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# **Federation of Young European Greens Political Platform**

Adopted by the General Assembly, May 2012

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## **Introduction**

79

80

81

82 We, the Federation of Young European Greens (FYEG), are the Green  
83 youth voice on the European level. As part of a wider movement, and  
84 composed of diverse member organisations uniting their collective  
85 voices and aspirations, we agree: our way of living needs to change.

86

87 Our individual and organisational backgrounds lie in social and  
88 environmental justice movements, Green party organisations, various  
89 single-issue campaigns, as well as gathering previously  
90 non-politicised youth. Our similarities are much stronger than our  
91 differences of opinion, and our diversity is a strength, it makes us  
92 explore and discover the concrete things and changes we fight for,  
93 together.

94

95 Through our shared struggles and aspirations we come to understand  
96 that no single one of our topics is a lone priority but that the  
97 connections between us are connections between issues. We refuse to  
98 choose between either the survival and well-being of our shared  
99 planet, our personal liberties and freedoms, or social welfare. To us, a  
100 Green perspective encompasses all of these demands, as described in  
101 this document.

102

103 To bring about the survival of the planet, amelioration of personal  
104 liberties and sustainable development, as well as global social justice,  
105 we must find the channels, political arenas and tools to succeed. The  
106 institutions of formal politics are spaces where many decisions that  
107 affect our lives and our politics are made. We must work to be present  
108 and heard at all these stages and make clear the urgency of green  
109 politics in order to establish support for our political positions.

110

111 But we know that politics does not begin nor end at the doorsteps of  
112 these institutions. We have learned from history about the brutality  
113 and harshness of the struggles for rights we take for granted today.

114

115 The challenges lie not only in victories within institutional politics, but  
116 also in the changing of the playing field of politics. We have seen how  
117 the environment, animal rights, the rights of minorities and other  
118 neglected causes have been brought into the centre of the institutions  
119 through the dreams and actions of, sometimes, a small number of  
120 committed individuals and movements. This, to us, is part of what it  
121 means to be committed to the ideal of social and environmental  
122 justice, democracy in general and Green politics in particular.

123

124

## **Democracy**

125

126

127 Our Green ideals can only be reached through participatory  
128 democracy, an ongoing process that we should never stop

129 developing. It is not just about voting, but about fundamental rights  
130 and participation in every area of life.

131

## 132 **Direct Democracy and Participation**

133

134 Democracy must be more than simply a periodical procedural issue.  
135 Citizens must be able and encouraged to engage and participate  
136 actively as much as possible in the political decision-making process  
137 in order for society to be genuinely democratic.

138

139 FYEG stands for the right and responsibility of every citizen to be  
140 informed and involved in all political, economic and social processes  
141 that are directly or indirectly concerning their environment. We  
142 therefore call for direct democracy at all levels of society to enable  
143 people to directly influence all the political decisions which affects  
144 their society's development and enable them to hold governments to  
145 account.

146

147 Democracy needs a strong protection of the rights of minorities,  
148 individual liberties and human rights. No majority decision may be  
149 possible to reduce these rights and liberties.

150

151 We support the implementation of grassroots methods such as  
152 participatory budgets, local decision-making and regional parliaments  
153 as well as limiting mandates by number and time in order to prevent  
154 the accumulation of power.

155

156 We call for democracy in all institutions which affect human life. Thus,  
157 pupils, students and teachers should take decisions in schools and  
158 universities and workers should decide about the future.

159

160 Citizenship must be available to all, regardless of origin or nationality.  
161 A residency citizenship is a fundamental condition for democracy, so  
162 that everyone has an equal opportunity to engage in the society  
163 which affects them.

164

165 The right to vote and stand for election at all levels must be  
166 guaranteed on the basis of residence.

167

168 We do not support monarchy or any other non-elected system of  
169 governance. These models are directly opposing and undermining  
170 values and practices of direct democracy and must be abolished.

171

172 On the local level, we promote and support community activism and  
173 volunteering as a form of human solidarity and a way to engage in  
174 participatory rights and responsibilities. This mustn't be an  
175 opportunity for authorities or individuals to exploit free labour but a  
176 way of building strong, resilient local communities. The experience  
177 and contributions of activists and volunteers to the labour market  
178 must also be recognized and valued.

179 As an organisation of young people, we support youth participation in  
180 institutional politics as well as activism. We encourage others to join  
181 us in demanding better education and opportunities for young people  
182 to participate in all political activities.

183

184 We consider every single citizen as an essential part of our integer  
185 society and therefore we demand the ban of a fixed voting age. We  
186 think that broader participation could introduce a lot of new energy.  
187 Furthermore, political stakeholders would focus not only on one  
188 specific group of people but rather all society.

189

190 We believe e-democracy<sup>1</sup> and e-participation can improve access and  
191 participation in political processes, strengthening grass-root  
192 democracy.

193

## 194 **Information and Openness**

195

196 FYEG considers both transparency and accountability as vital for the  
197 functioning of democracy. Without these governments tend towards  
198 corruption and nepotism and citizens lose sufficient means of control  
199 of their governments.

200

201 We see communication as a fundamental social process and a pillar of  
202 democracy. Everyone must have equal access to the media and the  
203 tools for its exchange.

204

205 Information within public bodies must be open and accessible. Public  
206 and private information of public interest must be easily available to  
207 everyone with simple, short and transparent procedures of  
208 procurement. Specifically, the data of governments and related  
209 institutions must be accessible to civil society, with the exception of  
210 personal data.

211

212 Freedom of thought, expression and speech must be respected.  
213 However, rhetoric calling for violence and discrimination in public  
214 speech, marketing or information needs to be recognized as hate  
215 speech and banned.

216

217 We emphasize the social value of Internet use in particular and  
218 demand free access for all. Free software and Open source<sup>2</sup> and  
219 related technologies, which boost the exchange of information and  
220 also counter existing monopolies of information, should be the  
221 standard. Public funding and subsidies should be targeted at open  
222 source technologies to offer viable alternatives where they do not  
223 exist yet.

224

225 The Internet is a public space that should not be dominated by certain  
226 groups, companies or governments, and the same rights and liberties

---

<sup>1</sup> See glossary 1.

<sup>2</sup> See glossary 2.

227 that are expected offline must be guaranteed online. Therefore, we  
228 believe that net neutrality<sup>3</sup> is crucial for a democratic society.

229

230 In a society where more and more of our lives take place online, it's  
231 crucial that personal privacy is protected. Legal authorities must only  
232 be able to access citizens personal data if there is a court injunction.  
233 Nevertheless there must be strict and transparent regulation  
234 procedures to void fraud.

235

236 We believe in the public domain and strongly support limitations of  
237 intellectual property rights and patents. Thoughts and ideas evolve  
238 more creatively and serve humanity better when they're shared.

239

## 240 **European Union Institutions**

241

242 FYEG believes there is a significant democratic deficit within EU  
243 institutions. In order to remedy this we must transfer power from the  
244 Commission and Council to the European Parliament. Furthermore,  
245 European Commission need to be directly elected by EU citizens in  
246 order to close the gap between citizens and the EU institutions.  
247 Transnational lists for the EP are needed in order to develop the  
248 concept of pan-European citizenship.

249

250 To prevent member states using their veto to defend their own narrow  
251 interests, we demand a European Council based on majority rule as  
252 opposed to consensus. The voice of the Union must not be  
253 monopolised by any single member state.

254

255 The process of integration and harmonisation must not lead to a race  
256 to the bottom between member states. On the contrary, there must  
257 be a guaranteed high standard of public services and environmental  
258 protection and member states must not be economically  
259 disadvantaged for unilaterally increasing these standards.

260

261 We strive to improve EU citizenship as a step towards a Social Europe.  
262 Free movement of people and the respect of human rights must be  
263 guaranteed and integral to the concept of EU citizenship.

264

## 265 **Regionalism**

266

267 FYEG believes borders, such as national boundaries, are artificial  
268 social constructs imposed on inhabitants. States must recognise the  
269 dynamic interaction of people, cultures and identities, thus the life  
270 and development of regions has to overcome national borders.

271

272 We support the organising principle of subsidiarity whereby matters  
273 are deliberated upon by the most competent authority, starting from  
274 the lowest or least centralised level. We see regionalism as a way to  
275 bring about more direct democracy in the spirit of subsidiarity, to

---

<sup>3</sup> See glossary 3.

276 strengthen local communities as well as their economy through  
277 devolution and to embrace cultural diversity.

278

279 Regionalism, however, must never become a vehicle for nationalistic  
280 or ethnic segregation but rather help to better enable communities  
281 and their cultural self-determination. Though this can not undermine  
282 interregional solidarity.

283

## 284 **Civil Society and Justice**

285

286 FYEG believes that no democracy can function without a critically  
287 involved and active civil society. Unions and Non-Governmental  
288 Organisations (NGOs) are vital in holding governments to account. We  
289 deplore the attempts of business interests to disguise lobby groups as  
290 grassroots initiatives. Lobbying must be transparent and strictly  
291 regulated, free of disproportional influence of profit oriented  
292 organizations.

293

294 For all holders of political office, there needs to be a waiting period  
295 before they can accept a new job from the business sector. Lobbing  
296 for commercial interests while in office has to be ended.

297

298 No democracy can be conceived without an independent judicial  
299 system, which operates free from political pressures and interference.  
300 FYEG strongly believes that in a conflict with economic or political  
301 interests, strong and independent courts must effectively protect civil  
302 liberties and human rights.

