The Hague in all positions.

Safe streets

Our streets must be safe. You should be able to walk hand in hand with your loved one, walk the streets alone at night, and wear whatever you like without hesitation. We will protect people who no longer have a safe home. We will make sure that newcomers feel at home as quickly as possible.

Guarding privacy

Safety should never come at the expense of privacy. We will handle people's data with care. We are also critical of the retrieval and use of data and the digitalization of information from the municipality.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

AN EYE FOR SAFETY AND PRIVACY

- We will increase the number of neighborhood police officers and creating a neighborhood safety plan for each neighborhood. All bus and streetcar stops will be see-through and well-lit after dark. We will also make more use of neighborhood parents (buurtouders) and young people who hold each other accountable for disruptive behavior on the street. We will not arm BOA's.
- We remain critical of the placement of cameras and the use of drones in the city to improve safety on the streets. Cameras should only be used as a temporary measure for specific problems in a particular neighborhood or district. Therefore, we will evaluate the deployment of security cameras every year.
- We will continue to fight against ethnic profiling by the police and all other organizations. There will be a concrete action plan, formulated by the Hague police and the city council, to tackle ethnic profiling. We will increase the control on the trade and quality of drugs. We will ensure a better distribution of coffeeshops throughout our city. Information and tests will be offered at popular nightlife spots in the city. Possession of small quantities of drugs for personal use will not be enforced by law. In providing information, we will specifically focus on the use of laughing gas. We also discuss with sellers of nitrous oxide how we can reduce waste, such as nitrous oxide cartridges and balloons.

INCLUSIVE CITY

- People, companies, organizations, employers, government agencies, employment agencies and other institutions that discriminate will be tracked down and prosecuted. We also encourage reporting discrimination and ensure that there is always feedback on what has happened with the report.
- The municipality will not cooperate with companies, organizations, institutions or people who discriminate or violate human rights. This also applies to contractors financed by the municipality.

A GREEN CITY FOR EVERYONE

We see big differences in the city when it comes to nature. Not all neighborhoods have green spaces within walking distance. Even though nature is good for our health and well-being, green space is needed now that our climate is changing faster and faster. The city is getting warmer. The sea level is rising. The Hague is vulnerable to climate change. Climate change hits vulnerable people the hardest. The coming years will be crucial in making The Hague more sustainable and green together with all its inhabitants. We will do this to make our city resilient to extreme weather, to create new green jobs and to create a healthier living environment for all residents of The Hague. GroenLinks wants everyone to be able to participate in making the city more green and sustainable, and for everyone to benefit.

Climate neutral

In 2030 The Hague will be climate neutral. We will accelerate the energy transition by using less energy and generating more sustainable energy. We will insulate all homes in The Hague and install solar panels on all available roofs. The Hague will be the international knowledge capital for geothermal energy. We will reduce emissions of harmful substances.

Green city

We will make our city greener and protect nature reserves, parks, beaches and dunes. We want to preserve our unique nature and make it accessible. We will plant more trees. We will tackle the problem of waste and ensure clean, green and livable streets.

Livable and accessible

We will make our neighborhoods livable and our streets accessible to play, to live and to meet. Only 40% of adults in The Hague own a car. But the streets are full of parked cars. The negative impact of cars on our living environment is enormous. This has to change. We will make alternative transport safer, more affordable and more attractive. We will invest in cycling, public transport and electric shared transport.

THIS IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO

GREEN LIVING ENVIRONMENT FOR EVERYONE

- We will plant a tree for every new resident of The Hague. This will result in the addition of ten thousand trees in the coming council term (of 4 years). For each neighborhood we will establish a minimum number of trees. We will let trees in our city grow old. We will only cut down trees if it is demonstrably impossible to do otherwise. Wherever a tree has to make room, we will replace it in the same neighborhood with the largest possible tree. We will take biodiversity into account and prefer to plant indigenous tree species. Green roadsides will be mowed as little as possible and managed in a butterfly-friendly way. We will strengthen the green connections between our nature areas, triple the number of green roofs in the city and replace stone canal and river banks with green ones. We will involve our residents, and especially our youngest residents, in making our neighborhoods more green.
- We will adhere to the World Health Organization's strict standards for air quality. We will continue to advocate for a fireworks ban in our city and push for more smoke-free zones.
- The municipality will ensure that no plastic and as little pollution as possible from the city ends up in the sea.

A FAIR ENERGY TRANSITION

- In conjunction with the ideas of residents and neighborhood initiatives, the city council will chart available heat sources and which combinations of these will lead to climate neutral neighborhoods most quickly, efficiently and socially. These paths will be coordinated with all stakeholders. The municipality decides on the best combination.
- By 2030 all buildings owned by the city of The Hague will be insulated. The municipality will actively support residents in insulating their homes, including financially.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY IN OUR GREEN CITY

- We will promote the accessibility of The Hague by train, tram, bus and bicycle. We make car, bus and freight traffic in and around the city more sustainable.
- We will encourage people who do not yet cycle to do so. Cycling is healthy, good for the environment and important in tackling traffic poverty. From now on, mopeds, motorcycles and scooters will be driven on the carriageway wearing a helmet. This way, we will make more room on the bike path. With road works and construction sites, cyclists will have priority and we will ensure that they can continue their journey with as little disruption as possible. Construction work should only start when there is a clear and safe alternative route for cyclists.
- We will apply stricter standards for parking permits and make them more expensive. Very heavy and/or large cars will pay considerably more. For a second parking permit, there will be additional requirements. We will stop issuing extra parking permits and introduce paid parking throughout the city.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND THANKS

This program came about thanks to the contributions of people inside and outside of GroenLinks The Hague. We wrote the program at a time when it was not always easy to meet physically; yet many of you knew how to find us. There was email, phone calls, video calls: in these ways we have had a series of inspiring conversations with you about our city.

We spoke with people who have been making important contributions to The Hague for years. We talked to organizations and service providers that play an important role in the daily lives of so many of our fellow city residents. Diverse contributors who nevertheless had something in common: The Hague is in their hearts and a keen eye for what makes the city even better.

This manifesto also exists thanks to the members of GroenLinks The Hague; first of all the members of the working groups Social, Inclusive, Environment and Housing, and International. We thank them for their involvement and knowledge. But we also want to thank all the other members who managed to reach us with their ideas about our city and its neighborhoods: who shared their concerns and ideas through questionnaires, emails, member meetings, reflection sessions and thematic meetings.

COLOPHON

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