



# Believe in Norway

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**Høyre's Parliamentary  
Election Manifesto for  
2017–2021**



## HØYRES MISSION STATEMENT

“Høyre will pursue a conservative progressive policy based on Christian cultural values, constitutional government and democracy to promote personal freedom and social responsibility, co-determination and ownership rights, and a binding commitment to national and international cooperation”

(Adopted at the National Convention in Stavanger in 1971)

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## BELIEVE IN NORWAY

**We who live in this country create opportunities together.**

Over the generations we have created a society with economic prosperity and good welfare, a society where we trust each other and can work together to achieve our common goals, and a country where we offer opportunities to everyone, regardless of background.

As a society, we must ensure basic safety and security for you and your loved ones, whilst also giving individuals and families freedom of choice, room for growth and the opportunity to create your own future.

*We believe in Norway because we believe in everyone who lives here; we believe in individuals, families, local communities and in individual initiatives in business and industry and in the voluntary sector. We believe that our communal spirit is strengthened when it bears the stamp of freedom and responsibility, and when as many decisions as possible are taken at the local level. We believe that drive and creative ability strengthen the community. We believe in Norway because our country offers great opportunities that we can exploit together.*

**In the coming four-year period, our country will face great challenges, and the choices we make will play a role in determining the safety and security of the next generation and the opportunities offered them.**



Our job is to safeguard what is best in Norway and hand this down to future generations.

To ensure safety and security, and to exploit such opportunities, we must accommodate a new reality. The world is changing, society is changing and new tasks must be solved. Yesterday's solutions may no longer be satisfactory. Building Norway for the future therefore means gradual change and incremental reform. Not because change in itself is a goal, but because we as a society must tackle the changes.

#### **New insecurity:**

The world is more unstable today than for many years. New threats from authoritarian powers, terrorist attacks targeting innocent people and a growing number of volatile states affect us here at home. We can no longer believe that Norway is isolated from what is happening in the world around us. In this situation, it is vital that Norway has a strong defence capability, a police force that ensures security in everyday life and stable and predictable foreign policies.

#### **The great change:**

The oil and gas industry will be important for many decades to come, but Norway needs to have a broader economic base. We are facing a shift to a green economy in order to ensure more environment-friendly and sustainable value creation, and we must deal with a working life in which technology will break more and more boundaries. Our welfare relies on ensuring that existing jobs are not lost while others

are created. If companies are not successful, the number of jobs will decrease. If it is difficult to create new jobs, or fewer people contribute to the community, our long-term welfare will be threatened. If we fail to exploit the opportunities offered by new technology, we will slowly but surely lag behind. We must promote efforts and initiatives to safeguard and create jobs in the private sector.

#### **Sustainable welfare:**

Norway's oil revenues will decrease in the years ahead. Meanwhile we face unsolved challenges in a number of areas: children must get a good start in life, we must assist and integrate refugees and asylum seekers, combat social disparities and provide dignified and good-quality care to the growing number of elderly people. If we are unable to prioritize the key tasks, our general welfare will be weakened. We must give priority to core public sector tasks, and we must use our oil revenues to benefit future generations.

Høyre's vision is of a society with opportunities for all. Politics are important but a good society cannot be created by politicians alone. A good society builds on freedom and diversity and allows room for the efforts and initiatives of individuals, families, local communities, voluntary organizations, and business and industry.

*In the coming four-year period, our country will face great challenges, and the choices we make will play a role in determining the safety and security of the next generation and the opportunities offered them.*



## SECURITY

Høyre will ensure our fundamental security by means of strong national defence forces. As part of our foreign policy, we wish to protect basic European values such as freedom of speech, equality of treatment, and democracy. We want to have a visible police presence and to pursue a strict, predictable asylum policy.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Have a visible and effective police force that helps prevent, fight and solve crime, and that thwarts terrorism and radicalization.
- › Pursue a strict, fair and predictable asylum policy.
- › Renew and strengthen the Norwegian Armed Forces to protect the country and provide security for our citizens.
- › Pursue a foreign policy that defends Norwegian interests, democracy and human rights.

## A GOOD START IN LIFE

Høyre will give everyone the opportunity to experience a good childhood and education.

The Norwegian kindergarten and school will give the individual a safe and secure framework and the skills necessary to manage in life.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Prioritize learning through play in the kindergarten in order to promote the child's social development and to ensure that children have good language skills when they start school.
- › Reinforce early efforts at school so that all children acquire basic skills and experience a sense of mastery.
- › Continue the drive for vocational subjects and more apprenticeships.
- › Strengthen the range of provisions for vulnerable children and young people.

**The most important element of welfare is to have a job to go to.**



## WORK AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES

**The most important element of welfare is to have a job to go to.**

We must safeguard the jobs that we already have and make provisions for the creation of new ones. We need to encourage entrepreneurship and founders, and ensure that our enterprises enjoy opportunities for growth. Høyre wants an inclusive labour market with more people in work than today.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Safeguard jobs through prudent economic management and good conditions for enterprises.
- › Encourage and make provisions for more start-up enterprises.
- › Continue the large investment in research and development.
- › Continue the investment in expansion and upgrading of roads, public transport and railways.
- › Continue the efforts to simplify and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy.

## PARTICIPATION AND INVOLVEMENT

**Høyre will make it possible for anyone to contribute to society who wants to and is able to.**

People who for various reasons are excluded from such involvement must be given access to the support and assistance they need. We will work to ensure that everyone can participate in our communal arenas such as kindergartens, schools, the workplace and voluntary organizations.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Promote swift and targeted efforts to provide tuition in Norwegian language and culture for recently arrived asylum seekers, as well as assistance with finding a job.
- › Boost the opportunities enjoyed by social entrepreneurs to contribute to society's welfare initiatives.
- › Ensure that all children can speak Norwegian before they start school.
- › Ensure that all children and young people have an opportunity to take part in leisure activities and in social and educational arenas.



## HELP AND CARE WHEN YOU NEED IT

**Høyre wants to have a welfare system that will provide help when you need it.**

We want to create a patient-focused health service and continue work on reducing health queues and waiting times. We must fight social disparities through a better education system and provide more targeted assistance to those who need it most. The welfare system must give people a new chance and not shut them out of the employment market.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Continue work on reducing queues and waiting times in the health service.
- › Expand the package pathways introduced in cancer treatment to include other widespread diseases.
- › Expand mental health care.
- › Ensure good and worthy care tailored to individual needs and employ welfare technology to increase the quality of services.
- › Reform the welfare system to ensure basic security and give more people an opportunity to enter the workforce.

## THE GREEN SHIFT

**Høyre's ideological point of departure is management responsibility.**

We have to leave the planet we took over from our forefathers in at least as good a condition for our descendants. The green shift gives us opportunities to develop new technology and create new jobs. We think that Norway should achieve a low-carbon society and help fulfil the Paris Agreement.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Facilitate restructuring to a greener society with new, sustainable jobs by specifying environmental requirements and by using the system of taxes and duties.
- › Help promote a rapid phasing in of zero and low-carbon solutions so that the transport sector will be carbon-free.
- › Strengthen central government support schemes that reduce the financial risk that companies assume when they try out new technology
- › Specify requirements and introduce measures that help promote environmentally friendly urban and local development in the municipalities.

# A SAFE AND SECURE COUNTRY

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## STRONG NATIONAL DEFENCE

**Høyre will restore Norway's defence capability and build armed forces that have the fighting capacity and economic sustainability to defend our country and protect our citizens**

The state's most important responsibility is to ensure the safety and security of Norwegian citizens and society at large. Høyre will further develop armed forces that safeguard Norway's interests, sovereignty and freedom to take independent action, and that enable us to meet our obligations to NATO and neighbouring regions. Høyre believes that Norway's security policy interests can best be safeguarded by promoting détente, deterrence, security and stability in neighbouring regions and by working internationally to prevent the proliferation of terrorism. At the same time, Høyre will strengthen and renew the Armed Forces. Developments in the security policy situation are presenting Norway with new challenges, both at home and abroad.

Høyre will give priority to Norway's national defence capabilities and continue to improve the Armed Forces' rapid response capability, combative strength and endurance. It is critical to ensure that there are sufficient economic resources for military exercises and training, operations and maintenance, investments and recruitment of suitable, motivated personnel. The Armed Forces must have a balance between economics, tasks and structure that is sustainable over time.

Høyre will retain the system of compulsory military service. We believe that we have a serious obligation to take care of our veterans. In an era of new, complex threats, Høyre will modernize and strengthen all aspects of the Armed Forces in close cooperation with the defence sector and society at large. The fact that we have

a Norwegian defence industry helps to enhance our national defence capabilities through a high degree of supply security and military materials and equipment. National solutions for the development, production and maintenance of critical materials and equipment are needed to ensure our security.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Build modern, relevant ground forces in which the tasks, structure and capacity of the Norwegian Army and Home Guard are further developed to increase operational capacity while at the same time maintaining the organization's distinctive features.
- Further develop a scheme for the use of reservists that ensures the Armed Forces have relevant expertise and that helps to expand the forces when necessary.
- Maintain and improve situation awareness and crisis management.
- Improve rapid response capability, combative force and endurance, facilitate allied enforcements, strengthen bilateral and multinational cooperation, increase the military's presence, and facilitate more military exercises and training.
- Continue the necessary restructuring and modernization of the Armed Forces to enhance their operational capacity and be well equipped to confront current and future threats.
- Ensure cohesive, balanced armed forces with mutually reinforcing capacities within land, naval and air forces.
- Continue the system of compulsory military service, as it is an important part of the social contract and a critical connection between the Armed Forces and society at large.
- Ensure a strong Norwegian territorial presence in regions adjacent to Norway, situation awareness, assertion of sovereignty throughout the entire country, and reliable, preventive deterrence capability.

- › Strengthen cooperation between the Police and the Armed Forces.
- › Continue with a genuine, significant increase in allocations to the Armed Forces. Høyre supports the decisions taken at the 2014 Wales Summit of NATO, which establishes a target for a gradual increase in the member countries' defence budgets of up to two per cent during a ten-year period. In keeping with this, Høyre will continue to use at least 20 per cent of the defence budget on investments in the Armed Forces.
- › Ensure that Norway meets its obligations under the NATO alliance, both by supporting NATO's permanent presence in Norway and by taking responsibility for international security and stability as part of the alliance.
- › Expand the Nordic Defence Alliance (NORDEF) as a supplement to our cooperation with our NATO allies.
- › Fight international terrorism through political and economic means and through participation in international cooperation and international operations.
- › Help to maintain and further develop an internationally competitive Norwegian defence industry with good offset agreements.
- › Take good care of those who are physically injured or psychologically harmed from their participation in international operations for Norway.
- › Cooperate more with other countries on procurement of military materials and equipment when doing so will generate operative and economic added value, and set strict requirements for Norwegian weapons exports.
- › Make provisions so that the branches of the Armed Forces can increase the level of military exercises and training, and ensure shorter response times.
- › Expand Norway's bilateral defence cooperation with the United States, in part by providing advanced storage of military materials and equipment in Norway.
- › Strengthen the operational capacity of cyber defence and intelligence in keeping with new technology and coordination requirements.
- › Further develop all aspects of the Armed Forces (total defence concept).





## SAFETY AND SECURITY IN DAILY LIFE

Høyre wants to have a visible, effective police force that helps to prevent, fight and end criminal activity and that prevents terrorism and radicalization

Norway and Europe are facing serious threats to individuals, institutions and important values in our society. War in nearby regions, terrorism, human trafficking, kidnapping and cybercrime are examples of the new threat and crime situation that has arisen. Høyre believes it is necessary to enhance our preparedness to deal with attacks against Norwegian citizens, institutions, the business sector and the civil sector. The population's fundamental legal and privacy protection must be preserved. We will enhance our preparedness to deal with crisis situations and establish strict sentences for serious crimes.





## CHILD AND YOUTH CARE

**Høyre wants to strengthen anti-crime efforts. Measures against radicalization and extremism must be given priority**

The most important preventive efforts begin with children and adolescents. Good schools and a varied programme of organized leisure activities are important prerequisites for creating inclusive local communities and good conditions for raising children. Høyre wants to have a visible police presence that cooperates well with local communities, non-profit organizations, sports associations, schools, municipalities and correctional services. We will fight open drug scenes, and have a zero-tolerance policy towards the sale of illegal substances in areas frequented by children and adolescents.

Efforts to prevent radicalization and extremism must be given priority. Municipalities must learn from other municipalities that have launched important efforts in this area in order to augment their ability to identify youth who are at risk and increase the chance that critical measures are implemented in time.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Have an accessible police force with good local presence and accessibility on the Internet, combined with stronger communities of professionals in the police districts.
- › Reinforce the police councils and strengthen local prevention efforts. Expand targeted measures for local efforts to fight radicalization and violent extremism.
- › Improve the use of conflict resolution councils, sentences for youth, and follow-up teams for young offenders in less serious cases.
- › Make greater use of alternative criminal penalties to keep young offenders who have committed less serious crimes out of prison.
- › Strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation between the police and the health, childrearing and cultural functions in the municipalities.
- › Mobilize the voluntary sector to help to prevent and counteract recruitment to criminal circles and extremist groups.
- › Intensify the effort to fight forced marriage, domestic violence and hate-motivated violence.
- › Ensure that the police have special expertise in domestic violence, violence against children and violence in intimate relationships.
- › Further enhance the capacity of the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) to fight crime across national borders, such as terrorism and cyber attacks.

## SAFE COMMUNITIES AND EFFICIENT LAW ENFORCEMENT

Høyre wants to have an effective, visible police force in a state of readiness and quick handling of criminal cases. The path from court judgment to meting out punishment must be short.

Local knowledge, local presence, a high level of expertise, and preparedness in all police districts are critical for the population's safety and security and for the ability of the police to carry out their tasks. Høyre wants to see quick handling of criminal cases and meting out punishment for crimes shortly after a court judgment is handed down. Reported crimes must be investigated and prosecuted when necessary. The efforts related to virtualization and simulation technology within e.g. the preparedness and emergency agencies must be strengthened.

The police must be equipped to address the threat of terrorism and organized crime. Far-reaching police methods must be subject to strict control from the courts and only be used against individuals and groups suspected of extremely serious criminal activity.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that the police have sound, effective methods of fighting crime, but also ensure that police methods are always balanced in relation to considerations of personal privacy and due process.
- › Ensure that the police have sufficient expertise and modern technology to strengthen their preparedness capability and fight crime.
- › Give the police sufficient capacity to prioritize petty criminal activity.
- › Intensify the efforts to fight violence in intimate relationships through crisis centres and other resource groups.
- › Increase capacity in the police's cybercrime units to address new challenges presented by crime and threats on the Internet and in social media.
- › Strengthen the efforts to fight child abuse.



- › Have close cooperation on justice policy with the EU and international organizations on transnational crime, human trafficking and terrorism.
- › Allow the use of more accredited suppliers of DNA analyses to ensure faster investigation and better guarantees of due process.
- › Strengthen the efforts related to virtualization and simulation technology, e.g. within the preparedness and emergency agencies.
- › Have close cooperation between the municipalities and the police, especially in the area of prevention, through binding cooperation via the SLT model (coordination of local measures to prevent substance abuse and crime), and a permanent police contact person in all municipalities.
- › Ensure that the police have the capacity needed to address threats and particular challenges related to urban crime.
- › Ensure strict limitations on the storage and use of surplus information from communication monitoring and review the rules on the storage and use of such information.
- › Allow beer in parks.

## PREPAREDNESS AGAINST DISASTERS

Høyre will safeguard government authorities, civil society and private individuals against attacks, threats and dangers.

The threats that pose a risk to society are continually changing. In addition to natural disasters and extreme weather, some of the current threats against government authorities, private individuals or companies include terrorism, serious crime and cyber attacks. It is critical that we prevent as well as uncover threats from extremist and militant groups or individuals.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Further strengthen the Norwegian Police Security Service (PST) to ensure the best possible preparedness in the fight against terrorism, espionage and radicalization.
- › Prioritize the fight against organized crime.
- › Train the various emergency and preparedness agencies to improve cooperation amongst them.
- › Continue to improve cooperation between the Armed Forces, the police and civilian authorities. Further develop the total defence concept for mutual civilian-military support in times of peace, crisis and conflict.
- › Have good cyber threat intelligence and national coordination that safeguards Norway against serious cyber attacks, ID theft and espionage against government authorities, companies and individuals.
- › Ensure cooperation between preparedness authorities and humanitarian and socially beneficial organizations that maintain emergency preparedness and rescue functions in society.
- › Ensure that Norwegian police, as a general rule, are unarmed. When threats result in an especially great need to protect the population and important societal institutions, or when locations and objects are at particular risk of terror attack, general arming of the police force may be permitted.



## MODERN LAW

**Høyre will protect citizens' legal rights and utilize new technology to ensure effective, thorough and fair treatment by the courts.**

Høyre believes it is important for people's sense of justice and confidence in the state to ensure that all cases in the judicial system are handled in a thorough and effective manner. All citizens must receive equal treatment in the judicial system. The courts must be equipped to manage a situation in which the police are given greater capacity to investigate and prosecute more cases. We want to digitize case procedures so that they proceed more quickly. When handling larger criminal cases, the security level in the courts should be raised.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Facilitate the use of sound and images in all courtrooms so that case procedures and testimony are documented and can be used in any appeal.
- › Increase the capacity of the courts to hear a larger number of cases, both civilian and criminal cases, and reduce the time between commission of a crime and any detention in custody, sentencing and serving of the sentence in criminal cases.
- › Increase the level of security in courtrooms.

- › Make it possible for all case paperwork and documented evidence to be available in electronic format in order to save time in case processing in all phases and at the same time strengthen protection under the law.
- › Strengthen protection under the law through a better, more targeted public system of legal aid and support alternative forms of legal aid.
- › Ensure speedy summoning to serve the sentence when the defendant has pleaded guilty.
- › Improve services for witness support and follow-up of next of kin.
- › Abolish the ban on the purchase of sexual services to improve the situation of commercial sex workers.
- › Strengthen efforts to prevent human trafficking and adapt legislation to make daily life safer for commercial sex workers.
- › Support programmes and services that work to get people out of commercial sex work.
- › Review the penal code with a view to removing unnecessary prohibitions.

## THE PENAL SYSTEM

### Høyre wants to have tough sentences for serious crimes

Criminal penalties must be an effective, fair and predictable response to criminal activity and violations of the law. Høyre believes that a good penal system is the state's most important tool for rehabilitation, for preventive signals and for the general conception of justice in society. To maintain the legitimacy of criminal penalties, all segments of the criminal punishment process must have capacity to carry out investigation, court proceedings and imprisonment.

#### HØYRE WILL:

- Have sentences that correspond to the seriousness of the crime. Sentences must be increased considerably for crimes such as homicide, grievous bodily harm, rape, abuse, human trafficking, terrorism and serious drug-related crime.
- It must continue to be the case that stricter sentences will be imposed for crimes against defenceless individuals or children.
- Reduce the queues for those waiting to serve their sentence and increase the number of transfers of foreign convicted offenders to home-country prisons.
- Establish alternative custodial terms for foreign convicts who will not be reintroduced to Norwegian society.
- Increase the use of domestic violence alarms to prevent those on whom an exclusion order has been imposed from contacting the aggrieved party.
- Prevent radicalization during imprisonment.
- Increase the use of alternative ways to serve a sentence, such as electronic ankle monitors, for less serious offences.
- Ensure that prisoners can take part in organized activities, education, rehabilitation for drug abuse if needed, and aftercare in accordance with an individual plan when the prisoner has served his/her sentence, in cooperation with the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) and voluntary organizations.



## NORWAY'S ROLE IN THE WORLD

**Høyre will safeguard Norwegian interests and promote greater international cooperation on transnational challenges.**

Foreign policy no longer entails only what takes place outside of Norway, but affects our daily lives. Norwegian foreign policy must safeguard Norwegian interests and values. As a small country with an open economy, we benefit from close international cooperation, a system of international law and an effective framework for international trade.



Environmental challenges, war, refugees, poverty and insufficient development are problems that ultimately cannot be solved by the individual nation-state alone. Norway must be a driving force for international agreements that establish freer trade and include more countries in the global economy and economic growth. The efforts to strengthen the WTO as a negotiation forum are critical in this context, and new regional trade agreements are being developed as well. It is also important that Norway is not excluded when new regional trade agreements are negotiated and enter into force.

Access to the EU's internal market is an important precondition for maintaining the level of welfare in Norwegian society. The EU is and will continue to be Norway's most important trading partner. At the same time, the development of Norwegian society is affected to a large degree by decisions taken in the EU. Norwegian voters are not represented in this political process. This is a democratic problem. Høyre wants to replace the EEA Agreement with full participation in the EU. If this comes under consideration, a public referendum must be held on Norwegian membership in the EU. We want to prioritize more active policies in our relationship with the EU.

Extensive participation in development efforts gives Norway a clear role and voice in the international community. The goal of Norwegian development assistance is to fight poverty and help countries and their citizens to be self-sufficient. Our aim is to further develop a modern national defence force with adequate capacity to maintain security in Norway and assist in allied operations. A globalized world increases our mutual dependence.

In an increasing number of areas, our domestic policy is affected by changes outside of our national borders. Thus, there is a growing need to pursue an active foreign policy in close cooperation with our allies, including for domestic policy reasons. Høyre will promote democracy and human rights, and secure our constitutional government and freedom of expression through our development and foreign policy. Norway will work actively to reinforce international law and binding international cooperation.

