

Summary.

Election Program

UTRECHT

BIJ1

Everything

for

Everyone

STEM

BIJ1

Contents

Foreword	3
1. EVERYONE DESERVES A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD	5
2. EVERYONE HAS ENOUGH MONEY	6
3. EVERYONE RECEIVES GOOD HEALTH CARE	7
4. EVERYONE IS WELCOME	8
5. EVERYONE IS SAFE	9
6. EVERYONE CAN BE WHO THEY ARE	10
7. EVERYONE MATTERS, INCLUDING ANIMAL AND PLANET	11

Dear Utrechter,

Our Utrecht is carried by Utrechters like you: young people, migrants, teachers, cleaners, healthcare workers, and artists. That is why this city should not belong to big corporations and the wealthy, but to the people who keep it running every day. Utrecht BIJ1 stands for a radically just and healthy society in which everyone is free, has equal rights, and where we relate to people, animals, and nature with radical love.



In our growing city, which is home to great diversity, there is unfortunately also a great deal of inequality. Perhaps you experience the consequences of this yourself. Because the city has become too expensive, because you face discrimination, receive too few opportunities, or cannot express who you truly want to be. You may therefore want to stand up for your rights and for equal treatment in a city that celebrates what makes you unique.

Perhaps you do not experience this exclusion yourself, but feel solidarity with your fellow Utrechters. Hopefully you are willing to use your own privileges to help make the city livable, precisely because many Utrechters are different from you and you recognize that the city's richness lies in this diversity.

Over the past years, BIJ1 has shown what we can achieve when we come together. From ending fines for homeless people who sleep outside and establishing the Utrecht Trans Clinic, to standing up for undocumented people, demonstrators, and sex workers, and forcing Utrecht to become the first municipality to name the situation in Palestine as genocide. We demonstrate that change is possible, stand up for those who are excluded, and choose real left-wing solutions.

We bring the critical voice that Utrecht politics urgently needs: always anti-racist and anti-capitalist. We are not afraid to honestly say what is going wrong in Utrecht and to tackle problems at their roots. We name injustice and refuse to accept that “this is just the way things are.” Because a fairer and more social Utrecht is possible.

This program consists of building blocks for a Utrecht in which everyone who lives here is equal. A city where your worth does not depend on how much money you generate or how well you conform to the norm. A city where intolerance toward minorities and our communities is not accepted. A city where we dare to dream, distribute power and resources fairly, and dare to choose the people who make the city. Because everything is for everyone.

Our party program is therefore not organized according to what is most important. What matters is the connection between the different parts of the program. Systems of exclusion and exploitation are closely intertwined. Systemic change and collective progress are as well. There can be no economic justice without an anti-capitalist approach, no climate justice without decolonization, and no queer acceptance without remaining vigilant against Islamophobia.

It is high time for radical systemic change. Politics is one of the ways to achieve this. Change comes from people who dare to speak out. BIJ1 fights together with you — from the streets, to the neighborhoods, and in the council.

Stevie Nolten

Lead candidate, Utrecht BIJ1

1. EVERYONE DESERVES A ROOF OVER THEIR HEAD

1.1 More social housing. 100% of all new housing will be social housing. There will be no income restrictions; in this way everyone will have access to affordable rent. There will be a maximum rent price for all the private sector, which is equal to the price of social housing

1.2 A rent everyone can afford. With rent freezes and rent decreases, we will make housing a human right instead of a commodity and revenue model.

1.3 The budget cuts on the rental support team (huurteam) will be reversed. Tenants must be guaranteed the support they need to exercise their rights. Decisive action will be taken against homes with mold and backlogged maintenance.

1.4 The municipality will take action to stop gentrification. There will be more social housing in expensive neighbourhoods; rent will be cut if a home is not well maintained; no rent hikes after renovations; a 'neighbourhood guarantee' system will ensure current residents will always return for the same rent price if their homes are demolished.

1.5 Free shelter all year round for homeless people. No distinctions will be made between people based on their residency or papers. People who are forced to sleep outside will no longer be fined effective immediately. Homelessness is a housing problem, so the Housing First principle will be applied to anyone without a home.

1.6 The prohibition of squatting will not be enforced within the municipality of Utrecht. No more evictions. No more working together with anti-squatting companies like Ad-Hoc to fight against vacancy.

1.7 Utrecht will stop immediately with the sale of social housing. If housing associations do decide to sell social housing, they will be fined.