303

304

## 305 **Economy**

306

307

308 FYEG identifies the root causes of social and environmental crises in  
309 the current economic model. In order to bring an end to  
310 environmental destruction and human deprivation, a system change  
311 is urgently needed. We believe a Green Economy can achieve the  
312 necessary radical change through democratisation of the economy,  
313 redistribution of wealth<sup>4</sup> and social and environmental justice.

314

## 315 **Capitalist Economic Model**

316

317 The current economic system, with its social division based on who  
318 owns the means of production and its prioritisation of wealth  
319 accumulation<sup>5</sup> at the expense of people and environment, causes and  
320 aggravates many of the social and environmental problems we see  
321 today.

322

323 This social division has become a coercive hierarchy, the root cause of

---

<sup>4</sup> See glossary 4.

<sup>5</sup> See glossary 25.



324 social domination through inequalities of wealth and power and  
325 involuntary wage labour<sup>6</sup> relations. In theory, a capitalist economy  
326 and politics are separate spheres, but in reality wealth, corporate or  
327 individual, has a huge influence on governments, policies and politics.

328

329 The influence of wealth on politics grossly distorts democracy,  
330 decreasing the influence of and excluding most citizens. This is  
331 directly opposed to our belief in direct democracy - the empowerment  
332 and engagement of all citizens.

333

334 Individual and national wealth increasingly determines access to  
335 education, healthcare, housing and other vital services and assets.  
336 Inequality of wealth therefore leads to an inequality of access, which  
337 in turn leads to social deprivation (also see 'Social Classes').

338

339 Economic growth based on material consumption is neither possible  
340 nor desirable as it is both socially and environmentally unsustainable.  
341 If the link between economic growth and environmental destruction  
342 cannot be broken, a controlled recession is a better alternative.

343

344 Therefore, FYEG is opposed to capitalism on the grounds that it  
345 intrinsically entails social domination and long-term growth based on  
346 material consumption, which inevitably leads to the exploitation of  
347 people and the environment.

348

349 We also oppose the exponential expression of capitalism - the global  
350 neoliberal<sup>7</sup> system - where corporations and the market prevail over  
351 human needs.

352

## 354 **Green Economy**

355

356 FYEG thinks beyond materialism<sup>8</sup> and consumerism<sup>9</sup>. We strive for a  
357 system change, for a new socio-economic system to guarantee social  
358 and environmental justice and the utilization of natural resources  
359 under public stewardship and the precautionary principle<sup>10</sup> of long  
360 term sustainability<sup>11</sup>.

361

362 We strive for a system which values equality and cooperation instead  
363 of material and monetary profit maximisation<sup>12</sup> as the driver for  
364 economic activity. We strive for a system which places people and the  
365 environment before profit. Such a system also understands human  
366 activity as part of a rich yet finite, interdependent and fragile  
367 ecosystem. For this, we need a Green Economy and to understand the  
368 economy as a tool and not as an objective in itself.

---

<sup>6</sup> See glossary 5.

<sup>7</sup> See glossary 6.

<sup>8</sup> See glossary 7.

<sup>9</sup> See glossary 8.

<sup>10</sup> See glossary 45.

<sup>11</sup> See glossary 13.

<sup>12</sup> See glossary 9.

369

370 We therefore conceive Green Economics under this new paradigm of  
371 analysis: the elimination of the unlimited growth goal, the end of  
372 excessive capital accumulation and a redistribution of wealth and  
373 production factors<sup>13</sup>.

374

375 Through the green economy we strive for gender equality and the  
376 destruction of the gender work division. Intergenerational<sup>14</sup> and  
377 intragenerational<sup>15</sup> equity are also fundamental social values for a  
378 Green Economy.

379

380 We must redirect and reduce production, promoting new forms of  
381 social relationships and trade based on environmentally and socially  
382 sustainable activity. As a society we must be less intensive and more  
383 efficient in our use of natural resources.

384

385 In order for economics to be ecologically sustainable<sup>16</sup>, all the factors  
386 damaging the environment have to be included into the production  
387 costs. The gains must be invested in appropriate funds and be used  
388 for positive action towards environmental restoration.

389

390 To achieve these goals we must utilise new economic indicators to  
391 help us understand our progress. We must go beyond GDP (Gross  
392 Domestic Product<sup>17</sup>) and incorporate invisible work forces - health and  
393 happiness and the real environmental costs and benefits.

394

395 We strive for everyone's right and possibility to seek happiness. A  
396 good life is far more important a goal than economic growth, full  
397 employment or maintaining a welfare state - although all of these  
398 have their part in reaching the goal of a happy society. It's not up to  
399 politicians to decide what makes a person happy. Political decisions  
400 can however affect people's possibility to seek happiness and prevent  
401 problems which lower happiness. Politics should create possibilities for  
402 happiness to grow instead of worrying about GDP.

403 To conclude, the green economy requires a revolution of our social  
404 and economic system to reduce production and material consumption  
405 and increase human well-being through the implementation of new  
406 values and priorities.

407

408 FYEG understands the concept of the Green New Deal as the first step  
409 towards a Green Economy aiming to reduce the intrinsic crisis of  
410 capitalism. The GND emphasises sustainable energy, Green jobs,  
411 moving towards a more service focussed economy, the reduction of  
412 working time and the redistribution of wealth while reducing our  
413 ecological footprint.

414

## 415 **Labour and Use of Time**

<sup>13</sup> See glossary 10.

<sup>14</sup> See glossary 11.

<sup>15</sup> See glossary 12.

<sup>16</sup> See glossary 13.

<sup>17</sup> See glossary 14.

416

417 Disadvantaged groups are often forced to take up degrading jobs for  
418 low wages. This inequality often persists for generations.

419

420 FYEG believes that work must be fulfilling mentally, physically and  
421 socially and ensure fair wages. Working conditions must provide good  
422 health and safety, equal treatment between genders, different sexual  
423 orientations, class, ages and origins, career prospects and possibilities  
424 for further training. Thus, the labour market must recognise workers  
425 as holistic human beings, taking into consideration all their needs.

426

427 Everybody must have the right to organize their work in the most  
428 suitable manner for themselves. We strive for a reduction of working  
429 hours. This way we can create more jobs, reduce consumerism<sup>18</sup> and  
430 recognize the time necessary for social interaction and care work.  
431 However, the reduction in working time should not lead to a  
432 disproportionate reduction in purchasing power<sup>19</sup>.

433

434 We strive to change our understanding of work; from working for  
435 wages in order to fulfil short term consumerist desires to a balanced  
436 life of work and free time which enables us to live fuller, more  
437 sociable and enjoyable lives. The role of work must also be seen as a  
438 way of meaningful participation in society, and every person must  
439 have the right to participate and find suitable work.

440

441 The cooperative<sup>20</sup> business model can be the first step towards the  
442 systemic reorganization of the labour market and production factors.  
443 Cooperatives are also integral to democratising our economy, vital if  
444 we are to transform our society towards a fair and sustainable world.

445

## 446 **Fiscal and Monetary Policy**

447

448 We want a fair fiscal system<sup>21</sup> with three main goals: to support a  
449 strong welfare state, reduce social inequalities and incentives for  
450 green and sustainable investments. We stand by the principle of  
451 progressive taxation on wealth, which also needs to internalize  
452 environmental costs to make polluters pay.

453

454 Fiscal and monetary policies<sup>22</sup> are basic economic instruments. Debt,  
455 deficits<sup>23</sup> and surpluses<sup>24</sup> are important tools for equalizing  
456 macro-economic trends<sup>25</sup>, though a systemic increase in structural  
457 debt undermines intergenerational solidarity. Especially during a  
458 recession, fiscal and monetary policies should be used to reactivate  
459 the economy, invest in meaningful assets and hence create jobs.

---

<sup>18</sup> See glossary 8.

<sup>19</sup> See glossary 15.

<sup>20</sup> See glossary 16.

<sup>21</sup> See glossary 17.

<sup>22</sup> See glossary 18.

<sup>23</sup> See glossary 19.

<sup>24</sup> See glossary 20.

<sup>25</sup> See glossary 21.

460

461 FYEG opposes budget cuts without a socially inclusive debate.  
462 Knowing the danger of high inflation<sup>26</sup> for the whole economy,  
463 measures must be responsible and carefully considered.  
464 Nevertheless, interest rates must not be managed simply in terms of  
465 limiting inflation without consideration for jobs and the impact on  
466 income distribution.

467

468 At the European level, we believe tax harmonisation<sup>27</sup> is necessary to  
469 avoid a race to the bottom regarding the lowering of corporate and  
470 income taxation. Additionally, fiscal systems must work together to  
471 eliminate fiscal fraud, tax evasion and tax loopholes. We demand a  
472 new structure to regulate financial markets and the implement a  
473 financial transaction tax to reduce speculation and produce positive  
474 incentives for investment in the real economy<sup>28</sup>.

475

476 Regarding the Euro-zone, we cannot expect it to work efficiently or at  
477 all without a political union, which involves common social and  
478 economic policies. Therefore, we need a real fiscal union, with a  
479 Euro-zone Treasury and a suitably substantial budget in order to apply  
480 effective fiscal policies.

481

## 482 **Financial Markets**

483

484 FYEG opposes the development of an unrestrained financial sector in  
485 recent decades. This sector has hijacked the process of  
486 accumulation<sup>29</sup>, creating new financial instruments and innovations  
487 which undermine the value generated in the real economy. The  
488 deregulated financial sector also continues to have a very  
489 disproportionate and tyrannical influence on our democracies.

490

491 The financial market, the banking system and the qualification  
492 agencies<sup>30</sup> must therefore be strictly regulated and preferably  
493 democratically owned through cooperatives to put finance at the  
494 service of the economy and the people, not the other way around.