#### **HØYRE WILL:**

- Pursue a foreign policy that safeguards Norwegian interests.
- Be a guarantor for the EEA Agreement and maintain close cooperation with the EU through active policies in our relationship with the EU.
- Ensure EEA funding for research, climate measures, the green economy, efforts to promote human rights, and migration measures.
- Be a driving force for free trade and enter into new, improved trade agreements. To support Norwegian exports and to safeguard Norwegian companies and jobs, Norway should consider supporting a potential trade agreement between the United States and the EU.
- Strengthen binding cooperation to solve the transnational challenges Norway is facing.
- Work to obtain universal support for the International Court of Justice.
- Work for stronger international cooperation to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and support the development of new instruments of humanitarian law to reinforce existing agreements on disarmament.
- Lay a foundation for a world free from nuclear weapons, in accordance with NATO's strategic concept.
- Ensure that Norway continues to participate in, and be a driving force behind, the international efforts against aggressive tax planning and undermining of the tax base through profit shifting in multinational corporations.
- Allow dual citizenship in Norway.

## INTERNATIONAL AID THROUGH IDEALISM AND REALISM

**Høyre wants to see development and aid policy foster development and growth, and help to mobilize countries' own resources**

An open economy and extensive international trade are the driving forces behind economic growth, which leads to jobs, better distribution of wealth, innovation and welfare. In the past 20 years, about one billion people were lifted out of extreme poverty. This has occurred primarily as a result of economic growth and deregulation in Eastern Europe, China and India. The common feature is a more open economy and extensive international trade. Aid for development in other parts of the world entails our responsibility to help our fellow human beings, but it is also in Norway's interest to promote development and human rights, both for security-policy considerations and to prevent instability that can in turn affect us.

Høyre will continue the efforts to enhance efficiency and streamline Norwegian development aid to achieve better results. Norwegian efforts must focus on fewer countries and thematic areas than is the case today. We will therefore work to ensure that Norwegian development aid is targeted primarily towards building up a well-functioning judicial system and a good system of governance, strengthening efforts to fight corruption and requiring democratic reforms in recipient countries.

Development policy must support processes that generate lasting change and make the countries better equipped to attract investments that fuel development and inclusive, sustainable growth. Humanitarian aid must be given to the most vulnerable and to those affected by war, conflict and natural disasters. The fight to end poverty requires a wide range of national and international measures targeted at both individuals and countries. Høyre will continue to prioritize support for education.

### **HØYRE WILL:**

- › Continue a high level of Norwegian development aid.
- › Continue the efforts to concentrate this aid thematically and geographically to ensure good management and a positive impact.

- › Continue to give priority to education, especially for girls.
- › Work to increase trade between Norway and the world's poorest countries.
- › Reduce infant mortality and improve conditions for children by supporting health and nutrition measures that are targeted especially towards women.
- › Work to ensure that Norwegian aid promotes resource mobilization in the recipient countries.
- › Help to increase Norwegian investments through public and private cooperation and by developing bilateral and multilateral agreements that ensure the best possible legal framework for investment.
- › Work to reduce customs barriers vis-à-vis developing countries.
- › Support the efforts of voluntary organizations in emergency humanitarian disasters.
- › Continue a critical review of Norwegian development funds to ensure the best possible results.
- › Enhance control and follow-up systems that ensure the aid allocations are managed by the recipient countries as intended and that this information is open and available to the public.
- › Direct a larger portion of the aid effort towards vulnerable states to prevent war, conflict and instability.
- › Reinforce Norfund and encourage more private investment in developing countries.



**Universal human rights must apply to all, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, functional capacity, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression.**

## HUMAN RIGHTS

**Høyre will work to combat violations of universal human rights around the world.**

Universal human rights must apply to all, regardless of gender, religion, ethnicity, nationality, functional capacity, sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. Norway must be a driving force in advancing rights related to gender equality and equal status. Høyre will support measures that ensure opportunities for individuals with regard to improved health, sexual and reproductive rights, clean water and access to energy.

Human rights are coming under increasing pressure internationally. It is worrisome that the rule of law is weak in many countries. The ability of civil society and human rights activists to take independent action has been weakened in many places. We also see states that commit crimes against their own people and persecute minorities. This trend requires us to strengthen our work to defend and promote human rights.

### **HØYRE WILL:**

- › Work for an effective UN in which human rights are given priority across the organization and receive a larger share of the overall resources.

- › Work to ensure that Norway takes a leading international role in the fight for women's rights and gender equality.
- › Establish clear requirements for recipients of Norwegian development assistance regarding their willingness to promote human rights, democracy and development of the rule of law.
- › Promote international efforts to ensure equal rights and equal treatment for the LGBTQ community.
- › Be a driving force internationally in the fight against child marriage, offer assistance with developing legal protections against forced marriage and conduct information campaigns to encourage parents to discontinue such practices that deprive others of their liberties.
- › Work to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals and draw up a plan for how Norway can achieve these goals.
- › Escalate efforts internationally to safeguard sexual and reproductive rights and opportunities for family planning.

## INNOVATION IN THE HIGH NORTH

Høyre will develop the High North as Norway's main area of interest for foreign policy and create innovation and sustainable jobs in the North.

The High North is Norway's main area of interest for foreign policy. The three northernmost counties are rich in natural resources, and must be developed into one of Norway's most innovative regions. The High North must be characterized by stability, innovation and job creation.

The High North policy implies a sound, integrated regional policy. Northern Norway and Svalbard must have local communities, cities, stakeholders and structures that contribute to and affect activity related to the national resources found in the High North. Attractive cities and local communities are critical for making the best use of the resources found in the High North.

Høyre will pursue a High North policy that seeks to create value and jobs based on the rich natural resources in the North. Fisheries, aquaculture, minerals, tourism, and oil and gas are all examples of industries that generate industrial development in the High North. Industrial economic activity makes a significant contribution to securing the High North and creating jobs in the region. Innovation and development must be carried out in an environmentally, socially and economically sustainable manner. The objective is to ensure national value creation and to maintain Norwegian sovereignty.

International cooperation, people-to-people cooperation, a regional perspective and safeguarding indigenous people's rights are especially significant for the development of the High North. International protection initiatives must not be allowed to limit the potential for continued sustainable use of the resources in the High North and Arctic.



### HØYRE WILL:

- Ensure that Norway is the leading Arctic nation in innovation and resource management, both on land and at sea.
- Enhance the development of attractive cities and local communities in the High North to ensure access to skilled labour and enhance the region's competitiveness;
- Draw up an overall national strategy on the development of structures and investments in the High North. The aim is to generate national growth, development and jobs in the North.
- Ensure that Norway takes a leading role in promoting the blue-green economy and the management of marine resources in a sustainable manner.
- Ensure that Norwegian settlement and activity that encompasses business, knowledge, resource management and culture form the basis of the further development of Svalbard. Our goal is to have a diversified industrial structure and activity on Svalbard.
- Ensure that the High North is a peaceful, stable region. This will be secured through international cooperation and through civilian and military presence and activity.
- Ensure that Norway continues to play a leading role in research on and prevention, collection and management of marine waste.

## STRICT IMMIGRATION POLICY, GOOD INTEGRATION

Høyre seeks to have a strict, fair and predictable asylum policy in keeping with international conventions and in cooperation with other countries.

Europe is experiencing a historically large influx of refugees and migrants. The migration is international, and can only be managed through extensive cooperation between many countries. Høyre wants to strengthen international cooperation to secure Europe's common external border, ensure a fair distribution of refugees in need of protection, and prevent vulnerable groups from becoming refugees.

Norway has an obligation to help people in need and provide protection from persecution. The asylum institution is a critical means of providing protection to people at genuine risk. To prevent misuse of asylum, strict but fair practices are necessary. This implies a consistent policy that will result in fewer groundless asylum seekers coming to Norway, and that those who are granted asylum will have their applications processed rapidly. The potential to delay repatriation after rejection of an asylum application must be restricted.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Pursue a strict, fair and predictable refugee and asylum policy that limits groundless asylum applications to Norway,
- Comply with the international conventions to which Norway is bound regarding reception of asylum seekers.
- Use Norwegian aid and emergency assistance to alleviate the situation in refugees' and asylum seekers' home countries and neighbouring regions.
- Make provisions so that highly qualified labour, including from countries outside the EEA, can be employed in Norway.
- Norway will give refugee status to individuals that satisfy the requirements of the UN Refugee Convention, and give other asylum seekers the right to subsidiary protection.

- Expand cooperation with other European countries to prevent inhumane escape routes and irregular migration, and to fight human smuggling.
- Support sustainable distribution of asylum seekers to Europe via the Dublin Regulation.
- Ensure the quick return of groundless asylum seekers and persons who are staying illegally in Norway to their country of origin.
- Increase the level of expertise on the LGBTQ community throughout all asylum stages and ensure their safety while staying in asylum reception centres;
- Introduce restrictions in the Immigration Act to make it less appealing to send unaccompanied minors without a need for protection to seek asylum in Norway.
- Introduce restrictions in regulations regarding family reunification.
- Adjust the processing capacity of the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) and police to correspond to the immigrant arrival figures to ensure the shortest possible waiting time.
- Put in place effective methods of establishing the age and identity of immigrants and ensure effective enforcement of the requirement in the Immigration Act that asylum seekers help to clarify their own identity.
- Respond to countries that refuse to repatriate their own citizens by reassessing Norwegian development assistance to these countries.
- Consider introducing a period of limitation in citizenship cases.
- Strengthen efforts to prevent children from disappearing from reception centres.



# SAFE EMPLOY- MENT AND JOB CREATION

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## SAFE EMPLOYMENT AND JOB CREATION

The key objective of Høyre's economic policy is to safeguard and create more profitable jobs in the private sector to ensure our shared welfare.

Our shared labour forms the basis for both private and public welfare. Having a job provides an income and welfare for individuals, families and society. Creating more new jobs is therefore the key objective of economic policy.

Working must pay off. Wealth must be created before it can be spent. Therefore, economic growth in the private sector needs to be strong. Those who invest and create opportunities for themselves and others through creativity and drive must be encouraged, and they must be permitted to reap the fruits of their labour. Having a job to go to is the safest way to avoid poverty. Høyre will therefore seek to ensure that all those who wish to participate in working life will have the opportunity to do so. We must replace job losses in the private sector with new, profitable jobs in the private sector.

Free markets are crucial to ensure dispersal of power throughout society and promote innovation in the public as well as the private sector. A well-functioning market economy presupposes clear rules that prevent abuse of market and government power. Today, the central government occupies a dominant ownership position in Norwegian industry, and Høyre wishes to ensure stronger and more dispersed private ownership than we have now. We will restrict the growth in public expenditure and pursue tax policies that stimulate investment, private enterprise and private ownership.

Høyre will make provisions for varied industries that provide Norway with many strings to its bow and more jobs. We will pursue industrial and business policies that take advantage of Norway's natural preconditions, strong technological communities and communities of competence. These policies shall help promote innovation, greater value creation and new, profitable jobs. We will reduce public bureaucracies and simplify and eliminate regulations to facilitate increased value creation.

Norway shall be transformed into a low-emission society by 2050. This may provide the basis for new green jobs and strengthen Norway's competitiveness. Through public procurement, green taxes, duties, regulations and instruments that promote technological development, Høyre will trigger green growth and create a larger market for environmentally sound products and services.



## ECONOMIC GOVERNANCE

**Høyre will pursue responsible economic policies that ensure high competitiveness, high employment and sustainable growth.**

Høyre will pursue tax policies that result in the broadest possible tax base. Everybody with taxable capacity shall pay tax. Tax revenues are crucial for funding our shared welfare. The system of taxes and duties must be tuned to promotion of growth and value creation. An effective and well-functioning public administration and adequate infrastructure are essential for society and the Norwegian economy, and represent a competitive advantage for Norwegian industry.

Høyre wants a better distribution of roles between the public and private sectors, in which the public sector to derive greater benefit from the private sector's innovativeness. We will manage the Government Pension Fund Global in a generational perspective. This means that the withdrawals from the fund must be seen in the context of its expected earnings over time and gradually phased into the Norwegian economy, and that withdrawals must be used as an investment in the future. ➤

**HØYRE WILL:**

- Pursue responsible policies that provide economic latitude for future generations.
- Improve competitiveness, limit the growth of the public sector and make provisions for new, profitable jobs in the private sector.
- Prevent public expenditure from growing faster than the rest of the mainland economy.
- Increase the efficiency of the public sector and let private enterprises play a larger role where this can provide added value to society.
- Introduce moderate cuts in the total level of taxes and duties and ensure a broad tax base that includes everyone with taxable capacity.
- Ensure that the tax system is conducive to value creation, new jobs, social mobility and a more environmentally friendly society.
- Ensure that withdrawals from the Government Pension Fund Global is adapted to the situation in the Norwegian economy, the sustainability of the fund and the financing of public welfare services in the long term.
- 



## JOBS, OWNERSHIP AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

**Høyre pursues policies to create more new and profitable jobs in the private sector. Our goal is that all those who are able to work shall have the opportunity to do so**

Education, research and innovation are crucial to help achieve secure jobs, readjustment and activity. The education system must provide opportunities for all to realize their ambitions and contribute to high and relevant competence in society. Høyre will prioritize research and good framework conditions for entrepreneurs and innovators. A good tax system stimulates endeavour and effort. Working must pay off. Høyre wants a lower level of taxes and duties for families and individuals.

Small and medium-sized enterprises account for a large proportion of Norway's employment and value creation. Local owners provide for stable jobs and dispersion of power in society. Strong and diverse ownership communities are crucial for the development of profitable and sustainable enterprises and business clusters. Høyre believes that local Norwegian ownership safeguards jobs. It is therefore crucial to ensure better frameworks and predictability for Norwegian owners. We believe that it should be easy to start and operate businesses, and will help achieve this by stimulating the access to qualified capital and competence, and by using public instruments that promote growth to create value and competitive enterprises. ➤

**HØYRE WILL:**

- Implement the tax reform with lower taxes for businesses and individuals to ensure readjustment, growth and more jobs.
- Ensure that the taxation of businesses and ownership is competitive with comparable countries to safeguard existing jobs and stimulate creation of new ones.
- Reduce and phase out the property tax on working capital to strengthen Norwegian ownership of Norwegian workplaces, and increase the basic allowance and in the longer term abolish the property tax.
- Increase private ownership in state enterprises where this is appropriate for the enterprise and society, and ensure that the headquarters of strategically important enterprises remain in Norway.
- Encourage investments in new enterprises and jobs by providing tax relief for investments in start-ups.
- Strengthen the tax benefits scheme for purchase of shares in enterprises by employees.
- Make provisions for more people to become co-owners in their own enterprise by changing the tax rules for share options.
- Ensure equal treatment of private and public agencies when the latter compete in an open market.
- Make provisions for more people to start their own business.
- Continue the SkatteFUNN scheme and strengthen public, industry-oriented research to help shorten the road from the initial idea to a functioning enterprise.
- Review results and instruments for innovation and industrial development.
- Adapt the opening hours in retail trade to better suit the times when consumers wish to shop.

- Help ensure that public procurement promotes innovation and environmentally sound solutions, for example through requirements for tendering and development contracts.
- Strengthen entrepreneurship programmes and integrate entrepreneurship more closely in educational processes, with the goal that more people will start their own business.
- Make provisions for business clusters and develop a national strategy for attracting the research, development and headquarter functions of international enterprises.
- Review the rights of self-employed people and freelancers to make it easier to start their own businesses.
- Provide self-employed people with significantly better opportunities for saving for retirement, equal to those of employees.
- Clarify the elements involved in expanding social rights for people who start their own business.
- Introduce automatized customs clearance for import of foreign goods.
- Raise the income limit for student and youth enterprises and simplify the transition to a permanent enterprise/company.
- Reinforce consumers' rights and step up the efforts to combat fraud and illegal marketing.
- Allow sales of strong beer (up to 5.5 per cent ABV) in retail shops.



## INDUSTRIES FOR THE FUTURE

Høyre's goal is to create new jobs and new wealth based on Norwegian technology, competence, capital and Norway's unique access to natural resources and raw materials.

Norway has strong research and technology communities, a highly skilled and adaptable population and rich natural resources. These must be utilized to continue developing diverse and technology-driven industry that can provide the country with a wider economic basis and create new, profitable jobs for the future.

With its marine and maritime communities, Norway possesses great opportunities. Norwegian shore-based industries have gone through major restructuring and remain competitive thanks to their skilled workforce, new technology and efficient solutions. Good framework conditions must be ensured for the manufacturing industry.

## NORWAY AS A LEADING MARITIME NATION

Høyre's goal is to ensure that Norway remains a great maritime power also in the future and seizes the great opportunities in the fishery and seafood industry.

Norway's maritime business cluster is a world leader. Good framework conditions, research and technological development can help provide growth and higher competitiveness for this sector. Norway has a large potential in green shipping that needs to be realized, and Norway's role as a global shipping and offshore nation must be maintained and developed.

Fishery and aquaculture are among Norway's key future industries. Sustainable growth in these sectors will create profitable jobs all over the country. Høyre will continue the development of stable and appropriate frameworks that promote sustainable growth and value creation within responsible boundaries, frameworks that also protect important environmental and natural wealth.

Høyre will ensure good market access and predictable licensing policies, because this is crucial for the further growth of the fishery and aquaculture industries. Ensuring a stable supply of raw materials for the fish processing industry throughout the year is fundamental for maintaining and developing the competitiveness of the Norwegian seafood industry, be it on sea or on land. The sea is also a source of biological resources that can boost value creation in the production of biofuels, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other products that are essential to society. The potential mineral riches on the seabed may create significant value. Research and development work will enable us to exploit more of the huge potential of the ocean depths.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Help ensure that more Norwegian-owned ships sail under the Norwegian flag, by maintaining the prevailing tax regime for ship owners, a statutory and competitive net wage scheme, a customer-friendly Norwegian Maritime Authority and competitive ship registers.
- Ensure sustainable management and growth in the fishery and aquaculture industries.
- Target research funds and incentives to exploit the potential of the maritime industries.

- › Seek the best possible market access for the Norwegian seafood industry.
- › Develop a strong Norwegian maritime cluster by stimulating more interaction and technology transfer across the maritime industries.
- › Prioritize infrastructure and laboratories for research and development that are geared to strengthening competitiveness and innovation in the maritime industries and to provide better knowledge about the environmental and resource situation in the oceans.
- › Stimulate green growth for Norwegian maritime industries and increased use of environmental technology solutions and alternative fuels for ships, and make provisions to ensure that we remain a leading shipping nation with a large fleet also in the future.
- › Increase flexibility for fishermen and the fishing industry through measures such as quota structures, regionalization of the duty to deliver catches and abolition of the processing requirement.
- › Make provisions for a Norwegian seabed minerals industry.
- › Ensure access to well-qualified personnel for the Norwegian marine and maritime industries.
- › Help ensure that the fishery industry achieves trade policy and industrial frameworks that have a clear focus on the value chain to safeguard profitability, increased product development and processing.
- › See to it that marine industries enjoy predictable access to raw materials that facilitates year-round processing of raw materials in Norway.
- › Simplify, streamline and modernize bureaucracies and regulations in the aquaculture sector.
- › Consider a coordination of the various sectoral authorities in shipping, fishery and aquaculture to ensure a coordinated management of marine resources.
- › Encourage the aquaculture industry to become fossil-free.
- › Simplify the requirements for endemic fish species in land-based aquaculture.



## GREEN GROWTH IN THE BIO-ECONOMY AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

**Høyre's goal is to create green growth that is sustainable and profitable, reduces greenhouse gas emissions and uses resources more efficiently.**

Green growth is about making it more profitable to create wealth in an environmentally sound manner. In the low-emission society of the future we need to succeed in combining value creation with sustainability in the production and consumption of goods and services. Norway has access to large biomass resources and a good basis for assuming a significant role in parts of the bio-industries and developing their industrial potential. Better resource utilization and more efficient use of energy help achieve significant cuts in emissions, while increasing the profitability of production. Better utilization of resources may bring large gains for the environment, economy and society. The bio-economy is based on the ability to use resources from one process as input factors to another, with the objective of full use of raw materials and residual resources. This forms a 'circular economy' that utilizes all resources to the maximum.



In a circular economy, even waste is a growth industry with a large potential for value creation and new jobs. Waste is a resource that can be recycled, reused and transformed into new resources. Green growth is also about replacing fossil input factors with renewable ones. The renewable biological resources come from the earth, forests and oceans, in the form of cereals, meat, plants such as energy crops and timber, wild fish, farmed fish, crustaceans, shells or algae such as plankton or kelp. Norway has good preconditions for developing high-value production based on biological resources from agriculture, forestry, fishery and aquaculture or manufacturing, including through technology transfer from other industries and investment in bio-based products and services. Bioenergy from forest resources provides excellent opportunities for climate-neutral fuel for motor vehicles.

#### **HØYRE WILL:**

- › Facilitate development of new products, processes and technologies for manufacturing of bio-based products.
- › Ensure that aquaculture is operated sustainably and environmentally soundly.
- › Reinforce the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- › Provide predictable and appropriate framework conditions for sustainable forestry and management to increase production and processing of forest resources, so that a larger part of the regeneration is harvested for value creation and new jobs.
- › Tighten the requirements for source separation of biological and wet organic waste from households, the public sector and industry.
- › Review the frameworks for the waste-processing industry to ensure better utilization of resources, better public utility and higher value creation in this industry.
- › Make provisions for the construction of more forest roads and upgrading of public roads to meet current needs, and facilitate more afforestation and silviculture.
- › Review licences and zoning processes to ensure predictability and faster casework.



- › Seek to promote the use of wood in new construction of private homes and public buildings.
- › Assume a life-cycle perspective on the production, use and phasing-out of products.
- › Seek to ensure that the range of public instruments be better tuned to exploiting the potential for cross-sectoral collaboration.
- › Review the inspection schemes for resource-based industries.
- › Ensure predictable and stable frameworks for renewable fuels and energy carriers.
- › Facilitate large-scale production of advanced biofuels, including through an increase of the requirements for sale.
- › Develop a strong domestic market for renewable and bio-based products.
- › Help offset risk in start-up, pilot and demonstration facilities.
- › Encourage production of biofuels in Norway.

