

**Everyone wants
to govern.
We want to
change.**

Sharing wealth. Reduce prices.
For each other.

Election platform

The logo for the German political party Die Linke. It features the text "Die Linke" in white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a red rectangular background that is tilted slightly upwards to the right. A thin, dark teal line is positioned above the red rectangle.

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Everyone wants to govern. We want to change.

Sharing wealth. Reduce prices.

For each other.

Dear voters,

We are different, but most of us want the same thing: a society in which people listen to and support each other, in which everyone is seen and heard. A predictable life with a secure future that leaves room for one's own goals and decisions. A policy that takes responsibility, stands by the side of people and takes care of their problems.

We, Die Linke, are fighting for it, we are convinced: It is possible. A life in which everyone has a secure income, rents are affordable and not every supermarket shopping leads to a shock at the checkout is possible. A life in which conflicts are resolved peacefully is possible. A life with effective climate policy that does not primarily burden people with low and middle incomes, is possible. A life in which every person has the same rights is possible. A life that does not destroy the livelihoods of future generations is possible.

But for this to happen, many things have to change fundamentally: In recent years, the rich and powerful have become incredibly richer and more powerful: they go directly to the ministries and have laws changed to their advantage: in order to pay even less tax, to pay hard work even worse or to turn the fact that we all have housing, Electricity and health care need to make even higher profits. Meanwhile, arms spending is rising – at the expense of housing, health and care, daycare centers, schools, women's shelters, railways and mobility. And so that we don't notice this, they are trying to divide us and stir up hatred against some of us. The profiteers of our unjust economic order want to talk about everything but that they are the problem.

But we have to talk about exactly this. For us it is clear: The division of society into rich and poor is one of the biggest problems of our time. Anyone who can only hope that the washing machine, the car or their own health will last another two years needs change now. If you don't know how to pay the next rent increase or accommodate your child, big promises won't help us. We don't want anyone to have to worry about

being kicked out of their homes the next time they raise their rents. That's why we want to enforce a nationwide rent cap. This will allow everyone to continue living at home in a relaxed manner. We don't want anyone to be faced with an empty fridge at the end of the month: That's why we want to abolish VAT on basic foodstuffs and break the market power of large supermarket chains. Heating and electricity prices must become affordable again. So that no one has to choose between a warm meal and a warm apartment. We want more money for those who are always neglected – especially children and families. That's why we continue to fight for a real basic child benefit.

We fight for women to finally get equal pay for work of equal value and for them to be able to determine their own bodies and to be protected from violence.

We want higher pensions and real pension justice for all. An end to two-class medicine and a fundamental reform of care are overdue.

The debt brake must be removed and the military budget must be reduced so that we can invest today and tomorrow in education, bridges, buses and trains and the economy. The system of debt waiver and renunciation of tax increases for the rich has led to public poverty and a neglect of the social infrastructure. This must stop. It cannot be that we have to turn down the heating at home, while others cheerfully fly to Sylt in their private jets. The climate crisis threatens our future and our lives. The past governments have dealt with it neither effectively nor socially. We want a completely different climate policy, in which the corporations and all others who make profits from the destruction of our livelihoods are held particularly accountable – and not the vast majority, who at the end of the month remains less and less of their wages. Wealth for all of us also means that we can see our loved ones as often as we want. That's why we want more buses and trains at the lowest possible prices. In addition, we need a faster expansion of renewable energies for a cheap supply and a restructuring of the economy that protects jobs and not profits.

We stand by the right to asylum – without ifs and buts We don't want Fortress Europe that lets people drown in the Mediterranean or die of thirst in the desert We want safe, legal escape routes and more money for the municipalities All people must have the same rights and opportunities with us, regardless of passport and origin And yes: We hold on to the perspective that disarmament treaties, cooperation, diplomacy and peaceful conflict resolution are the right way to create security and solve global problems The planned stationing of medium-range missiles in Germany will make the whole of Europe more insecure We oppose the militaristic turning point because we know that rearmament always has a detrimental effect on social issues We want to make the country fairer We defend democracy and want more co-determination But we also say: Our democracy must function better, especially for those who do not have expensive lobby organizations

That is why we need a different economic policy, so that we work, produce and invest responsibly, and so that what we work out together is also distributed fairly Policy that makes a few richer and richer – contrary to all assurances – does not testify to economic competence, but is simply lobbyism in the interests of the super-rich We want to tax high incomes more heavily and relieve the burden on low ones And large private capital assets must finally be fair We are all "systemically important" – only billionaires are not None of us will ever become a billionaire, but we all need support at some point in life

For us on the Left it is clear: We stand unconditionally on the side of working people and all those who hardly have enough money to live on and who have no lobby Kurz: on the side of the majority of this society We align our policies with their priorities One more word about us, Heidi and Jan: We have

taken over the top candidacy for Die Linke, because we are convinced that we need a party that is a loud voice for those who no one else hears That puts its finger in the wound and points out inequality We believe that more is possible That this cannot be all – for Die Linke, for the country, for you We believe that we will be able to that capitalism is not the end of history and that democracy is worth defending We fight for democratic socialism

Alone we are at the mercy of the rich and powerful, but together we can defend ourselves That is why we must unite and stand up for our causes together

Our guideline is: **We together against those at the top.**

Your Heidi
& Jan

1. Make life affordable

Three years of traffic light failure have made Germany even more socially unjust than before. Life has become more expensive for the majority. The price explosion has particularly affected people with low and middle incomes. They have to spend a large part of their income on housing, energy and food. This is where prices have risen the most: Under Olaf Scholz, food has become over 30 percent more expensive, household energy by about 50 percent. The official inflation figures conceal the fact that inflation is much higher for those with less money than for those with a lot of money. It is an inflation of inequality that we are experiencing.

But this can be changed: Prices are not natural. We want to regulate and limit prices – where necessary – so that the corporations cannot increase their profits at will. This applies not only to rent, but also to energy and food. No one should be afraid to buy at the end of the month. There must be no arbitrary price increases for basic needs. We propose price supervision and social tariffs for basic consumption of electricity and gas, to protect us from price gouging in the future. VAT is to be abolished on basic foodstuffs, which will relieve everyone quickly and easily.

The rising cost of living is no unfortunate coincidence: food and energy companies are making record profits. Companies are taking advantage of inflation. They are raising prices – and thus increasing their profits. Dieter Schwarz, owner of Lidl and Kaufland, has doubled his private fortune in the last seven years! According to estimates by Manager Magazin, he now owns 43.7 billion euros.

We reduce the cost of living – immediately and effectively

For many people, saving now starts with food. Often there is no longer enough for the bare necessities. People with low incomes and families with children are particularly affected. Hunger and poverty are back to everyday life in Germany. Two million people have to go to the food banks to make ends meet. A quarter of them are children. For us, this is unacceptable.

We want to take quick and effective measures to make a healthy diet affordable for everyone again.

Not only housing, food and energy have become far too expensive. Costs for everyday things, such as the regional train, cinema and sports, have also risen sharply. This is a particular burden on people with low incomes and families. We want to counteract inflation:

- We want to exempt basic foodstuffs, hygiene products, buses and trains (regional and long-distance transport) from VAT. We are legally ensuring that the VAT reduction is reflected in prices – and does not feed the profits of companies. This is a contribution to social justice, makes life safer and strengthens purchasing power.
- In addition, we are reducing the price of the German ticket back to 9 euros. The Deutschlandticket is to be free of charge for pupils, trainees, senior citizens and students.
- Food waste is to be banned. Edible food is to be passed on to non-profit organisations or given away directly free of charge. The amount of food waste is to be halved by 2030. This requires binding requirements for the various sectors.
- We want to ban speculation with food ([Chapter 6](#)). The food market needs fair supply relationships as well as strong and effective antitrust law. The Bundeskartellamt has long been observing the purchasing power of food companies and the market power of large supermarket chains with increasing concern. We call for decisive action to break the power of corporations, for the benefit of farmers and consumers alike. No region must be dominated by individual supermarket chains. Monopolies must be smashed and price watchdogs must be able to take action. Where necessary, we want to protect farmers with minimum producer prices.

We are lowering energy prices – fair and climate-friendly

Everyone needs affordable and stable energy prices. In the long term, the expansion of renewable energies will reduce the prices for electricity and heat. But people with low incomes, families and small businesses cannot wait that long. We therefore call for relief for small energy consumers in the short term:

- Socially graduated energy prices: We want to create low-cost basic tariffs for the average consumption of electricity and heating energy. Those who consume more pay more. This is socially fair and still encourages energy saving.
- To finance this, we are temporarily calling for an energy solidarity for the rich: people with very high incomes benefit from low-cost basic tariffs – but do not need the relief. For socially fair financing, Die Linke is therefore calling for an energy solidarity surcharge.

as a surcharge on income and capital gains tax until the energy crisis is over and the market price is stable below the price cap

The neoliberal climate policy of the traffic light is deeply unjust and has exacerbated the problems for the people. The promised social compensation via climate money has not been implemented, although CO2 prices continue to rise. This is fraud against the voters.

- The Left Party therefore wants to introduce a social climate money of 320 euros per person per person as a direct payment retroactively to January 1, 2025. Greenpeace has calculated that this can be financed from the current CO2 revenues. By taxing the climate money, households with low and medium incomes will be relieved more. The climate money will be adjusted in the future to the development of CO2 prices.
- Every year, electricity and gas cuts are imposed on hundreds of thousands of people in Germany, even in winter. This is inhumane. Electricity and gas cuts must be prohibited by law.
- Energy companies must not enrich themselves at our expense: The aim of the electricity market system must be to make affordable electricity available to all consumers. We want to reform the electricity market (Chapter 8).

make profits at the expense of all of us. If sudden and extraordinary jumps in profits in times of crisis, so-called excess profits, are subject to very high tax rates, there is no longer any incentive to drive up prices further.

- We call for an excess profit tax that taxes the extra profits of corporations at 90 percent. The average corporate profits of the last ten years are a good comparison period: everything above this is taxed. To ensure that profits can be taxed effectively, we want to introduce a withholding tax and dry up tax havens.

Our policies are making people's lives affordable again. This not only provides financial security in everyday life, but also creates confidence for the future. A predictable life without fear of the future can help to deprive the shift to the right of its breeding ground. To this end, it must become affordable again to cover basic needs. Wages must rise so that the vast majority of people in the country have more in their wallets. The brakes on investment in our country must be reduced. Finally, be solved.

We ensure stable prices and prevent future crises

In order to prevent price shocks in the future, price controls are needed that take effect quickly and take effect in the short term. The traffic light initially did not react at all and then too little effectively to the price explosion and secured the profits of the corporations. People have not been relieved enough in everyday life. We must prepare ourselves for the next crisis: With digitalization, close monitoring of prices is possible. If corporations in systemically important industries (energy, Buildings/housing, food supply, mobility, health, banking) if prices are to rise much more than costs have risen, it must be possible to intervene in the market in the short term. Price shocks must be responded to before they spread to other sectors.

- We call for a new price supervision system as an early warning system for the German and European economy. Price supervision should be an independent, supreme federal authority. In the energy sector, no price increases should be allowed without approval. Energy suppliers must prove themselves that a price increase is justified due to increased procurement costs.

With an excess profit tax, we eliminate incentives for price increases: For example, energy and food companies have made record profits in times of war and crisis through enormous price increases. They have exploited their market power to

2. Housing must not be a luxury

Affordable housing is the central social issue of our time Olaf Scholz took office as rent chancellor, but rents have continued to explode in the last three years. Not only in the cities, but also in many rural areas, housing costs have risen sharply in recent years Millions of people spend a large part of their income on housing In addition, there are the rapidly rising ancillary costs Real estate companies make extra profits by sending excessive heating bills to their tenants and hoping that no one notices

Exploding rents are not a law of nature: affordable housing, security from rent increases, cooperative housing construction are sensible, fair and also achievable The sale of public land is also a deliberate political decision – it could be stopped tomorrow

SPD and Co claim that we have to build to get affordable housing again The average rent for a newly built apartment in Berlin: 20 euros per square metre A 50-square-metre apartment will then cost an average of 1,000 euros Who should be able to afford that? The real estate companies are using new construction to charge excessive rents, thus driving up the rent for existing apartments. We urgently need to build new apartments, but they must be affordable! A fundamental change in rent policy is needed Apartments are not a commodity

Rent down!

Rents must be lowered and effectively regulated The rent brake is largely ineffective and promotes outrageous practices: Anyone who sues has quickly lost the "trust" of the landlord – then the next repair in the apartment will take longer A third of apartments in the metropolises are now rented furnished because the rent brake does not apply then The traffic light has not even managed to to extend the rent brake, let alone tighten it

- We demand a nationwide rent cap! Our goal: not only to slow down the explosion in rents, but to end and reverse them In tight housing markets, particularly high rents must be lowered
- As an immediate measure, rent increases must be ruled out nationwide for the next six years Only non-profit landlords who have previously set very low rents are allowed to increase them slightly as part of cost recovery There must be an end to the tricks of landlords for higher rents: We want to

ban graduated rents and indexed leases and strictly regulate the rental of furnished apartments

- Far too often, landlords terminate the lease in order to charge higher rents for new leases We want to extend protection against eviction and demand permanent leases for all terminations for personal use must be limited to first-degree relatives Rental apartments must be protected by a general ban on conversion
- The application procedure for housing benefit is so complicated that only about a third of those eligible actually receive it We therefore want to simplify the procedure greatly and free it from unnecessary criteria Applications must be decided no later than three months after the application has been submitted As rents rise, housing benefit is also exploding: However, a nationwide rent cap and investments in social and non-profit housing will reduce the Need for housing subsidies to decrease in perspective
- We want to abolish the modernization levy! Renovations and heating system replacement must be rent-neutral We want socially just climate protection ([Chapter 8](#)).
- The property tax may no longer be passed on to the tenants as part of the operating costs
- Real estate and energy companies make extra profits by sending excessive heating bills to their tenants and hoping that no one notices
- We demand socially graduated heating and electricity prices We want to create low-cost basic tariffs for average consumption We want to ban electricity and gas cuts We want to set up a fund from which heating costs can be covered unbureaucratically if tenants cannot afford a warm apartment
- Many live in apartments that are too small or too large, but cannot move because new leases are much more expensive We demand a right to exchange apartments: Landlords may only refuse an apartment exchange without rent increases with good reasons
- Small businesses suffer from exploded rents The federal government must ensure that states and municipalities can introduce rent caps for small businesses, crafts, cultural institutions and social and charitable providers in a legally secure manner

- In order to counteract the isolation of tenants, we want to oblige real estate companies with more than ten apartments to set up tenants' advisory councils

Investment offensive for social and non-profit housing

We want to invest 20 billion euros a year in non-profit housing. Currently, more than 11 million tenant households in Germany are entitled to social housing. The stock is not even enough for one in ten of these households. Non-profit housing keeps the rent affordable. Vienna is the metropolis in Europe where rents have exploded the least, because half of the housing is non-profit: a quarter "municipal housing" and a quarter cooperative.

- want to expropriate the housing stock of real estate companies with more than 3,000 apartments and transfer them to an institution under public law with democratic administration. Compensation below market value is legally permissible. Compensation should only be available for small shareholders.
- The government has built only a quarter of the promised social housing. In the 1990s, there were still around 3 million social housing units – now there are only one million. Regardless of whether in existing buildings or in new buildings, we demand: once social commitment, always social commitment.
- Investments in social housing must be exempted from the debt brake.
- The introduction of the new non-profit housing status by the traffic light is a disappointment! We want to make the new non-profit housing an instrument for achieving a share of 30 per cent of non-profit housing in the medium term. With tax exemptions and preferential treatment for subsidies and public land, we want to create strong incentives to participate in the development of a non-profit housing market sector in which rents are based on real costs and profits are capped.
- We want to reintroduce and strengthen the municipal right of first refusal. A (re-)municipalisation fund is intended to support municipalities in bringing housing back into public ownership. We are committed to a price-limited right of first refusal that is not based on the speculative "market price", but on rents that are affordable for the residents (social income value). We will ensure that the upcoming EU Action Plan for Affordable Housing is enforced together with the people and their experiences on the ground and with their communities, and not pushed through from above.

Push back investors!

Even if new construction alone does not reduce rents, there is a need for more living space in the metropolises. We want to promote non-profit new construction instead of investors. We want to review regulations: Not all regulations for new construction make sense socially and ecologically, some only drive up prices. On the other hand, energy-efficient construction is necessary for climate protection and saves tenants heating costs.

- The construction crisis is the time of the public sector: non-profit housing companies must be strengthened through subsidy programmes and finally given preferential treatment over profit-oriented investors and housing groups.
- Public funding should only be available for non-profit housing construction, municipalities should have a right of first refusal on all properties.
- We want to tax profits from speculation with real estate more heavily and ban tax tricks in the mass purchase and sale of apartments, such as so-called share deals.
- No speculation with housing and building land! We want to prohibit the misappropriation of living space and counteract the pursuit of profit with land: In a first step, unproductive increases in land value should be skimmed off.

End vacancy!

Vacancy is an underestimated problem. According to the latest census, around 2 million apartments are vacant throughout Germany. Some of them in rural regions that are becoming deserted due to structural change, some of them in the cities, where vacancy rates often pay off financially due to rising land prices and is hardly punished. In all cases, the following applies: The existing living space must be better used, using vacancies for social and ecological reasons is always better than building new.

- We want an active structural policy and infrastructure investments to make regions outside the metropolises more attractive and to counteract the desertification of rural regions.

Whether speculative vacancy or non-use in inheritance disputes: Vacant living space in tight housing markets is misappropriation and must not be worthwhile!

- Vacancies must be systematically recorded and then subject to a vacancy tax of 10 euros per square metre. This makes the vacancy unprofitable. Buildings that are to be converted into living space or that still need to be completed or renovated, but where the investors do not

undertake any corresponding activities, must also be considered "vacant housing". temporarily confiscated, repaired at the expense of the owners and rented out again

- The occupation of housing that has been vacant for at least one year must lead to a permanent right of residence, unless the owners undertake to make the housing available at socially acceptable rents

Abolish homelessness!

There are about 600,000 homeless people in Germany. The EU Parliament calls for the abolition of homelessness. The German government has written an action plan – but it has not led to a single new measure against homelessness.

- There are 30,000 forced evictions every year, many of those affected end up in homelessness. We want to ban forced evictions into homelessness!
- We want to anchor the "Housing First" approach in the fight against homelessness: homeless people are first provided with housing, followed by other offers. Since the introduction of "Housing First" in 2008, Finland has been able to more than halve homelessness.

Everyone has the right to their own apartment! We want to clearly anchor this in the Basic Law: We will end the forced accommodation of refugees in mass accommodation and ensure that regular housing is available for the homeless, seasonal and migrant workers and refugees that meets their needs.

3. Change course

The past governments of the CDU, SPD, FDP and Greens have contributed to the fact that the richest now pay significantly less tax than in the past. Social security contributions and VAT have been increased. People with small and medium-sized incomes feel this particularly strongly: everyday life is becoming more difficult, inequality continues to increase. We stand up against it and fight for a fair tax system, which sets limits to the astronomical power and wealth of billionaires. There should be no billionaires! We want to reduce taxes for the majority. This increases demand and thus better protects against recessions.

There should be no billionaires

- The wealth of the approximately 250 billionaires in Germany lies mainly in companies that belong to them. This value is growing considerably faster than the economy. This makes the rich richer – and more powerful. The taxation of income does not interfere with this inequality. The Left Party demands that the wealth tax be reintroduced. So that we only burden the richest 2.5 percent of our society, we demand an allowance for private assets of one million euros per person (minus all debts, such as mortgages on a home). The allowance for business assets is

5 million euros

Our tax rate is progressive and increases linearly from 1 percent for assets of 1 million euros to up to 5 percent on assets of 50 million euros.

Estimated annual additional revenue: 108 billion euros

- For assets above the limit of one billion euros, we apply a special tax rate of 12 percent fixed: the billionaire's tax. This is to prevent a further accumulation of wealth among the super-rich. Our goal: Abolish billionaires!
- We are committed to ensuring that Germany becomes the driving force for an internationally coordinated billionaire tax and supports Brazil's proposal for this.
- We demand a reform of the property tax, which is based on the market value of the property and must not be passed on to the tenants. When the wealth tax is introduced, the property tax will be revised. At the moment it is not known how large the assets of the richest Germans really are. We demand a publicly accessible financial register that shows the true owners of real estate, company shares and other large assets (e.g. art collections, securities and patents).