495

496 We believe the financial system must recover the coherence between  
497 production and consumption. We need a new global financial  
498 architecture to break down the logic of growth based on the growing  
499 debt of central countries accompanied by the creation of a  
500 semi-periphery<sup>31</sup> which produces manufactured goods and a  
501 periphery relegated to provide raw materials. We must break with the  
502 logic of unequal development and with the neo-colonial exploitation  
503 and conditions it imposes.

504

505

---

<sup>26</sup> See glossary 22.

<sup>27</sup> See glossary 23.

<sup>28</sup> See glossary 24.

<sup>29</sup> See glossary 25.

<sup>30</sup> See glossary 26.

<sup>31</sup> See glossary 27.

506

## 507 **Energy**

508

509 The insatiable extraction and consumption of fossil fuels for energy  
510 has underpinned the evolution of our capitalist economic system  
511 since the industrial revolution. However, our continued dependence  
512 on fossil fuels now threatens society itself. Burning these fuels  
513 releases greenhouse gas emissions, the principle cause of  
514 anthropogenic<sup>32</sup> climate change which now threatens the stability of  
515 global society putting hundreds of millions of people at risk.

516

517 Furthermore, we are simply running out of conventional oil. Resource  
518 scarcity will result in rapidly increasing prices and economic shocks  
519 disproportionately affecting vulnerable groups and the Global South<sup>33</sup>.  
520 The economic, political and hegemonic structure of our energy  
521 system promotes increasingly extreme extraction methods, such as  
522 mountain-top removal, fracking and coal-to-gas, in order to utilise  
523 dwindling fossil fuel resources. These methods and products should  
524 be banned entirely.

525

526 Therefore, we urgently need to revolutionise our energy system over  
527 the next decade, transforming fossil fuel infrastructure into a green,  
528 socially equitable renewable energy system.

529

530 In doing so, we must be aware of false solutions, both technologically  
531 and systemically. Nuclear power, with its risk of considerable harm  
532 and pollution, must be decommissioned, as it has no part to play in  
533 our energy future.

534

535 Carbon capture and storage<sup>34</sup>, geo-engineering<sup>35</sup> and other  
536 technological 'solutions' which perpetuate the burning of fossil fuels,  
537 conveniently without challenging the status quo and with  
538 considerable risk to society, are no solution and hence must not be  
539 prioritised and considered with caution. Measures must be taken to  
540 fight the causes of the problems like too high emissions,  
541 unsustainable consumption of natural resources and not simply the  
542 consequences.

543

544 FYEG proposes not just technological solutions but a transformation of  
545 our energy system as a whole, re-conceptualising how we produce,  
546 consume and own one of the most fundamental resources of society.  
547 Renewable energy technologies such as wind turbines and solar  
548 photovoltaics enable the decentralisation of our energy supply.

549

550 But decentralisation must also be a social priority; enabling  
551 communities to better understand and decide how their energy is  
552 produced and profiting from energy production. This can help

---

<sup>32</sup> See glossary 28.

<sup>33</sup> See glossary 34.

<sup>34</sup> See glossary 29.

<sup>35</sup> See glossary 30.

553 strengthen the role of communities in society and help to  
554 progressively challenge the centralised corporate dominance of our  
555 energy system, which continues to create significant obstacles to  
556 transforming our energy supply.

557

558 A European institution must coordinate our efforts to reduce  
559 greenhouse gas emissions, ensuring increases in efficiency, the most  
560 effective immediate step, are not simply matched with an increase in  
561 consumption resulting in ongoing unsustainable levels of greenhouse  
562 gas emissions.

563

564 We must also hold Europe fully accountable for the products we  
565 consume and the impact these have on people and the environment  
566 globally. Moving polluting industries to other countries with less strict  
567 regulations enabling continued pollution must be fully accounted for  
568 and Europe must take full responsibility for these emissions.

569

570 The EU must also become a leader in renewable energy research,  
571 development and installation and must also lead politically at  
572 international climate negotiations. The EU must provide access to its  
573 gained knowledge and developed technologies and offer support in  
574 international climate negotiations to bring forward the energy  
575 revolution globally.

576

577 We have a diminishing window of opportunity to address climate  
578 change. We must act immediately to address not only the  
579 technological but importantly also the socio-economic causes of and  
580 solutions to climate change. This means transforming our energy  
581 system through decentralisation of supply coordinated at a European  
582 level but benefiting the communities who produce the energy and  
583 challenging the current out-dated centralised system of supply.

584

585

## **Social Europe**

586

587

588

589 FYEG wants an inclusive Social Europe in which social justice prevails.  
590 Thus, we demand social policies to guarantee citizen's emancipation.  
591 Basic Income<sup>36</sup>, progressive taxation, public pensions, free education,  
592 public health care and guaranteed access to housing are the main  
593 elements to achieve a redistribution of wealth<sup>37</sup> and a more equal  
594 society. The implementation of a basic income system must not result  
595 in an abolition of existing social rights and benefits. We see basic  
596 income as a crucial and important complementation of existing social  
597 benefits.

598

599

600

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<sup>36</sup> See glossary 31.

<sup>37</sup> See glossary 4.

601

## 602 **Welfare State**

603

604 FYEG opposes the model of global neoliberalism<sup>38</sup> which destroys the  
605 presence of the state in the economy and does not recognize  
606 socio-economic rights. We recognize socio-economic rights as the  
607 basis for the existence of social policies. All members of society  
608 should have equal rights. Thus, we believe in the concept of a social  
609 citizenship. Every individual has the right to live a life independent  
610 from family and the market.

611

612 The welfare state must guarantee citizens emancipation and must be  
613 based on the principles of universalism. Rights must be  
614 de-commodified and must be of a high social standard.  
615 De-commodification of the status of individuals vis-à-vis<sup>39</sup> the market  
616 means to ensure emancipation of individuals from the market and  
617 entails citizens to opt out of work with the life-long approach, without  
618 losing their job, income or general welfare.

619

620 We believe that the first step is the implementation of a basic income  
621 scheme, which recognises the fundamental value of every person in  
622 society and also the value of unpaid work. It allows people to make  
623 decisions independent of economic factors and to engage in socially  
624 useful activity outside of the monetised economy such as caring and  
625 volunteering. Moreover, it gives workers more bargaining power  
626 within the labour market.

627

628 The welfare state must also cater towards the needs of certain groups  
629 in order to avoid social exclusion and poverty. Poverty is more than  
630 the lack of financial resources and income; it encompasses  
631 vulnerability, precariousness, the lack of opportunities and the denial  
632 of rights. It can be described as a state of limited social, cultural and  
633 political participation. The rules of competition and the free market  
634 must not be applied where they collide with socio-economic rights.

635

636 State ownership of social services means these services are  
637 democratically accountable. Therefore the privatization and  
638 outsourcing of social services is unacceptable. We also believe that a  
639 functioning welfare state generates more good than a narrow  
640 budgetary view can indicate, a financial deficit<sup>40</sup> being more bearable  
641 than unanswered social needs.

642

## 643 **Employment and Labour Unions**

644

645 Employment policies setting out the parameters for working  
646 conditions and relations must be deliberated over by all concerned  
647 stakeholders. We recognise this dialogue as a crucial step to  
648 improving workers' rights and we recognise the role and importance

---

<sup>38</sup> See glossary 6.

<sup>39</sup> See glossary 32.

<sup>40</sup> See glossary 19.

649 of strong labour unions and legislation in creating and maintaining  
650 high labour standards.

651

652 FYEG strives for a European Welfare State which enables  
653 disadvantaged group's emancipation and access to a labour market  
654 which guarantees decent work.

655

656 We see Green jobs not only as those created in renewable energy and  
657 recycling sectors, important though they are. Our concept of Green  
658 jobs also includes those jobs which fulfil our concept of a Green  
659 economy as previously described. Green jobs therefore must increase  
660 equality between classes and close the gender pay gap. They must  
661 also eliminate precarious contracts and involuntary part-time  
662 employment.

663

664 We denounce the weak position of youth in the European labour  
665 market and the disproportional effects of economic crises on young  
666 people. Despite being the most educated generation ever, we find it  
667 increasingly difficult to get a decent and stable job. Young people  
668 need a stronger lobby in Europe. FYEG advocates youth rights  
669 especially when it comes to labour policy.

670

671 A strong legal framework guaranteeing the formation and action of  
672 labour unions is needed in Europe and at the EU level. We call for the  
673 ratification and implementation of all provisions of the International  
674 Labour Organisation (ILO)<sup>41</sup>.

675

676 Finally, the creation of Green jobs and reduction of unemployment  
677 and discrimination in the labour market must be overcome by an  
678 alliance of labour unions, worker cooperatives<sup>42</sup> and social and  
679 political movements. We strive to build strong relationships with the  
680 aforementioned organisations and movements as part of our role in  
681 creating a fair, sustainable society.

682

## 683 **Pensions**

684

685 FYEG believes access to a pension must be a social right. Pensions  
686 must enable the elderly and certain dependants to have a decent  
687 standard of living. States must provide a decent, public and universal  
688 pension scheme for all citizens, based on progressive income taxation  
689 which also guarantees future generations access to decent pensions.

690

691 Pension funds must be publicly owned reducing risk and enabling the  
692 state to make socially useful investments. Over and above  
693 compulsory pension commitments, further and unlimited voluntary  
694 investments in public pension schemes must be allowed. The financial  
695 benefits of a public pension fund must not be applied to the private  
696 sector.

697

---

<sup>41</sup> See glossary 33.

<sup>42</sup> See glossary 16.



698 EU pension schemes must be harmonised to enable the free  
699 movement of workers. Any pension negotiations must be undertaken  
700 with suitable dialogue and conditions for workers.