## NORWAY AS A POWER-GENERATING NATION

Høyre's goal is for Norway to remain a pioneering nation in environmentally friendly production and use of renewable forms of energy

Norway is rich in energy resources, and Høyre will help ensure that Norway remains a pioneering nation in environmentally friendly production and use of hydropower, wind power, bioenergy and other renewable forms of energy. Significant quantities of adjustable-speed hydropower will continue to be the mainstay of our energy system. Hydropower generation is important to value creation in Norway and helps us maintain security of supply in the Norwegian and Nordic power systems.

Høyre believes that Norway's clean, renewable power generation capacity must be better geared towards facilitation of power-processing industries in Norway and more energy exchange with Europe. The history of Norwegian hydropower dates back to the late 19th century, and many facilities were built from the early 1900s to the late 1980s. A large potential to increase hydropower generation still remains, for example through upgrading of old hydropower plants and careful construction of new ones.

Large adjustable hydropower plants help ensure security of supply throughout the year and account for a robust power supply system. Adjustable energy production will be even more important in the future, because the proportion of non-adjustable generation facilities will increase and we will see larger load oscillations in the consumer market, including as a result of charging of electric cars and development of the smart grid. Micro- hydropower plants also contribute to local value creation; they produce significant amounts of energy and are important to the landowners.

The licensing schemes are of great economic importance to the municipal sector. The objective of the licensing schemes is to ensure that a part of the value creation that results from hydropower development is returned to the municipalities as compensation for relinquishing natural resources.

Høyre will ensure that the income from our hydropower resources benefits the entire country. Statkraft is Europe's largest producer of renewable energy and has a considerable potential for further international growth. Partial privatization of the enterprise's international activities will provide it with economic flexibility, predictability and new ownership incentives. Continued public ownership of the enterprise's Norwegian hydropower is a precondition for such partial privatization.

*(Read more about renewable energy in the chapter on a sustainable future.)*

### HØYRE WILL:

- Allow the development of new river systems to ensure access to clean and renewable energy.
- Permit careful development of hydropower in protected river systems without detriment to our natural wealth.
- Ensure appropriate frameworks for investment in and development of existing and new hydropower plants.
- Make it easier to link privately produced energy to the electricity grid.
- Partially privatize Statkraft's international activities to provide the enterprise with the predictability and financial flexibility required to boost its investments in renewable energy internationally, while retaining Norwegian ownership of the enterprise's domestic hydropower.
- Prepare a coordinated strategy for realizing the potential for upgrading and expansion of hydropower plants and review prevailing tax rules.
- Make provisions for investment in the use of hydrogen-based power.
- Retain the current licensing schemes for hydropower.
- Ensure public control of hydropower resources through licensing provisions and tax rules that safeguard the interests of the community. The prevailing consolidation model, which means that new licences be granted only to enterprises in which public ownership amounts to at least two-thirds, shall apply to ownership of hydropower plants.

## PETROLEUM INDUSTRY OF THE FUTURE

Høyre's goal is to ensure predictable and future-oriented frameworks for the Norwegian oil and gas industry.

The oil and gas resources have given Norway large revenues and given rise to considerable value creation. These resources will continue to play an important role for Norway for many years to come. Continuous and intensified research efforts, as well as competence and technological development will be essential to maintain the competitiveness of this industry in the future. This will also be crucial to ensure an economic, effective and environmentally sound management of the petroleum resources for the benefit of Norwegian society.

*(Read more about oil and gas in the chapter on a sustainable future.)*

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that the petroleum industry enjoys stable and predictable frameworks that stimulate activity all over the country.
- › Develop petroleum activities in promising areas in the Barents Sea with strict requirements for environmental protection, safety and emergency preparedness, as well as for coexistence with the fishery and other industries.
- › Consider tax-related measures and other schemes that can help increase competition and thus raise the rate of exploitation of all commercially viable resources in fields in production and adjacent marginal fields on the Norwegian continental shelf.
- › Increase the extraction rate on the Norwegian continental shelf by introducing requirements for enhanced oil recovery when licences are renewed.
- › Ensure that the Norwegian petroleum industry remains a world leader on health, safety and environment.
- › Ensure adequate oil spill contingency strategies in collaboration with private agencies.
- › Prepare impact assessments of the Nordland VI and VII and the Troms II oil and gas fields.



## MANUFACTURE, MINERALS AND MINING

Høyre will make provisions for a sustainable renewal of Norwegian manufacturing industries and responsible extraction of minerals and operation of the mining industry

Norway has a long and proud industrial history. The traditional manufacturing industries are undergoing fundamental changes as a result of rapid and comprehensive use of technology, such as robots, automation, 3D printing and sensor technology. The pace of change is rapidly accelerating and sets requirements for profitability, competence and adaptability.

Norway has a number of advantages that provide opportunities for growth. We have a culture of readjustment and innovation, a well-educated and adaptable population, a low threshold for making use of new technology, inclusive structures, and good access to natural resources and clean energy. To succeed we need to have internationally competitive conditions, invest in knowledge, research and innovation, support enterprises in coping with the rapid pace of change, collaborate and share competence, promote internationalization and exports and have capital available for the investments needed.

The minerals industry is a key contributor to existing and future products, and Høyre will facilitate increased mineral production in Norway within strict environmental requirements.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that industry has access to relevant competence and reinforce public, industry-oriented research to help industry develop new environmental technology and cost-effective solutions.
- › Continue the CO<sub>2</sub> compensation scheme for the manufacturing industries.

- › Ensure the competitiveness of Norwegian manufacturing industries through stable frameworks, access to export markets and predictable access to energy.
- › Continue the NOx fund and establish a CO<sub>2</sub> fund for industry that can help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from heavy vehicles and shipping.
- › Exploit the industrial potential for the use of CO<sub>2</sub> as an input factor in industrial processes and establish a value chain for handling of CO<sub>2</sub> in manufacturing industries.
- › Support the establishment of test centres that Norwegian enterprises can draw on by strengthening infrastructure and research equipment.
- › Support the establishment of a state-of-the-art industrial centre that will help promote exchange of methods, competencies and knowledge between small and large enterprises, thus to ensure that Norway continues to deliver world-class industrial performance.
- › Raise the requirements for environmental safety and sustainability. The goal is to achieve maximum value creation in a sustainable framework.
- › Help ensure that enterprises develop and use environmentally sound and climate-friendly technology, by giving support to further large-scale pilot and demonstration facilities.
- › Expand the mapping of Norwegian mineral resources on land as well as on the seabed, and make provisions for increased extraction by ensuring predictable and knowledge-based planning processes.
- › Help boost interaction between knowledge communities that can ensure sustainable solutions for tailings from the mineral industry on land and at sea.
- › Permit subsea tailings deposition subject to strict requirements for environmental monitoring.
- › Establish a growth strategy to help Norwegian industry become more export-oriented.

## DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES AND THE SHARING ECONOMY

**Høyre's goal is to make provisions for technological development and business models that create new jobs and wealth for society.**

Technological development involves challenges, but also significant new opportunities. Through automation of work processes in existing industries, introduction of new technologies and establishment of new enterprises based on completely new business models, we can ensure profitability, new jobs and new, innovative solutions.

The sharing economy may result in smarter and better use of resources, but it is also a challenge to existing business models and the organization of the labour market. Høyre will make provisions for new business models, but also ensure fair competition by updating the regulations for existing industries and regulating new actors effectively.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Modernize regulations to ensure that new digital platforms in the sharing economy can be introduced.
- › Undertake active efforts to ensure equal competitive terms across national borders in the digital economy, including by giving support to the EU's digital internal market.
- › Make it easier for private individuals and enterprises to pay taxes and VAT for services that they purchase and deliver.
- › Remove obstacles to promote digital business models that can give rise to new business activities and new jobs.
- › Make provisions for new business models in the sharing economy through effective regulations that ensure fair competition between new and existing enterprises.
- › Make provisions to ensure that Norwegian industry can exploit the potential involved in digitization.

- › Make more public data available to enable enterprises to use these data to provide new services and jobs.
- › Replace the current numerical limitation in the taxi industry with a scheme that ensures more competition, adequate transport services in rural areas and good conduct among drivers.

## THE HEALTH CARE INDUSTRY AS A GENERATOR OF VALUE

Høyre wants to pave the way for a high-growth, internationally competitive health industry that contributes to national value creation.

The world is facing immense global challenges when it comes to sustainably facilitating good health. The biosciences and biotechnology can provide important contributions to new or improved services, industrial processes and energy production. An ageing population and the increase in diseases such as cancer and dementia will present considerable challenges. The health industry will represent a key response to the challenges linked to health and care in the decades to come.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure easier access to and better utilization of health data and biobanks.
- › Make provisions to ensure that the health clusters become engines for readjustment and technology transfer in industry.
- › Seek to ensure that the health enterprises collaborate with the health industry in the establishment of new hospitals and health clusters.
- › Ensure that a growth strategy for the Norwegian health industry be prepared.
- › Ensure that the innovation potential for clinical studies in the health enterprises is better utilized.



## NEW OPPORTUNITIES OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

Høyre will enhance the opportunities to use biotechnology in research, medicine and industry through competitive regulations based on an ethically responsible framework.

Biotechnology represents great opportunities in fishery, aquaculture, pharmacology, process industries and medical technology, and constitutes part of the solution to the challenges the world is facing today, be it in terms of climate change, disease, poverty or the struggle for resources. In recent years, DNA techniques have been used to develop new types of plant species with a wide range of properties.

In the bioeconomy, biotechnology is used to refine biomass from plants or micro-organisms into energy, food and a variety of other products in an environmentally sound manner. Norway already occupies a solid position in medical research, and Høyre wants to pursue policies that enable biotechnological and pharmaceutical research and industry to be established and developed in Norway.

Biotechnology poses major ethical challenges, and Høyre therefore wants more research to provide an evidence-based foundation for decisions to introduce a particular technology, as well as an ethically responsible framework.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Introduce internationally competitive regulations of biotechnology in Norway on the basis of an ethically responsible framework.
- › Link together research communities in the different professions.
- › Strengthen stem-cell research on post-natal harvesting of stem cells.

## DYNAMIC AGRICULTURE

Høyre will provide each farmer with better opportunities to earn an independent income and exploit the potential of the land.

Agriculture is essential for food production, settlement and maintenance of the cultural landscape. Høyre wants to ensure a viable agriculture by making provisions for increased food production and profitable farming all over the country. The main task of agricultural policy is to increase food production, which in turn will enable the self-employed farmer to earn an independent income. It must be made worthwhile to invest in efficient farming methods. The framework conditions for agriculture must better ensure that investment in increased production and local raw materials processing can also provide a basis for tourism and a wider range of goods.

Norway is one of the world's best and cleanest food producers, with little use of pesticides and antibiotics. This provides us with unique competitive advantages that need to be preserved and developed as a basis for a competitive Norwegian agricultural sector.

With appropriate policy frameworks and gradual readjustment, the profitability of Norwegian food production can be strengthened. Høyre's policy is to prepare Norwegian agriculture as well as possible for increased competition with foreign producers. Høyre will safeguard Norwegian food production also under new international terms of trade. Active agriculture and forestry, with grazing, logging and facilitation of tourism can maintain open landscapes and cultural landscapes steeped in tradition. A major proportion of Norwegian biological diversity depends on grazing, a situation unique to Norway.

*(Read about forestry in the chapter on a sustainable future.)*

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Continue to twist the subsidy schemes to encourage increased food production and efficient farming.
- › Maintain the system of annual negotiations on agricultural subsidies.
- › Combine changes in the subsidy and quota schemes with adaptations in the investment promotion measures to adapt and increase production in line with market demand.
- › Step up the efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture.
- › Strengthen the farmers in their role as self-employed by granting each farmer greater right of disposal over their property and better opportunities to develop and realize their own strategies by modernizing the Concession Act and abolishing the obligation of residence.
- › Remove the provisions on allodial rights from the Constitution and modernize the Act concerning allodial title.
- › Attenuate the rules for using joint-stock companies as a form of business organization for activities in parts of the agricultural sector, thereby reducing risk and improving opportunities for access to capital.
- › Make better provisions for well-functioning competition in the sale of Norwegian agricultural products.
- › Make agriculture less dependent on government transfers, reduce the cost level in agriculture and provide farmers with new and better income opportunities.
- › Safeguard the cultural landscape by encouraging more grazing and other measures to prevent overgrowth.
- › Increase R&D efforts to ensure that agriculture can constitute a key element in the green transition, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture and sustainably increase agricultural production.
- › Safeguard reindeer husbandry as an important livelihood.
- › Remove the goal that 15 per cent of Norwegian food production should be organic.
- › Place the support for organic farming on equal terms with support for agriculture in general.
- › Maintain the prevailing scheme for subsidies to paid help on farms.



## STRENGTHENING NORWAY AS A TOURIST DESTINATION

Høyre will strengthen Norway's position and attractiveness as a tourist destination.

Norwegian nature in combination with a varied cultural life, a rich agricultural and food culture and a diversity of cultural heritage sites and unique world heritage areas provide a good basis for strengthening the Norwegian tourist industry.

Cultural landscapes and cultural heritage sites have already paved the way for modern tourism, which now tends to be based more on nature and cultural experiences. We need to ensure that tourism continues to grow as an industry, internationally as well as in Norway. Tourism is an important industry in terms of employment, with numerous small and medium-sized enterprises.

The marketing of Norway as a tourist destination and the profiling of Norwegian export commodities provide mutual synergies. Domestic tourism and holiday homes promote mutual knowledge and understanding among Norwegians from different parts of the country, and may play an even larger role in ensuring cohesion between urban and rural areas.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Maintain a high level of investment in infrastructure to strengthen the Norwegian tourism industry.
- › Reinforce the role of agriculture in tourism promotion programmes and thereby encourage increased use of valuable outlying land.
- › Make provisions to ensure that more people can visit the national parks.
- › Make provisions to ensure that attractions and activities are available all year wherever possible and strengthen Norway's position as a year-round tourist destination.
- › Make provisions to ensure that local food and beverage products can be included more widely as a part of the tourism product.
- › Increase Svalbard's attractiveness as a travel and tourist destination.
- › Strengthen the collaboration between the outdoor leisure and tourist industries to ensure that natural attractions are made adequately accessible and attractive to visitors, without unnecessary wear and tear or littering.
- › Ensure the right to pay in cash.

## MOUNTAINS AND COASTLINE

Høyre will base its policies on local self-determination, research and local experiential knowledge to ensure appropriate management of the land-based natural resources.

The land-based natural resources have a large potential for growth. Use and development of the natural resources must have sustainability and local growth as their objectives, and management should primarily be a local responsibility. Flexible land-use policies with a greater latitude for local decisions strengthen the opportunities for growth in the mountain and coastal regions.

There are more than half a million holiday homes in Norway. The characteristically Norwegian phenomenon of holiday homes provides an important basis for employment and settlement all over the country. The owners of holiday homes constitute a key resource for their host municipalities, but one which also places demands on the scaling of public services. Focus should be placed more on the number of users than on the number of permanent residents.

A precondition for better utilization of natural resources is to ensure that the entire country has the opportunity to become part of the new digital reality. An expansion of the broadband networks will reinforce the basis for dispersed settlement and facilitate better utilization of Norwegian holiday homes.

In Norway, more than 30 000 disused farmhouses are left empty. The land has been leased to others, and any remaining mountain cottages are used by their owners as holiday homes. There is a demand for disused farmhouses for purposes of housing. There is a need to change the licensing and tax deduction rules for land and property to make it possible and attractive to sell empty farmhouses.



### HØYRE WILL:

- Strengthen R&D efforts for mountain and coastal areas.
- Intensify the effort to simplify management of outlying lands by transferring more power and authority to municipalities and landowners.
- Make provisions for including owners of holiday homes in municipal development work.
- Seek to ensure that regional policy instruments be used for growth promotion programmes that strengthen the basis for jobs in the private sector.

# FASTER AND SAFER TRAVEL

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## FASTER AND SAFER TRAVEL

Høyre wants better and safer roads, good railway and public transport solutions, efficient freight services at sea and on land, and an emission-free transport sector.

The goal of Høyre is an efficient and environmentally friendly transport system that facilitates fast and safe travel for people and freight. New ideas will be implemented in order to allow faster and cheaper project completion. Høyre will reverse the deterioration of national roads and railways. Combined with investments in new road and rail projects, this will increase traffic safety and connectivity. Our vision is for zero traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries.

Høyre's vision is for a transport sector that emits no climate gasses. We will achieve this by introducing a taxation system that stimulates swift phasing-in of environmentally friendly vehicles, conversion from fossil to environmentally friendly fuels and technologies, new maritime eco-technology, expansion of public transport services and by making better provisions for cycling and walking. Cost effective spending of funds is an essential requirement if we are to achieve our transport goals. A national transport strategy that ensures the best possible deployment of investments will need to take an overall, joined-up view of all modes of transport.

A good digital infrastructure is essential to secure settlement throughout the country, for the business sector to stay competitive and for social developments to be appropriately accommodated. Market-based solutions will continue to form the corner stone of further developments. The public sector will provide funding assistance wherever the market is unable to ensure universal coverage.

## EFFICIENT ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVED TRAFFIC SAFETY

The goal of Høyre is expedience in road building and safer roads. In the coming parliamentary period, it is the goal of Høyre to reduce the number of traffic fatalities and serious injuries by at least 20 per cent.

Good and safe roads are essential for people to be able to travel fast and efficiently to and from their places of work and their leisure activities. Roads also contribute to the building of attractive residential and employment areas all over the country. Better roads, safer cars and improved attitudes have already reduced the number of traffic accidents considerably. Investment in traffic safety will continue. National roads will be upgraded to a satisfactory standard, while counties must be better equipped to improve their own regional roads. All planning and development of infrastructure must be joined-up and all-inclusive.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Reduce the planning period for road-building projects by ensuring better coordination of objections. Where it is necessary to secure progress on major national transport projects, national plans must be used.
- Keep cost levels down by further developing the publicly owned road construction company Nye Veier AS and by modernizing the Norwegian Public Roads Administration.

- › Review the current Norwegian standards for transport projects with a view to reducing costs.
- › Increase the use of intelligent transport systems (ITS) when this may add value to society.
- › Make use of public-private partnerships when this may add value to society in respect of development projects.
- › Increase investment in tunnel safety.
- › Improve traffic safety by building more dual carriageways, more footpaths and cycle lanes and by undertaking more speed checks and checks for drivers under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
- › Facilitate the development of driver training and technology developments that help bring about better traffic safety.
- › Introduce the use of new calculation methods for assessing the general benefit of projects to society. This may relate to community benefits, climatic effects or the overall economic benefit to society.
- › Ensure faster implementation of important transport projects by continued use of toll funding. In respect of national roads, government funding will be provided for at least 1/3 of development costs.
- › Re-classify certain roads from county roads to national roads.
- › Boost the effort to secure sections of roads and railway lines that are prone to flooding, landslides and avalanches.
- › Consider the merging of established transport agencies to form a directorate of transport in order to make efficiencies in the transport sector.
- › Secure equal terms of competition for Norwegian transport businesses e.g. by fighting illegal cabotage and introducing systems to ensure that toll payments by Norwegian and foreign heavy goods vehicles are subject to equal conditions.

## IMPROVED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

**The goal of Høyre is to increase the public transport share of all journeys. Everyday travel to and from work will be prioritized.**

Høyre will support the development of good public transport services in all parts of the country. Cities will have different transport needs and options than areas with sparse population. In low population density areas, good transfer arrangements between buses and trains are important supplements to the car, but cars are also needed in areas served by few public transport services. Motor vehicles are important providers of efficient transport for people and freight in rural Norway.

In the cities, flexible climate-friendly public transport services, combined with good footpaths and cycle lanes, are necessary for the management of future population growth and for Norway to achieve the country's climate targets. This requires major government investments. Høyre is of the opinion that the use of public funds must be accompanied by demands for housing, business premises and welfare services to be provided in the vicinity of public transport nodes. Urban growth agreements are strategic tools designed to stimulate greater use of public transport, walking and cycling by introducing greener planning policies.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Seek to ensure that the Government provides at least 50 per cent funding for all major public transport developments in and around the largest cities.
- › Further develop and continue to introduce good urban growth agreements that demand densification around public transport nodes and that increase the public transport and cycling share of travel.
- › Develop funding schemes that encourage increased use of public transport.
- › Combine booking facilities for ferry and express boat services and facilitate swift replacement of older vessels in the ferry and express boat fleet. All new tender invitations must include requirements for zero or low emission technology.
- › Remove the fringe benefits tax on employer-paid monthly travel passes.



- › Work to provide a national journey planner designed to provide through-ticketing for people to book and pay for journeys that involve multiple modes of transport and multiple operating companies.
- › Facilitate better mobility for buses by building continuous public transport lanes in areas with heavy traffic.
- › Facilitate the development of mobile phone networks along railways and other public transport routes in partnership with the private sector.
- › Facilitate better inter-county coordination of public transport routes.
- › Draw up purposeful regulations for corporate activities within the collaborative economy.
- › Seek to ensure that park-and-ride schemes are introduced at nodal points outside and on the fringes of urban areas through the urban growth agreements.

## A RAILWAY THAT THAT CONNECTS REGIONS

The goal of Høyre is to provide closer links between residential and commercial areas by ensuring swift expansion of train services in our largest cities. More freight should be carried by rail.

