



Programme of Principles

Radikale Venstre believes that all people are born free and equal in dignity and rights and should be treated with respect.

Therefore, Radikale Venstre is prepared to defend anyone who is oppressed due to origin, faith, conviction, gender, sexuality, gender identity, age, social status or who is treated unfairly and degradingly for other reasons.

Radikale Venstre recognises the strength of community. Life together with others is the prerequisite for individual freedom and well-being. We reach out to those in need, and everyone has a place in the community. Diversity and equality go hand in hand, and equality is both a fundamental right and one of the greatest opportunities of our time.

The active participation of individuals is a prerequisite for a liberal democracy. Everyone has the right to have a voice and be heard.

Community encompasses both the relationship between people and the care for our environment. Through sustainable development, we will pass on the Earth to future generations in a better state than it is today. This applies to the climate and biodiversity, as well as to people and society. The planet must be greener, individuals freer and communities stronger.

We must contribute to a world community that moves from injustice to justice, from oppression to democratic participation, and from lack of freedom to freedom for the individual. We will reduce pain, increase empathy, secure peace, and strengthen co-operation in the world.

Radikale Venstre is a party based on ideology rather than the interests of specific groups and seeks development and useful solutions for society as a whole. We want to promote co-operative democracy and government as a curious and vibrant way of working to create the future together.

Founded in 1905, Radikale Venstre is a social liberal party shaped by historical radicalism.

FREEDOM & COMMUNITY

All human beings are born free, and with an inalienable right to be so at all times, but freedom requires community. People become free together. If the community is strong, and we as individuals can commit to it and rely on it, we become stronger as human beings.

Radikale Venstre believes in freedom with responsibility. We believe that all people have both the right and the obligation to participate in the construction, development, and organisation of society to the best of their ability.

Radikale Venstre works to create equal opportunities for all. We defend a liberal mindset that not only tolerates diversity, but also has the courage to change itself when faced with it. We see strength in diversity and difference in the community and are convinced that dialogue makes up the foundation of democracy.



With a liberal outlook, Radikale Venstre is determined to fight for the individual's right to freedom and self-determination provided this freedom does not harm or limit the freedom, rights and opportunities to personal fulfilment of others.

We are opposed to all forms of statutory inherited privileges. No citizen should be above the law and granted special rights by virtue of family or descent.

Cultural or religious norms of a community must never translate into negative social control and restrictions on individual rights or freedom of choice.

Voluntary communities are the foundation of active involvement in society. They inspire and safely establish diversity, integration and innovation. The right and opportunity to gather and associate must be protected and strengthened both in Denmark and in the rest of the world, where democracy and human rights are still not self-evident.

We want a favourable framework for civil society and associations at all levels, from constructive interaction with local institutions in solving specific tasks, to the role of critical watchdog vis-à-vis the state and authorities.

We must create space and environment for popular education, information and media that everyone can have equal access to and feel safe with. We will take an active approach to social media and ensure public service media to enhance critical journalism and information throughout the country and to contribute to curb misinformation.

CITIZEN & DEMOCRACY

The principles of building strong democratic communities and a rule of law capable of protecting individual freedoms and rights must apply in all countries and at all levels.

All societies have a responsibility to ensure, preserve and enhance the citizens' rights and active participation. Access to a permanent residence and citizenship is essential to ensure equal rights, active citizenship and integration for people residing permanently in Denmark or in other countries.

The freedom and rights of the individual must be safeguarded, including the right to privacy, both from the onslaught of states and through democratic control of commercial interests, concentrations of power and, increasingly, in the digital community.

We consider freedom of expression to be fundamental to the ability of individuals to speak out against those in positions of power without facing sanctions. Everyone has the right to be addressed with respect and dignity.

Openness is fundamental to the citizens' right to democratic scrutiny. We work, both in Denmark and in the world, to expand and strengthen public insight into the work of the state and international organisations and to use digitalisation to create new and better opportunities for all citizens to gain insight into, and influence, the development of society.

The rule of law and the separation of powers must be indispensable. It must be guaranteed, even when it is difficult, with full and unequivocal respect for the Constitution and human rights. We defend a mind of law and a mind of justice, where the state supports the rule of law and the fair treatment of individuals,



regardless of who they are, where they come from or what they believe in. The state must be strong enough to support the citizens' rights and individual opportunities and disciplined enough to step back where and when the citizens, the market and civil society can manage affairs on their own.

Radikale Venstre wants to preserve and strengthen Denmark as a democratic community with our elected assemblies and our common institutions at the centre. The current Constitution must be modernised as a foundation for Danish democracy and with respect for human rights and nature, while at the same time fighting inherited power, privileges, and titles of sovereignty.

We value and wish to strengthen co-operation between the three national entities within the Kingdom of Denmark, but we will respect wishes for increased self-determination and sovereignty.

