

Visions desperately needed! What does justice stand for today?

Visions and results of the
"Inselseminar" (island seminar) on Sylt
(June 7 to 10, 2018)





INTRODUCTION

Our world today is marked by injustices. Not all people are equally free. We are not willing to accept these inequalities, because our actions determine whether they remain.

In the process of achieving greater equality, the acknowledgement of the individuality of each person is paramount. To this end, societies must prevent the exclusion of individuals or groups. Individuals contribute to this by acting fairly and aware of the consequences of their actions.

In addition, the creation of socially-diverse discourse spaces strengthens respect and openness towards others. In this regard, the reduction of communication barriers is indispensable.

In doing so, questions of justice must always be answered in their various dimensions (for example global, intergenerational, individual) and qualities (equality in terms of prospects, merit, distribution and participation). This guarantees peace and facilitates democracy.

In the following eleven theses, this manifesto ("Inselmanifest") takes up various potentials for more justice, to make our vision of a fairer world reality.



1. Justice - worldwide!

We are convinced that the realisation of justice always requires a global perspective. We therefore strive for a world community of solidarity in which every human being is economically and socially secure and can live free from violence. This requires the long-term and complete disarmament of all armies and armed forces.

As a step towards a solidary, non-violent world community, we are striving for a European federal state that is endowed with the appropriate competencies. As such, the European federal state considers itself as an open space for immigration in which all people can move freely and equally. No one should have to leave the centre of his or her life by force. We support the unconditional right to asylum.

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2. Participation is just(ice)

It is deeply unfair that those affected by a decision have no opportunity to participate in the decision making. Therefore, we need more citizen participation and flat hierarchies in all areas of society.

For this reason, we consider the implementation of a "consultative" as a promising opportunity: In addition to parliamentary democracy, randomly assembled councils of representative citizens must be established in all three powers of the state. In some areas (courts of lay assessors, deputies, hearings, etc.) this is already partly the case today. However, a broader structural anchoring and digital forms of participation are necessary to implement a "consultative" holistically.

At the same time, civil rights must be defended and strengthened against an increasing number of interference by the state and the economy.

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3. Education that meets everyone's needs

We demand free education for all. To this end, the current school system must be reformed. We need smaller classes, more individual support, social mixing and development-appropriate co-determination, to ensure that pupils enjoy learning together and without competitive pressure. Teaching content must not be influenced by the corporate sector and must reflect the diversity of society. The number of teachers must be increased, and healthy food offered free of charge.



Access to education funding (e.g. BAföG) must be independent of parents, income and assets. Also, trainees must have a minimum training salary. Both must be adapted to local conditions. Final grades must be less important than before in terms of access to education. Educational federalism in its present form is to be abolished.

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4. Justice through diversity

We want an open, non-discriminatory, tolerant, accepting society in which all people can participate, and everyone is considered equally worthy of protection. For a peaceful, democratic society of diversity, the state must actively promote social intermixing in urban and rural residential areas and in educational institutions. This can only be achieved through the self-conception of openness for all groups of people through holistic accessibility; among other things through the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, multilingualism in state agencies and official documents, or an interpreter hotline. The state in its model role must reflect the diversity of society in its employees with a quota system. At the same time, private companies must be obliged to implement diversity and make application procedures anonymous. Anti-discrimination authorities must be given more resources and more rights to act, so that discriminatory conduct can be sanctioned. At the same time, more resources must be made available for civil society engagement against discrimination.

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5. Gender equality

By gender justice we understand the legal and social equality of people of all social genders and sexual orientations. At present, our society is still characterized by outdated gender roles. These do not do justice to the diversity of the social sexes and restrict the free development of people of all sexes. To resolve these injustices, we demand: The abolition of the binary gender categories male and female; that social recognition of choice of career and profession does not depend on the social gender; information about gender diversity, different sexual orientations and forms of discrimination; the extension of the family concept in favour of a diversity of family forms.

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6. Fair wages and fair work

We demand a global minimum wage that is based on the purchasing power parity of the respective country and is regularly adjusted to inflation. Furthermore, an upper wage limit is set which corresponds to an appropriate wage ratio within each organisation.

