

# **Revolutionary Socialist Party Nijmegen**

Nijmegen knows a proud socialist tradition. Unfortunately, that tradition has made way for derivative political games with a lack of vision. We want to reestablish an optimistic, but where necessary, strong vision as an alternative. For a municipality that does not merely execute national policy but instead makes a more socialist sound. The sound of Nijmegen.

Capitalism divides the population into two social classes, the capitalist class which owns almost everything, and the working class, a group which works for wages and at best owns a house. There also exists a third group, of small owners, the self-employed and store owners. This group is shrinking because of the large capitalists who mercilessly outcompete them, with bankruptcy as consequence. Parts of the working class, the overwhelming majority of society, are being played off against one another so that they may work for wages at a company, because they can otherwise not get by. So, the workers produce all goods and services in the economy but are paid less than what they make for the capitalists.

Political parties such as the VVD, but also Groenlinks-PvdA, consciously or otherwise have the function of protecting these capitalists. They protect the order in which the working resident of Nijmegen has little power over their own work and environment, or the orders their bosses send them. In the end, participatory events are a pretence, and those with the most money have the most power. Municipality projects, paid for by our taxes, are again and again being leashed to the largest corporations, with the best connections. The elections every four years only show us who will be serving these companies for the next term. In practice, this is what democratic society looks like under capitalism.

Capitalism and its eternal hunger for profit are destroying our society and planet. The global market which causes a smaller and smaller group of capitalists to own everything, also causes the war, poverty and climate change which threaten our lives.

We are the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP) and because of the above, we fight for the overthrow of the undemocratic, capitalist order and the building of a socialist, democratic society. Thus, our program puts forth demands which put the control of the municipality in the hands of Nijmegen's working class, instead of in the hands of capitalist, corporate society, and government officials.

In this municipality program we describe a vision for our city. In it we look beyond the coming four years, or what is formally possible within the limitations of the city council. We draft a long-term vision of a socialist Nijmegen of and for Nijmegen's residents. We will not propose an endless list of specific policy proposals which will be discarded as soon as coalition negotiations begin.

We understand that our proposals are very different from current politics, but that makes it all the more important that we demand them. We will not sit idly until these demands find majority support among the population. We will be active within the council and on the streets for social policy, facilities and new steps to make the city more social, democratic and green. Our plan is not to simply join the political games to then sit back, but instead to build a

movement with its roots in all of our neighbourhoods, for a more democratic and socialist city.

## **Public housing**

As opposed to many other cities in the Netherlands, the public housing policy in Nijmegen is not disastrous. Still, there are enormous shortages of affordable housing for starters. Parties talk mostly about liberalization or “flow”, but not about the real problem: the marketing of housing because of which housing is not being built for people but for profit. For the RSP housing is not a means of speculation or investment, but a right.

1. Freezing of all rent! Every rent increase will be stopped. To make this happen we will found a municipal building company, which can provide the maintenance and building of housing without profits.
2. Expropriation of slumlords. Every landlord with more than one house will be expropriated and the ownership of more than one house in Nijmegen will be illegalized. Houses are for living in and not to a method to accrue riches. As long as vacancy remains an issue squatting will be formally tolerated.
3. Housing guarantee for everyone. Homelessness is not acceptable. That's why housing will become a right and the municipality will provide housing for every resident of Nijmegen.
4. Democratic control over all housing. Home renting will be folded into democratic housing associations controlled by the tenants. The companies which goal it is to earn as much money as possible off social housing will be transformed into housing associations.
5. Expansion of land ownership of the municipality. The municipality will immediately stop with selling its land to private companies and will use every method to regain all sold land. This way the municipality can democratically decide what the space in our city is used for.
6. The to-be-founded municipal building company will execute an emergency building project to solve the enormous and increasing shortage of affordable housing and student living spaces in Nijmegen. The university will stop with the unlimited recruitment of international students from whom they extract large sums of tuition fees without taking responsibility for their precarious living situations, or without sufficiently informing them of the Dutch housing crisis.

## **The fight against poverty**

Poverty in a time when there is enough for everyone is unacceptable. That is why good social facilities are essential to fight poverty and to increase the power of the working class. Affordable housing, free public transport and spaces for relaxation and organizing make sure that the working class can live a dignified life and have more time and energy to concern themselves with society and the possibility of effective organizing against capitalists, the government, and slumlords.

1. Free public transport under control of the municipality. The municipality increases the number of stops and makes them accessible for everyone.

2. The municipality takes over all companies which form local monopolies, for example suppliers of gas, water, and electricity, public transport, the postal service, and the municipal construction companies. Services which are of vital importance which are in the hands of capitalists, such as youth care, will become municipal services so that we can use every method to make them affordable and functional again. This way we stop giving taxpayer money to capitalist companies and instead give the working class control over the priorities and quality of goods and services.
3. Free healthy breakfast and lunch in all schools, so that children and young people are well fed.
4. An intense progressive tax on high incomes and corporate profits so that we can pay for all necessary facilities.

## **An extremely democratic municipality**

To become a truly democratic municipality, Nijmegen must be communally government by all of Nijmegen's residents. The RSP wants to remove obstacles for Nijmegen's residents who want to socially and politically organize. Our goal is democracy for the working class in all aspects of life, both at work and in neighbourhoods, in the municipal council and on campus. The following demands will make this happen.