Train services provide a link between residential areas and commercial areas, thus making it simpler to live and work where you want. Today's principal challenges include poor punctuality, low speeds and infrequent services. We are of the opinion that the service must be improved. In order to achieve this, the most important tools include enhanced maintenance, the building of more passing loops and an increase in the number of services. Railways must be upgraded to a satisfactory standard. Høyre will ensure that passengers and freight carriers benefit from the best possible service. More rail freight means fewer heavy goods vehicles on our roads, better traffic safety, reduced road wear and lower emissions of climate gases. We will work to provide more seamless transitions between different modes of transport, for instance by rationalizing freight terminals and providing better connections between harbours and railways. This will help make the railway competitive in the freight market.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Increase the rate of investment and ensure that railways maintain satisfactory standards.
- › Build more double track sections and long passing loops in order to remove bottlenecks, increase capacity, reduce travel times and improve the punctuality of freight and passenger trains.
- › Continue to expose passenger train operations to competition on further railway lines in order to ensure that the public benefits from the best possible passenger service and predictable carriage of freight.
- › Rationalize existing freight terminals and build new ones where necessary in order to meet future demands.
- › Work to provide more seamless transfers between different modes of transport.

## MARITIME CARGO AND IMPROVED SAFETY AT SEA

Høyre will strengthen the cargo capacity of our harbours and improve safety at sea. More cargo to be carried by sea than by road.

It is necessary to further develop our shipping channels and harbours in order to strengthen the competitiveness of our commercial sector. It is also important to develop a transport system with the lowest possible climate gas emissions. The greatest climate benefit associated with the freight transport would be achieved by making shipping more environmentally friendly. This is why we want to facilitate the development of new ecotechnology and the renewal of our short sea shipping fleet. Harbours are important freight hubs for overland transport. Efficient harbours are a prerequisite for more cargo to be carried by sea. Consequently, it is important that harbours, roads and railways are considered holistically in the context of harbour developments. Safety at sea must be maintained, and there must be a high level of preparedness along the entire Norwegian coastline.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Provide robust investment in the maintenance and development of shipping channels.
- › Facilitate increased use of the onshore power supply while in harbour.
- › Improve nodal logistics. Users should be involved to a greater degree with harbour developments.
- › Facilitate the carriage of more cargo by sea by rationalizing public services, making our harbours more efficient and reducing fees and charges.
- › Modernize the harbour legislation to ensure that local authorities benefit from greater autonomy with respect to their harbour resources, putting them in a better position to control developments in harbour areas.
- › Modernize the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

## A GOOD AND DECENTRALIZED AIRPORT STRUCTURE

The goal of Høyre is to ensure good provision of airports throughout the country and provide robust framework conditions for sustaining the current level of employment and habitation.

Høyre will work to provide the best possible safety and efficiency standards within air travel. Upgraded airports and runways combined with healthy competition within control tower services and air navigation will ensure that passengers may enjoy more stable, predictable and cost effective services. The airports make up an important part of Norwegian infrastructure, and plans for a number of new airports are being rolled out. We hold the opinion that the central government must impose clear requirements and act as a long-term and predictable owner of Avinor, while providing the appropriate framework conditions for the company to implement these investments. The aviation industry provides a long-distance public transport service in many parts of the country. A good provision of airports throughout the country is important for sustaining employment and settlement, and for linking up further residential and employment areas.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that Avinor and the non-state-run airports enjoy predictable conditions for implementing necessary air transport developments.
- › Ensure a good and decentralized airport structure to enable good provision of flight routes throughout the country.
- › Ensure continued healthy competition in the aviation sector by providing predictable framework conditions for publicly and privately run airports.
- › Increase the compulsory ratio of sustainable biofuel to aviation fuel and facilitate other environmentally friendly alternatives once the technology is available, in order to reduce climate gas emissions from aviation.
- › Remove the air passenger duty, replacing it with a charge that has a clear environmental effect.



- › Consider a permanent continuous baggage handling solution at Gardermoen and other Norwegian airports after completion of the trial scheme at Gardermoen.

## DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

The goal of Høyre is for at least 90 per cent of all households to have access to broadband at a speed of 100 Mbit/s.

Electronic communication is a central part of our daily lives. Norway is one of the most highly digitized countries in the world, both with regard to access to digital infrastructure and with regard to our use of digital services. This success is largely due to our competitive market-based rollout of mobile phone and broadband networks. Høyre will make digital communication a competitive advantage for the nation. We hold the opinion that good mobile coverage is required wherever people live, work and travel. Høyre will facilitate competition between different technologies, bidders and business models, thereby ensuring that users are provided with the best possible services. Government support should focus on areas where there is no possibility of a market-based development, and should also be available for the purpose of meeting the public sector's own need to offer various online services to businesses and the general public.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Enable Norway to remain a pioneering country within electronic communications and digital services.
- › Continue investing in fibre-based broadband developments throughout the country.
- › Ensure genuine competition with respect to mobile phone networks.
- › Reduce development costs by simplifying the rules and regulations and facilitating the coordination of construction works.
- › Aim to ensure that 90 per cent of all households will be offered broadband speeds of at least 100 Mbit/s by 2020.
- › Engage with the EU to develop planning regulations and frameworks and play an active part in the EU's work to implement a digital inner market with the aim of removing trade barriers.
- › Ensure that ecom networks and services offered on this network are securely protected against attacks and against natural disasters and adverse weather conditions.
- › Seek to ensure that Norway participates in international efforts to retain the internet as an open platform.
- › Facilitate the provision of sufficient fibre capacity between Norway and other countries.

# A GOOD START IN LIFE

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## A GOOD CHILDHOOD

Høyre will improve the financial situation of young parents, and promote greater gender equality.

The family is society's most important social community. The family gives us closeness, responsibility, loyalty, upbringing, identity and a sense of belonging. The public authorities can never replace the importance of family in the lives of individuals. Their task is to support families, not direct them. Acknowledging the diversity of family life is vital.

Everyone should have equal opportunities and rights irrespective of social background, gender, sexual orientation and ethnicity. Gender equality concerns equal status and equal opportunities, and does not mean that everyone should make the same choice. In several areas, there is still a long way to go to achieve full gender equality. Norway will continue to be an international leader in this respect.

Children exposed to violence, abuse or neglect are among the most vulnerable in our society. Høyre intends to boost efforts to ensure that all children and young people have a good childhood.

## OPTIONS FOR FAMILIES

Høyre will strengthen the family and promote safety and security and freedom of choice in everyday life

Høyre wants to enable all families to create secure contexts for their lives. Stable and caring families result in confident children who grow up to become independent adults. Political policies must facilitate a good family life. Høyre is of the opinion that both parents have equal status as caregivers for the child; the statutory framework must therefore give them equal rights as caregivers.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Retain child benefit and assess other targeted measures to support low-income families.
- Increase the lump-sum grant to young parents who have not accumulated parental benefits rights through work.
- Change the lump-sum grant so that it is disbursed over a longer period of time. ➤

- › Improve support schemes for students with children.
- › Give parents an independent entitlement to parental leave.
- › Remove the requirement that fathers must give a written explanation of why they want to use part of the shared leave quota.
- › Improve parental leave schemes for parents with multiple birth offspring.
- › Make it easier to take leave of absence to suit the individual family, for example by increasing opportunities to take graded parental leave and to allow days of leave to be taken as part of the shared leave period.
- › Give foster parents regulated rights as a party to court proceedings.
- › Introduce pension points for all foster parents who have to take leave of absence to accompany the foster child.
- › Put in place adoption agreements with more countries and make better provision for adoption in Norway.
- › Simplify adoptions both in Norway and abroad.
- › Ensure that the offer of mediation when a marriage breaks down is better adapted to the challenges faced by the individual family.
- › Improve starter mortgage schemes for low-income families with children.
- › Retain the lump-sum grant scheme but assess its current organization.
- › Continue the current distribution of the period of parental leave.



## THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

**Høyre will give all children the security they need to enjoy a good childhood.**

All children should have a safe and good childhood. This is primarily the parents' responsibility, but the provision of good conditions for growing up is not restricted to parents and family. Everyone who is involved in the child's life through family, neighbourhood, voluntary work, kindergarten and school has a responsibility for seeing, listening to and safeguarding the child as best possible. We are all responsible if we believe that a child needs help or is subject to violence or neglect.

Children are individuals with independent rights. The child's right to safety and security should always be given priority. Children have the right to be heard. Høyre is of the opinion that the child welfare authorities and other bodies working with children must involve the child to a greater degree in important decisions that affect their lives. We believe that the child welfare authorities should focus on preventive measures within the family when possible, and that in situations of conflict the best interests of the child must prevail. The child welfare authorities must demonstrate high quality and professionalism. All agencies involved in work with families with young children must coordinate their efforts and collaborate with each other.

**HØYRE WILL:**

- › Strengthen the principle that the child's best interests will always be the primary consideration.
- › Reinforce the child's right to dialogue, participation and involvement in family counselling services in the case of therapy or breakdown of relationships.
- › Map the child's needs when a decision on an institutional placement has been made to ensure that this is appropriate for the child. Emphasis must be put on professional guidance and the child's participation.
- › Boost quality and competence in the primary child welfare services.
- › Ensure better follow-up of vulnerable children and give the child and families help at an earlier stage and provide more equal treatment.
- › Ensure that family counselling services have expertise related to LGBTIQ+ children so that parents who wish can receive guidance, and that LGBTIQ+ children can get support when caregivers let them down.
- › Enact a statutory right to continued assistance after the age of 18 for children in the care of the child welfare services.
- › Coordinate the resources that are channelled to the Children's Houses.
- › Guarantee full equality of treatment for child welfare service providers in the private, voluntary and public sectors. .
- › Develop measures across the specialized health service and primary health care services to ensure that children with special needs are offered a more uniform range of services.
- › Develop models with several initiatives crosscutting the local welfare provision in order to provide better follow-up and support to low-income families, for example by assisting them with housing, finances and kindergarten places, Before and After school programmes, and leisure time activities for children.

**DIVERSITY AND GENDER EQUALITY**

**Høyre will promote greater gender equality in society and will enable everyone to combine work and family.**

Høyre will promote greater gender equality in society and will enable everyone to combine work and family. Gender-based choices of education help to maintain gender segregation in the labour market. We will boost efforts to achieve a better gender balance in young people's choice of education in order to contribute to equality in working life. Høyre is making concerted efforts to give everyone equal status and equal opportunities regardless of gender, background, who one is attracted to or gender identity.

**HØYRE WILL:**

- › Ensure that the goal of gender equality is reflected in kindergartens and children's education going forward.
- › Encourage schools to be proactive in inviting role models who can help to increase pupils' knowledge about different programmes of study and job options.
- › Support values and attitude projects to provide greater diversity in education.
- › Require larger enterprises to present wage statistics for male and female employees in their annual report.
- › Continue to combat racism, religious discrimination, antisemitism, social coercion, and prejudices based on gender, sexual identity and ethnicity.
- › Reinforce efforts to achieve gender equality in minority communities.
- › Ensure that LGBTIQ issues are included in the framework plan for all relevant courses of education.
- › Strengthen research on diseases that particularly affect women.
- › Retain a gender-neutral marriage act.

- › Examine how the transgender designation can be removed as a diagnosis.
- › Remove tax class 2 in order to strengthen incentives to work and to promote greater gender equality in society.
- › Have the same blood donation requirements for everyone in a monogamous relationship, including homosexual men.

## OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

**Høyre will prioritize a drive for earlier interventions in school and kindergarten, and will increase research to secure welfare going forward.**

Knowledge gives independence to the individual and welfare to society. Kindergartens and schools are key arenas in combatting social disparities and social exclusion. Knowledge offers everyone opportunities. It is a prerequisite in strengthening our international competitive ability and represents the most important source of increased productivity. Knowledge is essential if we are to abolish poverty, and represents an investment in stability, democracy and development. Therefore focusing on knowledge is an investment for the future.

Our knowledge policies will pave the way for learning at all stages of education – from the kindergarten via primary and secondary schools and on to higher education. We will promote lifelong learning through various kinds of continuing and further education. In order to strengthen our competitive edge and innovative abilities we must develop high-quality higher education and research communities. We will target education and research with the aim of developing society and safeguarding future welfare.

## THE FIRST YEARS

**Høyre wants children in kindergarten to play, learn and feel safe, and will give priority to more staff and higher standards.**

The kindergarten is a unique arena for the development, socialization, inclusion and integration of small children. The kindergarten forms part of the course of education but is not intended to be a school. A good kindergarten provides safety, has room for fun and play and promotes social skills, curiosity and learning. Free play is important for small children. We do not believe that play and learning are opposites. The early years are decisive in acquiring language and numeracy. Høyre therefore wants all kindergartens to have a planned strategy to ensure that learning in kindergartens takes place on the child's own terms.

We maintain that the kindergarten must be a voluntary scheme. Meanwhile we would like to reach out to a greater degree to children belonging to a number of vulnerable groups in order to promote integration, among other things. A place in kindergarten should not be reliant on the parents' financial situation. The content and quality of what the kindergarten offers is the most important aspect. Kindergartens must have a sufficient number of pre-school teachers, skilled workers and other employees. Staff must be offered professional development and in-service training. Meanwhile Høyre will set clear requirements as to sound pedagogical methods and will highlight children's language development in particular. To ensure good learning, everyone who works in the kindergarten must speak Norwegian. A smooth transition between kindergarten and school, and between the various phases of schooling promotes a better school pathway for pupils.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Have a greater number of adults in the kindergarten and ensure that there is an appropriate staffing ratio.
- › Employ more pre-school teachers and educationalists, with the aim of reaching a share of 50 per cent.
- › Strengthen interdisciplinarity by recruiting personnel with other relevant education.
- › Make Norwegian language skills a requirement for kindergarten staff.



- › Seek to ensure that all children speak Norwegian when they start school and that the kindergartens have clear targets for language work.
- › Strengthen the principle of learning through play in the kindergarten.
- › Ensure that children who need additional follow-up receive this.
- › Establish key performance indicators to monitor kindergartens, and expand the web portal barnehegafakta.no to include quality markers and key figures.
- › Offer a voluntary summer school prior to school start.
- › Make provision for the municipalities to offer more flexible kindergarten intake throughout the year.
- › Ensure better contact between parents, the kindergarten and school when the child transitions from kindergarten to school.
- › Develop closer collaboration between the institutions educating pre-school teachers and the kindergartens.
- › Safeguard good quality by continuing to invest in competence and in-service training for pre-school teachers and staff in kindergartens by promoting high quality educational programmes for the kindergarten sector.
- › Continue to treat private and public kindergartens equally in terms of funding.

## AN INCLUSIVE KNOWLEDGE SCHOOL

Høyre will offer our children secure frameworks and the necessary skills to realize their potential, their dreams and their ambitions.

We have high ambitions for each and every pupil. Norwegian schools are generally of high quality but we continue to face major challenges. Too many pupils lag behind at an early stage of schooling, boys in particular, and far too many pupils drop out of upper secondary school. The differences in quality between individual schools and municipalities are far too great. Our aim is for pupils to learn more at school.

Høyre will introduce more digital learning tools in teaching. This will promote better-adapted teaching, less school bureaucracy and a more straightforward school day for teachers and head teachers. Digital learning tools will also enable us to offer niche subjects countrywide and as a tool for pupils with long-term illness.

Many pupils complete primary and lower secondary schooling without having acquired the basic skills they need to manage; far too few complete upper secondary schooling and far too many end up outside the labour market. We want to build on the Knowledge Promotion Reform. We will continue to strengthen basic skills and focus more on specialization in the new curricula, while bolstering the position of arts and crafts in schools. Høyre will protect the school's broad role in self-formation.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Target efforts at an early stage from Year One to Year Four of primary school, and give priority to ensuring that all pupils have learned to read, write and do arithmetic.
- › Introduce a requirement for schools to provide additional follow-up for pupils who are struggling with reading, writing and arithmetic.
- › Adapt teaching better for pupils who need additional help as well as pupils who need greater challenges.
- › Reform special needs education and put in place initiatives as early as possible in the course of education.



- › Ensure that resources for special needs education benefit the pupils who need help.
- › Initiate research to analyse why many boys are struggling to find their place in the Norwegian school.
- › Offer qualifying courses or the opportunity to retake subjects before beginning at upper secondary school to pupils who lack a basis for the award of grades on completion of lower secondary school or who receive grade 1 in a subject.
- › Follow up the simplification of curricula so that they are more readily understood and provide scope for more in-depth studies.
- › Strengthen initiatives to combat bullying and harassment.
- › Make better provision in school for gifted children.
- › Develop clearer achievement requirements and ensure better instruction in personal economy.

- › Include more physical activity at school and help to disseminate good examples from schools and municipalities.
- › Put in place good-quality Before and After school programmes focusing on play, cultural and leisure activities, and support activities such as homework help.
- › Boost interdisciplinarity by employing more public health nurses and other occupational groups in school, and in Before and After school programmes.
- › Introduce written examinations in Norwegian, mathematics and English for all pupils in Year Ten.
- › Reduce the number of grades in Norwegian from three to two – one for oral Norwegian and one for written Norwegian.
- › Integrate knowledge and skills in IT and digital development to a greater degree in school subjects.
- › Strengthen pupils' digital competencies by allowing all schools to offer coding and programming as optional subjects.
- › Employ a greater number of digital learning tools in order to enhance pupils' digital competencies, to vary teaching and to follow-up the individual pupil more closely. A basic requirement for proficient digital teaching is that teachers possess adequate digital competence.
- › Introduce a more practically-orientated crafts subject in primary and lower secondary schools as a universally available option.
- › Reinforce arts and crafts by requiring teachers to have specialized in these subjects.
- › Prioritize more teaching hours with a specialist subject teacher rather than extended schools.
- › Enhance competence among school counsellors via continuing and further education in order to better equip the counselling service to help young people to make good educational and occupational choices.

## UPPER SECONDARY EDUCATION AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Høyre will boost learning in school, reduce the drop-out rate and continue the focus on vocational subjects.

Upper secondary education and training must give pupils a foundation to pursue their studies or vocational activities. This is where the basis for individual career choices is established. Consequently, all pupils should be offered schooling that suits their abilities, their wishes for the future and the demands of the labour market. We will safeguard the distinctive features of both university-preparatory and vocational programmes of study. Schools must have high expectations of their pupils and must prepare them for further studies and working life. Norway needs more skilled workers in both the private and public sectors. Høyre will continue to uphold its commitment to vocational subjects and increase the number of apprenticeships.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that by 2030, at least nine out of ten pupils who start upper secondary education and training will complete their course of study and pass the upper secondary school leaving examination.
- › Continue systematic testing of measures to reduce the drop-out rate, including closer follow-up of pupils who are in danger of dropping out of school.
- › Require upper secondary schools to enter into cooperation with higher education institutions to ensure that pupils who want to, can take subjects at a higher level.
- › Enable more pupils at upper secondary school to spend a semester in another country or in another part of Norway.
- › Introduce free choice of school in all counties.
- › Put in place better collaboration between the counselling service in schools, the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), and career guidance centres in order to enable them to reach out to more pupils.
- › Offer entrepreneurship as an optional subject in school.

- › Say yes to the establishment of dedicated upper secondary schools specializing in science subjects, languages and economics based on the elite sports school' model.
- › Facilitate competition regarding the development of digital learning tools in school in order to achieve better quality and to attract more bidders.
- › Make use of digital tools, including virtual and simulation technologies, in order to boost teaching, particularly in vocational subjects and in tertiary vocational colleges.
- › Increase the use of TAF/TIP programmes enabling pupils to combine vocational subjects and general studies at upper secondary level.
- › Reschedule written examinations for final-year classes to take place before 17 May without reducing the total number of teaching hours.
- › Consider the possibility of earlier re-sit examinations for pupils who have failed upper secondary examinations.
- › Retain a national absence limit for upper secondary schools.
- › Keep the option to establish and run publicly funded independent schools as an alternative to state schools. Independent schools are an important supplement and alternative to the state schools at primary and secondary levels.
- › Pave the way for greater exchange of experience between state schools and independent schools.
- › Use texts in both Norwegian Nynorsk and Norwegian Bokmål throughout pupils' school career.
- › Phase out the scheme of separate examination and grades for the second-choice form of Norwegian at both lower and upper secondary schools.
- › Introduce a pilot scheme whereby pupils in programmes for general studies in the upper secondary school are given the option of choosing fewer subjects in the final two years, but with increased specialization in the subjects chosen. ➤

- Facilitate exchange from university-preparatory to vocational programmes.
- Permit more vocational courses at upper secondary level to include a lot of practical work and little theory by establishing more options in the certificate of practice scheme.
- Secure pupils' and apprentices' right to evaluate the teaching and learning environment in schools and training establishments.
- Continue to increase grants for apprentices with the long-term aim that these will equal the cost of a vocational studies place.
- Increase the equipment grant for more expensive vocational programme options, and update and quality assure equipment in these programmes of study.
- Trial an apprenticeship funding scheme in selected industries based on a Danish model in order to be able to offer more apprenticeships. The state and the municipality must front this, and increase their intake of apprentices.
- Increase the use of exchange models so that more pupils get relevant practice also in the first two years of vocational training. Make efforts to ensure that the county authorities and the labour market organizations provide more apprenticeships in the region, and give them greater influence in shaping vocational training in line with the needs of the labour market.
- Develop the vocational course of education to provide more opportunities for development and a smoother transition between the trade certificate and higher education.
- Offer pupils in upper secondary schools who have poor motivation and mastery, work placements or alternative training for shorter periods.
- Review the vocational training provision, and assess initiatives for more apprenticeships, intake requirements for supplementary subjects and several alternative training courses similar to the certificate of practice scheme.
- Have several alternative training arenas where young people struggling with their motivation can carry out practical and varied work as part of their school day.



