

HØYRE – THE CONSERVATIVE PARTY OF NORWAY – PLATFORM OF PRINCIPLES

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Chapter 1: Principles of the Conservative Party

We have inherited a society characterised by trust, openness and minor differences, a society with a high degree of value creation and well-developed welfare programmes. It is our duty to safeguard and further develop this society for future generations. We wish to change in order to conserve. By this we mean that we must protect and preserve the fundamental values associated with human dignity, democracy and the rule of law. We must make the necessary changes today for the sake of the climate and the environment, for economic and social sustainability, and for the welfare of future generations.

Høyre – the Conservative Party of Norway places importance on continuity between the past and the future. Our generation is the link between past and future generations. Our duty of stewardship obliges our own generation to ensure that our descendants have opportunities that are at least as good as those that we ourselves have.

A predictable state founded on the rule of law, one in which people's fundamental rights are protected and society's laws and institutions are not undermined or challenged by the pure pursuit of power or by economic considerations, is an indispensable prerequisite for a free and just society.

The right to private property and a social market economy are fundamental conditions for a democracy that creates welfare, diversity and opportunities for all. Norway must be a stable and constructive international partner to its allies and trading partners.

Conservative values

The politics of Høyre are based on a cultural heritage of Christianity and humanism. All people are born different, but with the same inviolable intrinsic value. The individual is the main purpose of our politics. The Conservative Party believes that a good society is built on trust and respect for the individual. Society exists to support the individual. Each individual

should have the greatest possible freedom and responsibility to shape his or her own life and future based on respect for others and for the community.

Society is more than the state. It consists of communities large and small, from family and the local community to national and international communities. Høyre believes that society should be created and developed from below, based on freedom, responsibility and opportunities for individuals, for families, businesses, voluntary organisations and for the local community. A sustainable society with a strong sense of community requires gradual but continuous change precisely in order to deal with a changing world. Høyre's fundamental view is that society should be developed gradually in order to preserve basic values.

Traditions

Norwegian society has been built up over generations. Norway is more than a geographical location; we share norms and values. It is through tradition that these have been improved and passed down to us by our predecessors. Tradition provides belonging, brings people closer together, and prevents fragmentation.

Limits of Politics

Society consists of individuals, civil society, the market and the state. Achieving a balance between these parts demands a limit to politics. Høyre wants a strong but limited state that ensures basic security, welfare and equal opportunities for its citizens. At the same time, the state must be limited to provide space for private initiatives and solutions via civil society and the market. Individuals must be permitted to make their own choices as much as possible about their own daily lives. This implies freedom with responsibility.

Humans are social beings and are only able to realise their potential in interaction with others. Rights only make sense when accompanied by the duty to respect the rights of others. Freedom and responsibility are two sides of the same cause.

The policies of Høyre are based on the principle of freedom with responsibility. Freedom inspires people to reach further and stimulates creativity within society. It is therefore important that society does not regulate and limit the individual's freedom to an unnecessary degree. At the same time, personal freedom has its limit where it comes into conflict with the freedom of others.

We all bear a personal and a social responsibility. Social responsibility includes family, friends, colleagues, local communities and all those who need help and support in everyday life. Høyre believes that people who are shown trust and granted freedom develop a greater ability to take responsibility. Freedom is therefore a prerequisite for a strong personal and social responsibility, and for a cordial and inclusive society.

Freedom of speech

Høyre will encourage public debate that does not undermine free speech. This defence of the freedom of expression must be protected and upheld at the same time as we emphasise the promotion of public debate that does not undermine free speech.

Diversity and tolerance

Høyre believes that diversity and tolerance are important values for Norwegian society. Diversity contributes towards challenging and developing us. Tolerance implies fundamental respect for differences related to gender, age, nationality, ethnicity, religion, ethos, functional ability, sexual orientation, and expressions of gender and identity. We have a high degree of trust in each other in Norwegian society. In order to safeguard this trust for the future as well, mutual respect and tolerance are crucial.

Diversity does not stand in opposition to community. A diverse society must build upon some common values, norms and traditions. Respect for our differences must be upheld and defended. Høyre will ensure every one of us the right to be different.

Equality

Gender equality is a valuable trait of Norwegian society, and one which must be conserved and encouraged. For Høyre, equality is about equal status and equal opportunities for all. The objective is not that everyone should make the same choices, but that everyone has an equal opportunity for participation and development in society. The long-term goal of Høyre is that families themselves will decide how they share parental leave.