- We demand that one-off wealth taxes be levied on the richest in order to cope with the consequences of wars, crises and pandemics in order to enable them to participate appropriately in the costs of the crises In order to cope with the enormous costs of social and ecological transformation, we demand a one-off wealth levy, which burdens the richest in our society once With our concept, the richest 0.7 percent of German citizens are burdened with up to 30 percent additional This means that at least 310 billion euros can be collected The levy can be stretched over 20 years, so that the entire burden would not be incurred at once

reach the people, the food companies and supermarkets must be obliged to pass on the tax reduction

- We want reduced tax rates for labour-intensive crafts, medicines and products for children This also applies to repair services and dismantling, so that repair and reuse take precedence over disposal
- Pensioners, trainees and students, as well as employees who were previously not entitled to it, are to receive a one-off tax-financed inflation compensation

Relieving the burden on small and medium-sized incomes

We will relieve the burden on low and medium incomes We want to tax very high incomes, on the other hand, more heavily As a rule of thumb, anyone who earns less than 7,000 euros gross per month (as a single, tax class I) pays less tax with our tariff

- All taxable incomes of less than 16,800 euros per year remain tax-free – this corresponds to the level of our model of the subsistence minimum
- We want to tax high incomes more heavily: From 85,000 euros of income per year (affects the top 5 percent), the tax rate is 53 percent. For the tax on the rich, we demand two levels: 60 percent for incomes above a quarter of a million euros (affects the top 1 percent) and 75 percent for incomes above 1 million euros (affects the top 0.06 percent).
- We want the solidarity surcharge for the richest Maintain 10 percent of incomes and relieve the burden on people with low incomes
- Income from work has so far been taxed much more heavily than non-performance income from capital While income from work is taxed at up to 45 percent, capital gains are taxed at a flat rate of 25 percent taxed (capital gains tax). A slap in the face for all the people who keep this society running every day with hard work and have built up prosperity in Germany We demand that income from capital be taxed at the same rates as income from work Those who get a lot pay more taxes
- We demand binding upper limits for manager and board salaries (including bonuses): They must not receive more than twenty times the lowest salary in the company
- VAT is a particularly heavy burden on people with low incomes: We demand that basic foodstuffs, hygiene products and tickets for buses and trains be exempt from VAT (Chapter 1). In order for the VAT reduction to actually

Closing loopholes for the rich: inheritance and gift tax

Assets are often passed on tax-free over generations through inheritances and gifts. In particular, the transfer of companies or company shares is largely exempt from inheritance tax: for example, the tax rates levied on the income of an average family are higher than those levied on inheritances of millions and billions

- For these super-rich, the tax rates for inheritances and gifts are to be increased and the personal allowances are to be reduced 'Normal', owner-occupied residential property remains exempt In addition, we want to standardise the tax rates: The initial tax rate is 6 percent and rises to 60 percent from a taxable inheritance of 3 million euros (plus the tax-free amount).
- We demand uniform allowances of 200,000 euros We want to reduce the disadvantage of unrelated persons (e.g. close friends) compared to relatives by allowing a person of free choice to receive tax-free benefits of up to 200,000 euros per inheritance We want to exempt a property of up to 200 square metres from inheritance tax if it is used by the person concerned The settlement of the tax debt can be spread over 20 years and can also be paid in form of public company shares
- The loopholes in inheritance tax must be closed: benefits for company assets, large housing stocks and, in particular, the exemption needs test are to be abolished

Estimated annual additional revenue: 17 billion euros

- Tax advantages for real estate investors and companies must be abolished across the board We are calling for a reform of the real estate transfer tax so that proportionate real estate purchases (from over 50 percent) are taxed on a pro rata basis In the case of an acquisition by several persons or

companies (so-called co-investments), taxes are taxed according to the respective shareholding ratio. This makes share deals largely unattractive.

- We need a reform of non-profit law with a clarification of the purposes recognized as non-profit. Participation in the political decision-making process must be explicitly possible, whether for the pursuit of one's own purposes or beyond for democracy, the rule of law and human rights.

- We want to abolish the tonnage tax privilege of large shipowners and subject their profits to ordinary profit taxation.

Corporations should share the costs fairly, deprive speculators of the breeding ground

Corporate taxes have been massively reduced in recent decades. Until 1989, companies had an average tax burden of over 60 percent, today it is less than 30 percent.

- We demand that corporate tax be increased to 25 per cent. In order to take international action against tax competition and profit shifting, we are also committed to increasing the global minimum tax rate to 25 per cent. The tax base must be expanded by a realistic determination of profits, for example through the appropriate taxation of profits resulting from the sale of company shares.
- It is particularly easy for international corporations to shift profits abroad and thus avoid taxes. We demand that international corporations be taxed more heavily where they have their economic activities. To this end, we call for withholding tax on profits at the place of economic activity. To this end, greater intergovernmental exchange of all tax-relevant information is crucial. For payments such as dividends, interest and royalties that flow into countries unwilling to cooperate, we demand a withholding tax of

50 percent. This makes tax evasion unattractive. Companies can only have the tax credited if they disclose all tax-relevant information. Business expenses that only serve to shift profits must not be deductible. The concept of the virtual permanent establishment must also be anchored in tax law.

- Transnational corporations should be obliged to disclose their core data on value creation, turnover, profits and tax payments on a country-by-country basis. In this way, we will prevent money flows, e.g. via letterbox companies, from being concealed. Tax avoidance via foundations must be restricted.

**Estimated annual additional income:
42 billion euros**

Business tax

The trade tax in Germany resembles a patchwork quilt, it varies from region to region. Some municipalities advertise particularly low trade taxes in order to attract more companies and improve municipal revenues. The result: Many municipalities are underfinanced and can no longer make investments, and the gap between poor and rich municipalities is widening.

- The Left Party advocates the reform of the trade tax, it should be converted into a municipal business tax. The tax base will be expanded (leases, rents, leasing instalments and licence fees will be taken into account) and high-earning self-employed and freelancers will be included. To this end, we will increase the exemption amount to 30,000 euros and take the tax assessed into account in the income tax. The trade tax apportionment will be abolished, which relieves the financial burden on cities and municipalities.

Estimated annual additional revenue: 18 billion euros

Financial transaction tax

We are arguing for a financial transaction tax to curb speculation on the financial markets. A tax rate of 0.1 percent is to be levied on every financial transaction. The financial transaction tax mainly affects short-term large-scale sales with small profit margins – the so-called high-frequency traders. This is how it stabilizes and shrinks the financial markets.

**Estimated annual additional income:
36 billion euros**

Preventing profits with war and crises

In the wake of the Ukraine war, corporations such as RWE, Shell and Total have made record profits through enormous price increases. They have exploited the crisis situations and their market power to enrich themselves at the expense of the general public. We want to redistribute the extra profits to the general public. The Left Party is calling for the introduction of an excess profit tax of 90 percent on all crisis profits ([Chapter 1](#)).

Fighting financial crime

Germany is a paradise for financial crime and money laundering-Ex and-or the scandal surrounding Wirecard have once again shown how easy it is made for criminals in Germany to defraud them of hundreds of billions of euros from the community We will prevent this theft at the expense of the public!

- We need an official tax gap estimate that is carried out annually by the federal government, is publicly available and becomes a target for the tax administration
- Scandals such as-Ex,-or Wirecard must be systematically dealt with Law enforcement authorities and tax offices must be put in a position to consistently pursue tax evasion as a business model in terms of personnel and technology
- On average, each tax investigator brings in more than one million euros more for the state than he or she costs it Far too little is audited, especially among the super-rich, although 75 percent of the millionaires who are checked are found to evade taxes: We demand more audits of the super-rich!
- Reform financial supervision, strengthen financial consumer protection: All financial and asset investments as well as credit transactions are to be recorded and regularly audited by the Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin) BaFin needs more specialist staff to better carry out balance sheet control
- Without criminal law for companies, the big banks often get off lightly in state aid proceedings We need corporate criminal law to hold not only individuals but also large corporations accountable
- We want to prevent individual super-rich people from avoiding taxes, for example by moving abroad or relocating their businesses We want all German nationals to be taxed in Germany, regardless of where they earned their income or where they reside To avoid double taxation, taxes paid abroad can be credited

Estimated annual additional revenue: 18 billion euros

Abolition of the investment brake

The so-called debt brake has torn huge investment gaps in infrastructure and social services The price that citizens pay for this is excessive rents, delayed trains and extreme staff shortages in schools and daycare centers We oppose this and demand a change in budget policy. In the next 10 years alone, it

is estimated that the German state will have to provide 600 billion euros for additional investments to make infrastructure, the economy and society fit for the future

- We demand the abolition of the debt brake It must be possible again to finance public investment in infrastructure, a climate-neutral industry and social compensation through loans This should apply to the states as well as to the federal government This also requires a rethink in investment policy: more money for education, social affairs and public housing, less for armaments and climate-damaging subsidies Especially in crises, the state must Be able to counteract these by borrowing additional This is what we want to make possible
- The vast majority of the investments must be made by the states and municipalities In order to support the municipalities, we need a municipal finance reform, the 100 percent crediting of municipal financial strength in the state financial equalization system and a legacy debt fund for over-indebted municipalities The revenues from the wealth tax would also flow to the states

Democratising the European Central Bank

The European Central Bank (ECB) has failed in past crises The increase in key interest rates was an ineffective attempt to combat profit-driven inflation – on the backs of the working population: urgently needed investments have been slowed down, prices have continued to rise The ECB has proven that it cannot prevent emerging crises We therefore want to redefine its role, to protect the people of the EU in the future

- We demand that the ECB be controlled by the European Parliament and no longer be subject to the influence of financial lobbyists ECB management staff and bodies – such as the Governing Council, the ECB Executive Board and the ECB President – should be elected by the European Parliament The fundamental and long-term objectives of monetary policy should be discussed in Parliament and set by it Especially in times of financial and economic crises, central banks are key political actors – democratic participation is urgently needed here

- The ECB's mandate is to be extended: in addition to price stability, it is also to pursue the goals of full employment and sustainable economic development, which goes hand in hand with environmental responsibility.

2 percent is obliged

- Money and currency must remain part of state sovereignty, we reject creeping privatization Internet giants and financial technology companies (Amazon, PayPal and Co.) must be subject to the same rules and laws as conventional financial service providers, i.e. banks and insurance companies With a public alternative to the payment systems of the large Internet companies, we can limit their enormous power
- The Left Party supports the introduction of the digital euro by the ECB It should be a legal tender guaranteed by the ECB that private individuals can hold in accounts with the ECB to a limited extent and without interest It should not replace cash, but complement it as another convenient form of central bank money
- Digital payments enable the creation of personal profiles and conclusions about sensitive personal data: for small amounts, the right to anonymous payment must be enshrined in law
- will only be permitted if they have a macroeconomic and/or social benefit
- The global financial and monetary system is exacerbating social inequality, the climate catastrophe and refugee movements We need international cooperation on an equal footing The basic prerequisites for this are a debt haircut and a sustainable debt relief initiative for all countries of the Global South whose debt burden is not sustainable Private creditors must be forced to participate in this debt initiative We call for the introduction of a debt reduction State insolvency proceedings
- We are also calling for a cap on overdraft rates: The interest rate for overdraft and overdraft loans must be a maximum of 5 percentage points above the ECB's key interest rate In this way, we protect people who are on the edge of the subsistence level and have to use the overdraft facility often

Breaking the power of banks and financial markets

15 years after the financial crisis, the government has still not managed to implement the measures promised during the financial crisis Crises in the financial sector can ruin entire states and social systems We want to free society and democracy from the stranglehold of the financial corporations To this end, we will prune the financial sector to a serving function for society

- Essential goods and services must not be speculated on the financial markets This includes infrastructures required for public services, but also foodstuffs We want hospital, care and real estate groups to have their listing on the stock exchange withdrawn
- Banks must be downsized and investment banking must be wound up We will commit banks to a business model that meets the needs of society and the real economy: 1 payment offerings, 2 simpler and safer savings instruments and 3 financing of public and private investments
- The Left Party is campaigning for stricter social and ecological criteria in the EU taxonomy. Investments in nuclear or gas energy are not sustainable, and we reject greenwashing, for example through the inclusion of conventional ships and aircraft, or compensatory measures for biodiversity losses
- In the future, financial instruments are to receive explicit approval from a financial TÜV before they can be put into circulation Financial transactions, services and instruments

4. Social security for all

Social security is not charity Social policy ensures that people in different circumstances have an adequate income, even if the mechanisms of the market do not provide for it This is not just about the poorest Families with children need benefits such as housing benefit and child benefit, because today there is no longer a "family wage" that differentiates according to marital status It would be unfair anti-social and also not in the interest of society if families with children were fundamentally poorer because they would have to support the children from the same income and often have to reduce working hours Even in old age and unemployment, it must be ensured that everyone can lead a life in dignity and security Only one society, in which there is no constant fear of relegation, is a humane and also a productive society

The Left Party fights for people in need to be given back their dignity and social rights Poverty and unemployment are not self-inflicted, but often have structural causes We fight for the right to secure one's livelihood without bullying and punishment

- The standard rate in the citizen's allowance is calculated small: The Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband shows that the standard rate should be at least 813 euros
- We want to convert the citizen's allowance into a sanction-free individual minimum income All those who do not have sufficient income or assets are entitled To prevent poverty, we are guided by the so-called at-risk-of-poverty line, currently around 1,400 euros per month (including rent and other housing costs; correspondingly more in regions with high rents). With a minimum wage of at least 15 euros – 16 euros from 2026 at the latest – as well as tax relief for low incomes, we ensure that gainful employment pays off

A secure pension for all

Many people quickly put away their annual "pension information" because they know: This will not be enough Fewer and fewer people have a predictable professional life and can be sure that a standard of living that they have worked for and fought for will also last This does not have to be the case The statutory pension does not have a demographic problem, but a justice problem:

- For a fair pension system, all people with earned income – including civil servants, the self-employed, freelancers, managers and members of parliament – pay into a solidarity-based employment insurance scheme The pension level can then rise People with so-called Riester contracts and

similar supplementary pensions should be able to transfer their contracts to the statutory pension It should be easier to voluntarily transfer to the statutory pension insurance scheme in order to be able to make additional provisions for old age In addition, there are company pensions, at least 50 percent of which must be financed by the employer

- We want to raise the pension level back to 53 per cent and double the contribution assessment ceiling We want to upgrade the low pension entitlements of low- and low-income earners, the unemployed, educators and caregivers We want to continue to value earnings in Eastern Germany by 2030 so that pensions in East and West Germany are equalised This requires higher tax subsidies That the contributors pay for non-insurance benefits such as the recognition of children child-raising periods (known as "mothers' pension") and the basic pension must be ended
- The statutory pension does not belong on the stock exchange! The envisaged share pension ("generational capital") is supposedly intended to keep contributions via the capital market stable This is risky and expensive and the wrong way We reject this together with social associations, trade unions and many experts
- Retirement only from 67 means pension cuts for everyone, especially in professions in which workers cannot hold out for so long. Anyone who has worked for 40 years and paid contributions themselves should be able to retire without deductions from the age of 60
- Our "solidarity-based minimum pension" helps against poverty in old age: for those who do not receive an adequate pension due to poor jobs, forced part-time work or unemployment They receive a supplement up to the level of the at-risk-of-poverty threshold of currently around 1,400 euros In addition, there are health and long-term care insurance contributions and, in regions with very high housing costs, a rent subsidy
- A secure and adequate pension depends on sufficient immigration, a high female employment rate, the suppression of the low-wage sector and a family policy that ensures that children are not an individual economic, social and occupational risk factor

Strengthening and relieving the burden on all families, improving the compatibility of care and gainful employment

For Die Linke, family is where people take social responsibility for each other – regardless of marriage certificate, sexual orientation and gender identity. It often has to compensate for gaps in the social security system. We want to strengthen social responsibility as a whole and enable all people to lead a good life without fear of the future and compensate for material disadvantages. Social security – especially for single parents – must be safe from protecting poverty and making it easier to reconcile family and career.

- Parents need high-quality and reliable childcare facilities to ensure a work-life balance. There must therefore be massive investment in the expansion of public and free all-day childcare for all age groups. The legal right to all-day care must be implemented, which includes the creation of sufficient daycare places.
- In order to promote a partnership-based division of care and gainful employment between the parents, we want to introduce 28 days of parental protection for the second parent (from the birth of the child).
- We want to raise the minimum amount of parental allowance to 420 euros. Minimum and maximum amount should be linked to the development of the general consumer price index. Until the introduction of a basic child benefit, the minimum parental allowance should not be offset against citizen's allowance and benefits under the Asylum Seekers Benefits Act.
- We want to replace spousal splitting with individual taxation, whereby the unused tax subsistence minimum between spouses or civil partners should be transferable.
- We want to relieve the burden on working single parents by consistently implementing the legal right to a daycare place. We also demand a tax credit that at least corresponds to the maximum effect of the current relief amount of 2,028 euros per year and that will be increased regularly.
- We will make the maintenance advance fairer by, among other things, no longer taking child benefit into full account and extending the age of entitlement to 25 years of age. We want to anchor protection against violence in custody and access rights. The equivalence of all care models must be made clear in family law and counselling.
- We are committed to working time models with shorter weekly working hours (e.g. 32 hours or a four-day week) with full wage and the necessary staff compensation. This is

intended to enable single parents in particular to better reconcile work, family and private life. This is accompanied by the expansion of flexible childcare services and home office options. Instead of making working hours more flexible, which are only based on operational requirements, employees need more time autonomy. We want to extend protection against dismissal for parents until the child reaches the age of six. We will strengthen the situation of those returning to work after parental leave, among other things, by providing an explicit right to return to the same or equivalent job.

- Rainbow families must be put on an equal footing. The law of parentage must be reformed, because it discriminates against queer families.

Fighting child poverty – involving children and young people

In order to effectively combat child poverty, we want to introduce an independent basic child benefit from which all children and young people benefit. It bundles four social benefits:

- 1 Child benefit for all children in the amount of 350 euros per month (regardless of the income of the parents). Child benefit may no longer be offset against the citizen's allowance.
- 2 Child allowance for children living in poverty (age-graded up to a maximum of 379 euros per month).
- 3 Actual accommodation costs (pro-rata).
- 4 One-off and special needs (e.g. class trips, moving costs, etc.).

In addition to the basic child benefit, we want to create the best possible conditions for children and young people for their lives:

- We want children and young people to have a legal right to good development and social participation. The same applies to protection against violence. That is why we want to enshrine their rights in the Basic Law.
- Children's and youth leisure facilities, music schools, libraries, swimming pools, sports clubs and other facilities for children and young people must be low-threshold, barrier-free, close to home and free of charge. This requires an improvement in the financing basis in the municipalities and permanent co-financing by the Länder. The funds of the Federal Government's Children and Youth Plan must also be increased for this purpose. Children learn to recognize sexualized assaults and violence and to inform adults if they have experienced or observed such. The world of children and adolescents has changed massively (not only) due to the

advancing climate crisis, wars and the Corona pandemic
Children and adolescents must be involved in decisions about their future

- We want to strengthen the political participation of young people. The voting age is to be lowered to 16 years and youth councils or youth parliaments are to be set up in the municipalities, with voting rights in all matters that affect them
- We are also committed to strengthening child and youth welfare.

Enabling self-determined aging

Many people are dependent on special support in old age This is not only about financial benefits, but also about age-appropriate counselling, cultural, sports and leisure activities We are committed to a new culture of ageing in this society It is about self-determined ageing in dignity, without discrimination, poverty and fears of decline

Seniors must be able to participate equally in all areas of society

- We want older people to have a legal right to benefits for the elderly We want to prohibit age discrimination: Article 3 (3) of the Basic Law is to be supplemented by the criterion of age Senior citizens' representatives are to be established everywhere in the municipalities
- All existing offers are to be made available both digitally and analogue at no financial surcharge
- The age-appropriate conversion of apartments by municipal and cooperative housing companies is to be supported primarily with state funds We want a quota for age-appropriate and barrier-free housing offers and a legal ban on forced evictions for older people We are also committed to housing exchanges with rent control Senior citizens-friendly, assisted living must be included in the guidelines of social housing with nationwide quality standards are anchored
- In order to strengthen the mobility and social participation of older people, we want to introduce a free nationwide senior citizen ticket ([Chapter 9](#)).

