

ENCLOSURE A1

The immigration policy of the Social Democratic Party

www.socialdemokratiet.dk. Excerpts.

Immigration policy has divided the Danes for many years. In the Social Democratic Party, we do not believe that we are in total disagreement after all. We want to help people fleeing war or persecution. This is a duty to our fellow human beings. That said, we also agree that there is a limit to how many refugees and foreigners we can successfully integrate in our society. The challenge facing us is not temporary. It is here to stay. It exerts pressure on our welfare model, our low rate of inequality and our way of life.

Our immigration policy consists of three elements:

Numbers matter

Denmark must take back control. We want to introduce a limit on how many non-western foreigners may be admitted into Denmark each year. Our housing sector, our schools and our workplaces must be able to keep up. This will give us a real chance of integrating those who arrive here and ensure that they learn the language, get a job and pick up our fundamental values. We have suggestions as to how we may enforce such a limit while also observing international conventions. We want to change our asylum system, for instance by establishing a reception centre outside of Europe. In the future, the only refugees who will be granted asylum in Denmark will be UN quota refugees.

We must help more people

At the moment, we are failing those who are the weakest: those who are unable to flee or who cannot afford to do so. Those who need help the most. That is unfair. We will not accept that people are left to drown in the Mediterranean or that people are subjected to violence and abuse while fleeing. The end goal must be that fewer people need to flee, and that more people may create a future for themselves in their own countries rather than seeking out an existence in Europe. In Denmark, we are unable to solve this challenge on our own, but we may lead the way by doubling Danish aid in the neighbouring regions*. And in the EU, we must take the lead and advocate a historic lift of Africa in particular.

The new fight for freedom

The Social Democratic Party is and always has been a project for freedom. It has been about giving an increasing amount of people the opportunity to shape their own lives. We have succeeded in this through the means of education, free and equal access to health services and a high level of employment. Now we are facing a new chapter in this fight for freedom: the new Danes. Equality of the sexes must also apply among them. Rights and duties. That religion always comes second to democracy. This requires us to have a reckoning with the norms found in parts of Denmark. First and foremost, it requires more people to become part of the Danish community in which we share the same fundamental values and where we encounter one another in housing estates and in schools. Our ten-year-plan assures that in the future no housing estate, no school and no educational institutions will have more than 30 percent non-western immigrants and descendants. And more immigrants must actively contribute to Danish society. We will therefore introduce a duty to work 37 hours a week for all immigrants receiving integration benefits and cash benefits.**

*(neighbouring regions = nærområderne)

** (cash benefits = kontanthjælp)