## GOOD TEACHERS AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

**Høyre wants to have proficient teachers and head teachers who are offered good career development opportunities in schools.**

Good leadership is crucial for pupils' learning. The teacher is the leader in the classroom, and is responsible for the pupils' learning, while the head teacher is responsible for school results. We want to enhance the status and reputation of the teaching profession in society. The teacher is a knowledge provider and the quality of teaching depends on the teaching staff's motivation and professional competence. Høyre wants the best teachers to continue to teach, and to enable them to advance career-wise and become specialists with increased prestige, salary and status. The most important innovations in the school system must be driven forward by a strong teaching profession.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Continue efforts to remove unnecessary bureaucracy that hampers teachers in schools.
- Continue to invest in the continuing education of teachers.
- Assess whether the teaching profession itself should have more responsibility for parts of the funding for school developments.

- › Aim to ensure that all teachers have specialized in the subjects they teach.
- › Work to put in place stricter admission requirements to teacher training
- › Recruit more vocational subjects teachers, including by means of recruitment grants.
- › Use grant schemes to give unqualified educational staff in schools and vocational training the chance to take pedagogical qualifications and thereby become qualified for permanent employment.
- › Strengthen schemes giving vocational teachers work practice.
- › Continue efforts to establish new career pathways in schools, including by extending new position categories such as a teaching specialist, for example as an Adjunct Teacher or Adjunct Secondary Teacher in lower and upper secondary schools respectively.
- › Promote better collaboration between school, higher education and working life, through for example more work placements for teachers, research-related teaching and the Lektor2 scheme.
- › Complete and quality assure a five-year master's degree programme for teachers.
- › Give higher priority to professional digital competence in teacher training and in continuing and further education for teachers.
- › Give head teachers the right and duty to undertake continuing and further education.
- › Continue to focus on leadership training for school principals, for example by making this a permanent programme of study.
- › Boost the expertise regarding gifted children in teacher training.
- › Make efforts to include more occupational groups in schools to create teams around pupils.

## SCHOOL OWNERS WHO ADVANCE PUPILS' LEARNING

**Høyre wants to have active and committed school owners, and believes the national authorities must have clear expectations as to results, while there must be considerable room for manoeuvre locally.**

The differences in quality and learning outcomes between individual schools and municipalities are excessive. All school owners must have good systems for quality assurance, quality development and quality control. The purpose of all mapping undertaken in schools must be to increase the school's contribution to the learning outcomes of the individual pupil. Sound management at every school is necessary to promote stronger learning outcomes for pupils and better results. We are of the opinion that the current school inspection regime puts far too little emphasis on pupils' learning outcomes and school quality.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Introduce a national programme to advise and follow up school owners and schools with persistently weak results. Municipalities and county authorities with weak school results should be required to get support from a national guidance body.
- › Expect school owners to map learning outcomes throughout the entire duration of the pupils' school career and ensure full transparency regarding school results.
- › Seek to ensure that school owners have a good information flow in respect of pupils whenever pupils move to a new school during their course of education.
- › Strengthen expert and research communities focusing on the role of the school owner and promote the exchange of best practice.
- › Redirect public funding used to develop schools with the aim of ensuring that school development initiatives are primarily implemented through collaboration between the municipalities and the higher education institutions.



## LIFELONG LEARNING

Høyre wants it to be easier for people in work to acquire new knowledge and competence.

Norwegian working life is characterized by continual change. New technological opportunities, globalization, migration and an ageing population result in rapid changes and a growing need for retraining and competence enhancement.

Norway must actively exploit the opportunities offered by new technologies to strengthen our competitive edge in the business sector, reinforce value creation in the public sector and tackle the great societal challenges of our time. New technologies, such as comprehensive digitization, robotization and automation will lead to a change in content for many jobs, while other jobs will be replaced by technological solutions. Although this frees up work capacity, it also requires substantial investments in new competencies in order to exploit the opportunities provided by new technologies.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that everyone outside the labour force who receives assistance from public agencies is automatically offered mapping of their basic skills such as reading and writing.
- › Strengthen work training programmes via the SkillsPlus scheme.
- › Make provision for enhancing competence and career development throughout people's entire work career, and examine the opportunities for greater competence enhancement for seniors in particular.
- › Strengthen continuing education programmes targeting industries in a reorganization phase.
- › Extend and implement a national strategy for competence enhancement in collaboration with the labour market organizations.
- › Trial a scheme whereby NAV can offer formal competence at lower secondary level, or upper secondary education, while the job seeker receives support from NAV.
- › Assess a KompetanseFunn scheme based on the SkatteFunn indirect funding scheme whereby companies receive tax deductions for expenses related to skills enhancement.
- › Encourage universities, university colleges and tertiary vocational colleges to develop programmes of continuing and further education in close association with employers.
- › Extend the SkillsPlus scheme to apply to skills training at the workplace.

## ATTRACTIVE TERTIARY VOCATIONAL COLLEGES

Høyre will strengthen tertiary vocational colleges in order to make tertiary vocational education more attractive

The tertiary vocational colleges form an important part of Norway's education programme and are characterized by particularly close collaboration with employers. Many skilled workers want and need competence beyond that provided by a trade certificate, and such expertise is sought after in working life. We intend to develop tertiary vocational colleges as part of our educational provision and to ensure good recruitment to these places of learning.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Develop tertiary vocational colleges as an attractive and independent education pathway.
- › Promote structural change in order to put in place more robust tertiary vocational colleges.
- › Strengthen tertiary vocational colleges by providing a predictable and flexible state funding scheme that rewards quality improvements.
- › Ensure that there is a clear division of tasks between the tertiary vocational colleges and the higher education sector.
- › Have clear, predictable and reciprocal schemes for transfer between tertiary vocational colleges and universities and university colleges.
- › Ensure that the counselling service in primary and secondary schools, NAV and the regional career advisory services increase their competence in tertiary vocational education in order to contribute to recruitment to such colleges and boost their profile.

## HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Høyre wants to raise the quality of Norwegian higher education, ensure that more of our research communities are among the best globally, and that there is continued robust investment in research.

Students will attain success by having access to a range of programmes of study characterized by high quality and relevance, high ambitions and clear expectations of the students. The quality of teaching must be boosted.

Good priorities are essential. A small country such as Norway must intensify its efforts to develop a few research communities that can become world-leading, while at the same time we must invest heavily in research and development in areas in which we have special strengths and needs.

Høyre will promote research on solving society's great challenges and contribute to innovation and competitive ability as well as to new understanding and an informed social debate. We will particularly emphasize that publicly funded research must be of high quality and must be independent of political directives or special interests that may cast doubt on the reliability of the research.

Norwegian research communities must increasingly take part in international collaboration. This is of crucial importance in order to boost research quality and education, to participate in joint international efforts to acquire new knowledge and to draw on knowledge developed outside Norway's borders. Høyre will make provision for new knowledge to be exploited through increased collaboration between universities, research institutions and employers, and through greater commercialization and new business start-ups founded on research-based knowledge.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Implement the Long-term Plan for research and higher education.
- › Develop schemes that support Centres of Excellence in Higher Education (SFU), Norwegian Centres of Excellence (SFF), Centres for Research-Driven Innovation (SFI) and Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME).
- › Allocate a higher proportion of state funding to higher education through competition based on results achievement.



- Ensure that there is a sharper focus on academic quality in respect of public investment in research, and that research that does not deliver quality or lacks relevance is discontinued.
- Continue efforts to establish stronger universities and university colleges, including a better distribution of work between educational institutions so that programmes of education are anchored in strong and active research communities.
- Carry out the measures recommended in the report on quality in Norwegian higher education in order to strengthen the quality of teaching among other things.
- Refine the development agreement scheme between the state and higher education institutions, and link this to funding instruments.

- Boost public research efforts to reach the total research investment target of 3 per cent of GNP by 2030, of which 2 per cent should come from the private sector.
- Encourage more research in the business sector and promote closer collaboration between research and business communities, for example through the SkatteFunn scheme, User-driven Research-based innovation (BIA) and other business-related programmes under the Research Council of Norway.
- Establish a scientific advisory body to advise the government on how to promote high quality and relevant education and research across all sectors of society.
- Consolidate measures to promote innovation in the public sector and service industries.
- Develop stronger research institutions. Institutions with a focus on applied research play a key role in change and innovation.
- Develop industrial and public sector PhDs, and introduce similar schemes for postdoctoral fellows.
- Give research institutions the resources to create more research positions.
- Ensure joint national standards for education in health professions.
- Introduce moderate tuition fees for students from countries outside the EEA area.
- Strengthen the principle of open access research publication to make knowledge available to a greater number of people.
- Prioritize EU research programmes and safeguard framework conditions for Norwegian participants in EU projects.
- Pave the way for educational institutions to use supplementary forms of admission such as personal statements, admission tests and interviews.

## BETTER QUALITY OF STUDIES AND A COMFORTABLE LIFE FOR STUDENTS

The goal of Høyre is to achieve a high-quality higher education system with relevant programmes of studies that can be accessed on the basis of qualifications independently of financial and social background.

Students will succeed when they meet education provision that is characterized by high quality and relevance, high ambitions and clear expectations of the students, as well as good framework conditions that inspire students to complete their programme of study within the nominal length of study. Funding and welfare schemes must be better designed to allow students to choose to have children during their course of study. The principle of free education will be continued. We must prioritize courses of study that give the skills that Norway will particularly need in the coming decades.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Phase in 11-month financial support by 2020.
- Improve support schemes for students with children.
- Give students the opportunity to take up further loans in the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund.
- Increase the maximum income level for the conversion of student loans to grants.
- Improve support to Norwegian students abroad to motivate more students to study abroad, including by increasing support to students who study at prestigious universities abroad.
- Increase the volume of student accommodation and prioritize the areas where there is the greatest need.
- Make student housing a separate land-use objective in the Planning and Building Act.
- Ensure better follow-up of students to improve their mental health and academic progression.



- Strengthen work on follow-up of students' mental health.
- Prioritize preventive health measures among students.
- Offer a greater number of places in digitization, IT and other ICT subjects.
- Give Norwegian students abroad the opportunity to work while studying, without losing their membership of the National Insurance Scheme.
- Examine changes in the funding of studies to encourage students to complete their course within its nominal duration.
- Motivate the higher education sector to introduce digital assessment and examinations in subjects where this is natural.
- Work to ensure that universities and university colleges cooperate to a greater extent with local employers, including by offering more work placements during the course of education.

# HELP AND CARE WHEN YOU NEED IT

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## HELP AND CARE WHEN YOU NEED IT

**Høyre wants welfare reform that gives more people a new chance of employment and results in fewer passive recipients of welfare benefits.**

Work is the basis for our shared wealth. As a community, we create the wealth that we use and distribute. Høyre wishes to strengthen the welfare-to-work strategy and ensure that those who are able to work can obtain work, as well as to increase respect for all types of work. A job is the surest way out of poverty. We must lower the threshold for entering working life so that more people are given a new opportunity.

Serious labour market actors who follow the rules are a precondition for an inclusive, adaptable and equal labour market. Høyre will clamp down on the work-related crime and social dumping that threaten the Norwegian labour market. We are living longer, therefore we must continue working for longer. We regard older people as a resource in working life, not as a burden. We will make it easier for employees to remain working for longer, while also critically examining welfare schemes that undermine the position of older workers in the labour market.

Our current welfare system is far too centrally controlled and complex. Many of our benefit schemes run the risk of keeping people out of the labour market instead of helping them to join it. Høyre wants welfare reform in order to simplify the benefits system and boost welfare-to-work, while ensuring that people who need assistance actually receive it. Our welfare system must be improved in order to assist those who need it most. No one should lose out by combining work and welfare benefits.



## STIMULATING WORKING LIFE FOR ALL

**Høyre wants a secure labour market with room for more people than today.**

Working life in Norway is secure and characterized by decent employment conditions. Cooperation between employers and employees has enabled Norway to create one of the world's most modern and adaptable labour markets. Høyre wants to see a labour market with serious employers, and will combat work-related crime through collaboration between public authorities and the social partners. We consider that equality in the labour market and a high degree of unionization constitute a competitive advantage. Høyre will further develop the Norwegian model.

Our goal is for working life to be inclusive and rewarding. Far too many people are unwillingly working part-time, particularly in the health sector. Høyre is concerned that employers and employees should be able to find flexible solutions that allow more people to work full-time if they so wish. We must make better provisions for people with reduced functional capacity to also participate in working life. We want to give older people who have the capacity to work the opportunity to continue working, and we will pave the way for society to make greater use of the resources that older people can offer. A secure labour market must adapt to changes in work patterns and family life. Høyre wants a modern, secure and flexible Working Environment Act. ➤

**HØYRE WILL:**

- › Maintain permanent employment as the main rule in working life.
- › Continue to work to reduce the use of temporary positions in the public sector.
- › Make provisions for more full-time positions and alternative shift schemes, and for more people to choose full-time work.
- › As a main rule, ensure gradation in the receipt of health-related benefits and sick leave, and that those who can and want to work are given the opportunity to use their residual capacity for work.
- › Raise the Personal Allowance for income tax.
- › Give recipients of public benefits a greater opportunity to undertake credit-awarding education programmes.
- › Offer more permanent adapted workplaces, particularly in the regular labour market, and ensure that a greater number of permanent adapted workplaces are offered to people with intellectual disability.
- › Support more tripartite sectoral programmes in areas that have problems with poor working conditions.
- › Strengthen the work to combat high sickness absence and critically review the approach to the current Inclusive Working Life Agreement jointly with the parties to the agreement before any possible renewal.
- › Give jobseekers with mental health challenges coordinated follow-up from the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) and the health services in parallel.
- › Strengthen the role of employers in preventing long-term sickness absence by considering a prolongation of the employer's sickness pay liability period, without any increase in the total cost for the employer.

- › Ensure the development of tax and welfare schemes under the welfare-to-work strategy.
- › Simplify the medical certificate form for GPs in cooperation with the Norwegian Medical Association and give NAV employees responsibility for assessing benefits and capacity to work in consultation with the user.
- › Increase the use of wage supplements to help more people enter the labour market.
- › Include more people with reduced functional capacity in working life through improved workplace adaptation and more use of individual workplace adaptation agreements.
- › Maintain the tax deduction for trade union fees at the current level to ensure a high level of unionization.
- › Ensure that the fight against work-related crime and social dumping is prioritized by the agencies affected, invest in the co-located centres to spearhead the fight against work-related crime, and ensure improved information-sharing.
- › Increase awareness among those engaged in public procurement for central government and municipalities of their responsibility to contribute to a respectable labour market through their procurement activities.
- › Reinforce international collaboration to combat cross-border work-related crime.
- › Make wage enforcement part of the free legal aid scheme to help combat unserious actors.
- › Boost programmes for competence enhancement in working life.
- › Have modern working environment legislation that ensures safety for the individual and necessary flexibility in the organization of daily work.
- › Establish a commission to evaluate the sickness pay scheme.

## SECOND CHANCE

Høyre will provide adapted assistance and make better provisions for those who wish to return to work, and allow the voluntary sector and social entrepreneurs a greater participation in welfare work.

Høyre wants an inclusive labour market that provides opportunities for more to participate. Far too many people are excluded from working life, and in the case of young people, this is a matter of particular concern. We will review the social security system to ensure that it gets unemployed people rapidly into work, and that everyone is able to use their residual capacity for work. By making demands we show that we care. Høyre is therefore concerned with having an activity requirement to ensure that recipients of social assistance are engaging in activity. We will lower the threshold for participation in the labour market for persons with reduced functional capacity, and we will promote better collaboration between employers, NAV, the employment agency sector, vocational rehabilitation enterprises and other suppliers of employment services.

There are those who find that the NAV system does not provide them with the follow-up that they need, while others receive help, but not help that is adapted to their situation. Freedom of choice is important for Høyre. Being able to make decisions about your own life enhances self-esteem, self-respect and motivation. The voluntary sector and social entrepreneurs are key contributors to the welfare we enjoy in our society. Some work according to well-proven methods, others attempt to create new ones. Høyre wants to increase the opportunities for social entrepreneurs to participate in welfare work in society.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Harmonize and simplify the social security system, including investigating the possibility to merge unemployment benefit and work assessment allowance in order to ensure flexibility and prevent negative incentive effects in the social security system.
- › Reduce central micromanagement and give NAV greater responsibility to provide users with the right interventions at the right time.
- › Ensure better collaboration between NAV, the employment agency sector and employers to enable more people to find jobs.



- › Achieve the objective that no NAV users under 30 years of age will be unemployed for more than eight weeks without receiving an offer of work or education, vocational training or other activity.
- › Introduce a national trial whereby a proportion of the state welfare budget is transferred to the municipalities, thereby giving them joint responsibility with the central government for financing some of the social security benefits, and they may retain the money they would have spent on welfare payments if they succeed in helping vulnerable groups to enter the labour market.
- › Lower the threshold for access by recipients of social assistance to central government labour market measures, to ensure that users receive the help that they should have.
- › Implement activity requirements for recipients of social assistance in all municipalities, and prioritize the youngest recipients first.
- › Place stricter demands on NAV's employment service providers and see to it that poor results entail consequences for these service providers.
- › Introduce trials of Social Impact Bonds to mobilize social entrepreneurs.
- › Work systematically to encourage the participation of more non-governmental and social entrepreneurs in resolving social challenges in the community, for example by enhancing municipalities' procurement competence with regard to social entrepreneurs.

## SOCIAL SAFETY NET FOR THOSE WHO NEED IT

Høyre will provide security and a better support service for those who need it.

Through shared choices we have built a safety net that provides security for those who are excluded from working life. This is good for society at large, but most importantly, it is a boon for the individual. Most children in Norway grow up in secure families with good economic conditions. However, there are families that are excluded due to poor living conditions, economic difficulties, or both, and this affects children. Høyre aims to create opportunities for all. We will strengthen the social safety net. Good conditions of upbringing also mean the possibility for all children to participate in leisure activities.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Continue to work to ensure that all children and adolescents are able to participate in leisure and cultural activities.
- › Continue the reduced parental contribution and free core time in kindergarten for children of parents in financial difficulty.
- › Make provisions for more people to own their own property, for example through greater use of the rent-to-buy social housing model throughout the country.
- › Increase the parameters for start-up loans to families and especially to single parents.
- › Improve treatment and aftercare in the field of substance abuse and psychiatry.
- › Invest in an inclusive knowledge school as one of the most essential tools to prevent increasing differences.
- › Develop models that include more measures across the assistance services to provide better follow-up and support to families on low incomes, for example through help with housing, household economy and services related to kindergarten, after-school clubs and leisure activities for children.



## ACTIVE SENIORS AND MORE YEARS OF OPPORTUNITIES

Høyre wants a society that gives older people who can and wish to, opportunities to participate for longer in working life.

Norwegians are living longer, and we already have one million inhabitants over the age of 60 years in Norway. Høyre believes that we must seize the opportunities that this gives us. We must make provisions for all those who have a good capacity to work, and who so wish, to prolong their working lives. Older people in the future will be more vigorous and healthy than the older people of years gone by. Better health means that we can work for longer, but attitudes, behaviours and schemes still exist that may serve to exclude older people.

**HØYRE WILL:**

- Make provisions so that a greater number of older people with a good capacity to work may prolong their working lives if they so wish.
- Facilitate improved competence and career development for employees throughout their careers, and particularly explore opportunities for increased competence enhancement for older workers.
- Review the special early retirement limits and other statutory age limits in the public sector with the social partners, with the objective that more people who have a good capacity for work can prolong their working lives.
- Complete the implementation of the pension reform in the public and private sector.
- Prevent and restrict early retirement from working life via health-related social security benefits.
- Review special early retirement schemes to make older employees more attractive in the labour market.
- Follow up the strategy for an elderly-friendly society in order to encourage activity and work for older people.
- Consider raising the upper age limit for associate judges and lay assessors.
- Consider raising the upper age limit in working life, undertake a critical assessment of the legislation and combat attitudes in society that provide a basis for wrongful age discrimination.



# THE PATIENT'S HEALTH CARE SERVICE

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## THE PATIENT'S HEALTH CARE SERVICE

Høyre wants to develop a patient-focused health service and especially prioritize quality care and follow-up of the most vulnerable patient groups.

Getting help when you need it is vital for both safety and quality of life. The most important element in the health service is not the system, but the patient, and the treatment system must be built around this concept. That is why Høyre wants a health service that is there for patients. We want to continue to reduce the waiting time and uncertainty for those in need of treatment, as we have done through shorter hospital queues and package pathways for cancer treatment that eliminate unnecessary waiting times and provide cancer patients with better care. While the private, voluntary and public sectors must work together to achieve the best possible health services, the public sector must have the main responsibility. Quality services and freedom of choice in the provision of services are keywords in Høyre's health policy. We want to increase openness in the health services, give more power to patients by increasing freedom of choice, and bolster individual access by digitizing information and making it available to the individual patient.

Over the coming decades, an ageing population, new medical technology and increasing expectations of the welfare system will put more pressure on our services. In order to ensure fundamental security and a better offer for those who need health services the most, we believe it will be necessary to set better and clearer priorities than today. We are particularly concerned that patients with serious illnesses and highly vulnerable patient groups must be guaranteed worthwhile services. A good public health policy supports good choices for individuals. Prevention is good both for the individual and for society. A patient-focused health service and a sound public health policy are among the most important contributions for combatting undesirable disparities between people in Norway.



## BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH CAN PREVENT DISEASE

Høyre wants to help people make good and sound health and lifestyle choices in their daily lives.

A sound and preventive public health policy will make good and healthy choices even more visible than today. Obesity and physical inactivity are causing more illness and increasing social differences. We want to make it easier for people to make good choices for their own health and lifestyle. Active outdoor recreation and use of nature prevent both physical and mental disorders. At the same time, measures to improve public health must always be balanced against the individual's freedom of choice. All societies must allow their inhabitants to make their own decisions – even though others may view them as wrong.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Make it easier for people to make good health and lifestyle choices in their daily lives.