5. Health and care: Solidarity instead of competition

When it comes to the state of the health care system, there is only one hope: don't get sick The care and working conditions are a catastrophe, as a health insurance company you wait forever for an appointment - and again in the waiting room Care could be much better - and the same for everyone Good health care for all is a question of distribution We can achieve good health care, if we break with the profit orientation and align the health care system with social and medical criteria

This is sorely needed, because the current state of affairs is unacceptable A fundamental reform of the health care system is urgently needed In rural areas, the medical infrastructure is collapsing and patients often have to travel for hours Obstetrics and life-saving emergency care are not guaranteed across the board At the same time, too many treatments are superfluous and are offered by hospital groups and doctors mainly for the reason that because it is financially worthwhile Privatization and

economization of the health care system have proven to be inefficient and are at the expense of patients and employees The actual needs of patients are not taken into account, but they should be the focus Despite this, Lauterbach and the traffic light government have pushed through a hospital reform that threatens care (not only) in rural areas and continues to rely on competition between hospitals

Those who are poor die earlier on average, are more likely to become seriously ill or in need of care Poor working and living conditions, precarious living conditions, inadequate promotion of prevention and healthy lifestyles, but also insufficient access to medical treatment We want to enable a healthy life in all areas of life, regardless of one's own wallet! People without regular residence status and those who are not insured, such as the homeless, must have access to health care throughout Germany Health must no longer be a question of class – and therefore

- We are committed to solidarity-based health and long-term care insurance Everyone pays, contributions are levied on all incomes, everyone is well cared for The contribution assessment ceiling is abolished Contributions must also be paid for income from capital gains and other types of income Privately insured persons are transferred to statutory health insurance As a result, the contribution for health insurance will fall from the current 17.1 to about 13.3 percent of the For all people with a monthly income of less than 7,100 euros (gross), contributions will decrease. The vast majority of the population is financially relieved by this concept, including many self-employed and pensioners

- Our solidarity-based health insurance is to cover all medically useful services such as dentures, glasses and ibuprofen on an evidence-based basis – but we can save ourselves proven useless services

- Our solidarity-based comprehensive care insurance is intended to cover all care services: People with care needs and their families often pay more than 3,000 euros a month for a place in a nursing home – this would then be omitted: No care service may be refused for cost reasons!

- With the comprehensive long-term care insurance, the municipalities are relieved because they no longer have to pay for the co-payments of those in need of care

For employees, the constant cost pressure in the health care system means stress and overload Many have turned their backs on the profession, the shortage of staff exacerbates stress – a vicious circle For patients, this means more avoidable infections and deaths in hospitals as well as poorer care

- We support the struggles for nationwide relief collective agreements and better working conditions We call for a nationwide offensive to recruit nurses and other health workers who have left their profession, as well as a training offensive, the refinancing of collective agreements and that collective agreements can be declared universally binding more easily (Chapter 7).

- We are committed to a legally prescribed staffing level, in which there are also more staff in the end, as well as to shift schedules without stress: At least 100,000 additional nurses are needed in hospitals! We demand the consistent implementation and further development of the Nursing Staff Regulation 2.0 (PPR 2.0) and sanctions for non-compliance

- We demand low-threshold counselling and support services for nurses, paramedics and other stressful health professions across the board

- Stop outsourcing to depress wages or circumvent collective agreements! We support the struggles of health workers for the reversal of spin-offs and privatisations (such as kitchen and cleaning services or logistics). The rule must be: one house, one tariff!

Free health care is needed close to home To this end, the federal government must reliably and adequately finance cross-sectoral treatment and regional basic care and make cross-sectoral work in public or non-profit hands legally possible

The Hospital Reform Act from Lauterbach intensifies the cold structural change in the hospital landscape The dying of small hospitals in particular is planned and half of it is to be financed by contributions from the statutory health insurance funds There are no plans for needs-based hospital planning close to home The flat rates per case with their false incentives and effects on medical treatment are to remain Necessary structural adjustments due to changes in medical care strategies, the state of research, but also in the population structure must take place in a planned and needs-based manner instead of via the cold structural adjustment through hospital insolvencies

- We want the necessary operating costs of the hospitals to be fully financed by the health insurance companies The flat rates per case must be completely abolished This will make profits and losses largely impossible Private corporations should be allowed to continue to operate hospitals, but without the possibility of making a profit they will have no interest in doing so We want to transfer hospitals that are abandoned by private operators to public ownership For this purpose, municipalities and states can access a so-called re-municipalisation fund (Chapter 11).

- The federal states are responsible for the investment costs of the hospitals, but have been providing far too little money for this purpose for decades As a result, we have a massive investment backlog Although personnel funds are used for construction measures, the hospitals are in poor condition in terms of construction and equipment The federal and state governments must invest sustainably in the hospitals! The wealth tax can help them with this

Outpatient care

Medical practices are often difficult to reach and rarely barrier-free Making appointments is complicated and the waiting time depends on the insured person's status The Left Party advocates good, comprehensive, barrier-free and needs-covering health care in urban and rural areas We want to promote municipal care centres as the backbone of health care close to home! They should be the central point of contact for patients and combine outpatient care with acute inpatient, emergency medicine, psychotherapeutic, (community) nursing and other therapeutic treatments. We want inpatient and outpatient care to be planned and designed together in the interest of the common good

- Municipal care centres with short distances and joint administration would make a decisive contribution to reducing bureaucracy and ensuring that doctors have more time for patients
- In many regions and districts, there are hardly any doctors in private practice left, while the offers are concentrated in affluent residential areas close to the city centre Doctors in private practice also have a structural interest in relocating practices to better residential areas due to two-class medicine The supply districts must be smaller and determined by the states and municipalities
- Pharmacists, nurses, therapists, midwives, medical assistants and emergency paramedics bring their special skills to the table and are indispensable for good care They should be able to treat and advise more independently We want to expand the powers of the healthcare professions and ensure nationwide care
- Social conditions make people ill, also psychologically Preventive measures are needed that must play a role in all political areas ("Mental health in all policies"). In addition, it is necessary to massively expand care: not only, but above all, for children and young people. This is because the psychotherapeutic services in many regions are far from meeting the demand As long as there are not enough licensed psychotherapists available, therapies must be made possible unbureaucratically via the cost reimbursement procedure To this end, we need a fundamental reform of the demand planning for contract psychotherapeutic health insurance companies, which is based on real needs The training costs for future psychotherapists must be capped Psychotherapists in training must be given an employment status that allows them to be integrated into collective bargaining structures The financing of training by the training centres must be regulated by law

- Private corporations (especially private equity companies) invest on a large scale in care facilities and medical care centers (MVZ), trim them for profits and resell them at a higher price.
- We want the electronic patient record to serve to improve treatments and thus not to release huge amounts of data to commercial players without the knowledge of the patients The dangerous gaps in data protection and data security must be closed immediately
- For digital health applications, we need scientific evaluation procedures: We want to publicly promote open source applications!

Affordable medicines for all and health research that helps everyone! Breaking the power of the pharmaceutical industry

The statutory health insurance companies in Germany spend over 50 billion euros on medicines – with a rapidly rising trend – and this despite the fact that patients have to pay extra for medicines Pharmaceutical companies charge fantasy prices for new medicines and make billions in profits None of the attempts to regulate the prices of new medicines have been able to effectively limit cost explosion We want to push back the influence of pharmaceutical companies Public control is needed on drug research Prices must be set uniformly across the EU We want to provide targeted funding to strengthen public health research and non-commercial clinical research

We want to strengthen research on previously neglected diseases This includes not only rare diseases, but also, for example, ME/CFS and Long Covid or Post-Covid The number of people suffering from the disease continues to increase There is still not a single approved drug, hardly any contact points and far too little money for drug research Those affected are stigmatized and suffer harmful mistreatments We are committed to research funding, that is appropriate to the severity, frequency and research backlog in ME/CFS and Long Covid and that aims to ensure the availability of treatments We want to draw lessons from the Corona pandemic on the basis of scientific evidence for health promotion and infection control, for example on clean indoor air

Care must not be a risk of poverty!

The co-payments in care are so high that they usually eat up all reserves and pensions, then the costs have to be borne by the municipalities Care facilities are now considered a lucrative investment Profits are rising, but this comes at a price: stress for nursing staff is increasing and care for residents is getting worse

Financing must be geared towards cost recovery We are committed to a change in the care system: For good working conditions and relief for employees in care facilities We want to push care companies out of inpatient care We want to transfer private care facilities into public hands We want to transfer the ineffective structure of small care providers, which often lead to poor working conditions, into more effective public-profit structures

- The spiral of costs of co-payments must be broken: With our comprehensive long-term care insurance, we want to abolish co-payments in the long term We want to cap the costs of nursing homes (accommodation and meals) that are not covered by long-term care insurance and oblige the federal states to cover the real investment costs and training costs In the short term, the savings must be increased
- 100,000 additional nurses are needed in nursing homes to ensure high-quality nursing care, including the mix of nursing staff Hundreds of thousands of nurses can imagine returning to the profession – with better working conditions
- Vocational training for nursing and geriatric care has been merged Nevertheless, there is still a wage gap of about 300 euros This must be closed All nurses are skilled workers and deserve appropriate remuneration
- Family caregivers must be better supported! The care support allowance is not enough: We want six weeks of leave for all employees with full employer-financed wage compensation at the first occurrence of a family care case We are also committed to ensuring that all family caregivers receive cash benefits and pension points People in need of care and their relatives should also be entitled to leave
- The greatest relief for both people in need of care and their caring relatives are offers of professional day and short-term care close to home, non-commercial and covered by solidarity-based comprehensive care insurance, as well as other unbureaucratically accessible assistance
- No exploitation of foreign workers in the care sector! "24-hour care" is an imposition on everyone involved The precarious situation of these people in their countries of origin is exploited for employment under unacceptable conditions It is finally necessary to regulate these employment relationships with social security protection, statutory working hours, holidays and minimum wage

Prevention and counselling instead of prosecution in drug policy

Prohibition of drugs does not reduce drug trafficking or effectively reduce consumption Many problems arise as a result of criminalisation, such as damage to health caused by contamination, the social collapse of people with addiction problems and the promotion of organised crime At the same time, state repression ties up considerable financial resources

- We want to introduce a ban on advertising and sponsorship of tobacco, alcohol, other drugs and gambling offers, accompanied by awareness campaigns on alcohol, drugs and gambling addiction Some of these addictive substances are widely accepted by society, but have serious consequences We want to ban slot machines in restaurants
- We want to completely decriminalise drug use and create medical and social work intervention programmes to finally regulate drugs appropriately. In this way, we counter the inhumane persecution of users, but also organised crime
- We want to enforce a complete legalization of cannabis and the necessary changes at EU and UN level.
- For all drugs, including alcohol, limit values for blood concentrations will be set at which the ability to drive is not impaired from a scientific and medical point of view Higher concentrations in road traffic will be punished In this way, we finally want to enforce the sobriety requirement properly
- The focus must be on saving lives That is why we want comprehensive access to drug consumption rooms, sterile consumption utensils and medication against overdoses The analysis of drugs for dangerous admixtures and impurities (drug checking) must be available nationwide.
- We strengthen prevention, counselling and support services

6. Détente instead of rearmament and militarization: A peaceful world is possible

For Die Linke, war is not a legitimate means of politics. Our vision is: a peaceful Germany in a democratic, social and peaceful Europe, in which the primacy of the civilian applies. We want a policy that does not look the other way at injustices and violence in the world, but intervenes by peaceful means. The Left stands by the side of the oppressed and the attacked. We represent a foreign policy, that is always looking for peaceful, civilian solutions and does not think with its finger on the trigger. The Left Party is a peace party and a reliable voice of the peace movements. We stand for a foreign policy for which human rights are indivisible and in which no double standards apply. Our perspective is not that of the general, but that of the people affected. Because even in war there is a class antagonism. NATO Secretary General Rutte and Chancellor candidate Merz (CDU) call for pensions, health and social spending to be cut in favor of armaments. We oppose this with all our might. We do not forget that it is above all the working population and the civilian population who bear the consequences and costs of the war, and that inequalities according to class, gender, ethnicity and neo-colonial superiority are essential factors in determining whether or not the war is the result of the war. Who is killed or becomes a victim of violence, impoverishment and deprivation of rights. To end this state of affairs, it is essential to persuade warring parties to adapt their political goals and principles so that peace-building compromises and negotiations become possible. Social justice, climate sustainability and peace policy must be thought of, developed and implemented together. Movements for social justice as well as the climate and peace movement must therefore be and promote their networking.

There are countless conflicts in the world that are combining to form a system of wars of world order. The old great powers USA, EU and Japan are massively involved politically and militarily in these conflicts. The new global players China and Russia, including India, are acting with their own imperial interests. The danger of new wars is growing continuously. Germany is a country that is a country that is which started two terrible world wars and which is forever committed to anti-militarism: the foreign policy of the past decades has been far from living up to this claim. Wars are facilitated with the "Zeitenwende" rearmament and the goal of "war capability". The planned stationing of US medium-range missiles in Germany will not close a military "capability gap", but will exacerbate the confrontation between the US and Russia on European soil. The

risks are borne primarily by the people in Germany and Europe. Germany and the EU bear the risk through economic dependencies, arms exports and the support of authoritarian regimes in various parts of the world. Often themselves lead to an escalation of conflicts in the world. The world is becoming more and more insecure. Imperialist wars of aggression are being waged over access to raw materials and markets or for the regional order, such as the Russian war against Ukraine or the years-long struggle over Syria or Turkey's war in northeast Syria. They threaten the life and limb of millions of people. Threatens hundreds of thousands of people with death.

Putin's threats and the election of Donald Trump show that democracy and security are also facing major challenges in the EU. On the other hand, we rely on a policy that puts international solidarity above profit interests — such as in South-South economic cooperation or Cuba's international work in the health sector. We face the challenge of securing peace, without becoming belligerent, we fight for a strengthening of international law and human rights, for a worldwide peace order. Militarization of politics brutalizes society, destroys democracy from within and only benefits the arms giants and financial corporations.

For the Russia-Ukraine war, this means that we stand closely by the people of Ukraine and Russia and are committed to massive humanitarian aid as well as diplomatic initiatives for a ceasefire. We condemn Russia's attack on Ukraine, which is contrary to international law. It must be ended immediately. Russian troops have no business in Ukraine. We respect the Ukrainian people's right to self-defence. But we demand a change of strategy: instead of more and more arms deliveries, a joint initiative by the German government and the EU with China, Brazil and other countries of the Global South is finally needed to bring Russia and Ukraine to the negotiating table. More targeted sanctions that are not directed against the population, but against Putin's power apparatus and the military-industrial complex, and thus against the ability to wage war, and which are in line with the UN Charter can be an important means of exerting pressure to achieve a just peace for Ukraine. Targeted sanctions against persons who have directly or indirectly participated in war crimes can also help to build up diplomatic pressure.

The war in Ukraine shows how dangerous the confrontation between the geopolitical power blocs has become. The power structure of the world is shifting. The supremacy of the West, especially the USA, is being called into question by new blocs such as the BRICS countries. Powerful actors are trying to gain more influence by all means and to defend existing influence by force. We condemn this thinking and acting, in Ukraine, in the Middle East and in all crisis areas of the world. Germany plays a dual role in this context: As an actor within NATO, it is driving militarisation and confrontation. As an economic power, Germany is reinforcing social inequality and dependencies in the Global South through its trade and financial policy. This contradiction must be resolved by aligning its policy with the needs of the majority of the world's population and not with the needs of the world's elites. We want people everywhere to be able to make self-determined, democratic and sovereign decisions about their coexistence. We welcome and support the departure of the Global South against colonial exploitation and wars, blockades and sanctions – for radical debt relief, a just world economic order and peace in all countries.

Nor is there a military solution to the war in the Middle East: no human rights crime must ever be used as a justification for another human rights crime. The deaths of tens of thousands of civilians, including many children, the destruction of much of the infrastructure and the starvation of the population have nothing to do with legitimate self-defence. The injustice of the occupation of the Palestinian territories is never a justification for the Palestinian Territory. The inhumane terror of Hamas – and just as October 7 does not justify the brutal crimes of international law committed by the Israeli army in Gaza and Lebanon. We condemn the actions in Syria in violation of international law. We support the efforts of the International Criminal Court to hold those responsible on both sides of the Middle East conflict accountable. The Left Party is committed to implementing the demands of the legal opinion of the International Court of Justice to the Israeli occupation policy and calls for an end to the occupation and settlement construction. Our goal is a secure, self-determined and equal life for the people of Israel and Palestine within the framework of a further developed, just two-state solution. The end of the Assad dictatorship in Syria is a signal of hope. The people of Syria now need democratic elections, human and fundamental rights must be guaranteed. The fighting between regional militias. The autonomy of the Kurdish regions (Rojava) must be secured. EU and NATO must put pressure on the Turkish government: it must not support a civil war against the Kurdish areas. The aim of the attacks from Turkey is to prevent the democratic model of society sought by the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES). This model is based on federal structures and focuses on women's freedom, environmental sustainability and grassroots

democracy. We are firmly committed to an end. To this end, we demand: All arms exports from Germany to Turkey must be stopped. Germany must establish diplomatic relations with AANES in order to support peaceful relations and the establishment of democracy and stability in the region.

We want to break the global spiral of rearmament and confrontation. The threat of an arms race and the stationing of US medium-range missiles will not lead to more, but to less security for people in Germany, Europe and the whole world. The arms companies and their shareholders benefit most from an arms race. A world in which the military has priority is a world in which the needs of the majority of people are systematically ignored. Disarmament is therefore not only a question of peace, but also a question of democracy and social justice.

The Left Party is striving for a cooperative security policy in Europe. NATO, a relic of the Cold War, is not suitable for this: because it is not a community of values, but a purely military alliance to enforce national and economic interests, again and again and for many decades also with military force. Neither the Afghanistan war, nor the Iraq war, nor the other numerous violations of international law by NATO members have made Europe safer. We have a chance for a more peaceful future in Europe if we learn from our mistakes and return to the principles of the policy of détente. No Cold War 2.0, but an OSCE 2.0, that is our vision of a peaceful Europe. Our goal is a security architecture in Europe that is based on the principles of peaceful coexistence and the agreements of the CSCE and includes all countries on the continent. Such a security architecture makes NATO superfluous and enables a foreign policy of international cooperation instead of economic and military competition. In the long term, it should also include Russia and Turkey – the prerequisite would be an end to all wars of aggression and a process of reconciliation and reconstruction. Global security can only be achieved through a just reorganization of economic and trade relations in the world. This is what we are committed to.

We want to strengthen diplomacy and make the EU and Germany credible again internationally, because the lack of credibility, for example in view of the breaches of international law by NATO allies such as the USA, Turkey or Saudi Arabia, is itself a security risk for Europe. An EU that is no longer part of the

bloc confrontation, but advocates a balance of interests in the UN system credibly and without double standards, would significantly increase its political weight by civilian means

- In order to finally make a peace process possible for Ukraine, the German government must finally take up peace initiatives such as those of China and Brazil and actively advocate a joint diplomatic negotiation offensive, supported by targeted sanctions that are not directed against the general population We advocate a regular review of sanctions practice We reject arms deliveries to war and crisis zones international contact group to prepare negotiations by working on specific issues and developing compromise proposals one outcome of the peace process must be reliable security guarantees

- No stationing of US medium-range missiles in Germany and no further rearmament, but disarmament in Germany and Europe The European NATO countries already spend much more money on the military (adjusted for purchasing power) than Russia Security can be organised without rearmament Therefore, these EU states should take the first step and issue a binding invitation to a collective disarmament process Political conflict resolution requires de-escalation and an end to the arms race It is a prerequisite for the perspective of a common security architecture involving China, India and Russia The Left Party, together with peace organisations and peace initiatives, opposes the intended stationing of US medium-range missiles in Germany!

