



Opstaan

voor het
goede

2025 ChristenUnie Election Manifesto

English summary

ChristenUnie

Standing up for what's right

How's it going in the Netherlands?

And how are you?

Perhaps you're doing all right but still have some concerns: will I still have a home, a job or a study program in the future? Your children may have a nice group of friends, but what kind of world are they growing up in? Is there respect and room for our Christian identity, values and standards? What is the impact of the war and violence in the world on our country? And can the government still solve our problems? Is politics really there for me? Or maybe you don't even believe in politics anymore and have decided not to vote.

We all work hard, we care, we learn and we share in life together. In the meantime, we sometimes also experience major problems. Normal human dreams sometimes feel unattainable. Even the foundation for achieving these dreams may no longer seem like it's there: a government that tackles problems with integrity and justice. A government that protects the vulnerable without taking up more space than necessary. That is honest about what's not going well.

These values are under pressure, often due to government shortsightedness and self-interest. The desire for 'fast money' is poisoning the economy. Our attention and time are a fleeting revenue model. Too often, government policy makes problems worse instead of helping people out of their predicament. Politicians are mainly concerned with the issues of the day.

This needs to change, because we have already lost too much.

Change begins with us: people willing to do good, who stand up for others, and who are faithful to their environment, listening and serving. Those who say 'no' to injustice and 'yes' to a country where every person matters. People who see what we've lost and stand up for what's right. Those who seek the common good in politics and remain true to their principles.

For these people, ChristenUnie is an ally. Driven by faith—not in ourselves, but in God, in other people, and in what's right. We are called to do justice, to set boundaries and standards. To seek peace in our country, for each other and for the creation entrusted to our care. Not resigning ourselves to polarization and inequality, even if that's hard, boring, or unpopular. Because we believe that every human being counts, and that politics can be hopeful again.

That's why we stand up for parents and children who get stuck in systems that should be protecting them. For the volunteer workers, the 'language buddies', the caregivers, the youth leaders, and the sports trainers on Saturdays. For teachers, nurses and entrepreneurs who put their heart and soul into their work every day. For all who give without immediately asking for something in return. For a government that listens, is approachable, and wants to serve. For a liveable future that's just and fair for everyone.

Tackle challenges. Simplify processes. Value what's important.

We tackle:

Housing shortage

We will build 100,000 homes per year, of which at least two-thirds will be affordable for people with normal incomes.

Defence and development aid

We will ensure the Netherlands fully complies with agreements and meets international standards.

Unlocking the Netherlands

We dare to make decisions: investing in the future, reducing harmful emissions, and creating laws that really work.

We simplify:

Family financial support

Instead of the current child allowance and child-related budget, families will receive €4,500 per year for each child.

Complex taxes, benefits, and social security

We want to replace the jumble of benefits with a simple tax deduction. The first €30,000 you earn per year will not be taxed.

Less bureaucracy

For entrepreneurs, social organisations and volunteer workers.

We value:

Compulsory service

Young people play an important role in military and civilian service.

Each life matters

Euthanasia in adolescents under 30 with mental illness should not be permitted until better care is arranged.

Right to repair

Products should be durable and repairable.

Building communities

The Netherlands currently has a shortage of almost 400,000 homes. That’s why we want to build 100,000 homes every year, under the government’s direction. These houses will not only be affordable, but also future-proof and suitable for both young and old. Older people should be able to move more easily to homes that are appropriate for their stage of life, making room for families and first-time buyers. Municipalities will be tasked with creating enough senior housing.

Besides building, the key issue is liveability. Neighbourhoods and villages should be places where people meet and look after each other. That’s why ChristenUnie wants to abolish the cost-sharing standard, to give tenants more security, and to use ‘Housing First’ to eradicate homelessness. We see churches and voluntary organisations as valuable partners in society. In addition, to improve people’s quality of life, we will strengthen villages and regions through investment in public transport, small schools, colleges and care facilities. We also want to see a fairer distribution across the country when distributing public subsidies.

We acknowledge the moral debt owed to Groningen due to the gas extraction and promote a lenient and humane damage settlement. Investments will also be made in Zeeland and other regions, with a focus on water safety, flood protection, infrastructure and culture.

Unlocking the Netherlands

The Netherlands is trapped, locked in nitrogen regulations, insufficient capacity of electricity networks and a complicated tax system. ChristenUnie wants to halve nitrogen emissions and ensure all sectors contribute. Farmers will receive binding, business-specific targets and support for sustainability. Industry and mobility must also reduce emissions. This will enable the granting of licenses to resume. We plan to tackle network congestion through national direction, and substantial investments

will be made in infrastructure and storage. There will be a smart and flexible energy network that prioritizes homes, care facilities, and critical infrastructure.

The tax system will be completely revised. Benefits will disappear and will be replaced by a redeemable tax deduction. No one will pay tax on the first €30,000 of income. There will be a fairer passive versus active income distribution, and subsidies for fossil fuels and other pollution-causing activities will be abolished. In addition, there will be an annual ‘simplification day’ on which the government will be obliged to implement new simplifications of rules and systems.

Transport also needs to change. We will invest in railway lines such as the Lelylijn and the Nedersaksenlijn, make public transport cheaper and expand bicycle and foot paths. Driving will be taxed via a mileage charge, while Schiphol will shrink drastically and Lelystad Airport will not be opened. International rail connections will be strengthened.