Freedom of choice

Freedom of choice is necessary in order to realise individuals' right to take responsibility and shape their own lives. The fact that people can make their own choices, regardless of their life situation and background, has an intrinsic value. Therefore it is our objective that, as far as possible, people should be able make decisions about their own lives. Freedom of choice is a value in itself, and in addition is important in securing a provision of services that is adapted

to a variety of needs. There must, therefore, be accommodations for a variety of services in the public and private sectors.

Rule of law

The rule of law should attend to the rights of individuals and minorities and ensure fundamental freedoms and human rights such as religious freedom, freedom of speech, privacy, the right to private property, and equality before the law. In addition, the rule of law should and must set limits for the political power of the majority. In a liberal democracy, the protection of minorities and respect for minority rights are crucial. This is vital in order to preserve the trust that exists between people in a democratic society.

The legal age ought to correspond with the voting age. There ought to be one legal age, at 18 years old, and few state age limits beyond this. Høyre wants a society built on the robust rule of law, the principle that one is innocent until proven guilty, and legal protection for citizens. An important task for a liberal constitutional state is to protect individuals and minorities from abuse and arbitrary treatment. Høyre wants hate crimes to be punished by custodial sentencing.

The right to property

The right to property is fundamental for a good society. It provides security for the individual, and promotes responsibility and creativity. Intervention in property rights, for example via taxation, expropriation or regulation, therefore requires exceptional justification. A democracy of property-owners reinforces Norwegian society, and an essential part of this is that everyone should be able to own their own home, and more people should be able to become partners in their own company.

Social market economy

The economy and the markets are created by civil society, diverse communities, companies and individuals. The markets should be as free and open as possible, with the lowest degree of public intervention possible. The state has a duty to manage the resources of the community as efficiently as possible. Høyre is a market-friendly party, and desires a social market economy as the guiding principle for the organisation of the Norwegian economy. The market economy distributes financial power into more hands, and ensures the participation of the many.

The distribution of power

Norwegian democracy is built upon the principle of the distribution of power. No one person or institution should be able to obtain too much power. Høyre sees the distribution of power as an essential value for society and the country as a whole. Economic and political concentrations of power are to be avoided via the distribution of power and a guarantee of free and fair competition. Power and responsibility ought to be positioned as close as possible to the individual, the family and the local community. Høyre will conduct a competition policy that prevents monopolies and concentrations of power.

The protection of privacy

Each individual is entitled to the protection of his or her private life both from private interests and from the public authorities. Technology greatly enlarges the potential for the collection and use of information about individuals. Høyre will ensure the robust protection of privacy with clear and strict limits for the registration, use and disclosure of personal data. Surveillance must only be used if it is strictly necessary for the sake of the core interests of society. Every person owns their personal data. The right to a private life and privacy protection must be guaranteed in all sectors of society.

Form of government

The constitutional monarchy has proved to be a unifying and viable form of government. Høyre therefore wishes to uphold the monarchy.

Chapter 2: Social sustainability

In a liberal democracy such as that of Norway, there will be a multitude of opinions and values. At the same time, there are some common values to be found as they have evolved throughout the history of Norway that constitute the foundation of our society. Values such as trust, openness, voluntary engagement, private initiatives, equality, and minor differences between people must be defended. Other important qualities of Norwegian society are the vigorous rule by the people with a proximity to decision-makers, and that the distance between power and the people is not permitted to become too great, whether in the public sphere or in the workplace.

Freedom and community, trust and solidarity

The politics of Høyre are based on a liberal conservative view that individuals should have the liberty to believe, think and live in line with their own convictions. The state must

facilitate this freedom and must not regulate private matters more than is necessary. The cultural and religious diversity of society is a natural consequence of these values of freedom. Social and economic sustainability cannot be upheld by private responsibility alone; it also requires common welfare programmes, which in turn depend on trust and solidarity. If differences in living conditions grow and more people are left out, at the same time as a small minority reap the benefits, the social sustainability of society is under threat. We must protect a society in which the differences between people do not grow too wide, and where everyone has an opportunity to participate.

Høyre believes that trust and support for society's norms and welfare programmes requires community and common cause. Segregation along economic, geographical, cultural or religious lines, for example, challenges this and must be countered.

Opportunities for all

A society built on equality and good social mobility is secured through work, good public health and such good offerings as kindergarten and education. Public institutions and services should promote equal opportunities for all. We have a particular responsibility to include and protect vulnerable groups in society. It is the duty of politics to prevent the inheritance of poverty.