Decisions in the EU and in Denmark must, where it makes sense, be taken as close to the citizens as possible and always be under democratic control. We have confidence in local self-government and regional co-operation and wish to strengthen and maintain the citizens' participation in and influence on decision-making processes through increased citizen involvement and democratic understanding at all levels.

We believe that national and local self-determination and democracy can be strengthened by binding co-operation in the world, both between the Nordic countries and through full participation in the EU and international organisations. We fight for popular participation to be anchored and expanded in international co-operation. Radikale Venstre believes that co-operation between peoples and exchanges across national borders can create peace and mutual understanding.

Denmark must be committed to contributing to a world order in which the same fundamental rights apply to all people, and which is based on peaceful, inclusive societies with effective, accountable and inclusive institutions. This must be achieved through an active and committed participation in international organisations, especially the EU and the UN, which can promote human rights and democracy and build strong global partnerships.

We believe that peaceful coexistence is promoted by dialogue, cooperation and trade, but recognise the need to stand together to protect democracy and society from threats and attacks. Denmark must be fully and actively involved in developing the defence cooperation in NATO and the EU and contribute substantially to UN peacekeeping operations.

SOCIETY & ECONOMY

A well-functioning market is the cornerstone of a free society. It is where people unleash their creativity and entrepreneurship, creating businesses and new value for themselves and others. The market must be based on free and fair competition. Regulation must ensure that the market creates sustainable development without negative consequences such as pollution and social exploitation, and without dominant companies restricting free competition to their own advantage. This applies in Denmark and in the rest of the world.

We work for free trade, to boost growth, to lift more people out of poverty, to contribute to binding cooperation and peace, and to lay the foundations for a rules-based international cooperation.



Economic growth is not an end in itself, but a strong economy and a healthy business community are prerequisites for a welfare society in constant progress while being able to take care of its weakest citizens. Radikale Venstre believes that there is a need for both a dynamic private sector and a coherent public sector, and that partnerships between the public sector, the private sector and the citizens can give the individual citizen more choices, better solutions and ultimately a greater degree of freedom.

Each individual is valuable regardless of abilities and occupation. Everyone should have the right and opportunity to work and contribute to society. All functions that create value for society must be respected. The labour market is not only a prerequisite for the welfare society, but also a community that provides meaning, identity and freedom for the individual.

This requires an inclusive and participatory labour market, which promotes diversity and equality at all levels. There must be opportunities for personal and professional development, upskilling and training, and everyone has the right to a healthy working environment and a free choice in terms of trade union and political organisation.

We must ensure access to necessary and qualified workers from Denmark or abroad, based on common rules and protection of both workers' and employers' rights.

Tax is the economic contribution to the welfare state and at the same time a dynamic instrument for shaping the society we want. We want higher taxes on polluting and harmful activities, and lower taxes on what creates value and benefits.

Everyone should have the opportunity and incentive to provide for themselves and their families and to contribute to society. The broadest shoulders must carry the heaviest load, and tax is therefore also a redistributive instrument to reduce economic inequality both within and between countries.

A much stronger international co-operation is needed, including minimum tax rates and reinforced action against tax evasion, monopolies, and corruption and to ensure fair and effective taxation in all countries and for the benefit of all people.

Radikale Venstre believes that a strong society is characterised by taking care of its vulnerable citizens. The community must be committed to ensuring a dignified and safe life for all.

Everyone should have the opportunity to realise their full potential. Some citizens, due to social disadvantage, physical or mental disability, need permanent help from society.

Radikale Venstre will work to organise society so that people are not degraded physically, mentally or socially.

Choices that promote individual health and well-being should be made easy and accessible to all, and individuals should be supported in taking care of and responsibility for their own health.

Radikale Venstre fights inequality in health and believes that there should be free and equal access to a high quality, publicly funded health care with a focus on both prevention and treatment.

We work to strengthen international cooperation against cross-border threats to health and to ensure healthy lives, well-being, and access to basic health services for all people in the world.



Poverty, social exclusion, and homelessness must be tackled, and inequality reduced to ensure greater prosperity, cohesion, cooperation and social mobility. We are working, also internationally, to eradicate all forms of poverty and to ensure that all people have access to social protection.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Democracy and representative government are both a way of working and a way of life, and democratic education is not just the participation in elections, but an outlook and a basic attitude which must be developed throughout life, and which is promoted through education and information. An enlightened people is a prerequisite for a functioning democracy.

Education is a liberating good that promotes democratic dialogue and helps to create a society in peace and freedom, with equal opportunities and less inequality. This is true in Denmark as in the rest of the world.

Individuals are born into a context from which they are shaped and from which they emerge. Throughout life, they are influenced by their upbringing, their close communities, and the future they want to create. The political task is to make it possible for individuals to pursue their dreams.

In day-care centres and schools, people are shaped, the world opens up and we are introduced into the community. Through education and general education, we contribute both to our own lives and to the development of society, and we become anchored in engaged communities.