The calculation of the hourly wage must be justified throughout all organisations and made publicly accessible in order to ensure equal pay for equal work.

Employment contracts may not be limited in time without the consent of a central trade union body.

Employees should be able to change the weekly working time in cases justified by changing life circumstances.

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7. A healthy system

We are against the economisation of the health system.

For a fair health and care system we need an obligatory state-organized citizens' insurance, accompanied by the abolition of the 2-class medicine.

In order to enable preventive care, it is necessary to provide regular precautionary examinations up to an advanced age. This should be holistically oriented towards the principle of individual health preservation (salutogenesis) and supported by the setting of incentives (e.g. bonus programs for dental check-ups). Emergency medical care must also be provided for everyone, including people without residence permit.

There is a need for a legally defined, nationwide distribution ratio for nurses and physicians, which is based on the need for nursing and medical care. Shift work must be designed as a 30h week, which must be consistently respected. The work of nursing staff must also be given greater monetary recognition. These measures are urgently needed to improve the attractiveness of the nursing profession in order to meet the demand for nursing staff. Everyone must be able to afford care in old age. This must not be a burden on the offspring. In order to make home care possible at the mutual request of relatives, it must be acknowledged more strongly, for example by relieving the workload and paying a worthy salary to the caring relatives.

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8. Basic assurance for all; limitation of inheritance

The construct of inheritance contradicts the ideal of a classless society of free and equal individuals. Heritage preserves and concentrates wealth over generations, resulting in ever-increasing wealth inequality. We therefore demand a significant limitation of inheritance.

An unconditional basic provision guarantees a carefree life without existential fear in social prosperity. This standard includes at least social participation, housing, drinking and eating. It should guarantee the possibility of individual self-determination in a society that is ideally characterised by equal opportunities.

Furthermore, there should be an income and consumption tax, which should relate to any income (from labour, capital gains and other returns) and the purchase of goods and services, with exemptions for low incomes. A progressive tax rate and the revenues from the significant limitation of inheritance provide for the financing of the basic assurance.

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9. Global climate justice

Since climate change does not stop at national borders, it is important to strengthen the understanding of climate and climate protection in society and international politics.

The boundlessness of climate change goes hand in hand with the progressive physical and temporal decoupling of those responsible and those affected.

To counter this injustice, generally binding agreements and a declaration of submission to the International Court of Justice on environmental and climate issues of each state are required.

Furthermore, we demand the development and consistent implementation of solutions to avoid negative climatic influences.

Multinational companies operate worldwide and should therefore be obliged to create climate justice. One proposed solution is the establishment of a climate protection fund, which is additionally financed by fines to compensate for climate damage.

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10. Sustainable consumption

Sustainable consumption is based on sustainable production in a 'circular economy'. This may not be carried out at the expense of others.

The production of goods and merchandise is designed for longevity and reparability and is carried out in a resource-saving manner. This means that consumer products are distributed fairly throughout the world and there is no overproduction. This is accompanied by the renunciation of some luxury goods.

The meat industry is one of the largest producers of CO₂, which is why vegetarian and climate-friendly food must be promoted globally.

In addition, a new, clear and obligatory label must be created that makes the social and environmental footprint of every product and service visible.

The sharing of goods must be promoted by the state. Among other things, repair workshops and second-hand models will be strengthened.

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11. Human-focused economies

Economy serves people, not the other way around. It is therefore necessary to democratize companies and capital by directly involving those affected locally in decision-making processes. Private property must be limited more than before. Transparency of economic activities must be ensured, among other things, through the establishment of a lobby register. Public welfare orientation and local self-government of critical infrastructure (water, energy, public transport, Internet) should oblige companies to act in a more solidary and sustainable manner. Alternative socially stabilizing concepts such as cooperatives are to be strengthened. Finally, it is essential to intensify international economic controls that counter monopolies and destabilization.

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Sylt, 10 June 2018

Consensually agreed on by the participants of the seminar "Visions urgently needed! What does justice stand for today?"

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