- › Continue collaboration with the business community to promote healthy products in grocery stores and easy-to-understand labelling of healthy alternatives.
- › Have more physical activity in school, including by learning from and sharing good experiences from trial programmes at schools and in municipalities.
- › Make mental health an integral part of public health work, including proactive efforts to combat loneliness in the population.
- › Mobilize and collaborate with the voluntary sector and organizations in public health work, including sport, to develop a broad range of programmes for vulnerable children and youth groups and targeted programmes for the elderly and chronically ill.
- › Work for better facilitation of healthy eating habits in schools and help spread good experiences with meal planning and dietary work in schools and municipalities.
- › Continue the work of preventing young people from becoming smokers and snus users.
- › Maintain the main features of current alcohol policy and give the municipalities greater freedom of action concerning serving hours and sales outlets.
- › Promote mental health and prevent loneliness also among the elderly.
- › Ensure proper use of medicines in collaboration with pharmacies, doctors and patients.
- › Increase research on vaccines.
- › Expand the child vaccination programme with an HPV vaccine for boys to stop the spread of HPV and related cancer diagnoses.
- › Continue collaboration with outdoor recreation councils and organizations on low-threshold outdoor activities in local communities, emphasizing physical activity, nature experiences and social meeting places to promote physical and mental health.



## PATIENT-DOCTOR PARTNERSHIP

**Høyre wants to have a strong primary health service throughout the country.**

Most people have their first contact with the health service through the primary health service – including through their GP. The primary health service is therefore very important also for prevention and early care. The local health service provides the basis for good health services and cooperation between the primary health and specialist health services. With the proportion of elderly people in the Norwegian population on the rise, the number of people with chronic illnesses and complex care needs is steadily increasing, placing additional pressure on primary health services.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Provide all inhabitants with access to a competent, dynamic and well-organized primary health service, wherever people live in the country. ➤

- › Change legislation and funding systems to facilitate interdisciplinary primary and follow-up teams in the municipalities.
- › Continue to boost competence in the municipal health services to ensure skilled and up-to-date employees.
- › Continue the focus on an interdisciplinary child health clinic and school health service that will provide good access to help and support for children and young people through kindergarten and school. Expand low-threshold services in mental health care in the municipalities, ensure the appointment of more psychologists, and augment the mental health expertise of GPs and other services.
- › Strengthen the focus on the e-health service, including by the introduction of a common national solution for patient records.
- › Establish more skilled nursing facilities and local medical centres.
- › Provide good dental care and good public support schemes for vulnerable groups.
- › Support good cooperation projects between the municipal and specialist health service.
- › Facilitate the development of learning and coping programmes in the municipalities, as well as better coordination with other services.
- › Establish follow-up teams in the primary health service for better monitoring of patients with chronic and long-term ailments.
- › Follow up the establishment of the right to user-driven personal assistance to enhance user rights and freedom of choice in everyday life.
- › Facilitate the deployment by municipalities of new welfare technology that can help to make patients' lives easier and that can increase the quality of services, including by strengthening the welfare technology programme.
- › Introduce the requirement that GPs must provide e-consultation to those who want it.



- › Encourage doctors and health professionals to perform tasks digitally.
- › Strengthen the midwife service in the municipalities by, among other things, giving midwives greater responsibility to ensure good health for women. Midwives can contribute to this goal through greater responsibility for pregnancy check-ups, birth control and family counselling, health examinations and tests. It should also be assessed whether midwives should have expanded rights in their practice.



## HELP OF SPECIALISTS WHEN YOU NEED IT

**Høyre will ensure high professional quality in the health service so that patients receive the best possible help and care.**

The specialist health service also includes our hospitals. A patient-focused health service means that the quality of treatment should be high, waiting times as short as possible, and that the patient should be consulted in all parts of the health service. Patients must be met with knowledge and respect. Good information flow and communication among the municipal health service, the GP and the specialist health service are important elements in ensuring this goal.

We believe that the organization of the health service must be reviewed. A national health plan will lay down the overall priorities for the health services while we must ensure at the same time that there is latitude and flexibility at the individual hospital to ensure that the treatment provided is the best possible. Waiting times must be as short as possible. Continuous assessments of the health services' priorities are necessary, and we are particularly concerned with ensuring treatment for people with serious illnesses and vulnerable patient groups.

Antibiotic resistance will be one of the health service's greatest challenges going forward. More resistant bacteria will cause diseases that are easily cured today to become deadly in the future. We are committed to securing and strengthening national and international efforts to preserve the effects of existing antibiotics and contribute to the development of new ones.



**HØYRE WILL:**

- Ensure safe hospitals and better healthcare for all, wherever you live in the country.
- Continue to reduce waiting times before starting treatment or investigation and during the course of treatment.
- Introduce package pathways that reduce the waiting time, provide patients with improved treatment and rehabilitation in multiple areas, and work more comprehensively on clinical pathways throughout the healthcare service.
- Ensure greater management of hospitals by quality goals and patient outcomes, and with more transparency than today.
- Incorporate more national coordination and effective decision-making structures in the management of hospitals and specialist health services while giving local health authorities greater freedom in their efforts to provide patients with good services.
- Have a better division of tasks and collaboration between hospitals where the hospitals utilize each other's expertise and capacity by working more in networks and as teams.
- Work to reduce unnecessary reporting and forms, and simplify everyday life in hospitals.
- Promote a culture of transparency and good leadership in the specialist health service.
- Ensure freedom of choice and diversity for patients and extend free treatment choices to new areas.
- Increase the provision of health services offered by private and non-profit players through free treatment choices.
- Have more transparency about waiting times and give patients better information about their rights.

- Enable people with a permanent need for adapted services from municipalities to choose their own housing.
- Increase the use of private specialists on contract, with more authorisations and a better division of labour between hospitals, outpatient clinics and contracted specialists.
- Ensure that women are able to use gynaecology services without a referral from their GP.
- Prioritize more clearly and better throughout the health service, based on utility, resource and severity criteria.
- Establish a quality approval scheme for hospitals, including national approval of national and regional treatment services.
- Follow up the establishment of a permanent commission to investigate undesirable events in the health services.
- Ensure better nutritional follow-up for vulnerable patient groups.
- Provide for more clinical research and experimental treatment in Norway and more innovation through collaboration between hospitals and the health industry.
- Ensure that Norway will be a global advocate for coordinated efforts against antibiotic resistance.
- Work for an international ban on using antibiotics as growth enhancers in food production and for a ban in the EU against veterinarians selling antibiotics.
- Insist on a cross-sectoral approach in the national and international battle against antibiotics resistance.
- Adopt a goal to train more doctors in Norway.



## IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH

Høyre will continue the escalation of improved mental health care in Norway.

Good mental health is important for a good quality of life. Efforts must therefore be made at the earliest opportunity for those who struggle with their mental health. We will continue to prioritize mental health as one of our most important initiatives. We must also prevent mental problems from occurring by preventing bullying and social isolation among children, young people and adults in the workplace.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Improve the integration of mental health care into other public health work.

- › Establish a relevant and professional first-line service within mental health care in the municipalities, with special emphasis on programmes for children and young people.
- › Also introduce package pathways in mental health care to provide shorter waiting times and better treatment.
- › Extend free treatment choices to several areas within mental health care.
- › Expand low-threshold services and improve follow-up mental health care in the municipalities, ensure the appointment of more psychologists and bolster the mental health expertise of GPs and other services.
- › Introduce municipal payment obligations for discharged patients in mental health care to ensure binding collaboration and better follow-up after treatment.
- › Remove bureaucratic obstacles to better cooperation between the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) and the health service in following up the mentally ill.
- › Introduce “job prescriptions” to activate patients and use it as part of the treatment programme.
- › Support outreach treatment teams in the municipalities in collaboration with the specialist health service.
- › Strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation between psychological, psychiatric and substance abuse care services in order to improve aftercare.
- › Collaborate more with voluntary organizations to provide better activation programmes for people with mental health problems.
- › Reduce the use of coercion during mental healthcare treatment.
- › Strengthen mental healthcare treatment services in the correctional services.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Høyre wants to have more dignified substance abuse treatment services and to fight addiction. Our goal is that no one should die of an overdose.

We want to pursue a knowledge-based substance abuse policy, with the limitation of adverse effects and harm reduction as crucial goals, and to prioritize whatever has the greatest effect. Alcohol, drugs and tobacco have harmful effects on the health of individuals, and we must attempt to reduce them. A continued ban on the use and possession of drugs is an important normative measure that does not stand in the way of an approach with more emphasis on harm reduction. We want to change the authorities' responses to persons arrested for use and possession of drugs from punishment to help, treatment and follow-up – inspired, among other things, by experiences in Portugal.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Transfer responsibility for community follow-up for use and possession of illicit drugs for personal use from the justice sector to the health service.
- › Further reduce waiting times for addicts waiting for treatment and provide a better transition from completed treatment to follow-up/aftercare.
- › Introduce package pathways within interdisciplinary specialized drug treatment by 2020 patterned after pathways for cancer patients.
- › Have better interdisciplinary cooperation on treatment and aftercare between mental health care, drug treatment and somatic health services.
- › Ensure diversity and freedom of choice in the treatment of substance abuse problems by continuing free treatment options within interdisciplinary specialized drug treatment, supplemented by public tenders from non-profit and private substance abuse treatment providers.
- › Open reception centres in the largest cities where substance abuse patients can get an appointment for outpatient treatment or other treatment within 24 hours of detoxification.
- › Establish low-threshold substitution treatment in all health regions patterned after the LASSO model.
- › Improve work on drug addicts' somatic health, including a focus on competence and awareness in the services and facilitating increased emphasis on physical activity and nutrition in substance abuse treatment.
- › Strengthen detoxification services and substance abuse coping skills for prisoners with drug problems in Norwegian prisons.
- › Work to ensure that prisoners with lengthy sentences get a chance to become completely drug-free before release.
- › Further develop and increase the use of health-related measures and methods in response to less serious drug-related offences, including a youth contract.
- › Ensure that Norway will be a driving global force for a drug policy based on health, harm reduction and human rights.
- › Adopt a professional assessment of whether methods other than injection of heroin should be allowed in a supervised injection room.
- › Assess whether GPs, following a professional assessment, can start treatment of addicts with Subutex and Subuxone outside substitution treatment.
- › Carry out trials with harm reduction measures, such as heroin-assisted treatment as an offer for heavy drug users.
- › Permit more drug treatment where admission is voluntary, while implementation is mandatory.



**Next of kin are a resource and must have a say concerning the healthcare services offered to their relative.**

## A DIGNIFIED LIFE WITH CHRONIC ILLNESS

Høyre wants to make life better for people with chronic illnesses.

Many people in Norway struggle with chronic health problems due to injury or illness or because they have undergone a tough course of treatment for life-threatening illnesses. For quality of life it is important that people are given as much opportunity as possible to live a normal life with an affiliation with working life, a social network and family.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Improve rehabilitation for acute and permanent illness.
- › Gradually include rehabilitation in the approval scheme for free treatment choices.
- › Enable the municipalities to take greater responsibility for rehabilitation services for the most common patient groups.
- › Remove the upper age limit of 67 years for the right to user-driven personal assistance.
- › Introduce the right to user-driven respite patterned after the right to user-driven personal assistance model.
- › Continue to have specialized rehabilitation services for which the specialist health service is responsible.

## INCLUSION OF NEXT OF KIN

Høyre wants family members to have the opportunity to have a say in healthcare services when a patient is unable to make their own decisions concerning their course of treatment.

Next of kin are a resource and must have a say concerning the healthcare services offered to their relative. Attention should be paid to the fact that next of kin may have several roles as respite care providers, caregivers and decision-makers for the course of treatment. We believe it is important to base treatment on the broadest possible knowledge base.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Recognize next of kin as an important resource in health and care services.
- › Promote good health and good services for family members in demanding care situations.
- › Support next of kin in their efforts be taken more seriously in all parts of the chain of treatment.
- › Identify challenges, needs and possible solutions to better serve the needs of family members of people who are ill and have care needs.
- › Clarify the responsibility of the municipalities to ensure user and next-of-kin involvement.

## MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY

Høyre will promote the application of biotechnology in the treatment and prevention of disease within a sound ethical framework.

Genetic engineering and biotechnology offer great opportunities for treating and preventing disease. We want to pursue a policy that fosters further development and creation of new biotechnological and pharmacological industries in Norway. At the same time, biotechnology presents major ethical challenges. We maintain that the policy must be based on a precautionary principle and that we must set limits on the use of technological opportunities in order to protect human dignity and the integrity of the individual, to preserve ethical principles and to provide an overview of the consequences of new treatments.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Protect the precautionary principle concerning stem cells from born human beings.
- › Uphold current abortion law.
- › Prevent the selection of human life on the basis of certain traits.
- › Say no to anonymous sperm donors to ensure that all children born in Norway will have the opportunity to know their biological origin.
- › Limit medical intervention to cases where there is evidence of positive health benefits for the patient.
- › Use the most gentle treatment methods for those who already have the right to an amniotic fluid examination under current legislation.
- › Say no to surrogacy, but not punish persons who become parents through surrogacy abroad.

## GOOD HEALTH IN ADVANCED YEARS

Høyre's goal is to ensure good and worthy care tailored to individual needs, and we will employ welfare technology to increase the quality of services.

The age composition of the population is changing, and the complexity of meeting its needs will increase. Increased competence, changes in the organization of services and greater use of welfare technology will contribute to better quality and freedom of choice in care. More elderly people will need a health and care service that is more oriented to their individual needs. Necessary rehabilitation services should be offered to elderly patients following illness and injury. In order to provide security for people with care needs, we will facilitate follow-up by the same persons or teams, especially in the home care service. We will make it possible for older people to live at home for as long as possible, including with the use of welfare technology. Volunteer centres can play an important role in this work.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Support greater facilitation by municipalities of free user choice for home services (practical assistance) and home nursing care. Users must be allowed to choose the providers they wish to use or whether they wish to use the ordinary municipal services.
- › Follow up efforts to introduce a safety standard for nursing homes.
- › Encourage more municipalities to carry out preventive home visits for the elderly.
- › Take greater national responsibility to enable municipalities to add adequate capacity in the care services for those who live at home, in an institution or have other living arrangements.
- › Provide more and better knowledge about the state of the care services in terms of objective quality indicators and user satisfaction, greater transparency about this and better use of knowledge in the leadership and management of the services.
- › Amend the subsidy schemes in the Norwegian State Housing Bank to facilitate greater municipal and private development of assisted living residences, nursing home places, hospices, dementia villages and private shared housing. ➤

- Endeavour to build more dementia villages in Norway.
- Change the legislation so that practical assistance in the home and home nursing care are organized and delivered as a shared service.
- Train more health professionals skilled in dealing with the more complex clinical needs of elderly people.
- Have more interdisciplinary follow-up teams to help coordinate and provide tailored multi-disciplinary services. The teams will survey the users' goals and needs and organize and tailor services on this basis.
- Involve persons willing to volunteer their services in elder care to help improve the quality of life for the elderly.
- Help municipalities deploy new welfare technology that can help make patients' everyday lives easier and that can increase the quality of services, including by strengthening the welfare technology programme.
- Ensure that everyone is entitled to good palliative treatment that provides a dignified end to life, but that respect for human worth also entails a clear "No" to euthanasia.
- Ensure that everyday rehabilitation becomes an integral part of the nursing and care services in all municipalities.
- Strengthen efforts to provide proper nutrition and systematic follow-up of the nutritional status of all patients receiving help from home-based services and in institutions.
- Ensure that all elderly people in nursing homes or who receive home nursing care are given a regular review of their medications to ensure proper use.



# GREEN RESTRUC- TURING AND A SUSTAIN- ABLE FUTURE

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## GREEN RESTRUCTURING AND A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

**Høyre wants Norway to become a low-carbon society by 2050. The transport sector shall become carbon-free, and Norway shall be a pioneering country in renewable energy.**

Our ideological point of departure is management responsibility. We have to leave the planet we took over from our forefathers in at least as good a condition for our descendants. The challenge to the climate is one of the greatest challenges of our times. We think that Norway should achieve the development of a low-carbon society and help fulfil the Paris Agreement. Greenhouse gas emissions should be reduced by at least 40 per cent by 2030 relative to the 1990 level. These cuts should be implemented in cooperation with the EU. The biggest national reductions of greenhouse gas emissions must be made in the sectors not covered by the EU's Emissions Trading System; i.e. the transport sector, the agriculture sector and the waste and building sector.

Green growth also entails using the natural environment to bind as much of our greenhouse gas emissions as possible; the Norwegian natural environment and forests already bind about 50 per cent of our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

We want to make use of the market in the service of the environment, follow the principle that the polluter must pay, and ensure that it is profitable to choose environmentally friendly solutions in everyday life. It must become more expensive to pollute, cheaper to be environmentally friendly and more profitable to develop new climate-friendly solutions. We want to help facilitate the restructuring to a greener society with new, sustainable workplaces by specifying environmental requirements and by using the system of taxes and duties.

Business and industry will be crucial in the efforts to develop and implement climate solutions. The Norwegian central government is responsible for creating a predictable framework for climate policy. A good framework can help business and industry develop good, profitable, environmentally friendly solutions. At the same time, we want to strengthen central government support schemes that reduce the financial risk that a number of companies assume when they try out new technology.

Norwegian municipalities and local communities must play an active role in the battle against climate change if Norway is to be able to restructure to become a low-carbon society. Government purchasing power and regulations are important policy instruments for developing environmental technology and implementing environmentally friendly solutions. In addition, we also want to specify requirements and introduce measures that help promote environmentally friendly urban and local development in the municipalities.

## INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO MITIGATE CLIMATE CHANGE

**Norway shall be a driving force in the international efforts to mitigate climate change.**

The challenges to the climate are global and are best solved through international cooperation and binding international agreements. In December 2015, the world got a new binding climate agreement. The goal of the agreement is to keep global warming well under two degrees Celsius, and its ambition is to limit the warming to 1.5 degrees. Norway has the technology, expertise and capital to be a leader in the global green shift.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Continue the high level of investment in climate and forestry measures until 2030.
- Expand the framework for investment in renewable energy in developing countries under the Norwegian Export Credit Guarantee Agency (GIEK) and Export Credit Norway.
- Help developing countries achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement through contributions to the UN's Green Fund and other possibilities inherent in the Paris Agreement.
- Utilize EEA funds to support research in and development and construction of full-scale facilities for the capture and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> in Europe.
- See that Norway is an advocate of binding agreements that help solve the international challenges to the climate.

- › See that Norway provides knowledge, expertise and development aid in the battle against climate change.

## PIONEER IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

Norway shall contribute actively to the green shift by replacing fossil energy sources with renewable ones

Norway is rich in energy resources and should be a pioneering nation in the environmentally friendly production and consumption of hydropower, wind power, bio-energy, and other renewable forms of energy. Norway will have a substantial surplus of power in the coming years. This energy ought to be used to phase out fossil energy and achieve a low-carbon society through the utilization of new power processing techniques, e.g. in industry and computer centres, and through increased exchanges of power with our neighbouring countries.

Høyre wants to help ensure that Norway's potential for renewable energy in general and hydropower in particular can be better utilized, through good framework conditions, increased research efforts and further development of good policy instruments that help promote technological development in business and industry. A number of Norwegian companies are at the very forefront with regard to making use of climate-friendly technology. It is important that this trend continue.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Help ensure that companies develop and make use of environmentally and climate-friendly technology by providing support to a number of large-scale pilot and/or demo facilities.
- › Strengthen the transmission capacity for electric power transfer between Norway and other European countries in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to further develop Norway as Europe's green battery.
- › Strengthen Innovation Norway's environmental technology scheme, which helps facilitate risk alleviation.



- › Set a goal for energy efficiency improvements of 10 TWh in existing buildings by 2030, specify increased requirements for efficiency improvements in new buildings and provide support schemes and /or tax deductions for energy economizing in companies and households.
- › Ensure that Norway helps to develop a cost-effective technology for the capture, use and storage of CO<sub>2</sub> through the completion of at least one full-scale facility and to use our expertise in efforts in other countries.

## ZERO-EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORTATION

Høyre has a zero-emission vision for the transport sector.

We believe we have to plan cities and local communities so as to reduce transport needs. That means that the construction of new dwellings and commercial buildings ought to occur along existing transport corridors and at traffic junctions. We believe we must gradually phase out fossil energy throughout the entire transport sector by specifying requirements and introducing measures that help promote a rapid phasing in of zero and low-carbon solutions in all parts of the sector. Electrification of the transport sector is both an energy efficiency measure and a climate measure.



**Høyre believes that public transport in large urban areas ought to be carbon-free by 2025.**

## **PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, CYCLING AND WALKING**

**Høyre believes that public transport in large urban areas ought to be carbon-free by 2025.**

The Agreement on the Climate Report (“the Climate Settlement”) established that the growth in traffic in the large cities should be covered by public transport, cycling and walking. That requires good land-use planning and increased funding of public transport, cycling and walking so that the growth in transport can be distributed among these three environmentally friendly forms of transport. This is also crucial in order to avoid traffic congestion, to keep roads from claiming valuable land and to create pleasant local communities.

### **HØYRE WILL:**

- › See that the Norwegian central government finances at least 50 per cent of all major development of public transport in and around the largest cities and further develop good urban growth agreements that encourage public transport and cycling measures.
- › Replace diesel fuel in the railways with renewable sources of energy by 2030.