- We want to withdraw the Bundeswehr from all foreign missions We want it to be transformed into a structurally non-attacking defense army

- We want to end the nuclear sharing of the Federal Republic. All U.S. nuclear weapons must be withdrawn from Germany The Federal Republic of Germany must follow the example of many states and join the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Against the background of the open discussion in political and military circles in this country about the construction of its own German or European atomic bomb, we want to shut down the uranium enrichment plant in Gronau immediately With its centrifuge technology, it could also produce the material for a uranium nuclear weapon. It could be used for the EU and Germany to reach for the atomic bomb

- We demand diplomatic initiatives that push for an immediate ceasefire and a sustainable peace process in Israel and Palestine We demand an end to German arms exports to Israel, the recognition of Palestine as a separate state within the borders of 1967 and political pressure from

the German government on the states of the region to recognize Israel as a state

- Germany must support the efforts of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to prosecute and prosecute crimes in the context of the Middle East war in accordance with its obligations as a party to the treaty The arrest warrants against Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Defence Minister Yoav Gallant and senior members of Hamas must be recognised and implemented
- We want to end the war business and completely ban arms exports The conversion of arms factories to civilian products must be specifically promoted
- We demand the transfer of the armaments companies into public ownership and conversion into social production.
- We oppose the militarization of society: no reintroduction of conscription, no advertising for dying at schools, at education fairs, at universities or by letter mail We want to defend and expand civil clauses for universities without the military. We support the Youth Alliance against Conscription!
- We want to drastically reduce arms spending and instead invest in education, social affairs, health and a just transformation We reject NATO's rearmament target of 2 percent of GDP or even more The "special fund" of the Zeitenwende should flow into civilian infrastructure
- Strengthening and reforming the United Nations: The UN General Assembly, in which all members of the United Nations are represented, must be given stronger decision-making rights vis-à-vis the undemocratic UN Security Council, especially on issues relating to the maintenance of international peace
- We support all disarmament efforts from below, in which global civil society advocates a cross-border curbing of the arms madness We support global initiatives for disarmament and the reduction of military spending in order to break the logic of the arms race and use the money for future investments

For an EU that is part of the solution

We want a social EU that is committed to international equality and peace, instead of pushing down wages and exacerbating bloc confrontation and competition between locations We want a social and democratic Europe that helps people with low and middle incomes A peace union that promotes democracy and

invests in global justice instead of confrontation We advocate a policy of détente and want to stop the militarisation of Europe The reform of the EU is also a peace policy necessity But the possibilities for a fundamental reform of the EU are limited by the existing treaties of the EU We are therefore striving for new treaties that leave the logic of neoliberalism behind At the same time, we are already advocating a maximum of emancipatory changes within the existing treaties in the sense of a Europe from below instead of an EU of banks and corporations

- We want massive public investment in social welfare, education, health and climate-friendly restructuring But the "Stability and Growth Pact" curtails democracy in the member states and commits it to a neoliberal fiscal policy We want to change that: The EU needs an investment offensive without a handbrake To this end, deficit and debt rules in Europe must also be adapted The "European Semester Process" must be restructured in such a way that it promotes public investment, job creation and crisis management Social rights must also be indivisible in the EU

- Together with the trade unions, we will work to ensure that the positive developments in the EU, such as the strengthening of trade union rights through the Minimum Wage Directive, are deepened in the coming years, despite the shift to the right in the EU

- The Erasmus+ programme for apprentices must be expanded We are committed to improving the resources and conditions for this and to raising awareness of the programme

- Social cohesion must become an even stronger priority of EU policy in order to improve the living conditions of people throughout the European Union The harmonisation of the social situation prevents relocation, wage dumping and brain drain, regions must not be played off against each other We reject the centralisation of regional funds in the hands of the EU Commission, which is currently being discussed. Rather, the regions must develop and implement the programmes for the distribution of the funds themselves with the local citizens We want an enlargement of the European Union based on solidarity, which requires compliance with social, ecological and democratic standards Accession aid should serve the development of the respective countries and enable them to meet these standards, so that local people also benefit In order to become capable of enlargement, reforms of the EU27 are also needed

- We want the European Parliament to finally have the full right of initiative and to be able to submit its own legislative proposals Fundamental decisions must be taken by the European Parliament – instead of by executive bodies such

as the Commission, Eurogroup or Council The high hurdles for European citizens' initiatives must be lowered: We want to enable EU-wide referendums and referendums All people in the EU states, in which they live, have the same rights

- The Committee of the Regions is to be strengthened by involving it in the decision-making structure of the EU institutions.

- Peace union instead of Fortress Europe! We oppose the further rearmament of the EU and the militarisation of Europe's borders We reject the obligation to arm as laid down in the Treaty of Lisbon as well as deals for the purpose of sealing off refugees The Frontex isolation agency must be transformed into a European rescue mission

- We want a Europe without weapons of mass destruction Germany and the member states of the EU must join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and work for a re-edition of the Treaty on Disarmament and Destruction of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles throughout Europe

For global justice

An EU that sees itself as the antithesis to global inequality and exploitation must also distance itself from imperialist practices of the past and present. Centuries of colonial exploitation, the current world economic order, as well as blockades and sanctions that prevent the free and fair development of countries and regions are the cause of the great inequalities between the Western industrialized countries and the countries of the South The Left Party is therefore committed to ending the economic, trade and financial blockade of the USA against Cuba, which has been in place for more than 60 years in violation of international law that Cuba will finally be removed from the list of states that, in the U.S. view, support international terrorism For Die Linke, the following also applies globally: no peace, no security and no climate protection without social justice What we demand for Germany in terms of economic, climate and social policy, we also want to implement globally – together and in solidarity with the social movements and the progressive parties and governments worldwide. that undermine or endanger regional economic alliances must be stopped, as must those that force neoliberal structural adjustments

For us it is clear: We stand unconditionally on the side of working people and families On the side of people for whom there is hardly enough money to live on and those who have no

lobby In short: on the side of the majority of this society We align our policies with their priorities

As an internationalist party, Die Linke is part of the worldwide movement for a peaceful and just world, against imperialism and war, against fascism and racism, against exploitation, oppression, poverty and environmental destruction

The left is in solidarity with the people, movements, organizations, parties and governments that are committed to an independent path of development beyond the capitalist logic of profit and against imperialist hegemony. It is in solidarity with all countries that, like Cuba, have embarked on a socialist path of development, it is in solidarity with progressive political development processes in Latin America, in the Global South and throughout the world – with all those who pursue a policy of peace, international understanding, solidarity-based economic cooperation, all those who work in their countries to combat poverty, reduce social exclusion and inequality, protect the environment and promote the rights of indigenous peoples We firmly believe that every country has the right to determine its own path of development

- Despite announcements to the contrary in its coalition agreement, the traffic light government has rigorously cut back on development policy and humanitarian aid: We want to reverse this development: We want social justice worldwide and take the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a benchmark. We demand a global billionaire's tax, regulation of the financial markets and the introduction of a financial transaction tax, fair cooperation agreements instead of free trade agreements and global tax justice

- Financial support for countries in the Global South for climate protection, energy transition, adaptation to the impacts of climate change and compensation for climate damage must be adapted to actual needs and massively increased

- There needs to be a reliable minimum financing of development cooperation at the agreed 0.7 per cent of German economic output, and at least 0.2 per cent must finally go to the poorest countries Central guidelines for development policy measures must be the observance of human rights, the protection of women, children and young people and members of the LGBTIQ+ community Use of development funds for civil-military We reject cooperation or sealing off refugees or for the profit of corporations

Investments must benefit the local people

- Germany and the EU must ensure food sovereignty and the right to food, prevent land grabbing by large corporations, promote smallholder farmers, protect local producers from price dumping and displacement, and ban speculation with food Pesticides banned in Germany and the EU must not be exported Seeds must not be monopolized by corporations
- Strengthen the human right to health! Medicines and vaccines developed through research financed with taxpayers' money must be made available for reproduction without a licence Patents for vital medicines must be overcome (also internationally) in order to prevent monopoly-like pricing
- We want to strengthen the Supply Chain Act instead of weakening it Agreements and regulations on human rights, occupational health and safety, environmental and climate protection standards and the fight against child labour are to be strengthened and expanded, for example through improved legal remedies, complaint mechanisms and more state controls Companies that violate these standards must be sanctioned more severely – including at the international level
- Germany's raw materials agreements with other countries must be democratic, social and ecological and should contribute to the development of sustainable value creation locally

7. Work that fits life

Good work is a key to a life of solidarity and self-determination, in which we can develop ourselves and participate in leisure and cultural life. Work must not make you sick. However, complaints about poor working conditions continue to increase. A huge low-wage sector has been created, temporary employment and temporary work have been promoted, and in many sectors there are increasing reports from employees about overwork at work. Due to poor planning and poor working conditions, there is an increasing shortage of sufficient staff or work is being condensed.

The shortage of skilled workers is now omnipresent. Working conditions must change. Productive work until retirement is only possible with greater relief, a better work-life balance and more co-determination. We want to strengthen democratic rights in the company as well as in all other areas of society. Employees rightly expect that their work must fit their lives. This is also economically sensible.

An end to low wages and insecure jobs

Wages must be enough for a good life with children. But one in six people in Germany only receives a low wage for their own work, which can barely get them through the month – in eastern Germany, almost one in four. According to the EU, the statutory minimum wage should be at least 60 percent of the median income, in Germany it is significantly lower. The EU is also calling for measures to protect 80 per cent of employees through collective agreements. In Germany, it is currently only one in two. Nevertheless, the traffic light government has not implemented the European Minimum Wage Directive – even though it is applicable law.

- The statutory minimum wage must be increased in accordance with the European Directive – to at least 60 per cent of the median income. That would be about 15 euros as early as 2025. In order to clearly comply with the European Directive, we demand a minimum wage of 16 euros by 2026 at the latest, which should be permanently adjusted to the development of the median wage, but must increase at least annually by the inflation rate. The Minimum Wage Commission must no longer decide against the votes of the trade unions. The minimum wage must apply without exceptions – for example, also for employees in workshops for people with disabilities, for employees under the age of 18 and without vocational training, as well as for the long-term unemployed.
- The federal government must finally draw up an action plan to promote collective bargaining and

increase collective bargaining coverage. A federal collective bargaining compliance law must stipulate that public contracts will only be awarded to companies that comply with collective bargaining standards. The federal and state ministries of labour should conclude collective agreements be much easier to declare generally binding for all employees in a sector – even without the consent of the employer's side. In the case of expenditure and company splits, collective agreements must continue to apply compulsorily and without restrictions. Craft guilds must be obliged to fulfil their public law mandate and conclude collective agreements so that wage dumping can also be prevented more easily there.

- Full social security in every employment relationship from the first euro instead of mini-jobs, midi-jobs and exceptions for foreign seasonal workers. Everyone needs health insurance, pensions and protection in the event of unemployment. In the case of solo self-employed workers, clients must also pay social security contributions and comply with industry-wide minimum fees.
- In order to enable security and predictability of life, we want to abolish temporary work and fixed-term employment without objective reason. We will limit factual reasons for fixed-term contracts much more strictly, at the latest the third employment contract with the same employer must be indefinite. Until temporary agency work is banned, temporary workers must be paid and treated in the same way as employees in the operational company from day one (including collective bargaining and company special payments), plus 10 percent flexibility allowance. The maximum assignment period must apply to the workplace instead of to the employees. We want to effectively combat bogus contracts for work and services so that no one is cheated out of their employee rights: If violations of the Temporary Employment Act are suspected, the burden of proof must lie with the companies involved. Temporary work must not be used to break strikes.
- In order for occupational health and safety to work, foreign employees must not be disadvantaged by inspections or reporting grievances. Therefore, residence rights must be independent of the employment contract. Mobile labour law advice in native languages must be financed on a permanent basis. Costs for accommodation provided or arranged by the employer must be capped and transparently displayed on the payroll. Employees in private households should be primarily placed through public welfare-oriented and municipal providers.

as well as through certified agencies that ensure collective agreements and good working conditions

- In order to better protect employees and honest companies, we need more frequent checks of working time and minimum wage regulations, also through uncomplicated proof from companies by e-mail. We want to double the number of personnel at customs to detect wage fraud, and noticeably increase the penalties for companies
- The Pay Transparency Act must become an equal pay law in order to enforce equal pay for work of equal value. It should also oblige companies to gradually reduce existing inequalities in the evaluation of work across industries, with the aim of ensuring that work with people is not rated worse than work with machines, or that work experience is put on an equal footing with formal qualifications. Employees with a migration history and regardless of gender identity must finally be guaranteed – overcome the gender pay gap and migration pay gap! Trade unions need a right of action so that those affected do not have to sue alone

Securing skilled workers with good working conditions

Good wages and working conditions are the best remedy for staff shortages. Everyone talks about a shortage of skilled workers, but the reasons are often ignored. Nurses, educators and teachers fight for collective agreements to relieve the burden. They quit their jobs in droves or reduce their working hours because the stresses of their jobs can no longer be endured. Many companies pay just above the minimum wage. Fewer and fewer companies train themselves, at the same time, almost 3 million young people in Germany do not have a vocational qualification. Around 3.5 million people are also stuck in unemployment, if you count older unemployed people and people in further training measures. Companies and the government distract from the fact that they do not want to improve wages and working conditions and no longer want to invest in training. According to studies, half of the former nurses would return to their jobs, when conditions improve. The employers' associations are demanding the opposite and want longer working hours, although this does not solve the problems, but exacerbates them. We want good working conditions to become the norm everywhere.

- Public contracts must only be awarded to companies that comply with collective agreements, including their subcontractors. Public administrations and publicly owned enterprises must agree with the trade unions on realistic steps to relieve the burden and do good work in order to remedy the shortage of staff. This includes adequately financed public

budgets that enable good working conditions, rather than giving billionaires and multimillionaires gifts. We are committed to a provision that employees are taken on under at least the same or better conditions if the contractor changes in a public service contract.

- We need better occupational health and safety regulations against occupational overload and enforceable participation for works councils in personnel assessment and the prevention of stress. Employees should be given weekly consultation time to come to an understanding of working conditions. Occupational health and safety authorities need more staff and fines must be significantly increased. Occupational diseases must be recognised more easily.
- A training levy must relieve the burden on training companies and contribute to the costs of training for companies that do not provide training themselves. All trainees should receive at least 80 per cent of the collectively agreed training allowance.
- We support the trade unions in the fight for shorter working hours with full pay and necessary staff compensation in all sectors. Shorter weekly working hours, for example in the form of a four-day week, enable more relaxation and a better work-life balance. We defend the 8-hour day as an upper limit and demand at least 11 hours of rest between shifts, we want to limit exceptions and reduce the weekly limit maximum working hours to 40 hours. In the trade unions, we are also campaigning for a greater issue of reducing working hours. Work breaks and service hours must be paid, they are not employees' free time!
- Right to time off: Employees should have the opportunity to leave for one year twice in their working life (sabbatical year), combined with a right to return.
- We are committed to a legal entitlement to a full-time job and to family-friendly shifts. All employees need the right to a temporary reduction in their working hours and to a six-week caregiver leave with continued payment of wages. We are committed to a statutory holiday entitlement of 6 weeks per year.
- In the event of plant closures, relocations, investments, environmental and climate issues, personnel assessment, further training and the prevention of damage to health, works and staff councils need an enforceable right to co-determination. In all private and public companies with 500 or more employees, there must be real equal co-determination. On the supervisory boards are also extended to those in foreign or European legal form. If this obligation is violated,

tangible sanctions are required (Chapter 8).

- No company without a works council! Works council elections must be made easier, obstruction of elections and works councils must be prosecuted more strictly, trade unions must be given reliable access, especially digital employees who initiate the first election of a works council must be better protected by law Public prosecutor's offices must be able to take action "ex officio" against the obstruction of works council elections or the obstruction of works council activities must be adapted Work organised via digital platforms must automatically be considered an employment relationship, unless the contrary can be proven Strict criteria must be applied here Together with the trade unions, we are calling for the abolition of special labour law for churches and church sponsors such as Diakonie or Caritas Co-determination in public and church institutions must be adhered to the Works Constitution Act We defend the right to strike against all attacks It must also apply to churches and civil servants – and strikes for political and social concerns must be allowed The Collective Bargaining Unity Act must be abolished Employers' associations must not offer memberships without collective bargaining Unions must be able to sue for compliance with collective agreements

- The federal government must develop a binding plan for the future of the economy together with employees and their trade unions, environmental and social associations, science and companies

(Chapter 8).

- Companies must train all employees to meet changing requirements and tasks That's why we need a fund into which all companies in a sector pay All employees are allowed to reduce their working hours for further training and continue to receive at least 70 percent of their wages for this time (increased to 100 percent by the state in the low-wage sector) so that everyone can afford further training In the case of unemployment benefits and pensions, this must be time. Anyone who loses their job should receive 90 per cent of their last net salary as further training allowance without reducing their entitlement to unemployment benefits
- We are committed to one week of educational leave in all federal states and want to oblige companies to inform their employees annually about their entitlement

Good protection in the event of unemployment

In October 2024, more than 3.5 million people in Germany were either unemployed or accommodated in labour market policy measures Almost one million people are long-term unemployed We believe that no one should be excluded from working life involuntarily

- With longer framework periods and shorter qualifying periods, we will give more people access to unemployment insurance again Unemployment benefits are to be paid longer and increased to 68 per cent Blocking periods are to be abolished
- We are combating unemployment with government employment measures and qualification programmes Our programme for investments in public services and in the transport and energy transition is creating hundreds of thousands of good jobs
- For people who are permanently excluded from the regular labour market, we create additional jobs in a publicly funded employment sector ("social labour market"). Unemployed people are given a legal right to qualification and further training We want a right to gainful employment with an enforceable individual legal claim This also includes the right to refuse specific gainful employment

8. Economy for all – social and ecological

We want an economic policy for the majority that creates the conditions for broad social prosperity. This includes a reliable infrastructure, trained specialists, qualified service providers and suppliers, education, research, a balanced mix of different industries and company sizes, high human rights and environmental standards, quality of life and political stability. We want an economy for all that is not based on just a few selected lighthouse projects, but also takes into account the situation of employees, consumers, small businesses and companies of general interest.

At the same time, we are in a process that requires a rapid, fundamental restructuring of the economy: because the way of production and lifestyle must become climate-neutral, because it is about innovation, because the balance between openness and security must also be redefined for supply chains, trade routes and energy supply. The investments that are intended to finance the military "turning point". In contrast to China or even parts of the USA, there is no targeted state industrial policy in Germany. Instead of new factories for solar systems, the arms industry is booming. Public money is being invested in the expansion of Bundeswehr bases instead of in future-oriented civilian research and high technology.

Clear and long-term targets are needed as to which technologies and subsidies are to be used to achieve the restructuring, because without a clear framework, even private individuals cannot invest. However, this also means that no one is left behind in the restructuring, that employees can have a say in decision-making, are qualified and secured, and that the lower half of the income is exempted from the costs of the transformation.

The limits of fossil capitalism have been reached: Nevertheless, corporations are sticking to their way of doing business in order to protect their business model and their profits. A few large wealthy people are getting richer and richer as a result by letting others work for them and exploiting nature without restraint and heating up the climate. We want to overcome this way of doing business. An ecological energy and heat turnaround, the socio-ecological restructuring of industry and the economy will only succeed if they are socially just, democratic and based on solidarity. Our goal is a just, sustainable economy that enables the vast majority of people

to live a better life while respecting the natural limits to growth. We want democratic socialism.

The past three years have been devastating for climate protection. There has been no fundamental progress in any area, instead the already modest climate protection law of the previous government has been softened. All cosmetic measures have ignored the needs of the people. In doing so, the traffic light government has destroyed the great willingness of the population to support far-reaching climate protection measures. Our economic policy is directed against social division and ecological destruction, here and internationally. We demand recognition and respect for all those who keep our society running. This means investing in the restructuring of the economy while ensuring that the costs are not passed on to employees and the vast majority.

For us, climate protection and social justice are inseparable: Without social justice, the majority has no opportunity to implement climate protection in everyday life. Globally, too, we are not all in the same boat. Resource consumption is extremely unevenly distributed: between rich and poor people within the country, within the European Union and between rich and poor countries. At the same time, poor people everywhere are most affected by environmental change and pollution. Those who own assets can better protect themselves from heat, drought and flooding. The poor can't. The destruction of nature threatens our material livelihoods and is becoming a class issue in Germany and globally. In addition, women and children in particular suffer disproportionately from the climate catastrophe and environmental damage. Without climate protection, there will be no more social justice, because climate change hits those who are financially worse off the hardest.

Restructuring industry in a socially and ecologically just way

Past federal governments have watched as industrial jobs in future sectors have been destroyed en masse. Since its peak, the number of employees in the solar industry has fallen by almost 120,000, and the industry has still not recovered. More than 40,000 jobs have been lost in the wind power industry. Without imports from China, no solar plant or wind turbine can be built in Germany. The restructuring of the automotive industry has been slept through – hundreds of thousands of jobs are at stake. The

government's decision to blindly trust the market in terms of industrial policy was fatal

German industry is heavily dependent on exports, above all the automotive industry and the tool and mechanical engineering industry. We want to restructure industrial production with the participation of employees. This is how we create good jobs for the future. That is why we want to strengthen production for the domestic market and the production of sustainable goods. We are committed to a civil and ecologically sustainable conversion of industrial production. The restructuring of the Arms industry in the direction of peacetime production and the further development of the automotive industry within the framework of a mobility industry to be established, for which the state must create demand by investing in the transport turnaround. We want to create good jobs, protect the climate and sustainably strengthen public and collective forms of ownership such as cooperatives or employee ownership as well as co-determination.

We want to build regional economic cycles and thus reduce transport emissions. We want products to be manufactured as close as possible to where they are needed. This will make supply chains shorter, more reliable and less harmful to the environment.

Instead of sending industrial components around the world or across Europe to exploit the wage gap between rich and poor countries, we want to strengthen integrated production processes. This secures local jobs and strengthens regions away from the metropolises.

Patents and intellectual property rights of the technologies needed for the transformation are concentrated in the hands of a few profit-oriented actors. This hinders the necessary transformation. The Left Party advocates laws for the creation and use of public intellectual property in order to accelerate the development and implementation of forward-looking technologies, such as large-scale patent pools, open hardware funding and the expansion of digital product databases.

Our socio-ecological investment programme for industrial conversion

We are calling for 200 billion euros for industrial restructuring: The money will flow into an investment fund from which companies will be supported in climate-friendly restructuring either with long-term loans or in exchange for company shares. Employees should receive a loan if they want to take over a business themselves and continue to run it as a cooperative. This should also apply in the event of insolvency, if there is a fundamental prospect of continued economic operation. The fund is intended to reinvest profits from investments or loans. In addition, we want to expand the Climate and Transformative

Fund (KTF) and provide it with 65 billion euros annually: The money will be used, among other things:

- for start-up financing for new battery technologies and energy storage systems;
- for the production and transport of hydrogen, where it is proven to be necessary and there are no practicable alternatives, such as for long-term energy storage or as a raw material for the chemical industry;
- for the financing of an industrial electricity price that supports the energy-intensive industry in its transformation;
- for a rescue package for suppliers in the automotive industry to the tune of 20 billion euros.

