

## **A community belongs to all of us.**

Our cities and communities are our home. Nevertheless, for many people life here isn't always easy: Most of us work hard so we can afford to live. Or we lose confidence in ourselves because we can't make it out of Hartz IV. And all of us dream of a future worth living for our children and grandchildren.

Being short of money means that we have to make sacrifices in everyday life. A lot of pensioners, unemployed people and low-income earners don't even want to talk about a nice life or even justice. They feel abandoned by politicians. This has to change: All people have the same rights, we're all worth the same.

**Local elections are scheduled for September 13. It's time to show that a society based on solidarity is possible. It's time to make the point that discrimination of any kind is not tolerated. It's time to give back the community to those who own it: us people. It's time to choose DIE LINKE.**

## **Health is not a commodity**

It wasn't just the coronavirus that made it clear: The health care system is profit-driven, and there is no capacity for emergency situations. Private hospitals only treat lucrative cases, making profits at the expense of our health. The problem wasn't caused by the coronavirus, though; it was already part of our everyday life: getting appointments with specialists is something we often wait months for. Or we're discharged from the hospital even though our injuries aren't healed yet. The reason: doctors have to bill their services according to a catalogue, and hospitals and nursing homes have to make a profit. There are too few nursing staff, and badly paid ones at that.

What we all need are hospitals and nursing homes in public ownership. We need municipal nursing services. We need doctors who have the time to make house calls again. We need health authorities that are well equipped. We need more staff in the care sector, and well paid at that!

**We, the LINKE, believe that people should come before profit - health isn't a commodity, it's a human right!**

## **Climate protection must be socially responsible**

Climate protection costs money, no climate protection costs lives - that is why we must do everything we can to mitigate the already unavoidable consequences of climate change for people in cities and communities by all means. For DIE LINKE this can only be done in a socially ecological and anti-capitalistic way. Preserving green space is more important than concrete, avoiding waste is more important than recycling, and CO2 neutrality can only be achieved by expanding the use of regenerative energies. The local power grids belong in public hands, so that the municipal utilities can develop affordable green power projects for everyone. We've set out this and much more in our 2035 action plan.

**And if consistent climate protection means a rethink for all of us, then one thing is clear: it's the big corporations that should foot the bill, not the little people!**

## **Give bikes and public transport priority**

Our streets are getting more and more crowded, the air is getting worse. There are a lot of reasons for that: Work, the sports field and even the supermarket are further and further away from home. What's more, delivery traffic is increasing. And: In the countryside buses run so rarely that you can't do much without a car. That is why DIE LINKE wants to expand the bus and train infrastructure, and the frequency of bus and train services should be increased. While some people have to be more and more mobile with their own car, others are denied the right to mobility: people with a low income, a small pension or those on Hartz IV often can't afford tickets for bus and train. And people who walk

or cycle often find sidewalks that are too narrow and cycle paths that are too broken. That's why we want to transform traffic planning from the top down to the bottom, literally and figuratively:

**Priority for pedestrians, more and good cycle paths, cars out of the city centre, speed limit of 30 km/h in the city centre and in the future ticket-free travel on buses and trains.**

### **We're declaring war on (child) poverty**

It's true: The rich get richer and richer, the poor get more and more numerous and have less and less money to live on. It's not fair. A wealthy country like Germany shouldn't have pensioners who have to fish bottles out of garbage cans because their meager pension doesn't last until the end of the month. Single parents shouldn't have to despair because they can't pay for their child's school trip. It's just not acceptable that people with low incomes can't have a lobby. We can't have more and more children living in poverty, feeling excluded. The Participation Opportunities Act stigmatises families with low income. We want to take action against it!

**What needs to be eliminated from now on: gas, electricity and water barriers! What we absolutely must have: a free social pass, which is also valid for bus and train!**

### **A good education – free of charge for everyone**

It all depends on the beginning: Lifelong learning begins in the daycare centre. That's why it needs to be free of charge. In primary school, it goes without saying that classes shouldn't be too large. The municipalities are allowed to regulate this themselves and we demand that they do so. Children need a good all-day programme and joint learning in primary school and beyond. A good education shouldn't be determined by how much money people have: To combat social inequality, DIE LINKE demands a school for ALL as a full-time school. We demand a materials fund for families with low incomes. Who should be paying for it? Federal and state governments must provide cities and municipalities with sufficient money for this. Our run-down school buildings must finally be renovated. But it's just as important that there are enough school social workers, that lunch is healthy and free. It wouldn't hurt if it was also tasty and catered to the needs of all children. Because our schools are places of integration and inclusion.

