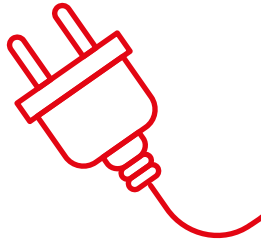
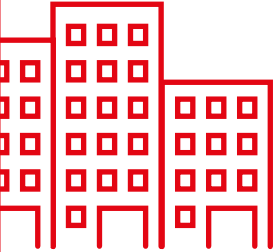


You deserve more.



Short & sweet

Die Linke

The last few years have been tough. At least for the vast majority. Food, rent, gas and electricity: everything has become more expensive. More and more people have to choose between a hot meal and a warm home in winter. But even those who are a little better off are feeling the pressure of rising prices. Going on holiday in the summer is no longer an option for many.

But instead of taking care of people's everyday concerns, the "traffic light parties" have preferred to argue for three and a half years. Things could get even worse after the traffic lights: As chancellor, Friedrich Merz is planning the harshest social cuts in the history of the Federal Republic. The CDU and CSU want to dismantle the welfare state, as do the FDP and AfD. The SPD and Greens are already offering themselves to Merz as a coalition partner before the election. But anyone who was unable or unwilling to stand up to Lindner will certainly not be able to stand up to a chancellor like Merz.

But there is another way: strong opposition that puts pressure for change. We have already succeeded in doing this with the minimum wage, and we will do so again now: We could scrap VAT on basic foodstuffs and thus help the poorest and relieve the burden on everyone when shopping. With a nationwide rent cap, we could ensure that housing remains affordable. And if we share the wealth, then the government can also invest in the future of the country so that the industries and jobs of tomorrow are created here. There are many clever ideas on how to make everyday life affordable again. We have summarized some of them here.

So that the rent doesn't eat up your life



There is less and less affordable housing: in many cities, rents have doubled in the last 10 years. But they are also rising sharply in many rural areas. The search for a flat that you can still afford is becoming a game of chance. The "traffic light government" has failed to meet its self-proclaimed targets for housing construction every year. The reason: politicians are focussing primarily on private investors when it comes to building flats - but they are making a lot of money from the housing shortage. The party Die Linke wants the state itself to provide more affordable housing:

- We want a **nationwide rent cap**: rents should not be allowed to be increased for six years. After that, there should be hard upper limits for rent increases. In cities with a particularly severe housing shortage, high rents must be reduced immediately.
- **Refurbishments** and heating replacements must not lead to higher rents.
- We want to promote **public and co-operative housing** construction.

So that grocery shopping no longer hurts



The weekly grocery shop and the gas bill are an increasing problem for more and more people. During Olaf Scholz's time in government, food prices have risen by almost 30 per cent. Many people are faced with an empty fridge at the end of the month or are worried about the next instalment payment. That doesn't have to be the case: The profits of energy suppliers, supermarkets and food companies have exploded in recent years. Lidl owner Dieter Schwarz alone has almost doubled his fortune in the last seven years.

- We want to exempt **basic food, hygiene products, buses and trains** from VAT. The state does not have to make money from basic necessities.
- We demand **price controls** for energy and food and stronger **anti-trust legislation**.
- **Food waste** must be banned.
- For electricity and heating, the average consumption is to be offered at an **affordable base rate**.

A fair tax system that relieves the burden on the majority

- We want to reform the **income tax**: Anyone earning **less than 7,000 euros gross per month** will pay **less tax** with our rate (as a single person, tax class I).
- All taxable income below the **minimum subsistence level of 16,800 euros** per year should remain **tax-free**.
- The top tax rate should rise to 53 per cent, with the super-rich paying 75 per cent **wealth tax**.
- Re-introduction of **wealth tax for millionaires and billionaires**.

Pensions and health insurance – solidarity for all

- We want a **health insurance system** that everyone pays into. This will **reduce the contribution** from 17.1 per cent to around 13.3 per cent.
- We want to stop the **hospital cutbacks!** Hospitals should not be profit-orientated, but belong in **public hands**.
- In many professions you can't work until the age of 67. Anyone **who has worked for 40 years** should be able to retire.

Conversion instead of clear-cutting: climate protection is only possible socially

- We **reject** the anti-social **CO₂ price for fuel and heating**. We are calling for comprehensive support for the conversion of heating systems.
- We are calling for an **investment fund for industry**. We want to support employees who want to **take over a business themselves and continue to run it as a co-operative**.
- The **biggest climate sinners** should pay for climate protection: the rich and corporations.

For a tolerant society without hatred and racism

- We reject inciting people against each other and turning refugees into scapegoats in order to divert attention from social problems. They need a **work permit** from day one. We stand by the **right to asylum**.
- We want to take decisive action against **violence against women** and immediately implement the legal right to accommodation in women's shelters.
- We believe in the principle of **equal pay for work of equal value**. We fight against all forms of discrimination and marginalisation.

For peace in the world, diplomacy and disarmament

- We are committed to **diplomacy and peaceful conflict resolution** worldwide. We condemn wars of aggression that violate international law, such as the Russian invasion of Ukraine.
- We are in favour of a **ceasefire** and a **just peace in Ukraine**, in the **Middle East** and in all war zones around the world.
- We reject more money for **armaments**. We want to transform the Bundeswehr into a purely defensive army.

Good work and social security in all circumstances

- The **minimum wage** must be increased to 15 euros
- We demand a **sanction-free minimum income** and a **solidarity-based minimum pension of 1,400 euros per month**. No one should fall below the minimum subsistence level
- We demand **free lunches** in kindergartens and schools. No child should have to learn with an empty stomach. **Childcare centres** must be **free of charge** from the first year onwards.

*Vote for Die Linke
on 23rd February*

Die Linke

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