701

## 702 **Education**

703

704 The universality of public education is at risk and is increasingly  
705 becoming marketized. Formal education is becoming a process simply  
706 to prepare people for the labour market. We believe education and  
707 self-cultivation have an intrinsic value and are always to the benefit of  
708 society and therefore must not be viewed or practised in these narrow  
709 terms.

710

711 FYEG believes education must be a basic social right, free, plural,  
712 equally accessible to all, gender-sensitive, of high quality, and meet  
713 the individual developmental needs of each person. Education should  
714 be holistic and inspire a hunger for academic and non-academic  
715 learning. Formal, non-formal and informal education is the preparation  
716 for a complex world and must provide knowledge and skills needed to  
717 fully participate in society.

718

719 We believe the current education model should be radically  
720 democratized, creating collegial instead of authoritative relations.  
721 This is important not only for knowledge and creativity, but even more  
722 for understanding non-hierarchical and democratic values at early  
723 ages.

724

725 Schools, universities and non-formal education centres must be  
726 intercultural and non-discriminatory; they must not be divided by age,  
727 sex, religion, ethnicity, origin, disabilities or legal status.

729 We seek real alternatives to higher education. There must be greater  
730 support for apprenticeships and employment orientated training for  
731 young people, especially women, including lifelong training and  
732 learning programmes.

733

734 We value the advantages of non-formal education. We are against the  
735 categorization of people based on formal qualifications. Non-formal  
736 education has to be supported by the state by providing resources  
737 and time and by labour markets by recognizing its value as one form  
738 of education.

739

## 740 **Health**

741

742 FYEG believes that access to healthcare is a human right and must be  
743 free.

744

745 Health begins with a healthy lifestyle. Prevention and education on  
746 healthy life styles must be the corner stone of all healthcare policies.

747

748 Healthcare systems must be based on prevention, be accessible,  
749 non-discriminatory and adjusted to every individual's needs.  
750 Healthcare must also consist of psychological and social care.  
751 Treatment must be free of religious, cultural or traditional limitations.

752

753 Pharmaceutical corporations are not transparent and often profit at  
754 the expense of public health, especially in the Global South<sup>43</sup>.  
755 Therefore, we demand a fair, publicly owned pharmaceutical sector to  
756 compliment the private sector.

757

758 We strongly support the donation of organs and urge for an  
759 international transplant system.

760 Sex education, including education on contraception and reproductive  
761 health care must be introduced from an early age in formal education  
762 and respect different genders and sexual orientations. We oppose  
763 prejudices and discrimination, such as zerophobia, towards people  
764 living with sexually transmitted diseases.

765

766 We support the demystification of drug issues as it leads to a more  
767 open and realistic debate on drug policies. By legalising drugs, health  
768 risks will decrease and drug-related crimes will be reduced. Drug  
769 policies should be based on the principle of damage minimisation and  
770 rehabilitation must be provided within the public healthcare system.  
771 Rehabilitation methods need to be developed to become more  
772 effective, and must not include practices which endanger human  
773 freedoms.

774

775 All human beings have the right to make decisions about their own  
776 bodies and life. Women must have the right to decide about their own  
777 bodies without economic restriction. Thus, abortion needs to be  
778 legally defined and freely provided. Assisted suicide should be  
779 accessible to everyone suffering from unbearable physical or mental  
780 suffering.

781

## 782 **Housing**

783

784 FYEG believes housing is a basic human right and that housing should  
785 not be treated simply as a commodity. The housing market must fulfil  
786 people's needs and not be reduced to profit maximization. We deplore  
787 financial speculation on people's homes and believe that people must  
788 not be left without decent accommodation under any circumstances.

789

790 As a consequence of the unregulated private market, many people  
791 have been made homeless or are often subjected to low quality,  
792 temporary, overcrowded housing which has adverse psychological  
793 and physical affects. We are committed to fighting homelessness,  
794 which represents one of the most brutal and blatant forms of poverty  
795 and exclusion in European societies.

---

<sup>43</sup> See glossary 34.

796

797 Social housing must be made available, offering a long-term quality  
798 solution. We oppose processes of gentrification, which increases  
799 house prices and produces socially homogeneous neighbourhoods,  
800 forcing people to relocate often against their will.

801

802 Homes must be affordable to those who most need them, ecologically  
803 sustainable and provide quality amenities to foster community  
804 cohesion. We also believe housing cooperatives must be strongly  
805 encouraged and have access to adequate financial resources.

806

807 Urban planning must be utilized to suitably increase urban density,  
808 and reduce urban sprawl. This is both ecologically and socially  
809 beneficial.

810

## 811 **Transport**

812

813 People have a right to mobility and the use of transport. It is  
814 necessary to invest in, expand and promote public transport and to  
815 guarantee free access for everyone. There is a need for improved  
816 infrastructure and a shift to sustainable and eco-friendly forms of  
817 mobility and to think of mobility as a complex concept, involving  
818 different vehicles and ways of travelling.

819 All the external costs of private transportation have to be included to  
820 show that it is extremely expensive and occupies a lot of our space.  
821 Schemes for sustainable transport should be supported by economic  
822 incentives like eco-taxes on fossil fuel.

823

824 Local and regional consumption of goods should be encouraged.  
825 Transport of living animals, waste and dangerous products must be  
826 kept as short as possible and eventually discontinued. In  
827 industrialised countries road traffic, harbours and airports must not be  
828 extended.

829

830 We believe in a democratic and open planning system which we  
831 believe would reduce the need for transportation.

832

833 Cities are expanding and the principle of urban mobility must be  
834 respected. Car free cities open possibilities for urban mobility around  
835 pedestrians, cyclists and public transport and the reoccupation of  
836 public space by people. In this way, cities play their role in genuine  
837 ecological and democratic change.

838

## 839 **Public Space**

840

841 FYEG conceives of public space as a place of meeting for reflection  
842 and casual and formal socialising. Public space provides places for  
843 public audiences, for street art and expressions of protest all of which  
844 are fundamental to democracy and community well-being.

845

846 Unfortunately public spaces are being sold off to create high street  
847 shopping centres or are having measures put in place limiting  
848 people's right to meet and gather. We must immediately stop this  
849 destruction of public spaces, our squares, streets, gardens and town  
850 centres.

851

852 Therefore we demand an immediate stop to the transformation of  
853 public space into private spaces.

854 All arbitrary restrictions of civil liberties in public space are  
855 unacceptable and such legislation must be repealed. Further, we  
856 deplore and seek to limit the visual pollution of public space by  
857 excessive presence of ad-campaigns.

858

## 859 **Access to Culture**

860

861 FYEG believes that free access to culture is a basic right of the people.  
862 The abusive economic exploitation of culture through restrictive  
863 systems such as marketisation and copyright, are an impediment to  
864 free access. As a solution, we propose new models based on free  
865 sharing.

866

867 States must also provide free access to all cultural content in their  
868 possession. Social centres must be freely available and under the  
869 democratic control of local communities.

870

871

## 872 **Global Justice, Peace and Human Rights**

873

874

875 The current neoliberal<sup>44</sup> institutions protect large corporate interests  
876 but not people or the environment. We believe that another world is  
877 not only possible but also urgently needed. We demand Global  
878 justice!

879

## 880 **Neoliberal Globalization**

881

882 FYEG stands for global justice and equality between countries. We  
883 oppose the current neoliberal globalisation promoted by the World  
884 Trade Organisation (WTO), World Bank (WB) and the International  
885 Monetary Fund (IMF), whose model continues to enrich major  
886 multinational corporations and financial institutions at the expense of  
887 the Global South<sup>45</sup>, certain social classes and the environment.

888

889 Neoliberalism supports the privatization of national industries,  
890 deregulation and enhancing the role of the private sector while  
891 restricting or eliminating the role of the state. It undermines local  
892 decision-making and exploits local populations. Under neoliberalism

---

<sup>44</sup> See glossary 6.

<sup>45</sup> See glossary 34.

893 restrictions on corporations and capital are removed, while  
894 boundaries are maintained for local and other communities.

895

896 Neoliberalism leads to high levels of social exclusion, destruction of  
897 labour unions, large disparities in income, increased poverty, poor  
898 and unequal education, poor healthcare and high rates of crime and  
899 incarceration. It reinforces the North-South divide and maintains  
900 neocolonialism.

901

902 This stems from a long history of exploitation especially by European  
903 powers. The industrialisation of Europe was based on the slave trade  
904 and mass atrocities by the colonial powers who extorted raw  
905 materials through force. Most of the raw materials necessary for the  
906 continued material growth of our economies still comes from the  
907 Global South, but the companies extracting them are based in the  
908 Global North<sup>46</sup>.

909

910 Following the end of colonialism, neocolonialism now prevails. Global  
911 institutions like the United Nations Security Council, WTO, WB and IMF  
912 do not represent the population of the world.

913

## 914 **Another Globalisation is Possible**

915

916 FYEG fights for global justice. We believe that an alternative form of  
917 globalisation based on global justice, cooperation, democracy,  
918 engagement and the free flow of information is possible. We are in  
919 solidarity with the global marginalised majority and press for fairer  
920 global structures and institutions, which need to be reflected in the  
921 economic system.

922

923 There needs to be democratic ownership of natural resources by the  
924 people.

925

926 We support grass-roots organisations, indigenous people's  
927 movements and democratic leaders in their efforts to push for global  
928 justice. We thus support institutions such as the World Social Forum  
929 (WSF) and the United Nations Economic and Social Council (UNESCO).  
930 The WSF seeks to develop an alternative future through the global  
931 engagement of civil society, social movements and NGOs. We are part  
932 of a decentralised debate, exchange of experience and knowledge  
933 and coordinated action working towards a fairer and sustainable world  
934 as a legitimate and democratic alternative.

