

**ELECTION PROGRAMME 2026**  
**SUMMARY**



**UTRECHT**

# MANIFESTO WE ARE LINK

## Radically Social- Absolute Equality- Fiercely Green

Utrecht belongs to everyone. Not to developers or investors, but to the people that live here, work here, love here, care here and dream here. We want to make Utrecht affordable. LINK is anti-capitalist and represents a city that values solidarity over profit. We value this because a system that sees housing, healthcare and nature as a business model, hurts both humans and our living environment. We choose a city where diversity is celebrated, nature is cherished and where we actively work towards better biodiversity.

### Radically social

Housing, healthcare and livelihood are human rights, not a privilege. LINK chooses a radically social city in which we address inequality at the root cause. Housing is a human right, not a business model. Everyone deserves a home. We believe that at least half of all new houses should be for social housing, the sale of social housing should stop instantly, renovation has a preference over demolition and we should crack down on slumlords. We will transform empty buildings into housing and we want to make place for communal living, housing cooperations, alternative We convert vacant buildings into homes and make space for co-housing groups, housing cooperatives, alternative forms of living and sites for traveller communities. A city only truly comes alive when everyone has a place in it: from students to families, from people experiencing homelessness to houseboat residents.

### Together against poverty

In Utrecht, more than 40,000 people live in poverty. This is not an individual failure, but the result of a system that places profit above people. Poverty creates stress and shame and pushes people into survival mode. LINK chooses security of livelihood: fairer wages, affordable housing costs and access to healthcare, education, culture and sport for everyone. We are working towards a basic income, helping people get out of debt more quickly and investing in neighbourhood networks where formal and informal support come together. Solidarity is our foundation.

### Absolutely equal

Freedom means being able to be who you are, without fear, shame or violence, in public spaces, at home and on the streets. Equality exists for everyone, or for no one. LINK fights for equal rights for women, queer people, people of colour, people with disabilities and other marginalised groups. We stand up against

racism, Islamophobia, anti-LGBTQIA+ hatred and discrimination. Utrecht deserves safe streets, safe schools and safe nights.

Utrecht is a city for and by the so called "gelukszoekers" (Term often used in a derogatory way to describe asylum seekers. Literal meaning: those who seek happiness.). LINK chooses a city where no one is illegal and everyone has the right to exist, to dream and to participate.

Culture, creative spaces and the city's cultural outskirts are indispensable for a city that values equality. In studios, squatted buildings, community gardens and neighbourhood centres, ideas and encounters emerge that give the city colour and energy. LINK protects these places, offers structural support to creative hubs and chooses affordable work and living spaces for it's makers. Culture connects people. Utrecht does not need more prestige projects, but more room to try, to fail and to grow.

Freedom does not stop at national borders. Utrecht does not do business with regimes that violate human rights. What we demand here, we must also defend elsewhere.

### Fiercly Green

Our future is green and just. LINK chooses a city that is animal friendly, free of toxins and climate just. We will green every neighbourhood and make greening a requirement for new development. We protect Amelisweerd, plant thousands of trees and keep Utrecht cool and liveable. We invest in clean energy, not in asphalt and continue to oppose the widening of the A27. Sustainability is only truly sustainable if everyone can partake, including those with less to spend. LINK chooses climate justice.

### Utrecht belongs to us too

We love Utrecht and do not believe in top down politics, but in grassroot change. Together with residents, makers, activists and dreamers, we are making Utrecht radically social, absolutely equal and fiercely green.

# RADICALLY SOCIAL

**Utrecht belongs to the people who live, work, care, and enjoy their lives there. LINK takes a radical stance for solidarity and against a city where basic needs have been dictated by market forces.**

## **Housing is a human right**

LINK will end the sale of social housing and will protect existing residents from displacement. We actively pursue an anti-gentrification policy and promote affordability, autonomy, and diverse neighborhoods. Spatial justice is central: those who have built a neighborhood should be able to continue living there. Squatting is part of the housing struggle and a result of failing housing policy.

LINK tackles abuse in the housing market head on, confronts shady landlords, and introduces a vacancy tax per square meter. Housing costs must remain affordable: no person should spend more than a reasonable amount on housing for a dignified life.

## **Security of existence**

In Utrecht more than 40,000 people live in poverty. This is unacceptable. LINK will ensure that no child grows up in poverty and no one is trapped in a cycle of constant stress and insecurity. We tackle poverty and debt structurally and invest in income support, accessible services, and poverty prevention. Policy must push people forward, not bury them in bureaucracy and distrust.

## **Work and economy**

LINK fights for fair work and a local economy that serves people and the city. We strengthen social, cooperative, and non-profit initiatives and prioritize community values over profit. Work must mean security, dignity, and a voice – not insecurity or exploitation.

