

MANIFESTO

PHILANTHROPY IS INDISPENSABLE TO OUR SOCIETY

The Netherlands has a long tradition of 'doing good', also known as philanthropy.

The majority of Dutch citizens donate to good causes. Almost one out of two people does volunteer work. Traditionally, philanthropy holds a prominent position in our democratic society. Private social initiatives take on social issues that the government and market cannot resolve and have become an indispensable foundation for our society. The government has the responsibility to strengthen the conditions in which philanthropy can flourish, independently and autonomously.

For centuries philanthropy has been the driving force behind the tackling of society's problems. Millions of people dedicate themselves to good causes on a daily basis. As volunteer, as donor or as member of an association. Through charities, private charitable foundations or churches. By actively taking initiative or by playing a charity lottery. All for their ideals. The impact is enormous. Locally, regionally, nationally and internationally. Our country, and great parts of the world, would be entirely different places without the commitment and support of these citizens.

Charities and private charitable foundations organise these social initiatives and find solutions for social issues. Additionally, churches contribute to these activities from their own independent position. Together they aim at establishing a society where social cohesion, active citizenship and fulfilment lie at its very heart. Citizens want to connect to others who share their ideals. Ideals that stem from compassion and solidarity. These are important values to our society. They spring from indignation about injustice, from care for the most vulnerable, from compassion with ill people, and from the responsibility for preserving valuable nature and culture. Motivated by these ideals, many individuals and philanthropic organisations offer solutions and concrete results. This has to be cherished, stimulated and rewarded persistently. Recognition by politicians and by the government is crucial. Especially now, when citizenship, participation and caring for each other are more important than ever.

The philanthropic sector asks the House of Representatives and the forthcoming cabinet to support and strengthen this social involvement and the dedication of all these people. In this Manifesto we offer five recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1 Treat the philanthropic sector as an important foundation of social commitment and active citizenship. Recognise the indispensable contributions of the sector to current social challenges and create space for legislation and regulation for this citizenship.
- 2 Use the knowledge and innovative power of the philanthropic sector while tackling social issues. Take its resolving power into consideration and involve the sector as invaluable partner in policymaking.
- 3 Recognise the great value of volunteer work for charities and society. Make sure that everyone is permitted to do volunteer work, including those who receive a benefit and refugees. Stimulate volunteer work and invest especially in youths.
- 4 Stimulate the voluntary efforts for our society of citizens, companies, charities, private charitable foundations and churches by having a tax policy that maintains donations deductible.
- 5 Make the social importance of charity lotteries a separate, fourth pillar in the gambling policy (in addition to the protection of consumers, prevention of addiction and fighting fraud and criminality). In this manner, anchor the fundraising role of charity lotteries.

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