935

## 936 **The United Nations**

937

938 The United Nations was born out of the terrible experiences of the  
939 world wars. However the nations governing the UN did not succeed in  
940 creating a safe, secure and fair world. With its organisations and its  
941 Human Rights Conventions it aims at ensuring freedom and  
942 well-being for all. The UN aim of development must not be reduced to

---

<sup>46</sup> See glossary 35.

943 abstract millennium goals, a policy of global justice can only be  
944 achieved with a fair distribution of wealth<sup>47</sup> and power.

945

946 In order to be strengthened, the UN needs to be democratised. We  
947 demand the dissolution of the UN Security Council. We call for a  
948 democratically elected UN Parliamentary Assembly, which should  
949 elect an executive committee giving fair representation to different  
950 global regions and legitimacy to the decision-making bodies of the  
951 UN.

952

953 The UN General Assembly must implement economic and social  
954 policies so as to achieve global justice, opposing the hegemonic  
955 policies of the WTO, WB and IMF.

956

## 957 **Human Rights**

958

959 FYEG demands human rights to be universally recognized and  
960 respected. To achieve this goal we need a strong global network of  
961 civil society, supported by education and training instruments.  
962 International conventions are an important tool, as are the internal  
963 workings of the United Nations to enforce them, by naming and  
964 shaming, international pressure, and sanctions. However, human  
965 rights go beyond international agreements; they begin from the needs  
966 of each person, within each society.

967

968 We condemn the practice of abusing human rights in international  
969 politics as an argument to pursue own national interests. Human  
970 rights, which essentially evolve and develop, need to be transversally  
971 included on all institutional levels, along with corresponding  
972 monitoring mechanisms.

973

974 We acknowledge that the basic rights, dealing with civil liberties and  
975 participation in political life, are still causes that need to be fought for,  
976 in Europe as elsewhere. This however should not hold us back from  
977 participating in the struggle for new human rights.

978

979 We are in favour of a stronger international human rights regime  
980 working in cooperation with regional human rights courts. We support  
981 the establishment of effective possibilities to judicially prosecute  
982 breaches of human rights on the global level, since there is currently  
983 a wide gap in internationally concerning the real implementation of  
984 human rights. We strive for an impartial institution to bring  
985 perpetrators of the Global South and the Global North to justice, if  
986 justice cannot be implemented regionally.

987

## 987 **Peace**

988

989 FYEG is committed to the vision of a world without weapons, armed  
990 conflict and war. We understand peace to be more than the absence  
991 of war and pacifism as a necessarily transversal concept, which  
992 affects different areas of policy. Peace has to be built every day by

---

<sup>47</sup> See glossary 4.

993 reducing sources of conflicts such as poverty, injustice and  
994 discrimination. To achieve this, all actors must take responsibility and  
995 promote human rights.

996

997 Everybody has the responsibility to prevent the outbreak of violence  
998 using all legitimate means available. Therefore we support the  
999 responsibility to prevent and demand its institutionalisation on the UN  
1000 level. The use of violence can only be the very last resort of political  
1001 action. Decisions that lead to the use of military force must be  
1002 transparent, fully accountable, democratically legitimized and  
1003 reasonably justified.

1004

1005 We maintain a high degree of suspicion with regards to the  
1006 “Responsibility to protect”, due to the potential for abuse. It has too  
1007 often been used to legitimize actions beyond protection of civilians.  
1008 However, we are not inherently opposed to “Responsibility to  
1009 protect”, as it may provide a means of last resort for the international  
1010 community to protect civilians against abuses on a mass scale.

1011

1012 Military intervention must require a UN mandate. Intervention should  
1013 only be mandated to stop mass atrocity crimes and must be strictly  
1014 limited in mandate and action.

1015

1016 We oppose the maintaining of large military forces which we see as a  
1017 waste of resources that should go to other priorities and aggressively  
1018 provocative towards other groups and nations. Therefore we support  
1019 the continued reduction of arsenals by destruction of obsolete  
1020 material and material swapping between nations.

1021

1022 Furthermore, we demand the end of all weapon production under  
1023 profit logic, retaining only that necessary to comply with the  
1024 international community’s responsibility to protect. All subsidies to  
1025 the armaments industry must be ended.

1026

1027 In this context nuclear weapons must be highlighted. Development  
1028 and testing of nuclear weapons must be banned globally and the  
1029 process towards total nuclear disarmament must continue with  
1030 increased urgency.

1031

1032 We believe that structures such as NATO<sup>48</sup> go against the  
1033 fundamental aim of European construction that is to spread peace. By  
1034 its historical purpose, narrow militaristic outlook and fundamentally  
1035 undemocratic structures, it should not be a model for the future. We  
1036 therefore think that NATO must be dismantled.

1037

1038 For the EU to truly represent its ideals and values in foreign politics,  
1039 non-violence and co-operation policies are powerful tools and must be  
1040 utilised. Therefore we demand the creation of a European Civil Peace  
1041 Corps, as a non-military structure, in charge of creating and  
1042 preserving peace. Members of this Corps should be trained in the

---

<sup>48</sup> North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. See glossary 36.

1043 skills of non-violent conflict resolution, and should be employed as  
1044 both a preventive and a curative measure.

1045  
1046 We oppose the state's right to force participation in military training  
1047 and activities. Any forced service must be abolished.

## 1048 1049 **Migration and borders**

1050  
1051 FYEG believes that freedom of movement is a human right, migration  
1052 is not a crime and no human is illegal. We demand legal protection  
1053 and residency status for migrants and respect for their human rights.  
1054 We strive for the complete abolition of borders and the  
1055 unquestionable right for everyone to choose a place of residence.

1056  
1057 The current EU border policies institutionalize racism and social  
1058 stratification. Militarized agencies are not a viable way of meeting  
1059 neither the challenges of global migratory flows nor the needs of  
1060 migrants and refugees. Europe has become a fortress while migrants  
1061 are exploited as a cheap labour force on the basis of their vulnerable  
1062 status. As such FYEG is convinced that FRONTEX<sup>49</sup> must be abolished.

1063  
1064 We are against externalization of European borders. These policies are  
1065 interfering in migration patterns which are beyond EU borders and as  
1066 such are implemented outside of any legal and legitimate context,  
1067 representing a direct attack on human rights. European policies need  
1068 to focus on mitigating the actual reasons of forced migration and offer  
1069 substantial help.

1070  
1071 Though the European Union supports the free movement of goods,  
1072 capital, services and people, these freedoms end at its borders.

1073  
1074 We demand the immediate implementation of a common European  
1075 border policy respecting fundamental human rights. The EU must  
1076 harmonise asylum procedures reflecting the principle of solidarity and  
1077 inclusive Europe, while actively supporting the UNHCR<sup>50</sup> resettlement  
1078 programme for refugees.

1079  
1080 A fair and humanitarian asylum system must be based on  
1081 understanding of and respect for the needs of asylum seekers.

1082  
1083  
1084  
1085  
1086  
1087  
1088  
1089

---

1 <sup>49</sup> European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External  
2 Borders of the Member States of the European Union. See glossary 37.

3 <sup>50</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also known as the  
4 UN Refugee Agency. See glossary 38.



1090

1091

1092

## **Identity, Equality and Inclusion**

1094 Through identifying links between multiple levels of discrimination, we  
1095 are able to fight for an equal society. We must smash patriarchy, class  
1096 division, racism, fascism and every other system of oppression.

1097

### **Identity**

1098

1099 FYEG stands for an open, intercultural and fair society where  
1100 individuals are free to express themselves and pursue happiness. The  
1101 division of people into groups based on various personal attributes  
1102 limits and is in opposition to the concept of identity. The different  
1103 norms that societies implicitly or explicitly rely on are not only subject  
1104 to change throughout history, but also often constitute a form of  
1105 violence against those who do not fit these norms.  
1106

1107

1108 Ideas and stereotypes that are labelled and justified as natural are  
1109 usually socially constructed norms. The concept of normal has been  
1110 built on the social values, rules and institutions dominated by rich  
1111 senior white men. This discourse has been imposed on all of society  
1112 and needs to be deconstructed.

1113

1114 The practice and acceptance of this concept oppresses not only  
1115 women but all individuals with a different identity. Further, different  
1116 forms of oppression<sup>51</sup> often interlink to form multiple oppression on  
1117 certain groups and individuals. These interrelated structures of  
1118 oppression degrade society as a whole.

1119

1120 We believe that humans should not be forced to choose between  
1121 identities as if they were mutually exclusive choices. We welcome  
1122 movements that break up old norms and stereotypes. Any  
1123 discrimination based on gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, class,  
1124 appearance, age, disability, religion, political ideas or any other  
1125 category is unacceptable. To us, society must be open and inclusive  
1126 and not demand mono-cultural daptation<sup>52</sup>.

1127

### **Equality and Non-Discrimination**

1128

1129 FYEG sees discrimination and repression as a form of violence. Too  
1130 often, injustice is taken as natural and constructed norms remain  
1131 unquestioned. Knowledge, experience and exchange with people who  
1132 experience discrimination can weaken existing stereotypes and open  
1133 the path towards a better society for everyone to enjoy.  
1134

1135

1136 Society must acknowledge discrimination. We advocate the creation  
1137 of awareness-raising and monitoring institutions on discrimination.

---

<sup>51</sup> See glossary 39.

<sup>52</sup> See glossary 40.

1138 Information should be collected to expose existing injustices and must  
1139 also have influence on the policy-making process.

1140

1141 We demand all necessary instruments and policies to eradicate all  
1142 kinds of discrimination and move towards an equal society. To reach  
1143 this, all policy areas must integrate the idea of inclusion.