The equal opportunities policy should not encourage equality of outcome, but ensure that everyone has the same opportunities, rights and obligations. It is the state's task to ensure equal opportunities for all, while respecting difference and an individual's life choices.

Outsiderhood often stems from a lack of education and work, or as a result of poverty and exclusion. Everyone should be able to take higher education independent of background, finances and place of residence. An active policy of inclusion means that those who are left out are given a new chance. The state must actively promote tolerance and combat discrimination and racism.

Civil society

Independent and self-reliant individuals are best able to take responsibility for themselves and for others. Høyre believes that all people bear independent responsibility for their own lives. There should be a high threshold for the public sphere to take this responsibility from individuals. Social sustainability is strengthened by the individual's active engagement in society. If the public sphere takes over tasks that naturally belong to the individual's personal

responsibilities, this can reduce the person's sense of responsibility and self-respect, and lead to reduced personal initiative and security.

Humans have a natural affiliation with and foundation in our origins, our families, in our common cultural heritage and in the knowledge passed down to us. Individuals have the right to protect themselves and this foundation. Høyre believes that the family constitutes the most important community in society, regardless of whether family patterns and forms of cohabitation are constantly changing.

Diverse welfare services

The welfare society is more than the state. Welfare is created in an interaction between the private, the voluntary and the public sectors. The Norwegian welfare services are largely based on tax-funded universal programmes, but also targeted schemes for those who need it most. In order to be fair and sustainable, welfare schemes must evolve in line with changes in society.

Høyre would like a diversity of welfare services. Diversity contributes to innovation, and gives the individual the opportunity to choose between offerings and services that are best adapted to their needs. The groundwork must therefore be laid for private and non-profit actors, in addition to the services provided by the public sector, and a free choice for users must be guaranteed in vital welfare services. The facilitation of innovation and social entrepreneurship is a political duty.

Equality and inclusion

Everyone who lives in Norway should have an equal opportunity to contribute towards and participate in the community, regardless of gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation or disability. The equal opportunities policy should not encourage equality of outcome, but ensure that everyone has the same opportunities, rights and obligations. It is the state's responsibility to ensure real equal opportunities, but at the same time difference and individual life choices must be respected. Government initiatives that provide benefits or favour to certain groups should also be restricted. One person's gain is another person's loss. Høyre therefore believes that quotas and government initiatives that provide benefits or favour some groups should be restricted.

Free research and intellectual property rights

Research must be free and independent of politics. The political sphere must restrict itself to the allocation of resources and the definition of ethical boundaries for research and the use of research outcomes. It is vital to uphold the freedom of cultural and research institutions and to support opportunities for alternative funding beyond public resources.

Property ownership is an expression of personal independence and the limitation of state power. Property is also a prerequisite to any market. This also applies to intellectual property.

Migration and integration

Norway is obliged to help people in need and to provide protection against persecution. Høyre will lead a rigid, fair and predictable refugee and asylum policy. This lays a good foundation for success in integration policy.

Those who come here must have a good basis for establishing a new life in Norway. Language learning, qualifications, knowledge of Norwegian society and respect for our values are crucial terms for successful integration. People with the right to remain must meet expectations to contribute towards and participate in Norwegian society. A successful integration policy also implies taking seriously the challenges of minority youths and others who find themselves caught between two cultures. All those who live and reside in Norway should have the right to make decisions about their own lives, and no one should be subjected to negative social control.

International cooperation is the key to preventing people from feeling that they have to flee. It is also central to gaining and retaining control of Europe's external borders and to stabilising its troubled neighbouring regions. Norway must contribute actively towards international processes to promote initiatives that support controlled and regulated migration, and limit the irregular arrival of migrants who are not in need of protection or have no other basis for the right to remain.

All countries have the right to regulate their immigration and to control the requirements that ought to be imposed in order to enter the country. In order to preserve the institution of asylum and to preserve the ability and willingness to receive people who are in need of protection in our society, we must evaluate who needs our protection. Those who do not need protection must return.

Indigenous peoples and national minorities

Sámi and national minorities in Norway should be permitted to develop their own language, culture and society. The Sámi hold the status of indigenous people in Norway. Jews, Kvens/Norwegian Finns, Romany people/Travellers, the Roma and Forest Finns are considered as national minorities. The language and culture of the Sámi and the national minorities contribute to a positive diversity that should have the opportunity to exist and evolve in society at large.

