

# The Basic Policies of The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark

## The Free Individual

In The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark, we believe in the individual, and in the personal freedom. With personal freedom comes responsibilities for both the individual's own life and the society the individual is a part of.

Above all we are defined by being human and thereafter where we come from socially and culturally. In the modern society every person is equal, since reason – in opposition to culture, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexuality – forms a common ground for understanding between people.

Consideration for the community must never compromise the basic rights of the individual: the universal right to vote and be eligible, freedom of speech, freedom of association and assembly, religious freedom, equality under the law, the right to a fair trial, and a respect for the law of property. Furthermore, the individual has a right to move freely across borders, for the individual to live out their dreams and fulfill their potential in the world. Rights as well as responsibility should apply to every citizen – regardless of their background. However, it is important that the citizens have freedom to do something – and not simply from doing something.

Ensuring equal rights for all is a shared responsibility while getting the most out of life is a personal responsibility. We believe that the individual is the best person to judge how they want to live their life, and that politicians should not make themselves judges of what the good life should consist of. As long as the actions are not harming anyone else, the individual should be free to do as one pleases. These principles are crucial to treating individuals equally and for them to feel liberated.

## The Opportunity-giving Society

In The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark, we believe that the state is the sum of personal freedom and a strong community and that freedom for the individual cannot be created without equality under the law, social responsibility and democratic institutions. It is the community in a society that creates the opportunity for a free, just and happy life.

The society must be arranged in a manner, so that every citizen has the opportunity to, and is encouraged to participate in our communities. We believe that democracy is

the system of governance which best ensures the individual the most opportunities to build their own life in the best way possible. We believe that the individual should participate in the general, binding community of society – the democracy.

The society and the state are not goals by themselves, but tools to ensure the individual's ability to develop itself and its options.

Free and equal access to education throughout life is the most opportunity-giving thing we, as a society, can give to each other. Through education one develops an understanding of oneself and one's surroundings and makes the individual able to create and live out their own idea of the good life. Education is our key to participating as citizens in a society on equal ground with one another. Therefore, The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark embraces the right, as well as the obligation to receive education.

In our ideal society everyone has equal rights. This demands that the state and the society actively help individuals who cannot help themselves. The welfare state must be a part of giving people on the edge of society assistance, so that they are able to create what they believe to be a good life.

Through free and equal access to education, equal opportunities are secured for everyone in the society. This makes the citizens capable of rethinking our society and thereby creating a better world for the benefit of everyone.

## **The Progressive Society**

In The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark, we believe the future holds new opportunities for the society, which can benefit everyone. We wish to think big and not be confined by tradition and what we are used to. Therefore, political decisions should be based on a foundation of enlightenment with consideration to the people of the present and the future.

Our society should be based on a forward-looking policy – we should anticipate both troubles and pleasures, when it comes to new conditions such as globalisation or new technology. There is no education without knowledge. Therefore, we believe that free and independent research is crucial. Scientific work creates new opportunities for people and rethinks our way of living. The world is forever changing, and as a result our policy should be carried forward by creativity and reimagination. This should be done with humanism as a cornerstone, which means that our society should be arranged with a focus on the development of freedom for the individual.

Preservation by itself is never a goal for The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark – quite the contrary, it is through reforms and change that we make a better society. We

are not afraid of the future – we have ambitions for it. A progressive society requires a well-functioning democracy, which is why we want to break with the obsolete institutions of power and structures that limit the free and democratic people.

We believe in the potential for progress – both for the individual and society as a whole.

## **The Responsible Society**

In The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark we believe that we have a responsibility for each other, our society, and our planet. The individual should have freedom, and with freedom comes a responsibility for one's own life. The individual also has a responsibility to contribute to the society, help one's fellow human beings, and secure the possibility of living in a free and wealthy society for future generations.

We believe that the state must protect minorities of the society, to ensure that everyone has the same rights regardless of their background, and that we should fight any form of discrimination.

We believe that the state must secure free and equal access to healthcare to ensure that every citizen has the opportunity to lead a good life, regardless of the conditions of life they are born into. This should happen through a healthcare system which focuses on prevention and promotion of health instead of symptom treatment.

Furthermore, we believe that helping the socially marginalized people and ensuring that no one lives a life in poverty is the responsibility of the state. The children who grow up with social problems as a part of everyday life are the most important aspect. The state has a responsibility to lift these children up, for them to have a light future ahead of them as well.

The individual also has a responsibility to their fellow human beings. We – the citizens, the civil society, and businesses – must never disclaim the responsibility to create a society in which all people are met with help and compassion.

We view neither economic equality nor growth as goals in themselves, but wish to build a society, where no one lives in poverty, and where everyone has the opportunity to utilize their potential. The state should – with respect to the climate and environment – secure the best possible frame for businesses, in order for them to create economic prosperity for the benefit of the people and the society. Innovation, free trade, and an educated labour force are absolutely vital in this regard.

The taxation system should always ensure that the wealth generated by the society and the businesses benefits the whole population and that it not just accumulates among the affluent. A healthy planet is a prerequisite for the survival of the human, and the nature allows for creation of value and great experiences. Therefore, we must take responsibility for our nature and planet. If future generations should have the same opportunities as us, we need to focus on consuming more sustainably. The man-made climate changes are the largest and most urgent challenges that our generation face. The responsibility of the state and the individual does not end at the national border. We must insist on a strong international vision and work towards creating a better tomorrow.

## The Open World

In The Social Liberal Youth of Denmark we believe that Denmark being a small country, must be a nation that opens to the world and dares to look outward. If we shut ourselves in we will be run over by the world's superpowers, be it economically, militarily or culturally. If we, on the other hand, dare to invest in international communities we can make Denmark and the world greater. When we collaborate in Europe, we can solve many challenges across borders. We, therefore dream of a federal European partnership without reserves, where the member states - with the respect for each other's differences - dare to disregard their own borders in order to create peace, freedom and free trade. As a fully integrated part of the European partnership, we need to be able to fight for the expansion of the international order of law, which will benefit both Denmark and the rest of the world. We wish for a world where court and power are not crucial. Binding collaborations across the planet create peace, economic growth and cultural understanding across borders. Denmark should therefore lead the way in order to maintain strong, effective and democratic international organizations.

We believe in a world, where collaboration and unity exceed our limited self-interests. When parts of the world are affected by a disaster, it is not only their problem. It is everybody's problem. We must insist on developing the poor and unstable countries so everyone gets the opportunity to live out their dreams, regardless of where they are born. As a wealthy society, we have a responsibility for helping the ones who have not been as lucky to be born in a country with privileges and wealth. In the same way, Denmark cannot just ignore events where civilians are slaughtered by the power craving tyrants or through ferocious civil wars. Military intervention must always be the last resort, however, it cannot be completely abandoned as a measure that

in severe situations can help distressed citizens regain their freedom and give them the opportunities they deserve.

We want a Denmark that does not give up and is not scared of the world. We must look the world in the eyes and take on the challenges. This way only, we can maximize the benefits of the immense opportunities that globalization holds for us, for the benefit of Danish citizens, businesses and the world around us.