1144

## 1145 **Social Classes**

1146

1147 FYEG recognizes social class as the main obstacle to an equal and fair  
1148 society. Classes are the social stratification due to power relations in  
1149 the labour market and the economic system. People with the same  
1150 social, economic and educational status belong to the same social  
1151 class.

1152

1153 Social class often determines the possibility of a person to participate  
1154 in society, particularly in decision making processes. Culture,  
1155 education, economic background and social contacts reinforce  
1156 stratification and power structures.

1157

1158 FYEG strives towards the elimination of social classes creating a  
1159 society of genuine equal opportunities.

1160

## 1161 **Gender**

1162

1163 FYEG recognizes gender as a social construct and a product of  
1164 patriarchy. We believe that all roles and divisions based on gender  
1165 hide a relation of power. Therefore we oppose the binary gender  
1166 system and demand neutralization of gender based differences in  
1167 society. This power relation and the norms it establishes oppress both  
1168 woman and men.

1169

1170 This powerful system affects human beings in the most intimate areas  
1171 of life. Patriarchy imposes a false dichotomy on societies: a masculine  
1172 domain, which centralizes political, social and economic power, and a  
1173 female domain of the private sphere. Activity in the female sphere,  
1174 such as care-taking within families, is not recognised as socially or  
1175 economically valuable and thus renders the contribution of women  
1176 invisible.

1177

1178 Moreover, our economies take advantage of this model by  
1179 externalizing care costs to families and thereby effectively to women.  
1180 All those who are capable should equally share care work. We support  
1181 measures that give people, regardless of their gender, possibilities for  
1182 care taking without being penalized in their careers.

1183

1184 Language and symbolic expressions in society perpetuate and  
1185 reinforce gender discrimination in an almost invisible way. We ask for  
1186 a gender sensitive language, still bearing in mind that gender is not a  
1187 binary concept.

1188

1189 We demand that sexual harassment and gender violence be  
1190 considered violent, criminal acts and that they are legally prosecuted.  
1191 The victim should not be blamed for having been assaulted. Instead,  
1192 adequate resources for helping the victims of sexual assault both in  
1193 their legal fight and psychologically, must be made available.

1194

## 1195 **Feminism**

1196

1197 FYEG declares itself a feminist organization. Feminism, to us, refers to  
1198 both the fight against patriarchy and the desire to go beyond binary  
1199 gender divisions. We see discrimination against women as a form of  
1200 violence present in politics, the labour market, our education and  
1201 private life. We identify queer theory<sup>53</sup> as a promising intellectual  
1202 framework to go beyond gender structure.  
1203 In order to reach a gender neutral society we support the use of  
1204 quotas in favour of women as a first step towards equality. We  
1205 therefore advocate quotas as a transitory measure to empower  
1206 women.

1207

1208 We acknowledge gender-based discrimination of women in the labour  
1209 market. Thus we demand equal pay for equally valuable work and an  
1210 end to discrimination based on pregnancy and parenthood.

1211

## 1212 **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Intersexual, Transgender and** 1213 **Queer**

1214

1215 FYEG opposes any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.  
1216 Everybody should have the right to freely express their sexuality. We  
1217 advocate the recognition of sexual minorities, and their rights as  
1218 lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersexual, transgender and queer<sup>54</sup>.

1219

1220 Sex and sexual orientation must not be registered. Legal recognition  
1221 of gender identity should not be a reason for a violation of physical  
1222 integrity. Education and information on sex, gender, sexual orientation  
1223 and identity, especially on intersexuality and transsexuality, needs to  
1224 be introduced, supported and included in curricula and the public  
1225 domain.

1226

1227 We demand the same rights and responsibilities for all despite their  
1228 sexual orientation. We demand legalization of same-sex and  
1229 transgender marriage, adoption of children, artificial insemination and  
1230 the entire legal framework to guarantee equality. Jurisprudence must  
1231 not impose a model of family.

1232

1233 The definition of one's sexual identity should be in each individual's  
1234 own hands. Everybody must be free to change sex. Right and access  
1235 to sex reassignment must be guaranteed and paid for via public  
1236 health care. We deplore the practice of requiring individuals to

---

<sup>53</sup> See glossary 41.

<sup>54</sup> See glossary 42.

1237 undergo sterilization before a sex change and we strive to abolish  
1238 such requirements in European countries. Receiving legal recognition  
1239 of gender identity must not require any medical intervention.

1240

1241 We particularly deplore homophobia and transphobia. We demand the  
1242 de-pathologization of homosexuality and transsexuality.

1243

1244 We demand that the EU, its member states and civil society support  
1245 and defend LGTBQ rights and LGBTQ movements in other countries.

1246

## 1247 **Disability**

1248

1249 A fair society is based on equal rights and equal access. FYEG  
1250 supports people with disabilities in their fight for equal rights and  
1251 access. Society has historically marginalised people with disabilities  
1252 by creating special areas and by not adapting public space to  
1253 everybody's needs. This denial of equal access to social, political, and  
1254 economic life must end.

1255

1256 We demand that urbanism and architecture integrate the needs of  
1257 people with disabilities and contribute to the creation of an inclusive  
1258 public space for all. Accessibility benefits not only people with  
1259 disabilities but everybody.

1260 Access to braille, communication aids or sign languages must be  
1261 broadened as well as access to information, media and interaction  
1262 facilities for people with disabilities.

1263

## 1264 **Age**

1265

1266 FYEG is opposed to age discrimination. The description of young  
1267 people as essentially immature and unreasonable is the basis for  
1268 underrepresentation in decision-making processes. It is crucial to  
1269 promote the participation of youth to shape the social, economic,  
1270 cultural and environmental decisions, which affect them. We refuse to  
1271 be "youth for youth" and seek to participate in all decision making  
1272 processes as equal and respected stakeholders.

1273

1274 We are aware of the need for intergenerational<sup>55</sup> solidarity. The  
1275 discourse that excludes the elderly from active participation and  
1276 secludes them into designated areas is driven by the same  
1277 mechanisms we denounce in the case of youth. Thus, we refuse to  
1278 believe in the stereotype of senile, disillusioned and necessarily  
1279 conservative seniors. Youth and the elderly are linked by an  
1280 assumption that both groups are outside the economy as active  
1281 labour and are therefore of lesser value, a concept contrary to all our  
1282 beliefs.

1283

## 1284 **Intercultural Society**

1285

1286 FYEG acknowledges that European populations do not fit the idea of

<sup>55</sup> See glossary 11.

1287 monolithic cultural entities at all. Europe is a diverse continent and we  
1288 need to draw inspiration from this fact. Nation states were never and  
1289 are not identical with any kind of coherent, static and closed culture.

1290

1291 To us, ideas of national identity make no sense. European policies  
1292 require an intercultural perspective in order to overcome hate and  
1293 discrimination towards groups that do not correspond to these  
1294 nationalist norms. We also oppose the view that migrants need to go  
1295 through a process of assimilation, which often includes a rejection of  
1296 their own identity. This leads to institutionalised racism on a European  
1297 and national level. Societies should accept complex identities and  
1298 personal histories.

1299

1300 The institutions of our societies do not reflect their diversity. Hidden  
1301 barriers and obstacles, as well as structural racism in institutions,  
1302 need to be addressed and fought, especially in politics and the media,  
1303 which often create a tense atmosphere with unbalanced and  
1304 destructive coverage of migrant issues.

1305

1306 Language, as one key tool in an intercultural society, has great  
1307 practical, social and cultural value. Therefore, we believe that learning  
1308 foreign languages must be promoted at all levels of society.  
1309 Empowering individuals to learn from others and increasing  
1310 communication between people from different backgrounds is a vital  
1311 first step to overcome boundaries and divisions.

1312

## 1313 **Religion**

1314

1315 For us, no religion is better or worse than others. Churches<sup>56</sup> must be  
1316 separated from the state and no religion should have privileged  
1317 status. In an intercultural society it must be possible for everyone to  
1318 live in a climate of peace, mutual respect and tolerance regardless of  
1319 their individual view of life in general.

1320

1321 In many countries this means that existing privileges need to be  
1322 abolished. We stand for a secular state where religious laws are not  
1323 considered as above or outside civic law. With respect to diversity,  
1324 traditions and customs, religious laws, structures and procedures  
1325 need to respect state laws as highest reference. This is crucial for the  
1326 preservation of human rights and equality. Governments need to stay  
1327 away from amalgamation of state and religious affairs.

1328

## 1329 **Anti-Fascism**

1330

1331 FYEG is opposed to nationalism. We reject the idea that membership  
1332 in a constructed entity gives people certain traits and realise the  
1333 divisive and blinding nature of such an idea.

1334

1335 Fascism has played a terrible role in European history, imposing  
1336 monolithic identities and turning its invisible violence into open

---

<sup>56</sup> See glossary 43.

1337 violence. The fascist attack on personal freedom and diversity as well  
1338 as its crimes against humanity are the reasons we define ourselves as  
1339 anti-fascist and are in solidarity with the anti-fascist movement.

1340  
1341

## **Ecology**

1342  
1343  
1344

1345 Ecology is present throughout this document, and is the basis of our  
1346 Green thinking. The earth has limited resources, and we have to plan  
1347 our sustainable social model based on those limits.

1348

### **Value of Nature**

1349

1350  
1351 FYEG believes that nature has an intrinsic value. All conflicts between  
1352 society and nature are products of an unhealthy, unsustainable and  
1353 unethical perception of nature. Long-term sustainability<sup>57</sup>,  
1354 preservation of local ecosystems and stability of ecological cycles  
1355 have to be prioritized and set as “necessary conditions” for any  
1356 exploitation of any natural resource.