A hopeful future for our children

Families are the first and most important community. Policies should support families rather than forcing parents to work full-time. ChristenUnie wants to give families financial space (through a child allowance of €4,500 per year and free or nearly free childcare) and adopt a legal objective to combat child poverty.

We will place greater emphasis on parenting support, relationship therapy and preventive assistance to identify problems early. Employee leave regulations will be simplified and extended (in particular, informal care and bereavement leave). Relationship therapy will be more accessible and reimbursed to support families.

We want to limit the influence of social media by banning it for children under 14 and by banning smartphones in schools. Platforms will also have stricter rules regarding age verification and

addiction sensitivity. In this way, ChristenUnie wants to contribute to a safe digital education for children.

The interest of children and biological parenthood is central to legislation on parenthood and parental authority. This means that donor and adoptive children have the right to know their origins. ChristenUnie is in favour of a careful phasing out of inter-country adoption.

ChristenUnie remains opposed to surrogate motherhood and commercial sperm donation. We oppose the regulation of surrogate motherhood where the child is genetically only partially or completely unrelated to the prospective parents.

Parents will be free to choose an education that fits their beliefs or educational vision. We will safeguard religious education in public education and protect school transport. Schools where children perform well will share their lessons with other schools. We will continue to invest in preschool, early childhood and newcomer education. Through funding and the educational disadvantage policy, we will continue to provide additional resources for schools with extra challenges and disadvantages. The government will ensure sufficient special needs education in each region, including full special needs secondary education at the HAVO and VWO levels. In primary education, there will be a country-wide appropriate offer of education for (highly) gifted people needing additional support to reduce early school dropout in this group.

A resilient constitutional state

ChristenUnie focuses on strengthening democracy and the constitutional state. This means protecting fundamental freedoms, ensuring justice for citizens and investing in trust between citizens and the government. We want to ensure that the constitutional state is resistant to undermining, crime and foreign interference.

Defence will be given 3.5% of the GDP to make our armed forces futureproof. The Netherlands

continues to work closely with NATO and European partners. In addition, more attention should be paid to cybersecurity, digital threats and the protection of vital infrastructure.

The connection with the Caribbean territories in the Kingdom must be strengthened: investing in education, care and the economy, with respect for local autonomy. ChristenUnie also wants to see a better balance in the constitutional state, with care for victims and a humane justice system.

Valuing all life and ensuring good healthcare

ChristenUnie stands for the protection of each human life, from the very beginning to the end. This means investing in palliative care, better care for the elderly, and more attention to mental healthcare (the GGZ). Informal caregivers will be supported and care will be organised closer to where people live.

ChristenUnie is reluctant to expand euthanasia. For young people under the age of 30 with mental health problems, we want to temporarily stop euthanasia until mental healthcare is better organised. The focus in care should be on prevention, healthy lifestyles and support for families.

Taking care of God’s creation

The earth has been entrusted to us and placed in our care. ChristenUnie stands for robust climate policy: reducing emissions by half, investing in sustainable energy, and protecting nature and biodiversity. The Netherlands should also play a leading role in European and global climate agreements.

Construction should be carried out in a circular and environmentally friendly manner. Innovation in biobased materials and energy saving will be encouraged. Water safety, flood protection and the restoration of nature reserves remain priorities.



A green and future-proof economy

The purpose of the economy should be to serve humans and creation. Growth can take place, but it must be sustainable. ChristenUnie focuses on circular agriculture, making industry sustainable and providing opportunities for farmers, market gardeners and fishermen. We plan to provide more support for innovation and entrepreneurship that contribute to sustainability.

Sustainable transport will be promoted, such as the use of trains, bicycles and electric vehicles. The aviation industry will need to downsize and become cleaner, and inland waterway transport must be made more sustainable. Public finances must remain sound and the euro should remain stable.

Access to rewarding work and putting an end to poverty

Everyone should have access to good, rewarding work. ChristenUnie wants to guarantee livelihood security through an adequate minimum wage. We will combat poverty and debt through better debt relief and prevention, and a structural increase in income for vulnerable groups.

We recognize that volunteer work and social welfare organisations are indispensable; they will receive support and a lighter regulatory burden. More attention will be paid to a healthy work-life balance, with room for informal care and volunteer work.

Setting boundaries, winning freedom

Freedom also means curbing harmful industries and practices. ChristenUnie wants

a society free of drugs, gambling, prostitution and pornography. We will vigorously combat human trafficking and exploitation. By setting boundaries, we win real freedom: a society in which people thrive without dependencies and addictions.

Justice worldwide

Internationally, ChristenUnie stands for solidarity with the poorest and most vulnerable. The Netherlands should devote 0.7% of its GDP to development aid and contribute to global justice. We are committed to peace, religious freedom and the protection of minorities worldwide.

Migration policy should be humane, involving the protection of refugees as well as clear boundaries and a regard for values and society. Fair trade with Africa and other continents will be promoted, with a view to sustainability and equality.

The European Union should be a community with the shared value of a commitment to democracy, the constitutional state and solidarity, rather than just the economy. The Netherlands plays a constructive and connecting role in this.

Conclusion

Together, we stand up for a society in which every human being is free, receives justice and can thrive. We want to stand up for you, too. Want to learn more about our election manifesto or receive information about a particular party objective? Feel free to contact us.

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