- › In the event of joint central government financing of major public transport efforts, see that requirements be set regarding densification of the built environment at public transport junctions and areas in the vicinity of stations,
- › Facilitate the development of infrastructure for low and zero-emission technology for vehicles, ferries and ships in cooperation with private sector entities.
- › Specify requirements for low and zero-emission solutions when bids on public transport are invited.
- › Increase the rate of investment in the development of railways and to increase the use of environmentally friendly fuels such as electricity and hydrogen.
- › Include climate-related goals for the transport sector in the Norwegian National Transport Plan and present measures in order to achieve the goals in that plan.
- › Help ensure that less heavily trafficked roads, forest roads, mountain roads and discontinued sections of railway lines can be used as bicycle paths.
- › Encourage increased development of continuous paths for bicycles and pedestrians in cities and urban areas.

## ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY VEHICLES

Høyre will work to ensure that all new vehicles after 2025 are zero- or low-carbon vehicles.

We want it to be profitable to choose environmentally friendly vehicles. Therefore, we will ensure framework conditions that contribute to a rapid phasing in of zero-emission vehicles and that make it profitable to choose them. The restructuring to zero-emission technology in the transport sector is a critical factor in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, it will be important in order to reduce local air pollution in the form of NOx and particulates.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Adjust the duties so that it is profitable to choose environmentally friendly vehicles and to gradually increase the duties on fossil-fuel vehicles and fossil fuels.
- › Help promote infrastructure that makes it possible to choose zero-emission vehicles throughout the whole country.
- › Establish clear rules and good framework conditions that make Norway an attractive market for self-driving vehicles.
- › Help promote experiments with driverless, zero-emission vehicles.
- › See that municipalities that so desire are able to introduce congestion pricing and additional environmental differentiation of the rates at the urban toll rings and give the municipalities good tools for reducing local environmental problems.
- › Increase the required percentage of bio-fuel at the pump in order to help promote a more rapid phasing in of sustainable bio-fuel.
- › Help promote environmentally friendly alternatives when the technology is available in order to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from air transport.

## GREEN SHIPPING

All new commercial ferries and ships ought to use climate-neutral energy sources or zero-emission technology by 2030.

Norway has a long tradition as a shipping nation, and has substantial business and industry associated with offshore activities, national and international shipping. We have world-leading shipyards and shipping firms. Shipping currently produces major emissions of greenhouse gases and also contributes to poor air quality in many of our largest cities. Norway has the technology, expertise and capital to develop new technological solutions that can help reduce both local and global emissions.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that all tenders for ferries and high-speed boats include requirements for zero or low-carbon solutions
- › Draw up a plan for the establishment of an onshore supply of electricity for ships in major Norwegian ports.
- › Continue the NOx fund.
- › Introduce a CO<sub>2</sub> fund patterned on the model for the NOx fund, in order to help promote a rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from heavy transport and shipping.
- › Help facilitate green shipping through public-private collaboration on environmentally friendly pilot projects, technology demonstration vessels and technological developments in shipping traffic.
- › Ensure that Norway is an active promoter of stricter emission requirements in international shipping and of the monitoring of these requirements.
- › Review duties on fossil energy use in the business sector, with the goal of making it profitable to operate environmentally friendly and climate-neutral vessels.
- › Give the municipalities an opportunity to relocate polluting ships on days with high levels of air pollution, when that is possible.



## CIRCULAR ECONOMY – BETTER UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES IN CIRCULATION

Norway shall be a pioneering country in the development of a green economy that better utilizes its resources.

Høyre wants to make Norway's economy greener. A better utilization of resources can provide major benefits for the environment, economy and society. The maximum lifetime of raw materials must be achieved, and the total amount of waste must be reduced. That creates jobs at the same time as it yields a better environment and increases the generation of wealth for the society.

We want to achieve increased growth with less consumption of resources. We believe there is a need for increased competence at the national level with regard to the opportunities that exist in utilizing resources in a better way. We think the

public sector must lead the way by demanding the use of secondary raw materials in its procurement. Environmental requirements must promote innovation and help make recycling and re-use more attractive. We have an ambition of cutting food waste in half in Norway by 2030, based on voluntary cooperation with consumers, business and industry.  
(Read more about the bio and circular economy in the chapter, *Secure and create jobs.*)

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Develop better schemes for sorting all food waste and other organic waste from households, public enterprises and private businesses. The municipalities must help promote user-friendly and cost-efficient solutions.
- › Approve of measures to reduce the food waste in the grocery sector and the food and beverage industry.
- › Specify environmental requirements that promote innovation and consider various models to help make recycling, energy recovery and re-use more attractive to private individuals and companies.
- › Evaluate the introduction of a new return scheme for plastic materials that take a long time to decompose.
- › Initiate measures that encourage the clean-up of plastic waste in the sea.
- › Evaluate various measures that help reduce the unnecessary use of plastic packaging.
- › Introduce rules so that business and industry are obligated to comply with standards or meet goals related to the degree of efficiency in their use of raw materials, energy or water.
- › Introduce a ban on the disposal of waste that contains materials or energy that can be recovered (plastics, metals, glass, cardboard and paper and bio-degradable waste).
- › Study whether to impose an environmental tax on packaging and fossil plastic.



## CLIMATE FRIENDLY BUILDING

Høyre wants to phase out all use of fossil energy in the building sector and the district heating sector by 2020.

We believe part of the solution to the climate challenges is to build and renovate buildings so that they have reduced energy needs. The buildings of tomorrow must be planned with solutions that minimize energy needs. We will encourage more contractors to choose low-energy and zero energy housing, which are far more energy efficient solutions than those in current dwellings.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Phase out all fossil energy in the building and district heating sector by 2020.
- › Develop standards for the environmental and climate certification of various solutions in the building sector.
- › Continue to support energy economizing measures in households and in business and industry.
- › Help facilitate the development of buildings with an “almost-zero-energy” standard or an “energy-plus-house” standard.
- › Give priority to research funding for the development of environmentally friendly buildings, e.g. through increased use of wooden materials and wood products.

## SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Høyre wants agriculture to produce food in the most efficient and sustainable way, with the lowest possible greenhouse gas emissions.

Agriculture must reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in order for Norway to achieve its climate goals. It is crucial that the greenhouse gas emissions not increase in step with food production.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › In cooperation with the agriculture sector, implement efficient climate measures that increase the production of bio-fertilizers and biogas and reduce the emissions from agricultural machinery.
- › Review all taxes, duties and subsidies for agriculture with the goal of encouraging the agriculture sector to reduce its energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions.
- › Encourage research on environmentally friendly alternatives in food production and animal husbandry.

## A GREENER OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY

Høyre wants to have strict environmental requirements for the oil and gas production on the Norwegian continental shelf.

The world is moving toward a low-carbon society. The use of fossil fuel is the most important cause of human-generated climate change. At the same time, the world will also have a need in the future for oil and gas, even in a low-carbon society. The oil and gas production on the Norwegian continental shelf has relatively low greenhouse gas emissions and is subject to strict national climate policy framework conditions, such as a CO<sub>2</sub> tax and a duty to surrender emission allowances. Future petroleum operations in both established and new areas must be combined with strict environmental, safety and emergency preparedness requirements, and the industry must co-exist with other business sectors, especially the fishery and aquaculture sector.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Specify requirements that climate policy risk analyses be conducted in connection with plans for the development and operation of new oil fields.
- Electrify new and existing fields when that is justifiable in economic and climate terms.
- Strengthen competition and diversity on the continental shelf in order to ensure a cost-effective, environmentally and technologically positive development and use the State's Direct Financial Interest (SDFI) to encourage the sale of licences and more competition on the continental shelf.
- Invest in research and development that helps promote increased production, higher energy efficiency and new environmental technology solutions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions from existing and new fields.
- Establish a low-carbon programme for the oil and gas sector in cooperation with the oil and gas industry.

## THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Høyre wants to protect diversity in the natural environment through a combination of voluntary protection, sustainable use and nature-based economic growth based on strong private ownership rights.

Norway is fortunate in having a rich, varied and unpolluted natural environment. Norwegians have strong outdoor life traditions based on the established right of public access to uncultivated land. For generations, the Norwegian natural environment has been shaped through nature-based economic growth based on respect for private ownership rights and sustainable use. Local autonomy and a diverse private ownership have ensured sustainable management of the resources in a body of national laws and regulations. We want to protect our natural diversity for future generations and thinks this can best be done through a combination of voluntary protection and sustainable use.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Work internationally for the introduction of stricter regulations and more prohibitions of environmental toxins in products.
- Put an end to the loss of biological diversity, in keeping with our international commitments.
- Have an updated basic ecological map of species and habitats in Norway and use it to preserve the species diversity and reduce the level of conflict in cases pertaining to land use.
- Continue the work of cleaning up toxic sediments in fjords, rivers, ports and lakes and prevent the run-off of micro-plastics into our watercourses.
- Preserve and enhance parks, urban green spaces and “green lungs” in our cities and urban areas.
- Conserve valuable cultural landscapes.
- Continue the efforts to promote voluntary forest protection in Norway.



- › Introduce local management in Nordland and Troms counties, such as already exists in the rest of Norway south of these counties.
- › Ensure viable populations of the big predators – bear, wolf, lynx, wolverine and golden eagle – in collaboration with all of Norway's neighbouring countries, within the frameworks of the Berne Convention, the Norwegian Nature Diversity Act and the Large Predator Policy Statements in the Norwegian Storting.
- › Follow up the wolf policy in the Storting, with the aim of reducing the wolf problems and lowering the level of conflict.
- › See that all management of predators is based on scientific and empirical knowledge. Furthermore, emphasis should be placed on regional management and respect for the rights of ownership and the quality of life of individuals and local communities.
- › Base the management of predators on the local exercise of authority within national guidelines and objectives for managing predator populations.
- › Discharge Norway's share of the responsibility for the North Atlantic stocks of wild salmon.
- › Prevent the spread of non-native species in the Norwegian natural environment.
- › Improve the management of protected areas and national parks, e.g. through landowner controlled management and local community involvement.
- › Increase the number of marine sanctuaries in accordance with thorough local processes.

- › Take the initiative for a new, international effort to improve the state of the environment in the world's marine areas. That includes an increased effort to prevent marine pollution.

## ANIMAL PROTECTION AND WELFARE

Høyre wants Norway to be at the forefront with regard to animal welfare.

We believe that animals have intrinsic value and that animals must be treated with care and respect for each animal's particular nature. The authorities shall prevent, detect and monitor serious cruelty to animals. We believe that persons who are responsible for animals should have a knowledge of the animals' behavioural and nutritional needs, socialization and physical environment. Animals shall be kept in an environment that provides a good quality of life, and it should be a requirement for all types of animal husbandry that the animals be functionally healthy. We take the challenges related to the climate, public health and animal welfare seriously. A sustainable agricultural policy shall harmonize with health, environmental and animal welfare policy objectives. Thus, we want to help make it easier for consumers to make choices that are green, healthy, and in keeping with animal welfare ethics.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Continue the pilot project with animal police in Norway and further expand the project.
- › Have high minimum requirements for animal welfare for all types of livestock.
- › Ensure that consumers receive more information about the production methods for meat and work with the business sector to find good solutions so that consumers can make informed choices.
- › Look into a requirement that dogs and cats be ID tagged.
- › Permit a fur industry in Norway that is based on strict animal welfare criteria.



# CULTURE, SPORTS AND DIVERSITY

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## CULTURE, SPORTS AND DIVERSITY

**Høyre wants cultural and sporting activities to be inclusive and diverse.**

Culture, sports and volunteering enrich people's lives. Art and culture anchor us in our shared history, challenge us and open us up to the unfamiliar. Høyre wants our cultural life to be characterized by innovation, high standards and the nurturing of talent. The principal goals of Høyre include strong cultural institutions, increased diversity among participants and sound nurturing of talent. Norway's cultural heritage must be safeguarded.

Sport is the greatest popular movement in Norway and sporting activities bring public health benefits as well as greater participation and inclusion. Volunteering prompts local involvement and generates a sense of community. Høyre wants to facilitate as much volunteer effort as possible in sports and culture. Volunteering engenders social trust, inclusion and everyday integration. People's financial situation and social background must never be an obstacle to participation and volunteering.

A viable and independent media is a prerequisite for democracy. Høyre wants to modify the media policy in order to safeguard the role of public service broadcasting, and to ensure that commercial news production remains a possibility in the future.

## INDEPENDENCE AND VIBRANCY IN ART AND CULTURE

**Høyre wants high standards, diversity and further professionalization of the cultural sector.**

Høyre wants greater private-sector involvement and more volunteering in the cultural sector, and seeks to ensure that more people have an opportunity to make a living from their artistic endeavours. The Government's main responsibility is to facilitate broad involvement with the cultural sector and contribute to maintaining high standards in key regional and national institutions. A strong, creative and critical cultural sector must be independent. Its viability therefore depends on access to multiple sources of funding.

Høyre will create new sustainable jobs in the cultural sector by facilitating creative business clusters and strengthening regional initiatives. Art and culture of a high standard are important motivators for creating interest at amateur and grass root levels. It is however impossible to foster elite performers without a foundation in a wide range of broadly based activities. Høyre wants strong leading institutions to provide art and culture of the very highest standard whilst interacting with independent contributors. We support intellectual property rights for originators and creators, and hold the opinion that this right must be safeguarded in the face of technological developments.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Continue to promote an independent and vibrant cultural sector through public funding and private-sector contributions.
- Help to achieve high standards and cultural diversity by putting greater emphasis on the commercial potential of culture.
- Stimulate the distribution of power in the cultural sector, geographically as well as organizationally and economically in different parts of the country.
- Simplify and reduce the level of bureaucracy with respect to grant applications in the cultural sector.



- › Invest in independent providers by retaining and further developing the Arts Council of Norway, providing simple and effective application procedures.
- › Facilitate increased export of Norwegian art and culture by providing good support schemes and better pooling of the competence available by establishing creative clusters in all parts of the country.
- › Safeguard the copyright for intellectual property in order to secure a market for the production and distribution of the arts.
- › Continue investing in Talent Norway.

- › Provide culture schools to ensure that children and young people are given cultural ballast, training and enjoyment as they experience different artistic expressions. The role of culture schools as regional providers of talent coaching must be strengthened.
- › Review funding arrangements for museums after the consolidation process, with a view to safeguarding the museum sector by providing predictable frameworks and incentives for continued innovation.
- › Develop multi-year funding arrangement models in order to provide secure operating conditions for national and regional cultural institutions.
- › Safeguard the national cultural institutions, review their governance and operating conditions and establish multi-year funding schemes for major institutions.
- › Extend the use of internships, apprenticeships and traineeships at cultural institutions in receipt of government funding.
- › Re-organize the Government Grants for Artists scheme with a view to providing greater flexibility for freelance artists and cultural workers.
- › Extend the incentive scheme for internationally-gearred film and TV production in Norway.
- › Safeguard the Gift Aid scheme.
- › Simplify the legislation pertaining to trusts and foundations in order to encourage more investment of private capital in the cultural sector.
- › Continue to develop the role of the public libraries as knowledge institutions, disseminators of culture and meeting places.
- › Retain the State Purchasing Programme for Contemporary Norwegian Fiction and Non-Fiction, but give greater purchasing powers to public libraries.
- › Ensure that public libraries extend their digital services.
- › Liberalize the Industry Agreement for books.

## SPORTS, VOLUNTEERING AND PARTICIPATION FOR ALL

Høyre wants to support voluntary efforts and to secure good framework conditions for sporting activities.

Høyre respects the independence of third-sector organizations and recognizes the valuable work they contribute to society as independent organizations. Høyre wants to support volunteering efforts and secure good framework conditions for sport associations. Participation in sports, outdoor pursuits and other voluntary activities engenders involvement and integration, thus helping to strengthen democracy at a local level. Involvement in sports, outdoor pursuits and other voluntary activities gives positive experiences and helps improve public health.

It is an important goal for Høyre to ensure that everyone has access to a good and varied range of activities that allows them to play a part in their local community, irrespective of their place of residence or their level of functionality. The central government should facilitate involvement by the private and charitable sectors by providing good and flexible framework conditions. Norwegian democracy and autonomy is dependent on public involvement and strong local institutions. Høyre is of the opinion that elite sports have an important role to play in stimulating and motivating amateur and grass root involvement. Good framework conditions must be secured for organized sports as well as individually based sporting activities, while elite sports must receive sufficient support.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Implement a reform to simplify the voluntary sector.
- › Facilitate increased involvement with outdoor pursuits in partnership with third-sector organizations, sports associations and other relevant contributors.
- › Secure good and predictable VAT compensation schemes for third-sector organizations.
- › Ensure that as large a proportion as possible of the government funding provided for sports will benefit sporting activity rather than administration.



- › Improve the guiding arrangements for the visually impaired and other groups of people who need a guide in order to take part in sports.
- › Zero tolerance for bullying and harassment in sport and leisure activities.
- › Facilitate participation by more girls from a minority background in organized sports.
- › Extend the Gaming Authority's powers to pursue non-compliance with the marketing regulations.
- › Retain the monopoly model for gambling.
- › Facilitate the hosting of international sporting events in Norway.
- › Work to increase diversity in Norwegian sports, including at management level.
- › Enable elite sports men and women to get an education while pursuing their sports career.

## NORWEGIAN CULTURAL HERITAGE AND LANGUAGE

Høyre will safeguard Norwegian cultural heritage and the traditional crafts.

Knowledge about our own culture gives confidence and provides a good background for meeting today's diverse impulses from abroad in a generous and constructive way. Cultural heritage is about preservation, raising awareness and making use of the heritage in new activities. Høyre is of the opinion that our cultural heritage is best preserved through active use and management. Knowledge is also best sustained through use, particularly manually transferred knowledge of vernacular culture and traditional crafts. Høyre is of the opinion that the status of the crafts must be raised. Our capacity for social involvement is particularly associated with our language skills. Consequently, taking good care of our language is not only an arts policy objective, but a basic prerequisite for democratic participation.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure that we retain two live Norwegian language forms and continue the standardization of both.
- › Strengthen Nordic language cooperation.
- › Safeguard the production of Norwegian fiction and non-fiction through the State Purchasing Programme.
- › Safeguard Norwegian cultural heritage and ensure that folk music, folk dance and vernacular crafts are actively passed on, particularly small-scale trades that are worthy of preservation.
- › Introduce a compensation scheme for the added cost of conservation work linked to the restoration of listed buildings in private ownership, and cover the cost associated with mandatory archaeological works in relation to ancient monuments.
- › Stimulate preservation through active use of the cultural heritage.



- › Provide more scope for practical craft skills in the curriculum of primary and lower secondary schools.
- › Facilitate national training programmes at upper secondary level for trades with few practitioners.
- › Coordinate departmental responsibility for the preservation of our cultural heritage.
- › Bolster the museums' capacity to preserve our cultural heritage and make it more accessible.
- › Consider whether the work of standardizing the two Norwegian language forms should be removed from the Language Council of Norway.



## THE MEDIA IN AN OPEN DEMOCRACY

**Høyre wants an independent unaffiliated media that delivers accountable journalism of a high standard.**

Media policies must stimulate entrepreneurship and innovation to ensure that the industry keeps up with technological developments. Government support currently provided for media production is fragmented and inadequately targeted. Some support is provided indirectly through VAT exemptions, some via targeted production grants and some through the licence fee. The digital revolution has had – and still has – a major impact on the entire media sector. Høyre wants a media policy which retains the traditions and basic values of the free press amidst a new reality. The open internet must be safeguarded, while privacy and copyright entitlements remain protected.

Høyre wants all government funding provided for the media to take a new and principled approach. Modern media support should be neutral and non-bureaucratic and must be provided on an arm's length basis, away from the political processes. We hold the opinion that it is important to secure Norwegian public service broadcasting in order to facilitate the dissemination of culture, cultivate the Norwegian language, promote integration and safeguard freedom of speech and an open and informed debate. A free media forms a part of the infrastructure of democracy.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Ensure that the Norwegian Broadcasting Corporation (NRK) remains an advertising-free public service broadcasting platform of a high standard.
- Maintain media diversity and continue to provide opportunities for alternative and advertising-funded public service broadcasting services.
- Introduce VAT exemption on e-books.
- Adjust the media VAT exemption scheme to ensure that combinations of free and paid-for content remain possible.
- Review government support for the media with a view to redirecting support towards the production of quality journalism across all platforms.
- Work to ensure that international media companies operating in Norway have to comply with Norwegian terms of competition.
- Permit political advertising across all platforms.
- Safeguard a network-neutral and open digital infrastructure.

## THE POSITION OF THE SÁMI AS AN INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Høyre holds the opinion that the cultural heritage and language of our indigenous population enrich Norway and we will support the further development of Sámi culture.

The Sámi are Norway's indigenous people, and the Sámi language has a special position alongside the Norwegian language. Høyre holds the opinion that it is important to preserve Sámi culture.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Preserve and further develop Sámi language and culture as an important part of Norway's cultural heritage.
- Secure fully satisfactory educational provisions for the Sámi from kindergarten to university college level.
- Secure a clear role for the Sámi Parliament in all work to promote the Sámi language, culture and history.
- Boost the investment in health care services for the Sámi population.
- Safeguard Sámi participation in the reindeer farming industry. (Reindeer farming is discussed in the section on industry.)
- Safeguard procedures for consultation with the Sámi Parliament.
- Ensure that private schools are able to offer Sámi education at primary, lower secondary and upper secondary levels.
- Work to provide Sámi language tuition as an optional subject for school children.

## DIVERSITY AND INTEGRATION

Høyre's integration policy is based on work, responsibility and shared Norwegian values. We will ensure that the national minorities enjoy opportunities to develop and preserve their culture and language.