1. Yearly municipal elections for greater democratic control over politicians.
2. Yearly elections for the position of mayor, the chief constable, and the municipal secretary, and other highly positioned civil servants. This way we ensure that civil servants work for the people of Nijmegen.
3. Democratic neighbourhood centres which get a yearly budget to organize cultural and social activities. This way local residents will get free reign over their own neighbourhood.
4. Founding of neighbourhood councils which govern the neighbourhood centres and organize events where local residents can make policy proposals to the municipal council.
5. Right to recall any representatives by the residents of Nijmegen at any times. If a representative loses support, they can be recalled with a referendum.
6. Prohibition of advertising by companies on the streets. These advertising spots will be replaced with billboards which may be used by any residents of Nijmegen, the municipality, the neighborhood centers, and social/cultural organizations.
7. Democracy in the municipal working place. All economic activities in the public sector will be collectively managed by employees and the municipality together. The economy will henceforth be democratically managed by the workers and the representatives of Nijmegen.
8. Stopping the hiring of capitalist companies to do municipal work. That work will henceforth be done by the municipality itself and its workers. This means a massive expansion of the public sector.
9. Complete transparency of all municipal affairs. The residents of Nijmegen can only accurately assess the municipal council if they get access to all the information they need. This information will automatically be uploaded to the website of the municipality. This way power over information cannot be used against the people.

10. Abolishing all limitations on freedom of demonstration and assembly. The freedom to demonstrate is often only theoretical. The mayor will no longer have the authority to direct emergency ordinances against demonstrations.
11. Democratization of high schools, MBO, HBO, and university. Every college will have yearly elections for both a student council and a worker's council, which will then co-govern its college.

## **The fight against discrimination**

The fight against all forms of repression is necessary for the entire working class's fight against the capitalist class. Exterminating every form of repression is in the interest of the entire working class, as it creates a strong, large socialist movement which truly fights for the freeing of all of humanity. That is why we are feminist, anti-racist and pro-LGBTQIA+ and we fight for the freeing of everyone who is repressed by sexism, racism, and hate for foreigners or queerphobia.

1. Zero tolerance for discriminating corporations. Organizations which are guilty of discrimination based on gender, sex, sexuality, ethnicity, skin colour, or place of birth, will immediately be closed and expropriated.
2. Free courses on social safety for all organizations in Nijmegen, organized by the municipality. We promote a safe work environment for everyone.
3. Leaving a dangerous home situation should be as easy as possible:
  - Direct priority for social housing in the case of divorce or the otherwise ending of cohabitation.
  - Free accessible childcare 24/7, without questions, terms or conditions.
4. Active tolerance policy for women who carry self-defence equipment such as pepper spray or brass knuckles. Self-armament is a right as long as social safety cannot be guaranteed.
5. Democratic control over the police by the municipal council. We will not tolerate discrimination.
6. Free language courses so that the residents of Nijmegen with an immigration background can more easily participate in the municipality and community.
7. The same rights for residents of Nijmegen without a passport. We ban the extreme exploitation of migrant workers and the undocumented.
8. Complete self-determination for trans and intersex people. A diagnosis is not necessary for medical transition. All procedures and treatments at the Radboudumc will be reimbursed. Self-determination also means that trans and intersex people do not need to undergo a procedure if they are unwilling. This means a complete ban on medically unnecessary operations on intersex babies.

## **Stop climate change!**

A radical greening of the economy is necessary. One cannot speak of power for the working class if the living environment of the working class is unliveable. That is why we need to carry out radical and urgent measures for nature and climate. We want to overcome the capitalism-caused climate change crisis and build a new way of living accounting for people, nature, and economy.

Nijmegen has been plagued for years by expensive climate ambitions, which do very little for the actual climate but mostly put money in the pockets of investors and companies. Climate change is a global problem for which international economic and political cooperation is necessary, but as a municipality we can also do our part. In Nijmegen we will do everything to fight (the effects of) climate change on the municipal level. Free and accessible public transport is necessary for a greener city, because it often makes the use of cars redundant with less emissions as a result. More changes are necessary, however.

1. The emission of greenhouse gases in Nijmegen to zero as quickly as possible. In other words, the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere will no longer be allowed to rise. For this we will employ all effective and safe technological means which reduce emissions. Simultaneously we will make sure that these measures will not cause unemployment or increased costs for the working class. The polluter, i.e. the capitalist, pays.
2. No cancer factory in our city! Nijmegen as a city has one of the lowest air qualities in the Netherlands. Previously the carcinogenic ANP factory in the industrial zone in Nijmegen West was closed, but unfortunately there are plenty more unhealthy stink factories. We close these factories as quickly as possible with an employment guarantee for all employees.

## **Stop war; Free Palestine!**

The RSP supports the Palestinian people and opposes any form of support for the genocidal oppression of the Israeli state. The genocide on the Palestinian people and the legitimate resistance against it did not start on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2023, but in 1948 with the bloody expulsion of the Palestinian people from their land by Israel. As municipality we will put forth all possible pressure on Israel to stop the genocide.

1. Nijmegen pronounces its support for the Palestinian people and acknowledges Palestine from the Jordan river to the Mediterranean Sea. We renounce the horrible, murderous and bloodthirsty genocide of Israel on the Palestinian people.
2. All economic and diplomatic ties with the state of Israel will be severed, and we renounce any form of cooperation with the genocidal, colonial state. This also means that we ban all IDF soldiers from participating in the 4Days Marches: our march is not a marketing opportunity for a genocidal army.
3. Execution of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaign. This means that only companies which are not on this list will be allowed to operate in Nijmegen.
4. Total resistance against war. All ties with the weapons industry will be severed and advertisements for the army will be banned.