With the help of climate protection contracts, we want to promote climate-friendly technology in the conversion and equipping of production facilities, in addition to the activities of the investment fund.

At the European level, Die Linke is campaigning for an extension of exemptions and changes to European state aid law: this is the only way to make socio-ecological industrial policy possible.

- The following applies: no taxpayers' money without something in return. We tie government funds (whether direct aid payments or indirect subsidies) to long-term guarantees for employees on collective agreements, site commitments and binding investment plans. In this way, we are driving forward the necessary ecological restructuring of production, securing jobs and incomes for employees.
- If companies announce redundancies for operational reasons and do not comply with employment agreements or ignore environmental standards, they must repay subsidies. No companies in tax havens may be subsidised. Dividend distributions must be prohibited when making use of crisis aid for companies in distress.

- Public control of key sectors through the establishment of industrial foundations and other forms of public participation in addition to the investment fund. Financed by the federal government, targeted shares in companies that play a key role in the system change are to be acquired. This will enable climate-friendly restructuring to be better managed. In this way, we are also protecting critical infrastructure such as refineries, pipelines, energy storage facilities and ports from being sold off to Authoritarian regimes or private corporations. Public companies must become the engine of industrial

renewal, take on a steering role and integrate the competencies of private companies into cooperations

- Promote climate-friendly production: Public procurement, product standards and quotas can be used to give advantages to the most ecological products that are covered by collective bargaining agreements in lead markets, for example in the steel industry
- Economic and transformation councils: In the regions affected by structural change, we want to set up economic and transformation councils that have money from the Climate and Transformation Fund at their disposal and help shape the transformation on the ground. In addition to state governments, municipalities and companies, trade unions, works councils, employees and environmental and social associations should also have equal voting rights. They are weighed up along the supply chains in decision-making. We are committed to ensuring that the regional transformation networks continue to be financed by the federal government
- More economic democracy: Works councils must be given a right of co-determination in economic issues and all important company decisions must be confirmed by staff meetings. The workforce should be allowed to have a say in decisions on relocations, closures and relocations, mass redundancies and decisions on investments in the future, and should be given a veto right
- The transformation must be linked to compliance with ecological standards and environmental goals. Where investments are made, production targets and site preservation must also be sustainable in the long term

Transformation in action: Automotive industry for the future

The automotive industry in Germany is in an existential crisis. The costs are borne by the employees. This can be seen most clearly at Volkswagen: The Porsche and Piech family clan has an estimated fortune of 36.5 billion euros. They own the majority of the Volkswagen Group through the Porsche SE holding company. For decades, they have made profits from the companies and deliberately prevented ecological restructuring. Even this year, VW has paid out 4.5 billion euros in dividends. In order for their billions in assets to continue to grow, the employees are now to bleed: Wages are to be cut by 10 percent. They want to cancel bonuses and bonuses for employees. Plants are about to close.

Lobbyism, poor planning and the wrong product strategy of the managers, the worldwide decline in car sales (minus two million per year in Europe alone) and the refusal of the car industry and the government to set the course for the transport turnaround are partly to blame for the crisis in the automotive industry. The workers have to fear for their future.

European works councils must be strengthened so that different locations cannot be played off against each other in transnational corporations. The more democratically a company is organized, the more socially and ecologically sustainable corporate decisions are. This has been shown by several studies. We want to expand economic democracy and strengthen employee companies.

- Job and income guarantee: A just transformation means that employees who change professions and industries can gain further qualifications without jeopardising their income. For the period of further training, we want to introduce a further qualification allowance that amounts to 90 per cent of the last salary. The further training allowance will be financed proportionately by the Employment Agency and a fund, (Chapter 10, Continuing Education Fund). For employees who lose their old jobs due to the socio-ecological restructuring of the economy, we want to set up employment companies so that they do not lose good working conditions and do not have to leave their regions.

Instead of clinging to old technology so that the corporations can continue to make profits, the industry must be restructured in such a way that good work is secured and created. Neither e-fuels nor hydrogen are practical solutions for private transport. Even the mere switch to e-cars is not a viable strategy for the transport turnaround and overcoming the crisis in the automotive industry. In the current crisis, we are supporting employees in ensuring that their locations and jobs are preserved as comprehensively as possible. At the same time, reliable government framework conditions are needed to ramp up the production of electric mobility. We support the socio-ecological restructuring and the diversification of the affected companies into sustainable mobility companies that do not only rely on motorised individual transport, but produce much more strongly for the growing demand for collective transport. However, this will not succeed without political control of this process.

- We want to redesign the car tax and tax large and heavy cars much more heavily

We see no need for regular cars that weigh more than two tons. This also protects the roads and saves money for their maintenance

- With fleet conversion and public procurement, we are starting the engine for the restructuring of the automotive industry The public sector is to become a pioneer in electric mobility From now on, purely electric vehicles are to be purchased as a rule.
- We are committed to introducing e-car quotas at EU level for commercial fleet operators For craft businesses, care services or people in rural areas who depend on a car for commuting, we want to introduce socially graduated subsidies for small e-vehicles. In the future, subsidies will only be available for vehicles that are largely manufactured in the EU
- We finally want comprehensive investments in the public charging infrastructure, combined with favourable tariffs and requirements for more charging points at petrol stations, in retail and at the workplace
- By expanding public transport, we are creating additional demand for the production and maintenance of buses, trains, car sharing and the associated workshops for maintenance and repair work Production facilities that the automotive industry wants to give up are to be socialised and converted to meet the needs of a collective transport system The workforce is to be involved and collective bargaining coverage is to be maintained or taken up Financing will be provided through the Industrial Transformation Fund

Climate justice and energy transition

The effects of global warming have long been felt in Germany: flood disasters, more droughts and water shortages and the dying of our forests will shape our everyday lives Germany has already used up its fair budget of CO2 emissions to achieve the Paris climate targets This is precisely why we must make every effort to reduce emissions effectively and quickly

We have no more time for further delays Because more emissions mean more and more climate damage We want to switch to renewable energies as quickly as possible and disempower the energy companies

We are making energy affordable again and introducing socially graduated price tariffs, fighting for a supply of electricity and heat, not in the hands of corporations, but of citizens, municipalities and cooperatives We want to organize the generation of electricity and heat as well as its distribution as decentralized as

possible and as centrally as necessary We therefore rely on electricity and heat from the municipal utility company, from the municipal cooperative solar or wind power plants and from the roofs and heat pumps of the citizens We strengthen the active role of citizens and companies in the energy transition as prosumers who consume self-produced energy, and to this end promote energy management and storage technology We want to integrate long-term energy storage for the dark doldrums into the existing power grid at strategically favourable locations, so that grid expansion can be minimized We want to make Germany climate-neutral by 2040

Down with energy prices

- A few expensive fossil fuel power plants must no longer set the prices for the entire electricity market We reject the merit order principle in its current mode of operation A fair electricity market system must exclude non-productive excess profits Should they nevertheless occur due to external shocks, they must be consistently skimmed off (Chapter 1).
- We call for a new grid fee structure The flexibility of industrial electricity demand must be stimulated instead of rewarding constant demand Electricity producers and international electricity trading must share in the costs of electricity transport Electricity should thus be used as close to generation as possible, which can also reduce future grid expansion We call for a reduction in electricity tax on the European markets Minimum tax rate With these measures, electricity prices can be reduced by up to 9 cents per kilowatt hour in the short term, which corresponds to a relief of 315 euros per household per year.
- We want an energy soli for the rich (Chapter 1).
- Electricity and gas cuts must be prohibited by law (Chapter 1).
- We want to create low-cost basic tariffs for the average consumption of electricity and heating energy (Chapter 1).
- We want to introduce a social climate money (Chapter 1)

Accelerating climate change mitigation and adaptation

The traffic light has massively weakened climate protection in Germany by abolishing the sector targets in the Climate Protection Act We want to protect the climate because we owe it to our children and because smart climate protection, which is linked to a fairer society, does not entail a loss of quality of life for the vast majority At the same time, we must prepare for the climate damage that which can no longer be prevented: there will be more heavy rainfall, hot days, longer dry seasons and low groundwater levels, even if we can continue to prevent worse things through resolute climate protection almost nothing has

been done so far for climate adaptation We must invest now to be prepared for the future

- We want binding targets and emission limits and make clear regulations for corporations We restore the sector targets
- Emissions trading: For the Left Party, no CO2 price without social compensation (climate money).
- We reject emissions trading in the heating and transport sectors (ETS-2): instead, binding climate targets and emission limits must be set Funding programmes and government infrastructure programmes must support the transformation in the sectors In the heating and transport sectors, a legally regulated framework ensures greater social justice and faster ecological transformation
- Climate protection and climate adaptation must be defined as a joint task so that the federal, state and local governments can act together We must now adapt to climate change, massively upgrade disaster control and invest in order to prepare for floods, flash floods, heat waves and droughts (Chapter 12).
- Financial support for climate protection and mitigation of climate damage by countries of the Global South must be massively increased The financing commitments at the UN Climate Change Conference in November 2024 are far below the real need This financing of the supported countries must not lead to further debt or be offset against development aid funds

Enforcing the energy transition

Fossil capitalism strikes back: Under the guise of technological neutrality, traditional business models are further secured with fossil fuels The gas companies are rubbing their hands, climate protection is not making any progress Under Robert Habeck, oversized liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals for fracking gas were expanded with taxpayers' money. The Greens are even in favor of the risky CO2 injection under the bottom of our oceans (CCS). The CDU and FDP are not only losing themselves in irrational dreams about the possible applications of hydrogen and e-fuels in the car and building sectors, they even want nuclear power back

The Left Party only wants to invest in real renewable energy sources and infrastructure We do not leave the energy transition to the market We want to reduce energy consumption and increase energy efficiency

- Energy independence through public ownership: Most of our future energy supply has yet to be built The state and municipalities should play a major role in the development of renewable energies, also in order to bring large parts of energy production back into public hands We want to use this to (re)establish wind turbine and solar factories in Germany
- We want solar to be mandatory for new buildings as well as for existing buildings after comprehensive roof renovation, where it is structurally possible and worthwhile, especially on the roofs of commercial areas To this end, we want to expand subsidies and simplify approval procedures
- Energy transition for the local people: Municipalities will receive a bonus of 25,000 euros per 1 megawatt output of a built wind turbine or large-scale PV system. This flows directly into the municipal treasury and can be used for new plants as well as for repowering In this way, the local population benefits directly from the expansion of renewable energies In addition, we want to make payments by operators of wind and solar plants to local municipalities mandatory, extend them to existing plants and increase them from 0.2 to 0.5 cents per kilowatt hour of electricity fed into the grid
- Electricity, heat and gas networks must be transferred to public ownership, democratically controlled and coordinated at European level We want to create a re-municipalisation fund for municipalities We want to give priority to promoting central solutions for the energy and heat transition
- We want to work to ensure that the positive assessment of nuclear power and gas in the EU's so-called taxonomy is removed Public money, including pension reserves and funds from pension funds, must be withdrawn immediately from investments in companies in the fossil-nuclear energy sector Public institutions must not invest in fossil and nuclear energy companies
- No rollback, but nuclear phase-out immediately: We want to enshrine the phase-out of nuclear power in the Basic Law and end the production of uranium fuel in the nuclear factories in Gronau and Lingen The companies must bear the long-term costs of the nuclear industry We want a comprehensive say and rights of action in all phases of the repository search process
- We are committed to the nuclear phase-out in Europe and all over the world A pan-European plan for the decommissioning of nuclear power plants is needed The state-owned German development bank KfW (Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau) is not allowed to promote nuclear power plants abroad

- No permanent structures for temporary solutions! No new permanent infrastructure must be created for liquefied natural gas and natural gas. We call for a ban on fracking in Germany. LNG extracted by fracking must not be imported. We reject pay-as-you-go subsidies for new gas-fired power plants. It would be both harmful to the climate and socially unjust.
- Carbon capture and storage (CCS) – i.e. the capture and underground storage of carbon dioxide – is not a solution to the problems of climate change. The storage of CO₂ underground is associated with high risks. Carbon capture and utilization (CCU) – i.e. the material use of the removed CO₂ – must not lead to the energy transition being slowed down and fossil applications and production processes being held on to longer than necessary. CO₂-free production process.
- The coal phase-out must be implemented by 2030. This will not be achieved through emissions trading alone: The funds of the federal and state governments for former lignite regions are to be continued and take into account inflation and possible new needs.
- The phase-out of nuclear and coal must be followed by a phase-out of the combustion of fossil natural gas. To this end, the Left Party wants a natural gas phase-out law with a binding phase-out path and social security for affected employees. Existing fossil fuel power plant sites should continue to be used for infrastructure as part of a socio-ecologically sensible power plant strategy (e.g. as a location for large-scale storage facilities) and as established locations for skilled workers and training. We want to end the use of natural gas to generate electricity by 2035.
- Hydrogen is the champagne of the energy transition, expensive and energy-intensive. That is why hydrogen must only be used where it is absolutely indispensable, especially in areas of industrial production. In the future, we want only hydrogen from the electrolysis of electricity from renewable energy sources to be used in all areas of application.
- Illuminated advertising is not only annoying, but also costs a lot of energy, distracts and affects people and animals. We want to restrict them. In addition, we demand advertising bans for particularly climate-damaging products or services such as urban SUVs, cruises or air travel.

Just heat transition

Housing and construction are responsible for 40 percent of greenhouse gases in Germany. A heating transition is an indispensable part of climate policy: Buildings must be

renovated, heating systems must be converted. This must not lead to an additional burden for tenants and homeowners with low and middle incomes. A warm apartment for everyone must be affordable. Tenants cannot change their heating systems, that is why we reject CO₂ prices in the heating sector.

The heating law of the traffic light has divided society because it has ignored people's concerns and given the right the opportunity to play off ecology and social issues against each other. We don't want to leave people alone: Normal earners should not experience any additional financial burdens due to climate protection. There needs to be nationwide counselling services with renovation officers for all houses in need of renovation. Municipal heat planning can only work, if citizens as well as tenants' and environmental associations are more involved.

- We demand an investment offensive in energy-efficient renovations and the replacement of heating systems in the amount of 25 billion euros per year. In the case of heating system replacement, we want to stagger the subsidy for additional costs according to income: People with low incomes will receive up to 100 percent of the heating system replacement, people with medium incomes will be paid on a pro rata basis. For a one-person household with an annual income of 30,000 euros, for example, 82 percent of the costs, 42 percent of the costs with an income of 60,000 euros or more. Top earners with an income of 250,000 euros or more have to pay for the renovation of their luxury villas themselves.
- Real estate companies are not allowed to use renovations to increase rents. That is why we want to abolish the levy for energy-efficient renovation and anchor the concept of warm rent neutrality: The sum of the basic rent and the energy costs actually saved by the renovation must remain the same. We support the joint one-third model of the Tenants' Association and BUND.
- We want to oblige landlords to take advantage of subsidies and pass on the financial benefits. So far, only 15 percent of them have taken advantage of the subsidies.
- Far too often, real estate companies demolish existing buildings, drive tenants out of their homes, build new buildings and rent them out for twice as much, or sell them: This is an ecological catastrophe and promotes gentrification – we want to ban it. Demolition should only be allowed if the building fabric can no longer be saved or if new construction creates a multiple of the previous living space.

- In order to develop solutions at the district and settlement level instead of concepts for each individual house, good municipal heat planning is needed: Collective solutions in the heat supply often make sense, especially in metropolitan

areas, which is why we want to support cities and municipalities in the expansion of local and district heating networks To this end, the real estate companies must submit renovation plans for their existing buildings to the respective municipalities by the end of 2026 at the latest

- In order to make heat prices independent of market fluctuations and speculation, we call for a ban on profits in heating networks The price of heat must not be higher than the actual heat generation costs

Conserving resources

We consume more resources worldwide than our planet can regenerate Resource extraction is reaching its natural limits Green technologies are part of the socio-ecological restructuring But their production is also dependent on raw materials, which are not available in sufficient quantities in Germany and Europe At the same time, more and more energy is being used to extract these resources Mining often takes place under unacceptable conditions for people and the environment Our goal is a society that uses resources sparingly This requires a Resource Protection Act

- We do not want mining in nature reserves, drinking water protection areas or the deep sea The local population must be involved in mining projects and value creation – and has the right to say no This also applies to lithium mining in Saxony Local people must benefit from mining projects Environmental protection and drinking water protection must be guaranteed – whether in Germany, Europe or elsewhere in the world
- We do not want "green colonialism" Green technology must not be based on the exploitation of nature and people in the Global South That is why we call for a stronger supply chain law that includes complaint mechanisms for those affected and liability rules for violations of corporate due diligence, and the consideration of strong social and environmental standards in trade agreements

More circular economy, less waste

The raw materials transition can only succeed if we use resources for longer and feed them back into production after use – this is how a circular economy is created To achieve this, we need stricter requirements for shelf life and products without predetermined breaking points We want to repair and reuse instead of throwing away What really needs to go, we want to recycle so that we can bring valuable raw materials back into the cycle

- We demand higher legal recycling quotas and higher use quotas for recycled materials

- We want new ecodesign requirements and a longer warranty period for sustainable products: We set requirements for the service life of products Updates, upgrades, repairs and reuse must be possible For durable products, a warranty period is needed that is based on the service life of the products Information on this should be clearly visible on the product The reversal of the burden of proof for the purchase of consumer goods must be set to two years can be raised. Recycling products at the end of their life cycle must also be as easy as possible

- Manufacturers must be responsible for the costs of taking back, transporting, reprocessing or disposing of their products

Around 16 million tonnes of waste are exported from Germany every year – often to the Global South, where it is disposed of and processed under devastating social and ecological conditions

- We want to move away from waste and towards the recovery of raw materials as part of regional production chains The amount of waste will be reduced overall: To this end, we are calling for far-reaching bans on disposable packaging and, in the remaining cases, levies for manufacturers In the EU, we are committed to a uniform deposit system for single-use and reusable beverage bottles
- We want to ban waste exports from the EU We want to fight the illegal shipping of electronic waste (e-waste) more intensively
- Waste treatment and waste disposal must be returned to the public sector as components of public services This is the only way to guarantee social and ecological waste management Collected organic waste must first be fermented into biogas before the fermentation residues can be composted
- Private fireworks (the "firecrackers") must be reduced to protect people, animals and nature The amount of waste such as air, soil and water pollution is disproportionate to the benefits Every year, countless children and adults are injured by the explosive devices

9. Mobility for all

Congestion among car commuters and stress when travelling by train are increasing - and the transport sector is still not contributing to achieving the climate targets. The 9-euro ticket now costs 58 euros, the train is too late, e-cars are too expensive for normal earners and too big to really protect the environment. The 9-euro ticket has just shown that a good and inexpensive public transport service meets with great approval

The traffic light government has made driving more expensive with a higher CO2 price. However, the alternatives for stopping the car have not been created. In many places, the train comes too rarely, but many are overcrowded. More than a third of the routes are not electrified. But the railways are sinking billions of euros into price projects such as Stuttgart 21.

The car lobby calls for e-fuels and the end of the phase-out of internal combustion engines. What is needed is exactly the opposite: a consistent mobility turnaround, the expansion of public transport and the rail network, as well as low ticket prices, good connections even at night and in rural areas, cities with short distances. Then there is also planning security for industry, and good industrial jobs are being created in rail and vehicle construction ([Chapter 8](#)).

Alternatives to flying and driving must work for everyone. Otherwise, no one can leave the car at home. In order to make the great investment needs of the transport infrastructure independent of the annual federal budget and thus reliable in the long term, we propose the creation of a cross-modal infrastructure fund based on the Swiss model – with clear multi-year budgets for the individual modes of transport.

Public transport – around the clock, in the countryside, barrier-free and affordable

The 9-euro ticket has shown that much cheaper local transport is possible and is also in demand: People want and need a much better public transport service. Every twentieth car trip could be avoided by the ticket - and it was only available for 3 months. The increase in the subscription price to 58 euros is fatal and the different solutions in the states must be designed uniformly nationwide. With a VAT exemption for local public transport, money will be freed up for local transport in the short term.

- We want to reintroduce the 9-euro ticket immediately. For pupils, trainees, students and senior citizens, we want an immediate 0-euro ticket.

The carriage of children as well as bicycles and dogs must be included. For all subscribers, we demand six free rides per year in long-distance transport. In the future, we demand free public transport throughout Germany. We want to replace the commuter allowance with a mobility allowance.