Biotechnology

Høyre assumes that all people have an inherent and inviolable intrinsic value. From this it follows that all people have the same value, regardless of their characteristics, abilities and functional level. Human life cannot, therefore, be graded or ranked. It also follows that nobody should be used as an instrument of other people. The individual should have great freedoms in private matters. Høyre believes in the legitimacy of regulating issues that also affect other people's rights and other important societal considerations, such as the protection of children's rights and the respect for the conditions of life for future generations.

Høyre sees it as positive that gene therapy and gene editing can provide better medical treatment for a range of diseases and conditions. Høyre will not permit gene therapy and gene editing that has no medical justification but only aims to improve human abilities and attributes. Gene therapy in reproductive cells, embryos or fertilised eggs that entails permanent changes in hereditary predispositions poses a significant ethical dilemma due to the potential risk of incalculable and adverse consequences for future generations.

Høyre sees it as positive that technological progress makes it possible for those who are involuntarily childless to have children. Individuals should have wide-ranging freedom to shape their family life and to make choices for themselves and their offspring. Regulation in this area must, however, also be based upon the rights of children and their need for protection. Høyre believes that the offer of assisted fertilisation must be extended to single persons if the terms for providing the child a good, safe upbringing are fulfilled in each individual case. Egg donation can give women and couples with fertility problems the opportunity to have their own biological children. Egg donation, as with sperm donation, must only be permitted with a known donor. Parents of children who are conceived after egg or sperm donation are obliged to tell the child as soon as is advisable. The conditions for egg donation must be regulated.

Foetal diagnosis can provide vital information about the health or genetic characteristics of the foetus. This must be distinct from examinations that form a part of antenatal care, such as

routine ultrasound tests. Høyre believes that routine examinations should continue to be offered as part of antenatal care, of which the purpose is to follow the child's development. The public sphere should not facilitate routine screening for characteristics, conditions or diseases of a foetus if there is no particular risk that justifies it.

Human Dignity

All people are born different, and all are of equal worth. Equality implies ensuring equal opportunities for personal development, participation and self-realisation for all.

Respect for human dignity means that Høyre believes that everyone is entitled to a dignified death, but says no to active euthanasia. Everyone should experience security and dignity at life's end, with good, palliative care.

Questions about the termination of pregnancy affect both the principle of self-determination and the right to life. Current legislation ensures an appropriate balance between these considerations.

The community can never deprive individuals of their fundamental rights. All people have the right to ask for help when they need it, even in the form of begging.

The right to a life of freedom also means that no one has the right to own another human being. The Conservative of Norway opposes all forms of slavery and human trafficking, and is a champion of the human right to own one's own body. This implies a fundamental right to make choices about one's own body, gender identity, sexuality and reproductive health.

Høyre desires a public safety net and a system in which society helps those people who are left out. Therefore, the drug policy ought to be governed by the principle of harm reduction, information and help – not punishment.

Chapter 3: Economic sustainability

Economic sustainability is crucial in ensuring welfare programmes that provide each individual with freedom, opportunity and security. Each generation is responsible to ensure that the next receives a foundation that is at least as good as the one they have received. The policy must therefore be organised in such a way that we safeguard the sustainability of the welfare society.

A high degree of participation in work is a precondition for welfare, meaning that a requirement for participation in work must be made of all who can contribute. Welfare programmes must stimulate work to a greater extent, and must be subject to continuous review with this as its starting point. State rules must be based on the fact that no one will be able to choose to receive public benefits if they are able to participate and to contribute in working life, either for religious or for cultural reasons. In order to receive public benefits, therefore, there should be proactive requirements in place whenever possible.

For the sake of future generations and the sustainability of the welfare society, there will be limited space for expensive new welfare programmes. Targeted programmes for those in most need must therefore be given priority over generic new schemes. At the same time, we should have a system of taxes that makes it attractive to work more.

Creating profitable jobs

Economic stability and growth are vital to ensuring the security of the individual and of the welfare society's sustainability in the long term. Our combined effort at work is the cornerstone of stable economic growth. Høyre supports genuine tripartite cooperation and a well-organised working life. At the same time, Høyre acknowledges that some employees choose not to unionise.

Profitable businesses are a prerequisite for safe jobs. The groundwork must be laid so that more people can be co-owners in their own workplace. Good terms for entrepreneurs and the self-employed will also contribute towards the creation of a greater number of secure jobs nationwide. Public sector jobs are dependent on profitable private companies generating tax revenues. At the same time, a well-functioning public sector is also important for private jobs.