2. EVERYONE HAS ENOUGH MONEY

2.1 We will end discrimination when it comes to wages and income disparity. Income should not depend on age, gender, religion, origin, or the color of one's skin.

2.2 Every Utrechter, that earns less than the median income has a right to a U-pas regardless of their papers. Library membership will become free. Access to museums and other cultural venues will be free of charge.

2.3 The city will take control of OV (=Public transit) and it will be free and completely accessible. As long as this is not the case, we will stop paid parking.

2.4 The rules on benefits will be relaxed, and debtors will be assisted. No more unnecessary fines for people on welfare or in debt; the city will look at the wishes and possibilities of people receiving benefits; we will take preventive action on the accumulation of debt, and the city will provide debt relief as a social service.

2.5 Unjust treatment of people without papers and migrant workers will stop. The city will provide clear information to these people so that they are aware of their rights and do not have to fear evictions. Companies that treat them unfairly will be reprimanded and punished.

2.6 People who are integrating will not be fined. The goal is to support people in learning the language and culture end in participating in Dutch society. Not to punish them with fines or burden them with debt.

2.7 We support unions in their fight for fair pay and good conditions for working people. Organizations carrying out municipal contracts must pay their employees a minimum wage of 19 euros per hour, including young workers.



3. EVERYONE RECEIVES GOOD HEALTH CARE

3.1 Healthcare will be under public ownership so that it is no longer driven by profit. The U-polis, a collective municipal health insurance for residents with low income, will be reintroduced. The co-payment required under the social support act (Wet Maatschappelijke Ondersteuning) will be abolished to make healthcare more accessible.

3.2 Utrecht residents who need health care must have a say in the process (participation, self-determination and autonomy).

3.3 In Utrecht, quality care will be available close to home for everyone. Neighborhood centers will offer different types of healthcare under one roof. The city will encourage healthcare workers to work and live in Utrecht and will recognize and compensate informal caregivers.

3.4 Transgender people must be able to access care easily, without long waiting lists. Self-determination and informed consent are the guiding principles. The Utrecht Transclinic will be further expanded.

3.5 The city will support projects that improve access to healthcare for specific groups will be supported. This includes supporting initiatives that help LGBTQIA+ people improve their mental health as well as compensating residents that need to use interpreters in healthcare.

3.6 Everyone has the right to healthcare, also those without official documents. To improve care for people who have sought refuge with no documents or housing, the city will establish a municipal fund to cover essential care not included in the basic health care insurance, such as dental care or abortion care.

3.7 Anti-abortion demonstrators will be kept away from abortion clinics. Harassment of people seeking abortion care will be actively discouraged through fines and the dissolution of protests.



4. EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Utrecht is a sanctuary city (Vrijhavenstad). A city where every person, regardless of residence status, has the right to safety, shelter and access to basic services; where people are protected from evictions; and where additional shelter places will be created for those seeking refuge whenever there is a shortage.

4.2 The city will guarantee that bed-bath-bread scheme will stay in place. It will be expanded and offered without any restraints.

4.3 No human being is illegal. In Utrecht we will not cooperate with forced returns and we will not enforce on the prosecution of undocumented people.

4.4 In Utrecht everyone has equal rights, regardless of their status. Access to social services will not depend on residence status for status holders, undocumented people, refugees or EU migrant workers.

4.5 City ID's will be introduced for undocumented people. These will allow identification and access to healthcare, education, employment, housing and judicial options. City ID holders are not allowed to be arrested solely for not carrying other identity papers.

4.6 The city will ensure the safety of unaccompanied minor refugees and LGBTQIA+ asylumseekers, as these groups are particularly vulnerable.

4.7 In Utrecht, ID-checks without probable cause will be prohibited.

5. EVERYONE IS SAFE

5.1 The city encourages neighbourhood and community-based initiatives in which residents look out for each other's safety. The city will ensure that the necessary resources such as funding, space and support, are available. Special attention will be given to people who experience racism and discrimination.

5.2 Violence based on sexuality or gender (genderbased violence) will be halted. The responsibility of men in preventing this violence will be central. The city will support initiatives that engage men in confronting misogyny, street harassment and femicide

5.3 Co-payments for domestic violence shelters will be abolished. The city will invest more in safe shelters and local support systems for survivors of domestic violence in Utrecht

5.4 The city will work to ensure that the Netherlands is no longer a tax haven for arms producers and military technology industries.

Utrecht will not allow weapon manufacturers to establish themselves in Utrecht in any form. In particular by looking at the activities of the Kromhoutkazerne.