1357

1358 All ecological issues must be understood and solved in a holistic and  
1359 interlinked way, rather than downplayed as technical issues within the  
1360 field of environmentalism to be solved by technological  
1361 improvements.

1362

1363 Since nature is a very complex system of life cycles, we have neither  
1364 reason nor rationale for having blind faith in technology for fully  
1365 understanding all the ecological crises, much less solving them  
1366 through technical means rather than comprehensive social change.

1367

### **Climate Change**

1368

1369  
1370 Climate change is one of the greatest and most urgent crises of our  
1371 current society. Without immediate radical action on a global scale  
1372 humanity faces likely catastrophic climatic changes. Extreme climate  
1373 and weather patterns not seen during the development of civilisation  
1374 will become the norm, having potentially drastic adverse effects on  
1375 humans, animals and plants.

1376

1377 The scientific world is unsure exactly how soon we may tip the  
1378 delicate climate balance into positive feedback loops which would  
1379 then leave us on an all but unstoppable path to several degrees of  
1380 catastrophic global warming. We therefore urgently need sufficiently  
1381 ambitious global legally binding agreement to reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions  
1382 in line with scientific recommendations.

1383

1384 Such an agreement has to be prepared and underpinned by ambitious  
1385 strategies and measures on national, regional and local level. The

---

<sup>57</sup> See glossary 13.

1386 agreement has to be built on principles of global justice and resisting  
1387 countries must be brought to a common playing field through climate  
1388 tariffs.

1389  
1390 Countries in the Global North<sup>58</sup> must acknowledge that the largest  
1391 share of global CO2 per capita emissions originated in their countries  
1392 and currently continue to do so, resulting in a widening gap with the  
1393 Global South<sup>59</sup>. Therefore they must agree a suitable fund to help  
1394 other countries mitigate and adapt to climate change.

1395  
1396 FYEG demands the implementation of a cap-and-dividend scheme  
1397 mixed with cap-and-investment to mitigate carbon emissions and to  
1398 reduce global inequalities. The scheme must be developed at regional  
1399 levels under a binding global agreement. Considering vested interests  
1400 at play within international markets, we do not believe market  
1401 mechanisms alone can adequately mitigate emissions.

1402  
1403 All countries must increase their efforts in order to ensure  
1404 atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are rapidly reduced to  
1405 ensure we do not exceed a temperature rise of 1.5°C. This figure of  
1406 1.5°C must always remain consistent with the most recent scientific  
1407 recommendations with consideration to the precautionary principle<sup>60</sup>  
1408 as described by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
1409 Change.

1410

## 1411 **Biodiversity**

1412

1413 Biodiversity is fundamental to healthy ecosystems and of great  
1414 importance to our well-being, both physically and psychologically. As  
1415 well as being integral to the economy, biodiversity provides  
1416 irreplaceable natural services; it is also a vast medicinal resource and  
1417 for many also plays an important spiritual and cultural role.

1418

1419 We are currently facing the simultaneous ecological disasters of  
1420 climate change and biodiversity loss, both of which are directly  
1421 related to our society's unsustainable economic system,  
1422 overconsumption, use of toxic chemicals and the related  
1423 unsustainable practices and habits.

1424

1425 One of the most devastating aspects of biodiversity loss is the current  
1426 mass extinction of species, caused by a number of serious,  
1427 deep-rooted problems such as habitat destruction, climate change,  
1428 land use changes, the introduction of invasive species, genetic  
1429 pollution, monoculture and overexploitation.

1430

1431 FYEG believes wide-ranging measures are necessary to deal with  
1432 these problems, including fundamental changes to our economic  
1433 system and our way of life. As well as rapidly reducing our

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<sup>58</sup> See glossary 35.

<sup>59</sup> See glossary 34.

<sup>60</sup> See glossary 45.

1434 exploitation and wastage of land and other natural resources we need  
1435 to ban unsustainable practices for example genetic modification of  
1436 animals and plants and strictly regulate the use of various chemicals.

1437

1438 Immediate radical action must be taken at all levels of society from  
1439 local to global and we believe Europe is financially well set to lead the  
1440 way. Europe's role is especially important considering the historic  
1441 damage Europe has inflicted on global ecological systems.

1442

1443 The European Union must switch to a holistic approach to biodiversity,  
1444 recognizing the direct links with climate change, agriculture, pollution,  
1445 transport and energy issues. These aspects should be taken as  
1446 principles in all foreign policy and development cooperation of the EU.

1447

1448 Any implementation must be taken with full cooperation of those  
1449 communities affected and all stakeholders must be fully involved in  
1450 the long process to address this issue.

1451

1452

## 1453 **Agriculture, Food and Rural Life**

1454

1455 The “Green Revolution”<sup>61</sup> brought us energy intensive agricultural  
1456 practices, known as industrialized agriculture, which has destroyed  
1457 ecosystems, seriously harmed biodiversity and lead to the loss of  
1458 fertile land which is becoming a serious problem. It brought us a  
1459 centralized seed market, with high performance seeds, which need  
1460 high input of chemicals and fertilizers to grow and are not able to  
1461 adjust to changing conditions and diseases.

1462

1463 The change of agricultural practices all over the world goes hand in  
1464 hand with the globalization of food markets, which set the focus on  
1465 cost efficiency over sustainability. In order to compete in this market  
1466 wages are reduced and working methods mechanised. This leads to  
1467 monocultures and loss of work leads to unsustainable urbanisation.

1468

1469 Food processing and distribution has been monopolized creating  
1470 significant obstacles for small farmers who don't have the money to  
1471 invest in the machines they need to match the standards of big food  
1472 companies.

1473

1474 Since the most basic and important livelihood of billions is falling  
1475 apart and the food security and safety of the rest of society is under  
1476 severe threat, FYEG demands immediate action: to stop  
1477 unsustainable, unfair, energy-intensive, centralized practices and  
1478 policies on the one hand, and to implement sustainable, fair and  
1479 energy-efficient, decentralized, democratic and local practices and  
1480 policies on the other hand.

1481

1482 There are many positive trends working towards sustainability,  
1483 fairness, energy-efficiency and decentralization. Financial support for

---

<sup>61</sup> See glossary 44.



1484 agricultural activities should be directed towards ecologically and  
1485 socially sustainable practices.

1486

1487 Organic farming must become the standard form of food production.  
1488 Other forms of bringing food production closer to consumers and  
1489 making it visible in everyday life in cities is also important.  
1490 Community gardening and urban farming, while usually small-scale,  
1491 helps us re-think our relationship to food, as well as being a positive  
1492 form of reclaiming unused urban space.

1493

1494 Our growing need for both food and living space must be solved  
1495 without large-scale expansion of either cities into rural areas or of  
1496 agriculture into especially biodiverse areas.

1497

1498 Local seed production is needed, not GMOs and high performance  
1499 seeds. The right to store and sow seeds should not be limited, and  
1500 seed patents should not be allowed.

1501

1502 GMOs are no solution to the food crisis and should be banned. They  
1503 can have a harmful impact on local ecosystems and support  
1504 multinational seed companies, who take away the freedom of the  
1505 farmers with unfair contracts. We are however, not inherently against  
1506 publicly funded research into GM products.

1507

1508 The unsustainable fishing practices of the EU is a serious problem for  
1509 food security and biodiversity. Overfishing in European waters has  
1510 lead to an unsustainable amount of fish, which in turn leads to socially  
1511 unacceptable fishing agreements. This leads to overfishing and  
1512 destroys the livelihood of local fishermen.

1513

1514 Fish farming currently is a threat to biodiversity and wild fish, and  
1515 massively pollutes oceans, seas and lakes. If fish is farmed, it must  
1516 take place either on land or with suitable mitigation measures.

1517

1518 In the European Union, the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is the  
1519 most important tool to influence agricultural practices. Today it serves  
1520 to support industrialized agriculture and export-orientated farming.

1521

1522 This has to be ended. Public money should go towards public goods.  
1523 The CAP should support farming styles and agricultural practices  
1524 which ensure biodiversity and a sustainable environment. It should  
1525 support rural areas through the support of regional markets and  
1526 small-scale farming, allowing local communities to be autonomous in  
1527 relation to food. A change in the CAP could offer an opportunity to  
1528 fight climate change by encouraging farming of edible crops instead  
1529 of meat for consumption.

1530

## 1531 **Bioethics**

1532

1533 FYEG sees value also in life itself. In addition to the obvious value of  
1534 ecosystems and consciousness, living beings in general must be

1535 treated with respect. We strongly oppose any misuse, abuse and  
1536 objectification of living beings.

1537

1538 Vegetarianism and veganism are preferable over other diets, not only  
1539 for their environmental benefits, but also out of respect for life itself.  
1540 Lifestyles using few or no animal products should be made possible  
1541 and supported at all stages of life, including public institutions. We  
1542 support legislation and the distribution of public resources to reduce  
1543 animal consumption.

1544

1545 In the life saving medical and physical sciences we strongly  
1546 encourage the development of alternatives to animal testing. In all  
1547 other branches of industry and science animal testing must be  
1548 banned. Furthermore, we call for pain-free husbandry, especially  
1549 agricultural animal farming and the introduction of adequate  
1550 regulations. We want to abolish the keeping of animals for circuses.  
1551 Zoos and other areas where animals are simply for people's  
1552 entertainment need to be abolished and large zoos need to be  
1553 transformed into parks. Hunting as a hobby must be discontinued. We  
1554 need more nature reserves and programmes for the preservation of  
1555 endangered species.

1556

1557 Conservation efforts must be de-coupled from entertainment using  
1558 animals such as zoos and circuses, which we see as denigrating and  
1559 often abusive.