Norway has rich natural resources on land and at sea that have been managed well. This has laid the foundation for value creation, jobs and communities across the country for generations. Looking ahead, Norwegian renewable energy will be important for value creation, jobs and communities.

Jobs are an important prerequisite for the establishment of communities. Business policy is therefore a cornerstone of regional policy. Reorganisation, innovation and entrepreneurship will be central to creating ever more profitable jobs. The general conditions for Norwegian businesses need to be good and predictable. Owners and businesses should bear the least possible distinctly Norwegian burdens when competing with foreign-owned companies.

Taxes on Norwegian private ownership – and thus on Norwegian jobs – should be reduced. Wealth tax ought to be completely phased out.

We must strive for a broader tax base and lower rates in the development of the tax system. The tax system of the future must also be adapted to the changing shape of enterprise. The tax system should be designed both to promote behaviour that is friendly to the climate and the environment and to stimulate work and investment in Norwegian jobs. The state should not engage in commercial interests and the production of goods and services where it is possible to establish a functioning market without state involvement. Exceptions to this must have a specific justification. State ownership of the business sector in Norway is widespread, and partly conditioned by history. Høyre desires a greater dissemination of power and will facilitate the greatest degree of private ownership possible. This applies particularly to companies in which the interests of the state are purely commercial and where there is no market failure.

Høyre also wishes to make Norwegian industry free of direct subsidies from the public sector, as far as is possible. The state will pursue an aggressive policy to increase value creation, and the most vital task is to lay a good foundation for this by way of schooling, education and research, moderate taxes, stable general conditions and the development of the necessary infrastructure.

Reducing outsidersness

A good, well-organised working life is not only productive but also inclusive. The greatest waste of resources occurs when people are removed from working life. A good working life permits participation in it by all, regardless of mental or physical challenges. Public and private jobs and civil society must take the responsibility to ensure that as many people as possible are given a new chance at work. Work should always be financially worthwhile.

Digitalisation and automation

The use of digital solutions and innovative technology simplifies people's everyday lives, further develops welfare, creates new jobs, and can help to achieve a sustainable society. The groundwork must be laid so that the market can develop the best solutions.

The sharing economy has opened up new markets with lower thresholds for establishment than many existing service offerings. It helps make the sharing of resources easier in a positive way. Legislation must be adapted in light of this development.

Digitalisation and automation give us great benefits through better, more user-oriented services and increased productivity. For a high-cost country like Norway, this is important. At the same time, the negative consequences for certain individuals have to be handled in such a way that the downsides do not overshadow the benefits. Digitalisation challenges traditional working life. This means that we must adapt the template of working life according to this development. The public services should also look more closely at opportunities to improve users' everyday lives by using digital and technological solutions for a more efficient and inclusive society.

Automation may lead to more people losing their jobs. For others, job tasks will change. Automation will also lead to the creation of many new jobs, in addition to a major growth in traditional professions aimed at digitalisation. We must avoid anyone 'reaching their expiration date' due to lack of knowledge or expertise. Therefore, employers', employees and the public sector have a joint responsibility to raise the skills of employees.

Our digital security

Technological development poses challenges linked to security and privacy. For Høyre, ethics and values should form the framework for the use of technology. At the same time, ethical considerations and values must also be discussed and weighed in light of societal developments and the opportunities offered by the technology.

Norway must have an effective and comprehensive defence against the growing challenges associated with digital threats. If national authorities and actors comply with Norwegian law and safeguard privacy, the groundwork must be laid for them to be guaranteed opportunities to make use of big data and develop new knowledge and competitive services. The use of big data can both provide commercial opportunities and strengthen important societal functions. The state should not have the general freedom to store or use surplus information.

Efficient public sector

The public sector is there to solve important common functions. An effective public sector creates legitimacy and trust among the population. For the sake of taxpayers, who finance the public sector, these functions must be solved in the most efficient way possible. The public sector's requirement for administrative burdens on business and private individuals should be limited to that which is most necessary. An effective public sector will be a competitive advantage for Norwegian companies and contribute to lower levels of taxes and fees.

Høyre desires a society that is developed from below, and will therefore decentralise power and responsibility. Strong local government renders municipalities better able to solve major welfare functions. In order to ensure good, fair services for their inhabitants, larger municipalities, which adapt their competence and capacity to the responsibility that municipalities bear, are necessary. We believe that two levels of government are sufficient in Norway. Municipal reform requires a good local foundation, but it is the Parliament that will ultimately make decisions about divisions at the local level.