**Our children don't learn for school, but in school they learn to coexist.**

### **Affordable rent instead of a fat profit**

Housing is becoming more and more expensive - and why? Because real estate sharks want to make money. The tenants, who already have to spend half or more of their income on rent anyway, fall by the wayside. There are fewer and fewer apartments with rent control. It's clear: Something has to happen! Where tenants are already resisting, we support them. Where they aren't (yet) doing so, we fight for their rights: DIE LINKE wants a rent cap everywhere, we want to put a stop to speculation on housing and land. We want to take action against landlords who let properties stand empty, and above all we want to see more communal housing being built.

**And we don't forget those who have it hardest: people who live on the street. They need more shelter, following the example of "Housing First". Above all, they need support when they finally have a home of their own again after years on the streets!**

### **Breaking down barriers - in buildings, in the network and in the mind**

Are you disabled?! Yes, you're also obstructed - at the station, on the internet, even when you vote. Not all public buildings are barrier-free. There are still no ramps, lifts or guidance systems for the blind in places where we all go. So people with disabilities are obstructed. People who don't have disabilities often don't even notice that. Yet we all benefit from barrier-free access. That is why it's important that every city, every community has inclusion commissioners and advisory boards for

people with disabilities. DIE LINKE wants to work out an inclusion plan with them, with support groups and organisations on site. So that public documents, websites and buildings are finally accessible to everyone..

**Everyone should experience it: We are all part of society, and we must create it together for all. Barriers must finally be removed - also and above all in people's minds.**

### **For equality that's not just on paper**

Hey women, for over 100 years you've been allowed to vote, big deal, right? But men are still the majority in the parliaments - especially in local politics. And even at home, you're still the ones who do most of the housework, who take more time off work because of the children or other relatives you put your needs aside to care for. Your husbands climb the career ladder, while you'll always earn less than they do. That's why you are affected by poverty in old age much more often than they are. That's why you are dependent on them. And despite #metoo sexism is still the order of the day. DIE LINKE wants to change this and set a good example in the community - with a consistent equality policy! What does it look like? We make your work visible at home, we stand up for fair payment of your jobs.

**We want more places in women's shelters, for those of you who are threatened by violence at home. We want more money for offender services to protect you and your children.**

### **No place for fascists.**

For more than 100 years our cities and communities have been shaped by immigration. As the LINKE, we see this as a benefit! Grünkohl tastes just as good as bulgur salad, a shisha bar is as convivial as a corner pub - that's just as well, it should stay that way. That's why we take a stand against racism wherever we encounter it! We stand for a multicultural society! We don't stay silent when people with a migration background are discriminated against. We don't stay silent when refugees are harassed. We raise our voice for a peaceful society without exclusion. Our cities should be safe havens. In our parliaments, the Integration Councils should have the same rights as all other committees. We're declaring war on right-wing organisations.

**The fact remains: we don't work together with racists and right-wing populists in the local parliaments.**

**We oppose them, in politics and on the streets.**

### **More money for communities**

Our cities and communities can't keep suffering from trimmed budgets because we need well-functioning public services, such as public utilities, housing associations and transport companies. The administration also needs more staff and better, modern equipment. All this costs money! We've thought about where this is going to come from. On the one hand, there's the trade tax as the most important source of income for our municipalities. We want this tax to be developed into a municipal business tax. What does that mean? Everything that companies generate in a municipality will be recorded and directly taxed. For small businesses, there's a tax allowance. On the other hand, we want a fund for old debts to be set up at long last, i.e. a joint financial pool of federal, state and local authorities.

**We can defend our demands to the federal government all the more emphatically from the grassroots up if we are represented as strongly as possible in numerous local parliaments.**