1560

## 1561 **Ecology as the Fundament of Our Society**

1562

1563 Reality has a Green bias in that there are objective limits to material  
1564 growth and expansion. These restrictions set by our material reality  
1565 are a frame that all politics has to work within, and the Green  
1566 movement has been the first, though hopefully not the last, to  
1567 recognize this.

1568

1569 The consumption of non-renewable resources has always been and  
1570 remains a short-term option, whereas the values of nature that are  
1571 destroyed by such short-term actions may remained indefinitely. All of  
1572 society needs to recognize the long-term value which being destroyed  
1573 for short-term gains. Society must be re-structured to serve a long  
1574 term perspective.

1575

1576

1577

## **Conclusion**

1578

1579

1580 This document outlines our basic political beliefs and stances. It  
1581 creates a philosophical framework for action at a local level and  
1582 enables the Federation to elaborate concrete topical policy papers  
1583 and act politically in accordance.

1584

1585 Through creative discussion and debates we have improved our  
1586 knowledge and established a mutual understanding across the  
1587 Federation bringing our members closer together.

1588

1589 To bring about the much needed change in our fight for global social  
1590 and environmental justice, we strive to build alliances with other  
1591 political forces and actors. We shall do this on the basis of the ideas  
1592 and concepts we outline in this political platform both inside and  
1593 outside the Green Family.

1594

1595 A mandate for FYEG and its bodies is hereby established through our  
1596 vision of a better future. Collectively we will fight for this future!

1597

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# Glossary

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## **Democracy:**

- 1.**E-democracy:** the use of information and communication technologies to engage citizens, support the democratic decision-making process and strengthen democracy.
- 2.**Free software and Open source:** publicly licensed and available source code, granting users the right to use, copy, study, change, and improve the structure or design of software.
- 3.**Net neutrality:** the principle that advocates no restrictions by Internet Service Providers or governments on users of the internet.

## **Economy:**

- 4.**Wealth:** an abundance of valuable possessions or money.
- 5.**Wage labour:** the socio-economic relationship between a worker and an employer, where the worker sells their labour under a formal or informal employment contract.
- 6.**Neoliberal:** relating to or denoting a modified form of liberalism tending to favour free-market capitalism.
- 7.**Materialism:** a tendency to consider material possessions and physical comfort as more important than other values such as social, cultural or spiritual.
- 8.**Consumerism:** the preoccupation of society with the acquisition of consumer goods.
- 9.**Profit maximisation:** the process by which a firm determines the price and output level that returns the greatest profit.
- 10.**Production factors:** factors of production (or productive 'inputs' or 'resources') are any commodities or services used to produce goods and services.
- 11.**Intergenerational:** between generations e.g. intergenerational equity means equality between generations not simply within generations (intragenerational equity).
- 12.**Intragenerational:** occurring or existing between members of one generation.
- 13.**Sustainability:** meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
- 14.**Gross Domestic Product:** the total value of goods produced and services provided in a country during one year.
- 15.**Purchasing power:** purchasing power is the number of goods/services that can be purchased with a unit of currency. For example, if you had taken one dollar to a store in the 1950s, you would have been able to buy a greater number of items than you would today, indicating that you would have had a greater purchasing power in the 1950s.

- 1684 16. **Cooperative**: an organisation that is owned and run jointly by  
1685 its members, who share the profits or benefits.
- 1686 17. **Fiscal system**: of or relating to government revenue, especially  
1687 taxes.
- 1688 18. **Monetary policy**: monetary policy is the process by which the  
1689 monetary authority of a country controls the supply of money,  
1690 often targeting a rate of interest for the purpose of promoting  
1691 economic growth and stability.
- 1692 19. **Deficit**: an excess of expenditure or liabilities over income or  
1693 assets in a given period.
- 1694 20. **Surplus**: an excess of income or assets over expenditure or  
1695 liabilities in a given period, typically a fiscal year.
- 1696 21. **Macro-economic trends**: the behaviour of the aggregate  
1697 economy, including economy-wide phenomena such as changes  
1698 in unemployment, national income, rate of growth, gross  
1699 domestic product, inflation and price levels.
- 1700 22. **Inflation**: A general increase in prices and fall in the purchasing  
1701 value of money.
- 1702 23. **Tax harmonisation**: tax harmonisation refers to the process of  
1703 making taxes identical or at least similar in a region. In practice,  
1704 it usually means increasing tax in low-tax jurisdictions, rather  
1705 than reducing tax in high-tax jurisdictions or a combination of  
1706 both.
- 1707 24. **Real economy**: The real economy generally refers to the  
1708 nonfinancial economy—for example, manufacturing, farming,  
1709 trade, and services.
- 1710 25. **Accumulation**: the accumulation of capital is the gathering or  
1711 amassing of objects of value; the increase in wealth through  
1712 concentration; or the creation of wealth.
- 1713 26. **Qualification agencies**: financial rating agencies which  
1714 calculate how risky investments are.
- 1715 27. **Periphery**: periphery countries (sometimes referred to as just  
1716 the periphery) are those that are less “developed” than the  
1717 semi-periphery and core countries. These countries usually  
1718 receive a disproportionately small share of global wealth. They  
1719 have weak state institutions and are exploited by more  
1720 developed countries. By the exploitation of periphery country's  
1721 agriculture, cheap labour, and natural resources core countries  
1722 can remain dominant.
- 1723 28. **Anthropogenic**: originating in human activity
- 1724 29. **Carbon capture and storage**: Carbon capture and storage  
1725 (CCS), (carbon capture and sequestration), refers to technology  
1726 attempting to prevent the release of large quantities of CO<sub>2</sub> into  
1727 the atmosphere from fossil fuel use in power generation and  
1728 other industries by capturing CO<sub>2</sub>, transporting it and  
1729 ultimately, pumping it into underground geologic formations to  
1730 securely store it away from the atmosphere.
- 1731 30. **Geo-engineering**: Geo-engineering (or climate engineering)  
1732 means proposals to deliberately manipulate the Earth's climate  
1733 to counteract the effects of global warming from greenhouse  
1734 gas emissions.

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## Social Europe

- 31. **Basic income:** income unconditionally granted to all on an individual basis, without means testing or work requirements.
- 32. **Vis-à-vis:** literally 'face to face'. Often now used in the sense of 'in relation to'.
- 33. **International Labour Organisation (ILO):** is the international organization responsible for drawing up and overseeing international labour standards

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## Global Justice, Peace and Human Rights

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- 34. **Global South:** the collective title for states of South and Central America, Africa and most of the Asian states, considered as countries with a lower rate of “development”.
- 35. **Global North:** the collective title for the countries of Europe, North America and Australasia, considered highly “developed”.
- 36. **NATO:** the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is an intergovernmental military alliance based on the North Atlantic Treaty, signed on 1949. It is a collective defence force whereby its member states agree to mutual defence in response to an attack by any external party.
- 37. **FRONTEX:** the European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union is the European Union agency for external border security. It is responsible for co-ordinating the activities of the national border guards in ensuring the security of the EU's borders with non-member states.
- 38. **UNHCR:** the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, also known as the UN Refugee Agency is a United Nations agency mandated to protect and support refugees at the request of a government or the UN itself and assists in their voluntary repatriation, local integration or resettlement to a third country.

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## Identity, Equality and Inclusion

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- 39. **Social oppression:** the systematic, socially accepted mistreatment and exploitation of a group or category of people by anyone. In sociology, the tools of oppression include a progression of denigration, dehumanization, and demonisation; which often generate scapegoating, which is used to justify aggression against targeted groups and individuals.
- 40. **Cultural adaptation:** the sociological process of assimilation. It is a socio-political response to demographic multiculturalism that supports or promotes the assimilation of cultural and ethnic minorities into the dominant culture. Assimilation usually involves a gradual change and takes place in varying degrees; full assimilation occurs when new members of a society become

- 1785 indistinguishable from older members and they are forced to  
1786 abandon their own values, culture, history and identity.
- 1787 41. **Queer Theory**: a field of post-structuralist critical theory that  
1788 emerged in the early 1990s out of the fields of queer studies  
1789 and Women's studies. Whereas gay/lesbian studies focused its  
1790 inquiries into "natural" and "unnatural" behaviour with respect  
1791 to homosexual behaviour, queer theory expands its focus to  
1792 encompass any kind of sexual activity or identity that falls into  
1793 normative and deviant categories.
- 1794 42. **Queer**: an umbrella term for sexual minorities that are not  
1795 heterosexual, heteronormative, or gender-binary. In the context  
1796 of Western identity politics the term also acts as a label setting  
1797 queer-identifying people apart from discourse, ideologies, and  
1798 lifestyles that typify mainstream LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual,  
1799 and transsexual) communities as being oppressive or  
1800 assimilationist.
- 1801 43. **Churches**: refers to all kinds of religious institution, not only  
1802 Christian.  
1803

## 1804 **Ecology**

- 1805
- 1806 44. **Green Revolution**: a series of technological innovations,  
1807 transfers and research initiatives which rapidly increased  
1808 agricultural production around the world between 1940 and  
1809 1970, but now recognised to have had negative social and  
1810 ecological consequences.
- 1811 45. **Precautionary principle**: Principle 3 of the 1992 Rio  
1812 Declaration on Environment  
1813 and Development. Article 3.3 refers to the precautionary principle,  
1814 which is widely reflected in environmental law and  
1815 environmental agreements: "Where there are threats of serious  
1816 or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not  
1817 be used as a reason for postponing such measures" - a  
1818 statement which closely mirrors the wording of Principle 15 of  
1819 the Rio Declaration.  
1820  
1821