New digital payment options offer opportunities and challenges. On the one hand, money can be transferred between people and businesses across the globe in a matter of seconds; on the other, technology can conceal tax evasion and the funding of illegal acts. Høyre looks positively on new technology such as the blockchain and artificial intelligence, but it must be regulated in step with the times.

Staying longer in work

More and more elderly people have the ability and willingness to contribute to society, even after normal age of retirement. Age itself should not be a reason for redundancy. There should therefore be no age limits in the workplace. The pension system requires updating. Special age limits must be removed, and the accrual of pensions must be adapted to the potential to work longer.

A lower tax burden

Tax is an important instrument for financing our common welfare services, working towards social equality and ensuring our common safety and security. At the same time, tax is an instrument that interferes with private property rights. A lower level of taxes and fees contributes towards increased economic independence for individuals and families, and stimulates the creation of work and jobs. Høyre therefore desires lower taxes.

Keeping more of one's own money provides individuals and families with more welfare. In order to motivate more people to choose to have children, good programmes and freedom of choice for families with children must be facilitated. State initiatives ought to promote participation in work and gender equality.

The Pension Fund

The Government Pension Fund Global is an instrument for the distribution of petroleum revenues over many generations. Its use must therefore be restricted to the actual return so that the value in the fund is maintained. In managing the fund the main objective should be to achieve the highest possible financial return within accepted limits of risk.

The fund is long term, and the long-term return is weakened if its companies achieve short-term profits at society's expense – for example, by causing damage to the environment, ignoring universal human rights, or breaking international conventions. As long-term owners, therefore, we ought to promote values and decisions that serve long-term value creation and that can also develop the international financial market in a positive direction.

Chapter 4: Cultural sustainability

Høyre's cultural policy has to balance two considerations: preserving cultural heritage and educational ideals, and having a cultural life with the least possible interference from the state. We desire a balance between these two considerations. Culture must be free and independent of politics.

Freedom of expression, and security for citizens to be able to practice it, are among the most central tenets of democracy. Art must be free. It is an objective that more artists should be able to make a living from their artistic activities.

The state should have no religion. That being said, for historical reasons the Norwegian Church holds a special position among religious and faith communities.

The Norwegian language is the most prominent instrument of our shared identity, and must be given the necessary protection and be preserved through active use.

Culture

People's lives are enriched by culture, sport and voluntary service. Art and culture roots us in our shared history, challenges us, and opens us up to the unknown. Høyre desires a cultural life that is characterised by innovation, quality and the development of talent. This requires robust cultural institutions, an increased diversity of actors, and good talent development. Norwegian cultural heritage must be protected.

Sport is Norway's greatest social movement. Participation in it contributes towards good public health and inclusion. Volunteerism leads to community and local engagement. Høyre wishes to facilitate the greatest possible voluntary participation in sports, outdoor and cultural life. It is through voluntary work that we gain social trust, inclusion and everyday integration. Economic circumstances and social background should be no obstacle to participation and voluntary engagement.

Cultural heritage is part of the nation's identity, and creates a sense of belonging. Diversity in art and culture enriches people's lives, contributes towards public debate, and can function as a corrective. Cultural life challenges and influences the culture of Norway. The art and culture of today is the cultural heritage of tomorrow. Cultural life must develop on its own terms and in freedom.

Knowledge about one's own culture provides a sense of security and good grounds to encounter the current diversity of external impulses in a generous and constructive way. Cultural heritage is a question of protection, of raising awareness, and of the legacy being put to use in new arenas. Høyre believes that cultural heritage is best taken care of through use and management. Knowledge is also best served through application, in particular the knowledge handed down through popular culture and craft traditions. Language, in particular, relates to our ability to participate in society. A good command of language is not, therefore, simply an objective of cultural policy, but also a condition for our participation in democracy.

Media

An open and well-informed democracy requires a free press with robust and independent editorial media. Critical investigative journalism and the dissemination of news from a variety of social arenas are necessary in order to inform citizens and to promote good democratic decision-making and public discourse. The transparency of the public sector is of great value to democracy. It is vital to uncover the misuse of resources and the abuse of power.

The press must be free and the state must facilitate a genuine diversity in the media. A good, forward-looking media policy ought to stimulate innovation and creation while maintaining the traditions and fundamental values of the free press. Support for the media must be predictable, unbureaucratic, and assume a neutral platform. The development of technology allows large global companies to have business models founded upon the extensive collection of personal data from every one of their users. Search engines, e-commerce and media are tailored to each user. Without us even realising it, this can lead to us having very narrow

access to information. Høyre believes that it is necessary to regulate the way our personal data is stored and used.