Children should not be passive recipients but active co-creators of their own learning and development. Creativity and play are an essential part of general education and stimulate curiosity, self-development and understanding of the world around them. There must be diversity in society's programmes for all children, and there must always be caring and qualified adults who contribute to the child's overall development.

Schools and education must be based on knowledge, practical creative innovation, and general education. All pupils must feel that their opinions matter and that their actions have an impact. There must be programmes that challenge both the hand and the spirit, as well as access to lifelong learning for all. Radikale Venstre will work for both free primary schools and popular independent schools, as well as various schools for further education. Public schools must have their own purpose and never be reduced to a mere instrument for social change, economics, or political wishes.

Money and background should not be a barrier to accessing education and training. Everyone has the right to education, and we work to increase social mobility, equality, and gender equality through education. Radikale Venstre works to ensure that everyone has free and equal access to education of high professional quality both in Denmark and in the rest of the world.

Education must contribute to intercultural understanding. Both study environments and research networks must be open-minded and an active part of the international community and public debate.

NATURE & TECHNOLOGY

Radikale Venstre believes that man is both part of nature and lives in interaction with nature. We recognise nature as having a value in itself and recognise the consequent rights.

Production and consumption must be developed in a way that preserves and enhances natural resources and diversity both on land and in the world's oceans, and which allows sustainable consumption year after



year, generation after generation. The way we as humans consume resources must be regulated in favour of the overall ecosystem.

Global warming must be reversed as soon as possible, in line with the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), and the impacts must be mitigated for people, animals and nature. We will strengthen efforts to ensure that everyone has access to reliable, renewable, and modern energy and for climate adaptation, especially in the world's poorer countries. This requires increased funding and a much stronger and more binding international cooperation based in the EU and the UN.

Radikale Venstre stands firm on the right to clean water and clean air for all people not only in Denmark, but in the whole world. We will preserve biodiversity, ensure sustainable use of ecosystems, and use research and technology to help ensure that all people have access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food.

We do not see technological development as the antithesis of nature, but as a key to enhancing the well-being of both humans and nature. Using technology for the benefit of nature, people and society requires political regulation, technological literacy, and ever-increasing ethical and political awareness.

We support research, innovation and technology aimed at a more stable climate, a diverse nature, sustainable industrialisation and infrastructure, and sustainable cities and local communities. Radikale Venstre works for a circular economy with minimised waste and significantly increased reuse and recycling.

Denmark and the EU have a special responsibility to take the lead in the green transition. We have the resources, the technology, and the potential to combine green transition, a welfare society and economic development. It is a shared responsibility, and the efforts of individuals, the actions of companies and political reforms are all important to achieve the green transition. Making sustainable choices must be attractive and accessible.

It is essential that citizens are given the opportunity to take ownership and co-responsibility for a sustainable development. Therefore, we highly prioritise democratic and local anchoring. To Radikale Venstre, it has particular value that citizens and local communities play an active role in the changes that must take place. We believe that free, informed citizens with respect for and access to nature can and will take part in the fight against climate change and the preservation of our nature and environment.

FREEDOM OF THOUGHT & REASON

Freedom of thought and reason are each other's preconditions, and freedom of mind is a bridge. Modern political history is a story of the emancipation of people, thoughts, and ideas.

Radikale Venstre insists on breaking with dogma and solving problems through objectivity and reason, but with respect for a spiritual life, which should not be subject to rationality and technology. Man is a spiritual as well as a physical being.

Through free research and reason, science is strengthened. We stand up for freedom of research. Science must correct itself and not be corrected by others. Science must be critical and free in order to develop.

Radikale Venstre wants a free, vibrant and independent cultural life both in Denmark and in the rest of the world. We see cultural life as what binds society together. Culture gives us a common language and space



to reflect on what it means to be human. Sport and physical education also contribute to communities, well-being, and health.

The prerequisite for the development of present and future culture and society is knowledge and insight into both the present and the past. Through enlightenment and informal education, we must support active citizenship, inclusiveness, and cohesion. We want to preserve our cultural heritage while at the same time critically analysing and developing it. The system of rank, title and order should be abolished.

Radikale Venstre believes that freedom of religion is essential and means both freedom from and to religion. We want a secular state, without ties to the church, where the law is above all other institutions, where all faith and belief communities are treated equally, and where religion is entirely a personal matter. Faiths and communities of faith and belief cannot escape public criticism. We work to ensure that the affairs of the Church of Denmark are regulated by law and supported as an essential part of our cultural heritage.

Society and its institutions must ensure equal access to spiritual life and knowledge of life through respect for cultural rights, freedom of belief and religion. We will create and support freedom, diversity and mutual understanding between cultures and religions both in Denmark and in the rest of the world.

Freedom of thought is essential in a free society and a free world.

Radikale Venstre's programme of principles was adopted by the National Assembly on 18 September 2022.