- On the other hand, we are abolishing the company car privilege for rich people who buy luxury cars (whether electric or not) with them.
- We are committed to a right to sustainable mobility. This means that every village needs at least hourly bus and train connections during the day. Services such as citizens' buses or shared taxis can be included and supplement the basic service. A basic service must also be available at night, if necessary through on-call services.
- We want to bring the privatized local transport companies back into the public sector and organize them democratically! Our buses and trains are too important for us to leave them to the market.
- We want to promote public and non-profit car-sharing platforms to enable a life without a car. Autonomous driving poses major technological challenges as well as data protection and liability concerns. We are therefore under no illusions that autonomous driving will be able to solve mobility problems in the foreseeable future.
- In order to double the number of passengers by 2030, 150,000 drivers are needed in public transport, and tens of thousands more in the railways. More staff can only be had with better pay and better working conditions, such as access to clean toilets and sufficient breaks for employees.

The mobility of the future belongs to walking, cycling and public transport. So-called e-fuels are extremely inefficient and expensive. Just like biofuels and hydrogen, they will remain scarce in the future and can only be used where there is really no better alternative. Biofuels are only an alternative for us if they are produced regionally and from organic waste or residues and do not compete with food.

- We reject imports of biofuels. They are not a realistic option for private transport, just like e-fuels. That's why the orientation towards e-cars is right. Long-term planning security is needed for consumers and industry, which is why we are sticking to the phasing out of new car sales for combustion engines in accordance with the applicable

EU directive If necessary, we will promote the switch to efficient e-cars for trades, social services, taxi companies, small businesses and people in rural areas with low incomes

- To protect people and the climate, we finally need a speed limit of 120 km/h on motorways and 30 km/h in built-up areas – except on main traffic axes. Every traffic fatality and injury is one too many Die Linke is committed to Vision Zero We support, among other things, the Schulstraße model

Railway: Repair, expand and operate for the benefit of the public!

The railways are a vital part of our society's public services It is the backbone of public transport The form of a stock corporation with its profit interests is in contradiction to this: the public welfare orientation for the infrastructure division of the railway (InfraGo) was only half the way. We want a citizens' railway instead of a profit-oriented railway We want an integrated group instead of a sell-out We want a railway in the area and a network for the Deutschlandtakt instead of expensive prestige projects

To ensure that the railways run reliably and on time again, the network must be renovated, electrified, and routes must be reactivated and expanded, barrier-free, of course We are sticking to our goal of increasing the share of rail freight transport to at least 25 percent and doubling rail passenger transport by 2030 For us, it is clear that planning and construction capacities are limited Anyone who wants to expand and renovate railway lines and bridges at an accelerated speed must refrain from the construction of new motorways and extensions We want to concentrate on the renovation of existing roads

A punctual railway not only needs refurbished rails: it also needs enough operational staff: To achieve this, working conditions must become more attractive: the long absences in the driving service and train service area must be shortened and compensated for by additional free time

- We want affordable rail fares! We want to oblige Deutsche Bahn to do this: we want to reduce track access charges and traction current tax and abolish VAT for local and long-distance public transport ([Chapters 1 and 3](#)).
- To achieve this, every major city needs hourly long-distance and night train connections – right across Europe! In this way, we make flying superfluous on many routes
- We want to ban flights shorter than 500 kilometres or five hours by train New airport capacities are not necessary

- We want to prevent social and ecological dumping competition in air transport: We want a uniform kerosene tax in the EU and the full VAT rate should be due on airline tickets abroad

The time for the exaggerated luxuries of the rich who destroy the climate is over

- We want to ban private jets and mega yachts over 60 meters in length There must be no public funding for air taxis
- While some can hardly afford to visit relatives abroad, others make short trips to Dubai for shopping Instead of blanket additional taxation of flights via the CO2 price, we demand a frequent flyer tax
- We want to reduce freight traffic by road and shift it to rail Thousands of car bridges are dilapidated, they are simply not designed for the quantity and weight of today's truck transports
- We therefore reject gigaliners and overhead lines for trucks We must rethink freight transport Regional economic cycles avoid unnecessary transport We make rail and water the backbone of freight transport To achieve this, we want to promote rail sidings and local logistics centres Freight transport of less than 300 kilometres must also be shifted more to rail again
- Good working conditions for truck drivers also means that there must be reasonable service areas We want to reorganise service areas in a way that is geared towards the common good Overseas ports should cooperate better with each other (national port planning) and have hinterland connections by rail The federal government must finally take more responsibility for the enormous port investments Privatisation of the port infrastructure or its sale to major shipping companies lead to structural dependencies and safety risks We need good working conditions, whether in freight transport by road, rail or water
- We want to shift freight traffic to inland waterway transport where possible This requires investment in the ailing waterways and associated infrastructure Wherever possible, ships must be powered by electricity: near the coast, in inland navigation and on short distances

10. Good education

Educational misery and daycare catastrophe: The German education system is unfair. Children from non-academic households, most of whom have only a low income, have poorer access to good education. In schools, the plaster is crumbling from the ceiling, gyms are closed and the toilets are often unusable. Education should be the number one priority for the community! We want to ensure that high-quality, inclusive and lifelong educational opportunities become a matter of course. We want education to be more than just qualifications for the labour market. We want education that enables pupils to go through the world critically and responsibly and empowers them to develop their potential and thus contribute to a better society.

The renovation backlog at schools is now just under 55 billion euros. Universities lack 74 billion euros for renovation. There is a shortage of teachers and educational staff everywhere. There will be a shortage of 177,500 teachers by 2035. There is currently a shortage of 125,000 skilled workers in daycare centers.

- In order to change this, sufficient teaching and educational staff are needed so that a reserve of substitutes of 10 percent can be built up at the schools and the state of illness does not lead to the cancellation of classes or short-term closures. We want to strengthen dual training and offer it nationwide. We want to improve the recognition and qualification of immigrant teachers and promote the training of lateral entrants (also as simple teachers).
- We want to finally end the investment backlog, for this we need a wealth tax (Chapter 3), which flows into the state budgets. Until then, we demand a 100 billion euro special fund from the federal government for the renovation, modernization and support of educational institutions in order to quickly remedy the desolate conditions there.
- The ban on cooperation between the federal and state governments in education must be completely lifted and instead a comprehensive joint task of education must be anchored in the Basic Law; privatisation must be excluded for the education sector.
- We want an education framework law so that the same minimum social and personnel standards and legal entitlements apply in all federal states.
- Educational institutions, especially daycare centers and schools, must be better protected from heat waves.
- We want textbooks, digital devices and infrastructure as well as other learning materials to be made available free of charge. We also demand free meals in daycare centers and schools as well as free transport for students so that good education does not depend on the wallet.
- Learning should take place at school. Homework translates social inequality into unequal success at school, which is why we want to abolish it. Practising and consolidating what has been learned, as well as working on exercise tasks at school.

Strengthening daycare centers and children

The legal right to a daycare place is not being implemented in many places: There is a shortage of 430,000 places nationwide. The daycare groups are too large and the staff is often overworked. Many educators leave their profession. We are therefore calling for a daycare quality law that focuses on children and employees and implements the legal right to a daycare place.

- Better childcare ratios: at least one educator for a maximum of 3 children under 3 years of age and for 7.5 children from 3 years of age – taking into account downtime and preparation times and parent work.
- Tuition-free daycare centers: All children must have access to a place, regardless of income in the families.
- Healthy food: Free, good lunch in all daycare centers and schools.
- Wages in social and educational services must rise! To this end, the refinancing of collective agreements must be secured, especially for the municipal and non-profit sectors. Early childhood education is hard and socially important work.
- We want to facilitate access to educator training and increase the quality of training.
- We are committed to strengthening competencies in the daycare teams, language education integrated into everyday life and the promotion of multilingualism.

A school for all

The strongly structured German school system continues to promote social inequality. We, on the other hand, rely on a school for all. It is organized as a whole day and offers all school-leaving qualifications. Our goal: an inclusive school in which all children can learn and grow together, regardless of background, special needs or social circumstances.

- The legal right to all-day education must be implemented. All pupils must have access to a high-quality all-day programme, preferably at a community school.
- Educational institutions must be barrier-free and should have sufficient specialists and equipment suitable for all children.
- We support the multi-teacher system: More educators per class provide more individual support. Multi-professional teams of teachers, school social workers, psychologists and medical professionals work together to meet the individual needs of students. This allows multiple professionals to be approachable in the classroom.
- Every child has the right to individual support. Regardless of their abilities, we are committed to ensuring that every child is supported in such a way that it can develop in the best possible way. However, we do not advocate cooperation with child and youth welfare services in such a way that discrimination and segregation is achieved by labelling them according to different support needs.
- Strengthening language skills: We want to set up a federal programme that will enable the training, further education and further training of teachers of German as a second language, as well as language and literacy courses, for the parents and siblings of migrant children. We want to expand the range of language learning opportunities in schools and demand that heritage languages are also recognised as first or second languages in schools.
- The co-determination rights of pupils must be expanded.
- School psychologists and social workers must be available nationwide and permanently at every school.
- Political education, co-determination rights, democracy and participation must be anchored in educational institutions and educational content at an early stage.
- Independence: Ban on advertising and lobbying in schools. No advertising by the Bundeswehr in schools and universities. Against military fitness from the classroom to the lecture hall. Instead, we demand education and enlightenment on peace.

work and civilian alternatives to the Bundeswehr at educational institutions!

(Chapter 6)

- We want to improve traffic safety on the way to school and therefore support the model of the school street.
- The media and data protection literacy of children and young people must be promoted as early as possible.
- Educational software must not be used as a substitute for teaching staff. AI must not be used to evaluate or predict learning success. Teachers must be trained more in AI, data protection and digital technology. Digitization must not become a gateway for companies and their profit interests in schools. The software should meet the standards of open source free software and so-called open educational resources should preferably be used (free learning and teaching materials).

Train, otherwise it will be a mistake

Almost 3 million young people in Germany do not have a school-leaving certificate. Those looking for an apprenticeship are often stuck on hold – secondary school students and migrants in particular are disadvantaged. At the same time, companies are complaining about the shortage of skilled workers, but are training less and less themselves. Half of trainees are overworked because they have to compensate for the shortage of workers. Quality and training conditions urgently need to be improved by 2030. 160,000 additional teachers will have to be recruited in vocational education and training.

- Solidarity-based training levy: Companies that do not provide training should pay into a fund to finance training places and joint training for other companies.
- Companies should be obliged to participate financially in the creation of public housing, especially in rural areas, such as affordable dormitory places for trainees.
- Every apprenticeship should be fully qualifying and free of charge. We want school fees to be waived and trainees to receive a minimum training allowance (80 percent of the average collectively agreed training allowance of the sectors). After the training, all trainees are to be taken on by the companies without a probationary period for an unlimited period.
- School-based training (technical school training according to DQF 6) is to be maintained. Anyone who undergoes such a three-year training course should be entitled to the so-called Aufstiegs-Bafög (AFBG) and will not be subject to any sanctions. The Bafög rate is constantly adjusted to inflation.

Institutions that offer such technical college training are to be funded by the states

- Anonymised application procedures should ensure that everyone has the same opportunities for training The criterion of the "training readiness" of the employment agency must be abolished Vocational preparation measures should end with a binding training offer
- The Vocational Education and Training Act (BBiG) must be reformed in such a way that the focus is on improving the quality of training and a legal entitlement to fully qualifying training is enshrined
- Gender-specific imbalances in the training and labour market are to be overcome through gender-sensitive education and the upgrading of poorly paid professions with a high proportion of women Political education, media competence and AI knowledge are to be part of vocational training
- We want to strengthen the co-determination rights of trainees Their participation in personnel representation must be guaranteed
- We support the trade unions and their youth organisations in their fight for better collective bargaining solutions Training that does not take place on a dual basis, for example in all social, health and educational professions, must be better paid

Promoting further training

We are committed to lifelong and lifelong learning: as an offer, not as an obligation to self-optimize A crucial prerequisite is good working conditions and good remuneration from the providers in all areas of adult education We demand a collective agreement for all employees in continuing education Funds must be made available for this Collective agreements should be able to be declared universally binding at the request of the trade unions

- Honorary positions should be converted into permanent positions: Freelance lecturers must receive remuneration aligned with the collective bargaining agreement
- The employment agencies and other public contracting authorities must take into account the quality of the training offers when awarding contracts and ensure good pay and collective bargaining coverage at the level of the regional collective agreements
- There should be a legally regulated release of employees for various further training courses and not only for vocational training

- People without training should be entitled to extended retraining and facilitated external examinations so that they can catch up on recognised vocational qualifications
- We demand a further training allowance, not only for employees in transformation industries (Chapter 7 and 8).

A good course of study for everyone

One in three students in Germany is poor. Only 12.5 percent of students benefit from the Federal Training Assistance Act (BAföG). The requirement rates are below the poverty line The Left Party calls for BAföG for everyone, i.e. regardless of parent, age and origin, which secures a livelihood, is unlimited and as a full subsidy The amount must be regularly adjusted to the cost of living and must not be below the at-risk-of-poverty line People with a temporary suspension of deportation or a residence permit for humanitarian reasons should also have access to BAföG

- The student unions must be sufficiently financed so that they can reduce semester fees, cafeteria prices and housing costs for students
- Open universities: We want access to university with a vocational baccalaureate, vocational training or comparable degrees should be sufficient We are against tuition fees, regardless of the passport or the duration of studies
- We demand unbureaucratic recognition of degrees and simplified access to studies for refugees and other students
- Democratic universities: We want effective democratically constituted student bodies that organize the students We want to finance, revive and re-politicize them accordingly
- We want to introduce a mentoring program for students from non-academic families

Science and research in social responsibility

We advocate a cooperative learning and research system that focuses on key social issues such as peace, social equality and ecology This includes secure working conditions in science Mass fixed-term contracts through the Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act make research more difficult in a socially responsible manner

- We call for permanent positions for permanent tasks, ▪ in particular We advocate the establishment and expansion of academic positions, especially for so-called postdocs, who take on central collaborations for civil scientific purposes Tasks in research and teaching Knowledge - on an equal footing with universities, educational and cultural institutions and non-scientific institutions around the world Scientific co-operators should have predictable working conditions Research programmes to contribute to peacebuilding International exchange programmes
- We want to secure budget-financed doctoral positions and above all to protect politically persecuted and at least six years and doctoral candidates at risk We want to offer sufficient time for their dissertation We want to lift ▪ **the collective bargaining ban contained in the and expand Academic Fixed-Term Contract Act** We want to anchor civil clauses at all universities and research institutions and promote peace and quiet
- Tax funds for research funding should only be awarded to institutions that are bound by collective bargaining agreements
 - We want to promote plural economic development at the universities
- We call for basic funding of universities to promote approaches more strongly The current crises of the economy are also due to the predominance of academic freedom and chain fixed-term contracts in the economic knowledge of employment relationships
- The programme for women professors should be developed into a programme ▪ Contracts between universities and private organisations for the advancement of women at all career levels or foundations must be disclosed Public research funds must not be misused for the purposes of individual enrichment
- Student employees must be ▪ covered by collective bargaining agreements We oppose any political interference by the Ministry of Education in the allocation of funding
- Expansion and development of digital infrastructures at universities: We call for a Higher Education Digital Pact that provides for additional financial resources from the federal and state governments

11. Agricultural turnaround now!

We need a social and ecological agricultural turnaround, regional processing and marketing structures: which also deserves its name The Left Party fights for a socially just agriculture oriented towards the common good, which protects the climate and nature and is compatible with animal welfare ▪

We stand by the farmers They do work that is essential for the survival of society People who work in agriculture must be able to make a good living from it To this end, we want to protect land from speculation and provide farmers with social security

We do not want to continue to put large corporations at the centre of agricultural policy, but rather the supply of people with good, affordable food While the food companies rake in extra profits and fuel inflation, farmers can hardly live off their products A few are getting richer, while the vast majority have to pay higher prices for food This is our counter-strategy to the monopoly-like market power of slaughterhouse, Dairy and retail

groups This requires fair supply relations as well as strong and effective antitrust law, monopolies must be unbundled and price watchdogs must be able to take action (see [Chapter 1](#)). Where necessary, we want to protect farmers with minimum producer prices

- Good working conditions and incomes: We want nationwide collective agreements in agriculture, forestry and fishing, with minimum wage and social security also for seasonal workers
- Regional economic cycles: development of regional slaughtering and processing capacities, support for regional marketing initiatives, citizens' assemblies and deception-proof state regional seals

- Agriculture in harmony with nature: This is only possible if the high production standards of the domestic agricultural industry are protected from cheap imports from third countries that do not meet our standards Free trade agreements point in the wrong direction
- Ban patents on life, prevent the cultivation of genetically modified plants: Even the so-called modern methods of genetic engineering, such as genetic scissors, must be subject to the same controls and regulations as the older methods
- Ban glyphosate and neonicotinoids: The use of pesticides is to be reduced by at least 50 percent by 2030 We want transparency and a strict set of rules for the approval of plant protection products Through an ambitious pesticide reduction strategy and the development of fertiliser alternatives, we are supporting farms in their ecological conversion Instead of mega-barns, we want to create a comprehensive system for the welfare of people and animals. Combined animal husbandry (maximum 1.5 livestock units per hectare) and thus the reduction of livestock in the Federal Republic of Germany: This reduces over-fertilization and water bodies are less polluted
- Farmland does not belong in the hands of speculators and investors who do not come from agriculture: We stand for an agricultural structure law that strengthens community and public ownership of land and protects farmers
- Socially responsible restructuring of animal husbandry: for more animal welfare, climate protection and environmental protection We want high minimum husbandry standards for all animal species, an expansion of federal funding for animal welfare-related conversions of husbandry systems, no live animal transports of more than four hours and decentralised slaughter structures without piecework pay More frequent unannounced inspections and tougher penalties for violations of animal welfare are necessary We want large meat factories close
- Simplify reporting and application: High environmental and consumer protection standards in agriculture are important to us They must be reviewed regularly The principle of linking agricultural subsidies to high environmental standards is right However, farmers often have to submit unnecessarily complex and sometimes redundant applications for subsidies and send them to various state, federal and EU authorities. We want to simplify and digitise the application for funding across the EU so that farmers have to spend less time at their desks

Affordable and healthy food for all

Good nutrition is a question of social justice We want agriculture and food production that protects the climate and the environment and provides all people with high-quality products The Left Party wants affordable, healthy and sustainable food to be guaranteed for all

- Public institutions should source their food regionally and environmentally friendly and adhere to the recommendations of the German Nutrition Society
- We call for the abolition of VAT on basic foodstuffs as well as effective controls so that the tax reduction is passed on to consumers (Chapter 1).
- Food in the retail sector needs a uniform state label that takes into account climate, environment, animal welfare, health and social aspects This must be recognisable and transparent everywhere We demand more food inspections and the publication of the results on the Internet In the event of gross violations, they should be published at the shop door
- We demand a ban on advertising and marketing unhealthy foods, especially for children and young people. The sugar content, especially in soft drinks, must be regulated and limited without burdening consumers
- Plant-based alternative foods, such as meat or dairy products, must be recognised as staple foods and thus exempt from VAT (Chapter 1).
- Food waste is to be banned (Chapter 1), as is speculation with food (Chapter 6).
- Containers must finally be decriminalised

Stopping species extinction, protecting nature and oceans

We want to preserve our natural livelihoods and restore destroyed ecosystems: clean, pollutant-free waters, soils and air and growing biodiversity

- Funds for natural climate protection must be doubled In this way, we are investing in the restoration of ecosystems and combining climate and nature conservation with nature conservation International species and nature conservation agreements must be consistently implemented We want to expand protected areas such as Natura 2000 and wilderness

areas: Germany is one of the worst performers in Europe for strictly protected areas We demand 5 percent wilderness areas

- We call for a positive list for the keeping of pets in order to protect exotic animals from being taken from the wild

The Left Party supports the idea of recognizing nature as a subject of rights We demand an enforceable ecological human right to a natural environment without ecological damage and an expansion of the current rights of collective action. Every human being should be able to represent the interests or concerns of nature in court – as is already the case in practice and in the constitutions of several Latin American countries

Water is a human right

With climate change, the distribution conflicts are coming to a head: Do we want to use water for food cultivation and public swimming pools or for golf courses and private swimming pools? The Left Party is on the side of the majority of people on these issues: the common good before profit interests Water belongs in the hands of the citizens The public sector must guarantee access for all at fair prices

- In the planning and implementation of large industrial projects such as Tesla in Grünheide, the local and regional supply of water must be guaranteed The permanent supply of drinking water to the population must not be jeopardised
- We need a near-natural renaturation of water bodies and an action plan for low water protection to ensure the water supply, but also life in water bodies

Protecting the oceans

The world's oceans make up around 73 percent of the area of our planet: they provide habitats for animals and plants, are sources of food, regulate the climate and produce oxygen. Every year, 8 million tons of garbage end up in the oceans The extraction of oil and gas poisons the water, overfishing and global warming destroy habitats

- In September 2024, Germany signed the UN High Seas Protection Convention, which protects high seas waters The agreement must be ratified quickly 30 per cent of the world's marine areas must be protected by 2030

- The Left Party is committed to ensuring that fishing is effectively regulated and that the protection of the oceans is enforced with binding standards and harsh sanctions.