Norway has an obligation to help people in need and to provide protection from persecution. It is also our responsibility to give people who settle here the best possible basis for establishing a new life in Norway. Asylum seekers who have had their application for residence approved, must be included in Norwegian society in a good way based on values such as democracy, trust, equal opportunities and equal worth. People who settle in Norway must contribute to their own integration.

Work and proficiency in the Norwegian language provide a sense of belonging and community as well as anchorage, a social network and a chance to be self-sufficient. It is a prerequisite for successful integration that Norwegian language classes and occupational guidance are provided at an early stage. For this to succeed on a national scale, we need good every-day integration in local communities. Høyre wants to facilitate voluntary efforts through a flexible and locally adapted integration policy.

Høyre is of the opinion that the country's many national minorities enrich the diversity of Norwegian society. Our national minorities include the Kven people, the Romani, the Roma, Jews, Gypsies and Forest Finns. The culture of national minorities should have the opportunity to exist and develop within the wider society.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Base its integration policies on shared Norwegian values and basic human rights.
- Demand and facilitate activity throughout the course of the integration process.
- Further develop the integration reception centre scheme for people who have had their application for asylum approved or whose application is highly likely to be approved.
- Ensure that local authorities, local business and the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV) work with the reception centres to enable asylum seekers to join the workforce at an earlier stage, for example through various job-oriented initiatives offered in partnership with local employers.



- › Prioritize the housing of single asylum-seeking minors in the municipality of the reception centre they have been living in, provided the host municipality has the required capacity and wishes to provide such housing.
- › Commence mandatory classes in Norwegian language and society while asylum seekers are still living in reception centres.
- › Strengthen the introduction programme for new arrivals to ensure that it is flexible, individually adapted and helps with finding work at an early stage.
- › Develop schemes to ensure that the Introduction Support can follow the individual and be transferred to an employer to supplement wages earned through work.
- › Allow parts of the refugee introduction programme to be converted to mandatory work practice or an occupational training course.
- › Introduce a national ban in Norwegian educational institutions on the wearing of clothing that covers a person's face.
- › Bolster the provision of Norwegian language classes and educational programmes for parents who have taken up the offer of free core time care in a kindergarten.
- › Provide better language tuition for children whose language development is poor, in kindergartens and through follow-up after the 4-year check-up.
- › Strengthen the opportunity for immigrants to put their own competence to use through the introduction of approval schemes and supplementary training for those who have an education from their native country.
- › Facilitate inclusion of frequently excluded groups in sporting activities and other third-sector organizations.
- › Facilitate participation in organized sports by more girls from a minority background.
- › Prevent discrimination and all forms of undue social coercion.
- › Provide training and education in Norwegian and establish an appropriate range of organized activities and meeting places aimed at immigrant women.
- › Provide customized classes at primary and lower secondary level combined with language classes for adult immigrants who have no educational foundation from their native country.
- › Establish service centres for foreign employees in a number of cities.
- › Give national minorities an opportunity to preserve their culture and traditions.
- › Combat expressions of hatred and racism directed at minorities.



## FREEDOM OF FAITH AND BELIEF

**Høyre holds the opinion that freedom of belief and religious practice is a basic human right that needs to be protected.**

There is a wide range of diverse faith and belief systems in Norway, all of which must be protected. Høyre holds the opinion that it is important to safeguard people's opportunity to engage in religious practice. It is however also important to respect and safeguard secular, humanist and other non-religious practices based on the beliefs and wishes of the individual. Respect for the individual's faith or non-faith is at the heart of Høyre's approach. Historically however, the Norwegian nation and society has a clear affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Church is separated from the state, but not from Norwegian culture and tradition.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure genuine autonomy for all religious and non-religious denominations.
- › Review all support arrangements for religious and non-religious denominations.
- › Continue the support for religious education provided by the Church of Norway.
- › Safeguard the maintenance of church buildings.
- › Safeguard funeral arrangements for all denominations, including humanist or secular belief systems.
- › Ensure that freedom of speech continues to apply to both religious statements and statements that are critical of religion.



# RENEW, SIMPLIFY AND IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SECTOR

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## RENEW, SIMPLIFY AND IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SECTOR

Høyre will ensure that municipalities are large enough to provide the services that inhabitants need, and will simplify the bureaucracy for both the inhabitants and businesses.

We want good public services that meet the needs of the inhabitants and businesses. Good welfare services will be safeguarded through well-functioning municipalities, regions and central government. Public administration will have a greater focus on service quality than on the administering of services. We will therefore continue to modernize the administration with the goal of delivering more relevant services digitally.

The public sector accounts for a significant share of the production of services and employment in Norway. Høyre will pursue a policy that fosters the innovation and efficiency of public services, and will allow private and non-profit service providers to compete in order to stimulate innovation in the provision of services, improve services, increase the number of entrepreneurs, and ensure greater diversity and choice for users.

Høyre wants to renew, simplify and improve the public sector. We will digitize public services, and have fewer forms to complete and less bureaucracy, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses.

## AN EFFICIENT AND SERVICE-ORIENTED PUBLIC SECTOR

Høyre's goal is to digitize public services and ensure that the public sector is user friendly and service minded.

An effective and service-oriented public sector is important for the business community and for users of public services. It is important to Høyre that reporting obligations, applications and forms are reduced to a minimum. Organizing welfare effectively will mean better services for everyone.

In order for Norway to remain at the forefront of social development, policy must be designed to foster digitization in businesses and not hinder it. This must be done through the general fiscal policy and research and innovation resources, and by central government and the municipalities facilitating digital work processes in the interaction with inhabitants and businesses.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Ensure a large degree of freedom of choice in public welfare services.
- › Ensure that employers and employees have fewer reporting points, and that information and reports are digitized to the greatest degree possible.
- › Ensure that inhabitants can easily learn about, request information on and apply for public welfare measures and services.
- › Ensure that the public sector uses clear language in its communication with inhabitants and businesses.
- › Safeguard service quality, increase the opportunities for user choice and ensure private and public sector cooperation and competition with the aim of improved services and effective production of services.
- › Conduct user surveys and quality surveys regularly in order to give inhabitants and elected representatives a better insight into the provision of public services and enable quality improvements.



- › Ensure that private service providers can compete for the supply of public services on the same terms as public enterprises.
- › Exploit the purchasing power in public procurement to stimulate innovative and future-oriented solutions.
- › Retain a fast pace in the digitization of public services, with the goal of providing digital self-service solutions for all contact between individuals, businesses and the authorities.
- › Ensure that public authorities choose solutions in the market where these are better and less expensive than what the central government or municipality can offer.
- › Continue efforts to develop common registers, shared services and the sharing of information across public administration, with the goal of ending the need to provide the same information several times.
- › Ensure that as many statutory courses as possible are offered via e-learning platforms.
- › Work towards the public sector having a positive culture of guidance in its interface with the business community.
- › Work towards a greater degree of coordination between government inspectorates in relation to control functions aimed at businesses.
- › Provide an immediate response to applications by automating processing procedures in areas where entitlements are determined by regulation.



## PRODUCTIVITY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR

**Høyre will stimulate higher productivity in the public sector and foster a clearer division of roles between the public and private sector.**

Productivity growth needs to be increased in order to meet the major challenges that Norway faces. Policy has a particular responsibility for ensuring that growth in public-sector productivity is far stronger in the future than in previous years. Høyre believes the growth in public bureaucracy must be lower than general employment growth. Resources must be made available to provide welfare services and generate value creation in the private sector. We want to see a clearer division of roles between the public and private sector, where central government does not compete with private service providers in new areas where the market is already functioning well.



**HØYRE WILL:**

- Set requirements for new tasks in public bureaucracy to be performed by the existing complement of staff to the greatest degree possible.
- Increase the pace of digitizing public services and functions in close partnership with competitive private enterprises.
- Review the structure of ministries and directorates with a view to simplifying them and making them less bureaucratic.
- Continue to identify inefficient areas in the public sector in order to remove unnecessary and time-consuming rules and procedures, thereby making more time for the most important tasks.
- Continue the debureaucratization and efficiency reform within government administration and the directorates.
- Set requirements for enterprises in the public sector to ensure that digitization fosters greater efficiency and reduces resource needs, in addition to providing better user experiences.
- Increase competition for the performance of public services and ensure that private companies and public institutions compete on equal terms in the competition for procurements.
- Discontinue public sector activity where there is already a well-functioning market with private service providers, unless vital social considerations dictate otherwise.
- Do not use extensive resources on the public sector developing its own IT solutions where good solutions already exist, or where private enterprises can do the job better.
- Safeguard innovation and competition by facilitating and further developing common solutions where several competing private suppliers can offer solutions, such as the ID port login system and the secure digital mailbox.

**DIGITALIZATION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR**

**Høyre wants Norway and the Nordic region to continue to be a world leader in the digitization of the public sector.**

We have a good starting point, with a high-quality digital infrastructure and a digitally competent population that is keen to use digital tools and services. If we want to retain this head start, we need to quicken the pace. The public sector must develop user-friendly and coherent digital services in the central government and the municipalities. Improving coordination in the public sector will lead to better returns on investments and more efficiency gains. This means that individuals and businesses will no longer need to fill out forms with information that the authorities already have, or do not really need.

An important prerequisite for digitization in large businesses is that senior executives take responsibility and do not just leave digitization decisions to their IT departments. Digitization is just as much about organizational restructuring as about technology. Senior executives in the public sector must therefore have strategic ICT skills. For Høyre, the public sector's ambition to be a digital leader does not entail central government and the municipalities developing all of the new solutions themselves; it will often stimulate more innovation and be more cost effective to use the private market to find appropriate solutions, or to use existing solutions, either elsewhere in the public sector or in the market. Exploiting innovative public procurements may lead to new and better solutions in the public sector whilst also providing IT companies with a demanding customer with whom they can develop new services.

**HØYRE WILL:**

- Set a requirement to devise plans showing the benefits of digitization projects in central government that clearly set out how savings can be made when the solution is implemented and the benefits for inhabitants, businesses and other public enterprises.
- Base the collection of information by the public sector on the 'one time only' principle, so that inhabitants and businesses do not have to spend time providing information that the authorities already have.
- Make electronic archives compulsory for case processing in the municipalities. ➤

- › Strengthen the digital competence of groups with a low digital participation rate by using libraries as learning arenas, as well as voluntary organizations and the business community.
- › Facilitate more automated case processing where it is expedient to do so, in order to free up resources and save time for inhabitants and businesses.
- › Make use of innovative public procurements where they are a good tool for developing new and future-oriented solutions.
- › Use cloud solutions where this is the most effective option.
- › Strengthen the cooperation between central government and the municipalities in areas such as digital building application work and e-patient records in elderly care and primary health services.
- › Further develop central digital registers and the common components, such as the population register, cadastre, Central Coordinating Register for Legal Entities and Altinn.
- › Ensure that IT solutions in the public sector are designed with integrated security and data protection functions, omitting the need to deal with these later in the process.
- › Give a high priority to the development of the digital single market in our cooperation with the EU, and strengthen the Nordic cooperation on digitization.
- › Maintain a rapid pace of digitization in the public sector and facilitate more digital self-service solutions.
- › Carry out more socioeconomically beneficial digitization projects, including through the joint state financing scheme.
- › Further develop Altinn with a view to ensuring that the business community has a single digital interface with public administration.
- › Renew public-sector database systems such that businesses only need to report the same information once and to one place.



## THE PUBLIC SECTOR AS AN ATTRACTIVE WORKPLACE

**Høyre wants municipalities, regions and central government to be attractive workplaces with competent employees who enjoy their work.**

Competent and committed employees develop safe welfare services. We believe that the public sector must use its role of employer to develop competence and recruit staff in a way that ensures it fulfils its role as a service provider. The public sector must have quality-conscious personnel who enjoy the role of employee and the service role vis-à-vis the inhabitants.

### HØYRE WILL:

- › Strive to ensure that more senior executives in the public sector have fixed-term contracts.
- › Provide opportunities for more further education and training with a view to securing the best possible competence.
- › Work towards salaries in the public sector being determined to a greater degree through local negotiations.
- › Follow up the new employer strategy in central government and clarify management responsibility and the flexibility that managers have to develop and streamline operations.



## VIBRANT RURAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES

**Høyre wants thriving towns and cities and vibrant rural communities. Businesses and local communities must have the freedom and opportunity to steer their own development.**

A modern rural policy provides businesses with a framework for growth, and respects private property rights and local administrations. Greater freedom and scope to act in local policy will create new opportunities for private landowners and developers. Small and medium-sized businesses will experience new growth, providing the basis for new jobs, which in turn will increase the rural populations. A rural policy based on private property rights, self-government and own resources is an important foundation for safeguarding a vibrant rural community.

Thriving regions and regional centres are a prerequisite for a decentralized housing and labour market. Regions that have a good combination of labour, housing, welfare and leisure facilities are attractive to inhabitants and potential newcomers. Local social development requires effective cooperation between public, private and voluntary interests.

Decision-making at a local level must be given a large emphasis, local government agencies must be strengthened, and legislation must foster frameworks for the development and establishment of new jobs and growth in rural areas. Høyre wants local communities in which decisions are made as locally as possible. We believe that private property rights and local power to make decisions are important values for protecting dispersed settlements and good local democracy. The Norwegian parliament (Storting) and the Government should not micro-regulate either land or land use issues for businesses and inhabitants unless written national or international guides so dictate. We wish to strengthen the power of the local community at the expense of the central government's power, but not at the expense of the individual. Legal regulation of the municipalities' activities must protect individuals under the law.

Outside the largest towns, government jobs and public-sector expert communities should be localized in areas with the greatest potential to contribute to regional development, support the development of attractive urban areas, and strengthen established business and expert communities.

### HØYRE WILL:

- Work towards ensuring that new government activities are generally established outside Oslo.
- Disperse skilled jobs in the public sector throughout the country, including outside large towns and cities.
- Enable the development of new watercourses to ensure access to clean and renewable energy.
- Permit sensitive expansion of power in protected watercourses as long as it does not impact on the natural assets we are seeking to protect.



- › Maintain differentiated employers' national insurance contributions.
- › Strengthen the development of infrastructure in rural areas in order to foster good growth opportunities for businesses.
- › Facilitate the expansion of the digital infrastructure and the development of new communications technology with a view to reducing disadvantages of distance in rural communities.
- › Give municipalities greater authority and local scope to act in land policy issues.
- › Continue the liberalization and simplification of the Planning and Building Act.
- › Strengthen property rights and give landowners greater influence in the management, regulation and use of land, also in protected areas.
- › Limit the County Governor's ability to conduct discretionary reviews of the municipalities.
- › Pursue a business-friendly policy that gives landowners greater control over their own property, and which contributes to value creation and creates jobs.
- › Strengthen local mountain authorities and their work in nature conservation, management and guidance, and expand the scheme for letting landowners manage existing and proposed protected areas.
- › Review existing protection regulations and management plans with a view to identifying how the business sector's perspective can be better accommodated.
- › Strengthen regional centres.



## A PROACTIVE URBAN POLICY

**Høyre will enable the cities to address population growth and meet climate, environmental and social challenges.**

The cities have special challenges in relation to population growth, social inequality and integration. We will pursue a proactive urban policy with a view to enabling cities to meet these challenges. More jobs and good public transport, good schools, housing and kindergartens in the cities provide a solid foundation for growth in the outlying neighbouring communities.



**HØYRE WILL:**

- Pursue a policy that makes it easy to establish businesses and housing in urban areas, through fast-tracking applications and fewer opportunities for raising objections.
- Let the largest municipalities have responsibility for county authority tasks such as roads, public transport and upper secondary schools.
- Establish public transport hubs and good solutions in and around urban areas.
- Enable the larger towns to handle a large increase in population and challenges related to social inequality, integration and migration.
- Further develop urban areas by strengthening town centres with a view to increasing activity in the streets, culture and the number of jobs in the heart of the town, which will reduce transport needs and greenhouse gas emissions.
- Discourage car use, and encourage carpooling and car-sharing schemes to pave the way for more pedestrianised streets, including access for cyclists, as a way of creating a cultural milieu and shopping opportunities.
- Contribute to balanced regional growth by enabling urban regions to manage population growth in a proactive and sustainable manner.
- Safeguard land planning, infrastructure and public transport development based on natural housing and labour market regions, in order to coordinate land and planning policies more effectively than current municipal and county boundaries allow.
- Continue targeted efforts to improve living conditions in places with complex challenges in this area.
- Stimulate business and town centre development through public and private sector cooperation.

## QUICKER PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSING

**Høyre will strengthen the democracy of self-ownership with a view to ensuring that as many people as possible have the opportunity to own their own home.**

We consider enabling as many people as possible to have the opportunity to own their own home is central to our work. Increased relocation to urban areas and rapid price growth are challenges faced by young people trying to enter the housing market. We therefore believe that municipalities, regions and central government should not impose additional restrictions on a person's opportunity to build or buy their own home.

Høyre will simplify the regulations for building houses, and restrict or reduce requirements that push up the price of building unnecessarily. One of our goals is for as many people as possible to own their own home, and we therefore believe that social schemes should be designed to encourage people to buy instead of rent.

**HØYRE WILL:**

- Continue to simplify and modernize regulations and remove unnecessary legal and regulatory requirements that present an obstacle to house-building.
- Reduce the right to appeal and simplify procedures when a building application is formulated based on current regulation.
- Encourage municipalities to introduce digital application processes for regulation and building where this has not already been done.
- Ensure good and targeted housing allowance schemes and targeted first-time mortgages for those who need it most.
- Review NAV's guarantee scheme with a view to ensuring that more people can have a home.
- Set a deadline for objections so that the start time of projects is predictable for the developer.



- › Stimulate increased house-building in urban areas by introducing local standards with different requirements for outdoor spaces and parking.
- › Work towards laws and regulations facilitating the construction of good living environments and varied housing designs.
- › Make it possible for more people to own their own home through, for instance, greater use of the rent-to-buy social housing model throughout the country.
- › Ensure equal treatment by the Norwegian State Housing Bank of public sector participants, housing cooperatives and private sector participants who wish to use different variants of the rent-to-buy model.

## STRONGER LOCAL SELF-GOVERNANCE

Høyre will continue its work aimed at improving inspectorates, and will transfer more tasks from central government to larger municipalities and regions

We will strengthen local democracy and ensure that tasks are carried out and political decisions are made as close as possible to the inhabitants. We wish to strengthen the power of the local community at the expense of the central government's power, but not at the expense of the individual. We are therefore carrying out a municipal reform that transfers responsibilities, strengthens local self-government and ensures that outdated administrative boundaries are replaced by a municipal structure that corresponds to the tasks at hand. The overall drop in the number of municipalities and the increase in large municipalities will facilitate the building of stronger expert communities, enable the provision of improved services and further reduce micro-management by the Government. Stronger municipalities are essential to preventing centralization.

Municipalities that merge must ensure good transitional arrangements and permanent solutions that enable them to provide high-quality services to inhabitants. Høyre believes that Storting has an overarching responsibility for ensuring that Norway has an appropriate administration structure, and that it must ultimately be able to determine the size and number of municipalities and regions.

Høyre believes that in the long term, consideration must be given to whether two levels of administration; central government and municipalities, would be adequate in Norway. The current county authorities are not an effective solution for addressing the challenges we face in regional business and social development, but the regional level cannot be removed completely until another municipal structure with significantly larger municipalities is established. As long as Norway has three levels of administration, they must function as well as possible. We are in favour of a reform of the regions aimed at reducing the number of county authorities and clarifying the regional social development role that the counties should have within some important policy areas that cannot be covered by one municipality alone.

Government inspections through county governors and government agencies will safeguard high-quality services and ensure that all inhabitants are treated equally. Such supervisory authorities must be able to conduct legality checks and review decisions in order to ensure equal treatment. Government objections will be coordinated through the County Governor.



**HØYRE WILL:**

- › Ensure the smooth implementation of approved mergers of municipalities and initiate further mergers with a view to continuing the move towards larger municipalities.
- › Transfer more tasks from central government to the municipalities and regions, and give large municipalities and regions more responsibility.
- › Give municipalities greater authority and scope to act in land policy issues.
- › Let the largest municipalities assume responsibility for county authority tasks such as roads, public transport and upper secondary schools.
- › Continue the liberalization and simplification of the Planning and Building Act.
- › Limit the County Governor's opportunities for conducting discretionary reviews of the municipalities.
- › Continue efforts to coordinate government objections, such that they are coordinated via the County Governor.
- › Shift the county governors' supervisory authority towards more control of service quality.
- › Adapt the structure of the government agencies' regional divisions to the new regions.
- › Limit the new regions' regional business and social development tasks and prevent them from developing into super-municipalities with growing and overlapping bureaucracy.
- › Bring an end to county authorities.
- › Safeguard a revenue system for the municipalities based on efficient operations and good welfare solutions, where a share of the value creation from local business can fall to the municipalities.
- › Ensure that municipalities can have differentiated coastal zone and uncultivated land management when natural conditions and population size so dictate.

**HØYRE'S PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION MANIFESTO FOR 2017–2021**

Adopted at Høyres National Convention 9.–12. March 2017

**Program Committee:**

Torbjørn Røe Isaksen, Telemark, President  
 Nikolai Astrup, Oslo, Vice-president  
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 Kristian Tonning Riise, Unge Høyre

**Program Secretariat:**

Geir Staib, President  
 Kristina Daae Smedsvig  
 Alexander Zlatanos Ibsen  
 Maria Barstad Sanner

**Design and layout:**

Schumannndesign.no by Birthe S. Gravdahl

**Print:**

Rolf Ottesen AS

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Høyres Hovedorganisasjon  
Stortingsgaten 20, Oslo, Norway  
Postboks 1536 Vika, 0117 Oslo, Norway

[www.hoyre.no](http://www.hoyre.no)  
[politikk@hoyre.no](mailto:politikk@hoyre.no)  
+47 22 82 90 00