It is important that we have a high-quality, non-commercial public broadcasting service that reaches the entire country. NRK will help to safeguard the Norwegian language and have a wide range of content, both narrow and broad. The Sámi language is an important bearer of the shared identity and of cultural communication of the Sámi, and must therefore be preserved through active use. Funding will help NRK to fulfil its mission as a public broadcaster and ensure editorial independence and legitimacy. NRK must be aware of its competitive advantages and contribute to more, not less, diversity in the media.

The internet and social media have changed the terms of public expression. Hate speech can have serious consequences both for the victims and for society as a whole. As a society, therefore, we must fight hate speech.

School as common arena

Kindergarten and school are the society's most important common arenas for education, training and social mobility. The education system should provide everyone with equal opportunities to develop as people through knowledge and mastery of their subjects.

A well-functioning educational system is crucial for the development and wealth of society and for the welfare of the individual. The state is responsible for ensuring that the education sector evolves and is maintained in the correct manner.

Freedom of choice and scope for action require information and knowledge about the consequences of those choices. The dissemination of knowledge leads to the dissemination of power in society, and security and opportunity for the individual. Knowledge imparts culture and identity, forms attitudes and hands the power of spiritual and material growth to the individual and to society. Høyre attaches great importance to giving all the country's citizens good equal opportunities for education.

In a society undergoing change, it becomes more difficult to predict what kinds of knowledge we will need in the future. This not only means that basic skills become more important, but also that schools should allow for in-depth learning, reflection and critical thinking.

Chapter 5: Environmental sustainability

The duty of stewardship presupposes a policy that protects nature and manages social values across generations. Every generation is responsible for developing society without over-consuming resources. Høyre believes that we are responsible for ensuring that we will pass on to our descendants a society that is in better condition than the one we ourselves took over. Protection and application must be based primarily upon local support and management, with the preservation of diversity in nature as its goal.

The duty of stewardship

Høyre assumes that the polluter should pay and that the precautionary principle should be employed. Høyre believes that efforts towards a better environment must be put in place where they provide the best results. However, it is important that Norway also allocates considerable resources and increases its efforts to make Norwegian society more friendly to the climate and the environment. The principle of avoiding irreversible, lasting and severe climate change must be based on climate and environmental policy. Cuts in greenhouse gas emissions have to occur in line with stable economic growth. A greener system of taxes and duties will enable the market to tackle the environmental costs to society. The most cost-effective climate initiatives must always be prioritised in order to achieve climate goals. Investing in research and education are vital instruments for solving future environmental challenges.

The increased use of renewable resources will be crucial for a successful green shift. Sustainable consumption is the best form of conservation.

The right to private ownership is a precondition for a society of freedom and development. People have preserved and managed natural and environmental values for generations. Høyre therefore attaches great importance to respect for private ownership rights and to the local right of disposal.

Market solutions and technological optimism

Høyre believes in the future and in people's ability to discover new solutions to shared challenges such as poverty, disease, greenhouse gas emissions and damage to the environment. People's ability to take responsibility and to create through new knowledge and technology gives grounds for optimism.

Høyre's climate solutions will be forward-looking, market-based and driven by technology. In order to succeed with a green shift, we must employ knowledge-based instruments that stimulate and simplify the opportunity to choose green solutions.

Cross-border challenges

Environmental and climate challenges are global and must be faced proactively and bindingly at the local, national and international level. Trade, development and economic growth have lifted millions of people out of poverty. At the same time, the world's population is on the rise, and more people are going to have a growing need for food and energy. A green shift is therefore about disconnecting growth from emissions, because growth has also given us man-made climate change.

Climate change is a real threat. It represents a fundamental challenge to our way of life and our economy. Globally, the threat is greatest for poor people in developing countries, where weather changes are already making living conditions more difficult. The climate struggle is therefore an issue at both the national and a global level, and entails a moral duty.

Norway should take a leading role in both combating climate change and in the development towards a green society.

Chapter 6: A sustainable foreign policy

Høyre's objective for Norwegian foreign policy is to promote Norwegian interests, and to contribute towards an easing of tensions and increased international cooperation. International cooperation is particularly important to address cross-border challenges related to the climate, poverty, migration and terrorism. As a small but strategically important country with an open economy, it is in our interests to contribute towards good terms for international trade and the securing of an international legal system.