- The pollution of the oceans through waste disposal and discharges from agriculture and industry must be drastically reduced We want to ban deep-sea mining internationally
- Commercial whaling must be stopped Germany should exert influence on Norway, Iceland and Japan in particular to end the hunting of whales Violations of the international whaling ban must be punished

Protect animals

The Left Party stands for a fundamental change in the coexistence of humans and animals Animals are not things and not a means to profit, but sentient beings Animal welfare must be enforced independently of profit interests: from agriculture to research laboratories

- We are committed to a comprehensive reform of the Animal Welfare Act The law should be better enforced and provide for harsher penalties
- We call for the introduction of an independent Federal Animal Welfare Officer who will be involved in legislation We want to strengthen animal welfare associations and organisations
- An ambitious and concrete phase-out plan is needed for animal experiments Severely stressful animal experiments must be banned immediately
- The trade in animals must be strictly regulated Anonymity on the Internet, poaching and the illegal wildlife trade must be combated We want to ban the production and import of furs
- We protect wild animals by connecting biotopes We reduce wildlife accidents through animal corridors, fences and speed limits
- The keeping standards in zoos, in businesses and in households must be adapted to the animals Social animals must not be kept individually We want to ban dolphinariums, wild animals in circuses and animal husbandry at fairs. We are fighting for an import ban on animals that cannot be kept in zoos and aquariums in a species-appropriate manner Wild-caught animals may not be sold in pet shops
- We want to ban torture breeding and medically unnecessary interventions in physical integrity

12. Plannable life and strong municipalities

In the city as well as in the countryside, a basic range of public services is indispensable. You have to be able to rely on the fact that the bus is running and that you can withdraw money and buy bread rolls on foot and by bike. Nobody wants to drive 30 kilometres to the daycare centre or doctor's office. It's good if there are places nearby where there is something going on and more is possible than going for a walk and Netflix. Obviously, the market does not regulate this. In recent decades, the infrastructure has been systematically cut to pieces. The focus on profit has led to the fact that nothing works anymore. The corner pub remains closed when people can no longer afford to visit it. The result: Those who can move away, and the others do not come back. In order for public services of general interest to function again, there must be an end to privatization and cuts.

The supply of basic things must finally work again! A good, affordable range of public services must be the minimum. But we want much more: With good public services, we create a high quality of life for everyone and not for a few. At the moment, supply is a class issue: If you drive luxury cars, you don't need local transport. If you have a swimming pool, you don't need public swimming pools. Good public services, on the other hand, benefit everyone. We demand:

- Municipalities must be able to provide the necessary social infrastructure. For this we need an infrastructure guarantee: buses, bakeries, a place to withdraw money, doctors' surgeries and meeting places must be available in every village. Swimming pools and sports facilities, youth centres, homeless assistance and school psychologists are an indispensable part of public services. To this end, the municipalities must be adequately financed. As an emergency aid programme, municipalities in financial crises can receive funds from a federal fund for a minimum level of social infrastructure.
- Municipal budgets must be relieved of social benefits. These must be borne in full by the federal government. Costs caused by the federal government or the states must also be financed by them (connection).
- The traffic light has promised to relieve the debt of the municipalities, but nothing has happened. In order to make municipalities capable of acting again, they must be freed from budget security concepts, budget consolidation and emergency budgets. A nationwide municipal debt relief package is needed. The Left Party advocates a reform of the trade tax and its conversion into a municipal economy tax. There should be a higher minimum assessment rate for the municipalities (350 percent), to avoid tax dumping by individual municipalities at the expense of the general public.
- Funding even without the municipalities' own funds: If the municipalities can only access funding if they make their own contributions, the municipalities that need the funding most urgently are excluded. We want to consolidate federal programmes for municipalities and reduce bureaucratic hurdles!
- Municipalities must be able to perform their tasks more independently instead of transferring them to private providers! The local energy supplier and municipal housing associations should not have to make profits in order to restructure the municipal budget. We call for a remunicipalisation fund from federal funds that municipalities and states can draw on in order to bring privatised companies back into public hands and operate them for the benefit.
- We want to strengthen self-government and local co-determination and increase the scope of the municipalities.
- We are committed to car-free city centres – with exceptions, of course, for people with special needs or for delivery traffic. Whether on the way to the next stop or train station or from A to B, it should be pleasant and safe to move around on foot or by bike everywhere. Facilities for everyday supplies should be within walking distance in all places. We are committed to more space on the streets, for more safe and intact cycle paths and footpaths and for more bicycle parking facilities. Germany needs a nationwide cycling network.
- The so-called "smart city" must not remain a business model of large corporations. New technologies belong in the hands of citizens in order to improve their participation in the development of the residential environment.
- With increasing global warming, we have to rebuild our cities. The heat becomes unbearable in summer and a danger to health and life. There is an increasing shortage of drinking water. This particularly affects people who work outdoors, but also children on playgrounds and the elderly. Climate adaptation and disaster control must be defined as self-evident tasks of public services.

- We want more public parks and green spaces, • federal regulations should enable urban planners to build allotment gardens and community gardens against the heat, to create more open spaces, for example for club culture, to public toilets and water dispensers To this end, it is necessary to take into account that allotment gardens are strengthened for participatory and experiential use are available for building and area greening We also demand for all cities and municipalities: Promote the unsealing of areas, cities must become sponge cities and be protected from flood disasters • An education system that combats injustice is protected The exchange of air between the city and the surrounding area We want the expansion of a city and the surrounding area we want to improve the family-relieving infrastructure with good accessibility Improving spatial planning Promoting feasibility Good schools and daycare centres must be a matter of course in all districts (Chapter 10).
- We want to socialize care work! In order to ensure local supply in the residential environment, we • want punctual buses and trains, which also regularly travel to vacant businesses (especially large commercial areas) and will be free of charge in the future (Chapter 9). areas such as shopping malls or department stores) into municipal or cooperative hands • to redesign access for all to predominantly local and public economy and care centres They are intended to relieve the social burden of humanly produced, inexpensive energy through support services for care, graduated prices (Chapters 1 and 8). Relatives and easily accessible social services such as health counselling, educational counselling and • health care and administrative assistance Alignment of health care and administrative assistance In addition, there is a need for places where care meets the needs of patients and people can meet without having to buy anything and employees instead of having to rely on competition, cost pressure and consumption Profit We support model projects for new forms of care such as existing and emerging
- Urban development funding must be based on the model of an inclusive district health centres and polyclinics (Chapter 5). • Affordable housing for all (Chapter 2). people with and without disabilities This includes universal design (design for all or

benefit-for-all concept) in accordance with Article 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

13. Justice for East Germany

In the last • few years, one in four East Germans has to work with an income

35 years. After the industrial and social clear-cutting and the mass unemployment after the fall of the Berlin Wall, they have built a new life for themselves However, the sell-off by the Treuhand is still having an effect: apart from a few lighthouse regions, the eastern German states still form the largest contiguous structurally weak region in Germany

17 percent lower than in the West, pensions will continue to rise even after 40 years of insurance 150 euros less than in West Germany East Germans are much less represented in leadership positions, the traffic light government has not changed that East Germans do as much as everyone else, but they don't get the same in return That must finally change!

just above the minimum wage Almost 30 percent of East Germans worked for less than 14 euros per hour Equal pay for equal work must also apply between East and West! The statutory minimum wage must be raised to at least 15 euros (to 16 euros by 2026 at the latest) and collective bargaining coverage must be strengthened so that everyone can make a good living from their work (Chapter 7).

- Secure pensions and equal pensions for equal lifetime achievements! The conversion factor for eastern pensions must be continued until 2030 or until the time when the average wages in the first territorial state in the east are higher than in a western state We demand a legal correction of the pension transition The lifetime achievement of eastern

German pensioners from the affected personal and professional groups must be recognized through one-off compensation payments from a "justice fund" to be set up

- Reliable investment plans must secure the economic transformation, especially in the automotive regions, and create new jobs in the construction and maintenance of rail vehicles We protect employees with employment society and income guarantees Economic and social councils can continue the tradition of the rounds

With ▪ our solidarity-based training levy (see Cooperative Forms of Economic Affairs, Business Takeovers through [Chapter 10](#)), we also want to strengthen the workforce in East Germany and municipal enterprises We want to strengthen and promote small and medium-sized enterprises in particular, among other things through our investment and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas .([Chapter 8](#)). come. In this way, we enable young people to receive a good education close to their home town

- Municipalities need reliable financing for local services of general interest We want to create social centres in all municipalities that offer support and services such as banking and postal services as well as access to the Internet Health care provided by doctors in private practice, outpatient clinics and hospitals must be ensured nationwide and clear-cutting must be stopped ([Chapter 12](#)). We demand a bus and train connection in every village, connections at least every hour and call services at night (see [chapter 9](#)).

14. Establish gender equality – redistribute work, achieve self-determination

Many women are still denied the right to a self-sufficient ▪ life We want to have a more gender-equitable life They receive average money and advocate a reform of the spouse - less money and work almost twice as often in splittings in the direction of individual taxation with a low-wage sector We see ourselves as a socialist and transferable basic allowance This is how we act as an old feminist party and strive for the comprehensive gender equality in tax policy opposing all genders Our goal is the fair redistribution of unpaid and paid work, of ▪ domestic and gainful employment as well as of social, political, political and social work. For us, this means that public elections must be held for women: gender equality

- Promote a reduction in working hours with full wage compensation There should be enough time in life for gainful employment, family, caring for children, partners and friends, political engagement, individual further education, leisure time and culture If everyone reduces their working hours to "near-full-time part-time" (mostly men) or increases them (majority women), everyone benefits. "Near-full-time part-time" must become the "new normal working time" in the public sector, e.g. in hospitals, nursing homes, in garbage collection, in public transport or in daycare centres. We support the trade unions in all sectors in their demands for a shorter weekly working time or a four-day week with full wage and necessary staff compensation in all sectors are central prerequisites for self-determined family and life planning. the decision against pregnancy must be possible free of constraints, obstacles and
- Physical and reproductive self-determination for all stigmatisation § 218 of the Criminal Code must be deleted without replacement The care situation for unintentionally pregnant women must be improved throughout German countries Counselling services must be voluntary instead of mandatory Abortion must be considered a medical intervention that is part of health care
- All contraceptive methods are to be paid for by health insurance companies

- Self-determination at birth: In some regions, freedom of choice at birth is no longer possible because clinical obstetrics has been centralised or freelance obstetrics have been abolished. Natural births are less profitable, the caesarean section rate is therefore drastically increased. Without care close to home, children may be born on the road. Due to staff shortages and overload, several births often have to be cared for at the same time. We demand nationwide good care in obstetrics and obstetrics.

- A basic set of menstrual products is to be provided free of charge in all public facilities.

- Self-employed pregnant women need fair financial protection. We are committed to enshrining maternity protection and maternity protection benefits for the self-employed in law.

- Artificial insemination (fertility treatment) must be available to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, marriage or relationship status, including single people. It must be (partially) financed by the statutory health insurance companies.

- The Istanbul Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence must finally be fully implemented in Germany. To this end, the Coordination Office for the Implementation of the Istanbul Convention must start its work and the overall strategy for combating and preventing violence against women must be implemented. Women's shelters must be financed in line with needs, regardless of individual cases and reliably. Protection and counselling must be provided for all women and their children are available everywhere in Germany free of charge, anonymously, across the board and without barriers. The Protection against Violence Act and the regulations on access and custody rights contradict each other in part. It must be clarified that protection against violence against women and children takes precedence over the regulation of contact.

- Gender-based violence against women is not a private phenomenon. We demand that the principle of "only yes means yes" be anchored in society and in law and that targeted action be taken against networks of sexualised violence. Protection against gender-specific violence must be understood as a cross-sectional task that is considered and taken into account in all areas of political design.

- The Act on the Elimination of Violence and Stress in the World of Work must also be adopted in operational practice. We therefore want to add the aspects of "violence" and "sexual harassment" to the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

- We want to examine all new laws for their impact on gender equality. The federal government must adopt an interdepartmental and long-term gender equality strategy.

- We want to make the 8th of March a nationwide holiday.

Queer emancipation

Queer struggles have achieved a lot. But hostility, discrimination and violence against queer people continue and increase again. Right-wing extremist attacks on queer demonstrations and spaces are increasing. The Left fights for diversity and freedom. We fight for freedom and emancipation not to be tied to the wallet. Without good social security for everyone, without funded queer projects and anti-discrimination work, queer people will not be able to live a truly self-determined life.

- Queer places such as youth centres, projects, bars and clubs must be protected – also from usurious rents and cuts in state subsidies. Queer youth work must become a compulsory municipal task. Queer self-organisation must be strengthened – also in rural areas.
- Article 3 of the Basic Law must be expanded to include the protection of sexual orientation and gender identity.
- Studies show that queer people are paid less on average. Effective measures such as the company self-organisation of queer people, the conclusion of works or service agreements and the work of complaints offices in accordance with the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) are needed.
- The Self-Determination Act (SBGG) is deficient in its current form and needs to be improved: absurd regulations, for example with regard to the event of war or racist exclusions (for example of refugees) must be deleted.
- Anti-queer violence and discrimination must be fought everywhere. This requires a well-funded action plan "Queer leben". In addition, we want a nationwide anti-discrimination law and an amendment to the General Equal Treatment Act.
- We want there to be comprehensive health care for queer people and that this is guaranteed by law, especially for trans* people, and is also covered by health insurance companies. The quality of care must not depend on where you live. Nationwide medical care is needed, and the corresponding facilities and services must also be.

low-threshold and non-discriminatory Access options, e.g. for pre-exposure prophylaxis and Hormone preparations must be expanded To this end, needs-based care by specialists close to home must be established Rainbow families must be put on an equal footing with other family forms The law of

parentage must be reformed, because it discriminates against queer families

15. For a country where everyone can have a say

We want a country in which everyone can help shape and have a say and have equal rights: no one must be excluded! We support all those who are affected by discrimination, agitation and right-wing violence If enemies of democracy want to restrict our rights, then we oppose this with more co-determination and broad civil society alliances to defend our democracy, cosmopolitanism and social justice. but defend ourselves loudly against this normalization of right-wing extremist ideas: We oppose anti-Semitism, anti-feminism and racism in any form and no matter where it comes from

Anti-fascism means putting the radical right in its place at all levels and by all democratic means and fighting the conditions that made the shift to the right possible in the first place and continue to promote it. The Left Party defends freedom of expression, freedom of the press and freedom of science This includes the protection of whistleblowers! Without these freedoms, there is no democratic discourse

- We want to introduce popular initiatives, referendums and referendums, citizens' initiatives, citizens' petitions and referendums at the federal level The expansion of co-determination rights also includes the introduction of referendums, i.e. citizens can veto parliamentary decisions The instrument of citizens' assemblies developed by civil society, according to which randomly selected people from the middle of the society to raise questions and develop solutions to various problems, we want to support, strengthen and promote

- The Left Party is committed to lowering the voting age to 16 years in all democratic decision-making processes at European, federal, state and local level The Left Party

advocates the right to vote at all levels, including for people without German citizenship who have resided in Germany for at least five years

- The right to demonstrate is a central fundamental right in a democracy and must not be restricted Protests against the climate catastrophe, for peace or against right-wing migration policy receive our support, even if they adopt methods of civil disobedience

Protection and civil rights instead of surveillance

Security in living together, in life planning and in public is a need for many citizens The Left Party advocates a broad concept of security that is also based on prevention and social justice Security concepts – especially in public spaces – must be comprehensive, comprehensible and effective They must really protect people instead of suspecting, controlling and monitoring without cause and across the board A one-sided Focusing on ever more surveillance measures and stricter criminal laws, on the other hand, does not lead to more security: freedom must not be played off against security

We don't want a security policy that encroaches on people's privacy Instead, criminal police and public prosecutors must be put in a position to keep pace with the dynamic development of crime: from white-collar crime to cyber attacks to manipulation with the help of AI and algorithms in social media Security must be fair to the district: the police must be approachable and de-escalate homeless people and addicts Refugees are not helped by being pushed out of the inner cities, but rather need better support services and a strengthening of social work

- We want to replace the Office for the Protection of the Constitution with an independent observatory on "authoritarianism and group-related enmity". As a first step, the domestic intelligence service's informant system with its entanglements with the extreme right must be uncovered and ended
- Effectively enforce data protection! We want to secure the right to informational self-determination: against data retention, access to inventory data and online searches (state trojans), non-individualized cell searches, dragnet searches (including by mobile phone), ubiquitous video surveillance, spying and eavesdropping, biometric video surveillance and chat controls
- Security from security packages! The multitude of new powers for investigative authorities is a gateway for so-called "racial profiling": controls and prosecution on the basis of racist stereotypes We reject the idea that external characteristics such as skin colour, presumed or actual religious affiliation, language or origin of the people concerned are classified as suspicious and used as a basis for decision-making for police measures such as identity checks, investigations and surveillance
- For major public and private events, we demand that awareness concepts for protection against sexualised violence must also be used as part of security concepts
- Stop special criminal law! The anti-terror legislation of the federal governments of the past 30 years should be put to the civil rights test Fighting crime and averting dangers is the task of the law enforcement authorities
- Repressive measures must not be a means of narrowing the scope of permissible democratic expression of opinion on the part of the state We reject occupational bans, preventive detention or confession clauses in the allocation of public funding
- Psychological support for police officers is to be improved Continuing disadvantages of East German civil servants are to be eliminated Pension entitlements acquired after reunification must be fully retained if pensions and pensions do not reach the general maximum limit
- De-escalation instead of rearmament! We reject the militarization of the police, their increasing equipment with machine guns and pistols, infantry fighting vehicles and explosives, as well as the use of "less lethal weapons" such as tasers and rubber bullets. Armed special task forces (SEK) may not be used at demonstrations We want to massively restrict the use of pepper spray by the police In connection with assemblies, gatherings in public spaces and events, it should be banned
- We demand an individual identification obligation for politicians It must become a matter of course that police officers confront citizens in an individually recognizable way In order to investigate and avoid assaults, operational logs and police videos should be kept at trust offices

Independence of politics – limiting the power of lobbyists

In the 2021 Bundestag election campaign, the parties received over 100 million euros in party donations. In twelve EU countries, donations from companies or legal entities to parties are prohibited. In another 13 EU countries, such donations are subject to upper limits Germany is lagging behind The Left Party is the only party in the Bundestag that does not accept financial donations from corporations

- The Federal Government's bills must be accompanied by a list of interest representatives and experts whose opinions were taken into account in the preparation and drafting of the legislation or who have otherwise contributed (legislative footprint).

Police in a state governed by the rule of law

Security is a fundamental social right Police officers need good working conditions and good and modern training Modern personnel participation is also part of this Appropriate training also includes imparting knowledge about the nature of group-related enmity The Berlin Participation Act is to be transferred to the federal level in order to increase the proportion of people with a migrant background, especially in the federal police

- Members of parliament must be prohibited from accepting donations The additional earnings of members of parliament must be published in detail and promptly. We want to ban corporate donations to parties as well as tax-deductible party sponsorship (such as company stands at party conferences). Donations from private individuals are to be limited to 25,000 euros per year Subsequent "thank-you donations" with the aim of cultivating the lobbyist's image must also be punishable without restriction as bribery of members of parliament

- Federal ministers and parliamentary state secretaries must wait at least three years after leaving office or for the duration of their entitlement to transitional allowance before moving to companies whose economic interests they were previously politically concerned with
- No lobbying at schools! To the extent that research and institutions or even individual studies are paid for by lobbyists, this must be made transparent
- If MPs hold shares in individual companies, they must disclose these shareholdings at the beginning of their mandate in order to ensure transparency with regard to their political work in parliament
- The human right to freedom of religion includes the right to publicly profess a religion The Left Party defends the right of Muslim women to self-determination, opposes a ban on religiously motivated clothing and rejects a restriction of workers' rights on this basis
- Religious freedom also includes the right not to believe We are committed to equal rights and freedom for atheists, in all states and societies
- We want ethics lessons in which all students with their different worldview, cultural and religious backgrounds can discuss ethical questions together

Strengthening the rights of minorities

There are four recognised minorities living in Germany We want to strengthen their rights and opportunities for participation and enshrine them in the Basic Law They must all have the right to speak their languages (including in offices and in court)

- Racism against Sinti and Roma must be effectively combated To this end, we will continue to need a commissioner for the fight against antigypsyism at the federal level in the future The crimes against the Sinti and Roma must be adequately taken into account in the culture of remembrance The reappraisal of the "second persecution" of the Sinti and Roma after 1945 must finally begin
- In addition to members of the Sorbian and Wendish minorities, members of the Danish and Frisian minorities in Germany will also have the right to use their mother tongue in court in the future
- We want to replace military chaplaincy in its current form with a pastoral care contract for all members of the Bundeswehr, which guarantees equal care by all religious and philosophical communities
- In the future, the churches should collect their taxes and contributions independently We stand up for the constitutional mandate to replace state benefits to the churches, which has been in place since 1919 In a society that is diverse in terms of ideology and religion, everyone must have the same possibilities of financing We advocate the equality of all religious and philosophical communities as equal bodies under public law
- In the fight against anti-Muslim racism, we call for a Commissioner for Muslim Life
- We demand the introduction of state-protected holidays for Jewish and Muslim religious communities The Muslim Eid al-Fitr and the highest Jewish holiday, Yom Kippur, should become public holidays in Germany, because Islam and Judaism belong to Germany.