5.5 From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free. The city stands up for Palestinians and takes local accountability. Any form of zionism or support to the genocidal state of 'Israel' will come to an end. There will be boycotts, divestments and sanctions.

5.6 The city will ensure safe workplaces for sex workers. They will have stronger labour rights and the right to good healthcare and protection from exploitation and danger. Sex workers will have direct input in shaping these politics.

5.7 Protesters and activists are safe in Utrecht. The city stands with those who resist genocide, fascism and inequality. There is no room in Utrecht's right to protest for (ethnic) profiling, undercover agents or mass surveillance of people who speak out against injustice.



6. EVERYONE CAN BE WHO THEY ARE

The city is developing more programs to prevent and stop discrimination. This includes anti-Semitism, anti-Black racism, anti-Asian racism, anti-Gypsyism, anti-LGBTQIA+ hate, and anti-Islamophobia. Discrimination can be reported to trusted authority. The programs will be introduced starting in elementary schools.

6.2 Within the city making work of (institutional) racism and discrimination in all aspects will become a top priority. Civil servants working for the city who discriminate will be fired and no longer work at the organization.

6.3 Police officers and Civil/Public Enforcement Officers are not allowed to (thoroughly) check people or treat them differently because of their origin or skin color. We say goodbye to ethnic profiling.

6.4 The city is allocating funds for guest lectures, exhibitions, and talks about the Netherlands' history of slavery. Blackfacing will be prohibited. Keti Koti will become a public holiday.

6.5 Utrecht residents decide for themselves how they practice their faith, including in public spaces, at work, and at school.

Schools and workplaces provide prayer rooms. Discrimination against Muslims is prevented. Utrecht does not enforce the burqa ban. The city does not cooperate with secret investigations into mosques or Islamic groups.

6.6 Discrimination in schools is prevented by second opinions on school recommendations.

A broad first year will be introduced so that recommendations only need to be given at a later stage. Discrimination during internships is identified at an early stage and stopped.

6.7 The city makes buildings, houses, public spaces, transportation, (online) communication, and facilities accessible to everyone. People with disabilities are given a say in achieving this through a sounding board group.

7. EVERYONE MATTERS, INCLUDING ANIMAL AND PLANET

7.1 The city ensures that houses are more energy efficient and insulated better, no lower than class "B" energy efficiency. Housing associations and landlords are obliged by the city to comply, so that people with lower incomes don't have to pay for it. This also reduces tenants' heating costs and is better for the environment.

7.2 The city ensures that businesses are fair and sustainable. Businesses that cause harm to people and animals in the Netherlands or other countries will not be allowed to operate in Utrecht. Businesses that pollute the most will have to pay more to combat the climate crisis.

7.3 Polluters will pay for the costs and expenses of the energy transition. Utrecht will become a fossil-free city. At the latest by 2030, local greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced to zero. This is in line with a climate-just city.

7.4 Utrecht residents will be involved in solving the climate crisis. Together with local experts, discussions are going to be held in neighborhoods about the consequences of climate crisis and what we can do about it.

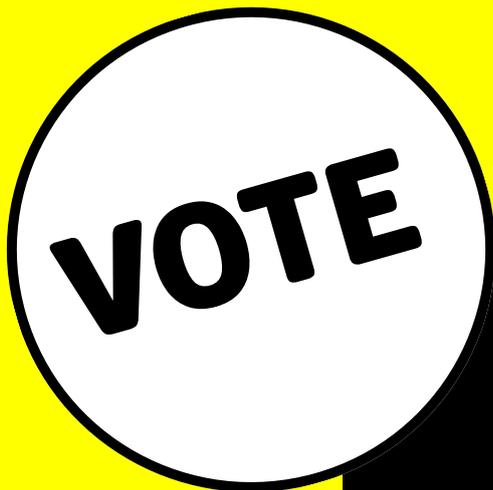
7.5 The city encourages Utrecht residents to eat more plant-based foods. The price of fruit and vegetables will be reduced. No new slaughterhouses will be built. The sale of live animals and foie gras for consumption will be prohibited.

7.6 Animals are not for entertainment. The city will convert places that currently keep animals for entertainment into (temporary) shelters for animals that needs it.

7.7 More space for nature in the city. We are going to make changes in the mowing policy to create small ecosystems such as tiny forests, greener spaces around the trees, and expanding green areas in streets.



**Everything
for
Everyone**



BIJ1