Norway's foreign policy will help us to reach the UN's sustainability goals, ensure international detente, respect the greater global spread of human rights, and free up international trade. We will be a predictable and reliable partner to our allies. The aim of Norwegian aid is to combat poverty, prevent war and refugee flows, and to help other nations and their inhabitants to become self-reliant.

Joint international responsibility

The international community is reliant on states that manage their sovereignty with responsibility. At the same time, the international community is different from the national community because it has less recourse to power that can support the protection of life, freedom and dignity with the imposition of sanctions. This makes the global community vulnerable. Therefore, it is important to combine respect for the distinctive character of different nations with binding international cooperation.

As global challenges grow, far-reaching co-operation across national borders is required. Therefore, Høyre believes that it is important to build up and support strong, effective and democratic international institutions that contribute to a peaceful and just global community, one that sees the relationship between development and the economy.

Høyre believes that free and fair international trade that provides equal opportunities for all countries is a fundamental precondition for national independence, economic growth and welfare. Therefore, Høyre will support the development of a fair global market economy and a common set of rules through the WTO, will combat tax evasion and the illegal flight of capital, and will support international efforts for better and more efficient taxation of international companies.

Høyre also believes that Norway is obliged to contribute to the development of the rule of law, the development of democracy and the promotion of equality in the world. Norway must provide targeted aid that helps to combat poverty, illness and environmental destruction, safeguards the rights of minorities, and builds civil society and sustainable governance. Høyre believes it is particularly important to help lift opportunities for girls in education around the world in order to contribute towards long-term change and growth.

Høyre attaches vital importance to decisions taken by the UN Security Council, and wants Norway to participate in efforts to promote democracy and security through other international bodies such as the EU, the OSCE and NATO, if necessary through military operations.

Trade wars in which individual countries set up customs barriers are not in the interests of the world. Customs barriers must be lowered and Norway must support the development of a fair global market economy and a common set of regulations through the WTO. Free trade ensures mutual interdependence between countries, and contributes to detente and economic development.

European integration

In Europe, we have a broadly common set of values and shared democratic, economic and cultural traditions. It is therefore natural in our continent to seek the closest possible cooperation in order to solve the shared challenges of our citizens and countries, when it best suits the values and traditions we wish to uphold. Norway should seek co-determination and co-responsibility for cooperation in Europe.

The EEA Agreement and access to the EU internal market are an important prerequisite for the securing of jobs and welfare in Norwegian society. Høyre believes that we should seek participation in those European forums that will serve Norwegian interests, especially in the areas of justice, defence, migration and the climate. Høyre believes that Norway should become a full member of the EU.

Nordic cooperation

The Nordic region is one of the most integrated regions of the world, and the traditions of Nordic co-operation are long and good. Norway's relationship with its Nordic neighbours is a strategic strength and is of culturally intrinsic value. The Conservative Party of Europe believes that close, long-term Nordic cooperation in most sectors of society is in our interests. It ensures value creation and employment in Norway, and gives us better competitiveness and the ability to restructure our economy. We share language, culture, values and interests with our Nordic neighbours. In international cooperation we are each other's closest friends and partners. Regional co-operation and solidarity reinforce our impact and our ability to tackle the great shared challenges of our time.

A strong military

The state's most important duty is to safeguard the safety and security of its citizens. A strong military and cooperation with allies is a prerequisite for a free and independent Norway. Emergency preparedness is vital and entails a credible military, good communication, and stable food supply.

Høyre sees peace and freedom as a crucial prerequisite for upholding our democracy and the rule of law. The military should be a reassurance for Norway, regardless of the current military threat. Høyre recognises that military threats can occur much faster than military capability and organisations can be built up. The military's battle-readiness must be at a level that takes this into account.

Individual citizens have a duty to defend the nation against external threats. Compulsory military service must have a credible and meaningful design, and be equal for everyone it encompasses. Compulsory military service preserves military readiness as the clearest expression of the individual citizen's duty towards wider society.

Our security guarantee as a member of NATO is crucial to Norwegian foreign and security policy as well as to the country's security in times of peace, crisis and war. In the same way that our allies are obliged to be there for Norway if required, we are also obliged to assist in the defence of our allies. For NATO to be an effective and credible military alliance, Høyre recognises that there must be a reasonable sharing of the burden within the alliance. It is crucial that Norway pursues its obligations to the alliance with loyalty and contributes towards the other member nations doing the same.