## **Healthcare**

LINK stands for strong public healthcare that supports people instead of hindering them. We confront care avoidance caused by poverty and stress. We invest in prevention and mental healthcare. Trans care will become an explicit and fully integrated part of municipal care policy, with a focus on expertise, accessibility, and safety.

## **Education, youth, and young people**

LINK invests in equal opportunities from an early age. Education, child welfare, and support are organized so that poverty or stress will never block a child or youngster's path. Young people deserve space to grow, to participate, and independently build a place for themselves in the city.

## **Elderly**

Elderly must be able to continue to fully participate in the city. LINK ensures sufficient housing suitable for lifelong housing, accessible care, and strong neighborhood networks, so that seniors can live independently while staying connected to their communities.

# ABSOLUTELY EQUAL

**LINK stands for a city in which everyone can exist freely, safely, and visibly. Equality demands active policies and bold choices.**

## **Freedom to be yourself**

Everyone in Utrecht should be able to be themselves without fear of exclusion, discrimination, or violence. LINK is committed to a city where differences are respected and protected, where diversity is visible and celebrated.

## **Freedom and resistance**

The right to demonstrate, activism, and protest are essential for a democratic city. LINK creates space for resistance, solidarity, and social movements and protects the right to speak out, organize, and collectively demand change.

## **Rainbow policy**

LINK is committed to the realization of a Rainbow House as a permanent brave space for meeting, care, safety, and emancipation. We also provide structural support for queer initiatives, from lectures and education to ballroom dances, from community activities to queer parties. Visibility, safety, and self-organization are at the core of the LINK rainbow.

## **Anti-racism and anti-colonialism**

LINK combats institutional racism and colonial structures with active anti-racist and anti-colonial policies. Inequality must be named, challenged and dismantled within policies, institutions, and decision making.

## **Symbols and representation**

Public space reflect who is seen and recognized. LINK demands visibility and recognition of diverse histories in the city. This means acknowledging the history of slavery such as through the 'Monument of Flight and Resistance', the realization of a monument for the Indonesian-Dutch history, and visible symbols of equality such as the rainbow crossing at the Miffy traffic light.

## **Accessibility**

LINK makes accessibility a leading factor in policy and implementation, in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The city is designed and developed for and with people with disabilities, neurodivergence, and chronic conditions. Lived experiences are the foundation.

## **Security**

LINK systematically tackles femicide, intimidation, and violence, focusing on prevention, protection, and recovery. We explicitly address anti-Muslim hatred, LGBTQIA+ hate, and all other forms of exclusion and violence.

## **Every person matters**

Utrecht is a city of human rights and solidarity. LINK stands by the principle: no human is illegal. People on the run and people without documents belong to the city and have the right to protection, shelter, and dignified treatment.

## **Culture and counterculture**

Culture fosters connection and imagination. LINK protects creative breeding grounds, brave spaces, and cultural outskirts where experimentation thrives and diverse perspectives are visible. Night culture (parties, music, club culture) is also culture and deserves space, protection, and recognition.

# FIERCY GREEN

**The climate crisis demands decisive action. LINK chooses a green city that is liveable, just, and future proof.**

## Green and biodiversity

LINK opposes the expansion of the A27 and defends Amelisseweerd. Protecting and restoring nature is paramount. We plant additional trees, choose native vegetation, and strengthen ecological connections. Keeping the city cooler, healthier, and liveable for people and animals.

## Climate justice

LINK works towards a climate neutral city. The costs of climate change and energy transition must not fall on those with the least means. Sustainability will be affordable and accessible, energy costs will decrease, and everyone will be able to participate. The transition strengthens climate resilience, health, and livelihoods.

## Water and soil

Water safety, water quality, and healthy soils determine how and where we build. LINK creates space for water storage, greening, rewilding, and climate adaptation, so that the city can withstand drought, heat, and heavy rainfall.

## Mobility

LINK chooses a safe, accessible, and sustainable city where walking, cycling, and public transport are prioritized over car traffic. We take on transport poverty and work towards free and accessible public transport for everyone, making mobility accessible to all while making the city cleaner, calmer, and more liveable.

## Food and animals

LINK strives to have a non-toxic living environment, strong animal welfare, and a food policy that is healthy, local, sustainable, and plant-based. Animals belong in the city: their habitats and wellbeing should therefore be a part of planning and management.

## Energy and circularity

Utrecht is a leader in reuse, repair, and the circular economy, combined with energy conservation and renewable energy. LINK insists on public control and resident participation, ensuring that the green transition is by and for the city.

**RADICALLY SOCIAL**  
**ABSOLUTELY EQUAL**  
**FIERCLY GREEN**

**Colophon**

This is an edition of LINK Utrecht.

January 2026

**Looking for more information?**

LINK

Stadhuisbrug 1

Postbus 16200

3500 CE Utrecht

[link@utrecht.nl](mailto:link@utrecht.nl)

[www.wijzijnLINK.nl](http://www.wijzijnLINK.nl)