Religious liberty

We defend the right to freedom of religion: the right to freedom of belief, conscience and freedom of religious and philosophical belief We defend Jewish people, Muslims and all other religious minorities when they are discriminated against because of their religion We stand up for the institutional separation of state and religion as well as for the equal treatment of all religions and beliefs We are against state preference for the Christian faith communities and churches

- The Left Party supports the struggle of the trade unions and churches for a work-free Sunday
- Together with the trade unions, we demand the abolition of the special labour law in the churches as well as in the Diakonie and Caritas

16. Stop the extreme right!

The political forces that incite social hatred, advocate inequality and assess human life as of varying value are getting louder. The fact that the government has given in to right-wing demands on flight and the right to asylum has made the right stronger, not weaker. On the other hand, there is a need for a social policy for all people and massive investment in the public infrastructure that holds a society together. All people are equal and have the same fundamental rights. We will never move away from this fundamental principle. The far right has become broader and more diverse and is now fed by a wide variety of ideological sources, networks and echo chambers. Even terror based on religion or ideology can never claim legitimacy.

- Memorials and memorial sites are important for collective remembrance and for coming to terms with the Nazi dictatorship. We call on the federal government to provide greater and permanent financial support for these institutions as an important part of political education work. Especially in the case of small memorial sites and subcamps, there is a risk of decay and thus the loss of important places in history.
- The 8th of May, as the day of liberation from fascism, should finally become a nationwide holiday.

- Strengthen the counter-forces in civil society! Protest and education against the right are a condition of democracy and must no longer be criminalised. Mobile counselling projects against right-wing extremism, victim counselling and civil society democracy alliances, migrant self-organisations and anti-fascist initiatives must be given greater support and long-term financial security with a genuine, effective democracy promotion law. We want to strengthen political education.
- We will push ahead with the parliamentary investigation of right-wing terror in the Bundestag and exert pressure so that all files of the secret services, including those on the Oktoberfest attack and the NSU complex, are finally released.
- We demand the banning of militant, armed, neo-Nazi organizations and support the demand for a review of an AfD ban by the Federal Constitutional Court.
- We are committed to an anti-fascist culture of remembrance in order to preserve the memory of all victims of then and now. This includes the struggle for recognition and remembrance of the victims of National Socialism who have been forgotten or denied for decades, such as the millions of Soviet prisoners of war or those people who were marked with the green or black "triangle" in the concentration camps.
- We want to make Article 139 of the Basic Law against National Socialism and Militarism more precise with an anti-fascist clause. The revival of nationalist ideas and actions that are carried out with the intention of disturbing the peaceful coexistence of peoples are unconstitutional.

17. For a just immigration society, defend the right to asylum

The Left Party stands for an immigrant society based on solidarity, in which all people have the same rights and opportunities, regardless of passport, origin, skin colour, cultural or religious affiliation. We fight against anti-Semitism, antigypsyism, anti-Muslim racism, anti-Black racism and every other form of racism and for an end to structural as well as institutional discrimination. Exclusions permeate all areas of life, in particular our education system, the labour and housing market and public administration. Every person must have full access to social, political and cultural rights. Our vision is a just and open society in which equal participation is a matter of course.

The migration debate from the right turns migrants and refugees into scapegoats for the failed policies in the interests of the rich. Instead of a debate between an "us" and "them" that plays people off against each other, Die Linke is guided by the model of a democratic and social immigration society that focuses on human dignity. In order to shape this and enable refugees to arrive well, appropriate legal, financial and structural framework conditions must be created so that municipalities in particular are not left alone with the tasks of supply, accommodation and integrative services.

More investment is needed in public infrastructure and social cohesion, i.e. better equipment, better working conditions and more staff in schools, daycare centres, housing, health, administration, youth and cultural centres ([Chapter 12](#)).

- We demand that all refugees receive an unrestricted work permit from the day they arrive in Germany. No one should have to wait to take their lives into their own hands.
- We want a fund for welcoming municipalities. Municipalities that want to improve the conditions for a welcoming culture can use it to apply for funds for the care and participation of refugees. These investment funds can then be used generally for public services of general interest. In addition, the federal government must reimburse the accommodation costs for refugees in full via a per-person lump sum.

- We want to accommodate refugees nationwide in a decentralised manner and in flats and offer them free language courses throughout the country. Instead of discriminatory benefits in kind and payment cards, we want regular cash benefits at the level of the solidarity-based minimum income for all people.

No one flees voluntarily

The chaos at Europe's borders is the result of policy failures. We do not resign ourselves to the fact that thousands of people die at Europe's borders every year. We want safe, legal ways to enter the EU. This deprives smugglers of the basis of their business. The Geneva Refugee Convention, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Convention on Human Rights must be complied with.

- Save people! The EU sealing agency Frontex must be dissolved and replaced by a civilian European sea rescue programme. We want to put existing instruments for monitoring the Mediterranean and the external borders at the service of sea rescue. The criminalisation of civil society sea rescue must be ended immediately.
- Pushbacks are illegal and must be stopped.
- Refugee deals with Turkey, militias and dictators must be terminated ([Chapter 6](#)).
- The right to asylum is a human right. We reject all previous tightening of asylum laws. Individual access to asylum procedures and legal protection must also be ensured for asylum seekers at the EU's external borders. We reject fast-track procedures and detention of asylum seekers (whether in so-called return, transit, controlled centres or "hotspots"). The European Court of Human Rights has ruled: Asylum seekers need access to effective legal protection at the border. In Germany, there must be independent asylum procedure advice from welfare associations and associations.
- We want uniform standards of protection at a high level. Responsibility must not be shifted with the help of safe third-country or country of origin regulations. We reject the Common European Asylum System (CEAS). Persecution on grounds of sexual orientation and of trans* and intersex.

people (LGBTIQA*) must be recognised as a reason for flight in practice Systematic internal border controls and rejection of people seeking protection at the borders are inadmissible

- Nobody flees voluntarily! We call for the recognition of climate and environmental damage as well as poverty as reasons for flight and a corresponding humanitarian visa allocation
- We want a European refugee levy Countries, regions and cities that are willing to take in more refugees and to accommodate and care for them adequately will be financially supported with EU funds.
- Fighting the root causes of displacement: Instead of continuing to systematically export the causes of displacement such as weapons, environmental and climate degradation and poverty, we want to overcome global injustices, support democracy and social movements from below, and provide effective help to people in need

We are an immigration society – and they have to be.

We will only be able to meet the major challenges of more staff in health, care, education and upbringing, of sufficiently affordable housing, functioning local transport, and the social and ecological restructuring of the economy together. Migration histories are represented in all areas of society and do valuable work – entire areas of life would collapse immediately without them

- Therefore, residence and work permits are needed regardless of length of employment and employer, as well as comprehensive controls to enforce the minimum wage: Qualifications and qualifications must also be recognized more quickly by non-EU citizens
- We want the right to vote and stand for election at all levels for all people living in Germany in the long term. All children and young people born here are to receive German citizenship It is good that the naturalisation reform generally allows multiple nationality, but the high income hurdles have been tightened We want naturalisation to no longer depend on the wallet. After five years of residence in the Federal Republic of Germany, everyone should have a legal right to naturalization We demand legalization options for people without residence status and effective right of residence regulations for people

who have to live with an uncertain residence status or with chain toleration

- We reject deportations, especially in war, persecution and misery or as a form of double punishment Offenders must receive regular criminal proceedings in Germany, regardless of their residence status, and, if necessary, serve prison sentences in Germany
- We want a federal participation law to better include people with a migration background and to represent them more in society. This includes a quota to increase the proportion of people with a migration background in public administration in line with their share of the population, and a participation council that is involved in important decisions in business, science and politics Migrant self-organisations must be Participation Council
- To ensure that equal participation is possible not only in the public sector, but in all areas of life, there should also be quotas for groups of people affected by discrimination, such as people with a migration background and those affected by racism, in the private labour market, in politics, in culture and the media, as well as in all publicly funded institutions
- Anti-racism in law: A clear working definition of institutional and structural racism is needed In addition, we call for a fundamental reform of the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG), which in particular extends the deadlines for filing lawsuits, provides for a right of action by associations, includes the forms of discrimination "nationality", "residence status", "family status" and "social status" and also includes state action. There must also be a legal ban on racist police checks ("racial profiling") and the abolition of police control powers without cause, as well as mandatory anti-discrimination training throughout the public service Responsibility for migration and integration must be withdrawn from the Federal Ministry of the Interior We call for a Federal Ministry for Migration and Participation In Article 3 of the Basic Law, a protection and promotion clause for those affected by racial discrimination should be inserted
- We call for the creation of a Commissioner for Muslim Life and Action against Anti-Muslim Racism ([Chapter 15](#)).
- We want to strengthen civil society groups that are committed to fighting racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and transphobia, antigypsyism, anti-Muslim racism and for more democracy, as well as refugee councils, migrant associations, self-managed counselling services and the

self-organisation of migrants through a democracy promotion law and finally promote them in the long term (Chapter 16)

- We are committed to comprehensive visa liberalisation and to an open and solidarity-based immigration law that is no longer based on the criterion of origin or economic usability, but enables participation and participation for all Migration for social and economic reasons is also a legitimate individual

need In the further design of the immigration rules in the Residence Act, we are pushing above all for improvements We reject the human rights perspective, e.g. in the case of rules on family reunification, migration agreements with countries of origin and transit countries, which are primarily intended to seal off Europe and facilitate deportations

18. Inclusion and participation – of course!

In our understanding, inclusion is the antithesis to social division, racism, neo-fascism and exclusion: a profound process of reducing social inequalities that refers to all those people who are excluded from participation and pushed to the margins of society – because of their ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation or gender, physical condition or special learning needs, but above all due to poverty In doing so, we recognise that people with disabilities are still disadvantaged in many areas of life in a special way In 2023, Germany was audited by the United Nations for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Above all, the greatly expanded system of special structures – in school education, in the case of employment in workshops and in the form of large inpatient residential facilities – was criticised Such special structures do not have to be, they violate human dignity We want people with disabilities to be able to participate in all aspects of life as a matter of course

The term inclusion is often limited to education or misused for savings. We, on the other hand, want a society in which all people can live together on an equal footing and participate in democratic decision-making – regardless of their individual abilities, physical condition, origin and social status, gender, age or sexual orientation

- We want to create accessibility comprehensively and (also) oblige the private sector to do so. To this end, binding regulations must be included in the General Equal Treatment Act (AGG) and the Disability Equality Act (BGG) that oblige private providers of publicly accessible goods and services to provide accessibility

- Making education inclusive – inclusive learning in all educational institutions: Special schools must be restructured, special education staff should be hired at all mainstream schools For most people, a disability only arises in the course of their lives It is therefore important that initial and further education are inclusive and that inclusive education is possible into old age
- Make the world of work inclusive: The unemployment rate among people with disabilities is twice as high as that of the population as a whole The employment obligation of people with disabilities must be raised again to six percent Companies must not be able to buy their way out of it
- Better support for inclusive companies, as they make a significant contribution to inclusion in the general labour market They need better public funding
- Minimum wage also in workshops: The European Minimum Wage Directive stipulates that the minimum wage must also be paid in workshops for people with disabilities This directive must also be implemented immediately in Germany!
- Everything should be done to enable health and nursing care for patients and clients close to home This should be made a mandatory municipal task

- We support the demand of the initiative "Politics against segregation" to the German Bundestag to set up a commission of inquiry on "Social Inclusion" in order to ensure democratic social structures for all members of society and to

promote the development of a community capable of peace

19. Media and Culture for a Plural Society

Democratic negotiation and opinion-forming require a wide range of media. But newspapers are increasingly dying or belonging to large corporations. Private platforms have great opinion and market power and are using it. Hate messages and fake news are on the rise. Public broadcasting should be a counterweight. It must be able to fulfil its democratic function better. Journalistic standards in the media landscape must be strengthened.

- The variety of programmes in public broadcasting must be maintained, including Arte, 3-Sat and cultural radios. A wide range of socio-political information must be strengthened, for which there is hardly any room for the private sector.
- The salary and expenditure structures in public broadcasting must be disclosed, including the advisory structures. Public funds only in the case of transparent finances!
- In order to maintain diversity of opinion, mergers in the media must be controlled more closely. Non-profit journalism must be recognized as non-profit.
- Systematic intimidation, lawsuits or warnings against critical research must be punished. Those affected need free legal and psychosocial support.

Media professionals must be better protected from assaults, persecution and violence. Crimes against media workers should be recorded separately and processed by specialised public prosecutors' offices.

- Confidentiality in editorial offices and in the handling of sources must be protected from state surveillance.
- Media content generated by artificial intelligence must be labeled, platforms are liable for false information and legal violations caused by such content. The use of copyrighted

material for the training of AI models must be remunerated.

- Non-commercial reproduction and use of copyrighted material must not be criminalised. The ancillary copyright for press publishers and the right to protect databases should be abolished.
- We want to exempt social institutions and people with disabilities from the broadcasting fee.

Culture – diverse and accessible to all

Access to culture should not depend on one's wallet. We want art and culture to be accessible to everyone and not to be regulated primarily by the market. In this sense, Die Linke defends the freedom of art enshrined in the constitution. Art and culture must be publicly funded as part of public services. Cultural promotion should become a mandatory task. The states and municipalities must be financially equipped in such a way that they can promote culture. Non-profit cultural and event venues and people who create cultural offerings on a voluntary basis need reliable and unbureaucratic support. This promotes cultural participation for all.

- The ban on cooperation between the federal and state governments must be ended. We need minimum standards for the remuneration of independent art and cultural work, binding basic fees and legally secured exhibition remuneration for visual artists.
- The artists' social security fund must be opened up to other professional groups and the federal subsidy must be increased.
- In the promotion of culture, we need diversity and sensitivity to discrimination: this includes committees and juries with equal representation. We need clear legal regulations for the return of illegally acquired cultural property to museums and

libraries The history of origin must be researched with public funds

- Cultural film funding is to be strengthened in order to take greater account of the artistic value of films. The German Federal Film Board (FFA) is to be supported by a diversity advisory board to advise it on issues of diversity, gender equality, inclusion and anti-discrimination
- Artistic creation needs infrastructure: from rehearsal and production rooms to studio houses for cultural workers These places, which are often created on a voluntary basis, deserve to be protected, financially supported and protected from displacement through profit orientation We want to expand international artistic exchange in order to intensify dialogue and strengthen neighbourly relations To this end, funding programmes must be made more accessible with less bureaucracy can be made

Sport is not a luxury

Sport is for everyone To achieve this, the conditions for access to sport must be improved To be able to do sport, it should not depend on income and social status We want to anchor sport as a state objective in the Basic Law

- Sport must be publicly funded as part of public services This includes the renovation of gymnasiums and sports fields as well as the creation of modern, barrier-free and ecological sports facilities and swimming pools.
- We are committed to inclusive, integrative and environmentally friendly school, grassroots, health and also top-class sports Sports offers and sports promotion must be gender-equitable and take appropriate account of all age groups
- All pupils should be able to participate in swimming lessons All children should be able to swim safely by the end of primary school
- The commercialisation of sport must be pushed back and the teaching of values such as respect and fairness must be promoted

- An end to deceptive packaging and hidden price increases We demand the abolition of advance payment for travel and protection against airline insolvencies All aggrieved consumers should automatically benefit from class actions
- A strong consumer information law and stricter transparency standards are needed, as well as liability for online marketplaces and online platforms Green and social washing must be tackled more actively
- Consumer assistance in social neighbourhoods and rural areas must be expanded
- Fighting debt traps and their profiteers: Put an end to usurious interest rates for consumer loans Telephone contracts should only apply after written confirmation
- We demand free debt counseling The debt collection rip-off must be ended The credit bureau should be replaced by an independent public institution

- Consumer protection for financial products: We want to strengthen independent financial advice by consumer advice centres Financial and insurance products must not be sold on commission. Everyone has a right to a free basic account
- Illuminated advertising is not only annoying, it also costs a lot of energy, distracts and affects people and animals We want to restrict them In addition, we demand advertising bans for particularly climate-damaging products and activities such as urban off-road vehicles (SUVs), cruises or air travel.

Empower consumers. Put an end to the debt traps

Corporations exploit their power over consumers We want to strengthen the rights of consumers, which requires more transparency, strong, well-funded consumer protection and clearer rules for corporations

20. Digitization for the common good instead of corporate profits

We are committed to ensuring that digitalisation is geared to people's needs, strengthens democracy and helps to protect the climate. Digitisation should not replace actual social encounters, direct communication and cultural participation, but rather complement and promote them. To this end, profit interests must be pushed back and state surveillance frenzy must be put a stop to. Critical examination of technological pseudo-solutions, with the power of tech companies and the social and cultural consequences of digitization must become part of school and adult education.

- Participation in the digital society must be ensured for everyone – even in rural areas and for people with small wallets. That is why we want to promote the municipal and non-profit expansion of fiber-optic networks, prevent unnecessary duplication of expansion, increase the right to Internet access to 100 Mbit/s download speed and cap prices so that everyone can afford access to it.
- It makes no sense for each provider to build its own mobile and fibre optic network. A single network through which everyone can offer their services saves construction costs, materials and environmental impact and enables a fast nationwide network everywhere. The costs of network access and the necessary equipment must be taken into account in basic security and other social benefits. Public authorities must provide equipment and competent personnel to help fill out online applications on-site.
- For us, the principle applies: What has been paid for with taxpayers' money must benefit everyone. Public goods must be used to create public goods. We want much more open-source software – this makes us less dependent on digital monopolies and their high licensing fees. Software that public administrations buy or have developed may only be proprietary in exceptional cases. Once developed, programs can be used in other administrations and municipalities without. We will create a right to open data and a transparency law: Data generated by public services and administrations must be made available anonymously free of charge. This applies equally to all private providers of public services. The results of publicly funded research must also be publicly accessible free of charge (open access).
- The common good includes high IT security standards and protection against digital mass surveillance by the state or corporations. That is why we want to decriminalise IT security research, close security gaps without exception and make the Federal Office for Information Security more independent. We reject the use of state trojans and chat controls. Security gaps must no longer be intentionally kept open for surveillance purposes – they can then also be used by criminals. The Federal Network Agency needs sufficient staff to effectively implement consumer protection and the Digital Services Act.
- The electronic identity card and the health card must remain tied to a physical chip card. No data may be stored in the case of ID card transactions on the Internet.
- To prevent abuse of power by digital monopolies, we will exhaust legal leeway to break up the monopolies, strengthen antitrust law and its implementation, and prohibit personalized online advertising. We reject the idea of data as saleable property. We promote public and cooperative platforms for non-profit services and truly social networks as an alternative to the profit-oriented platforms of the Corporate giants.
- The EU laws on artificial intelligence (AI Act) and on digital services (Digital Services Act) must be quickly transposed into national law and further developed in the future.
- We need clear legal requirements to reduce the energy and resource consumption of digitalization. Warranty obligations and minimum update obligations must be significantly extended, software programming and device settings must be energy-saving from the outset, and the requirements for data centers must be tightened. The state must use its influence as a major buyer to enforce social and ecological standards in supply chains. Reject digital compulsion we from.

- The German government must provide more support for research into the social and ecological effects of digital technologies so that we can make informed and democratic decisions about which technologies advance us as a society and which are not helpful
- We want to ensure a fair distribution of wealth and profits from automation, AI and robotics in order to harness the opportunities of these technologies for the benefit of people

Our coalition partners: This is you

This election programme is the offer of the Left Party. We know that millions of people share our goals and our vision of a fairer society. These people throughout the country are our coalition partners. We are committed to a society based on solidarity, together with all those who are dissatisfied with or suffer from the prevailing politics, but who do not rely on hatred, individualization and exclusion.

Our vision of a better society emerges when we fight for it together. When we stand up for an alternative to the capitalist system, in which we, the people, are at the center. Capitalism must not remain the last word in history. Because we all deserve a good life, a functioning country, recognition for our work and social security!

We offer an alternative based on solidarity that does not end with the election to the Bundestag. We stand by the side of the many oppositional forces in society against wage theft, social cuts, social injustice, preparations for war, racism and climate destruction. We stand by the side of the many creative forces that are working on the development of humane and solidarity-based alternatives.

Therefore: On February 23

Vote for the Left!



