

Rotterdam's Pledge to the EU Pillar of Social Rights

Sustainable, social and economically equal societies are key to creating a stronger Europe. Rotterdam puts its residents at the top of its agenda, embracing the diversity and differences that characterise the city. Rotterdam is committed to support the European Pillar of Social Rights and strives for a Europe with equal opportunities for all.

Commitment to principle 3 'Equal Opportunities'

Rotterdam is characterised by a diverse population, rich of cultural backgrounds. The city has been a laboratory for inclusion and integration projects and plans. We pledge our dedication to principle 3 with our action plan 'Integration and society', focusing on living together in a city full of differences and addressing this in a constructive way.

In 2018, Rotterdam was characterised by over 170 different nationalities. Rotterdam's diversity is drawn up from more than just its residents' different nationalities. Think of philosophy of life, sexual orientation, religion, culture, income and age: everything that people can be, you can find in Rotterdam. Our approach to diversity is realistic and relaxed, adhering to three important principles; equality, connecting and safety. The first principle of equality means adhering to equal treatment for all residents and fighting all forms of discrimination. Connecting is about social cohesion, relating to and looking out for one and other. The final principle safety originates from our Dutch legal context; we will protect you and judge you not on your background but on your actions.

We work together with a range of actors to deal with this in a constructive way. The actions that we initiate are aimed at the entire society of Rotterdam. By 2022, we want there to be more acceptance of the diversity in our city. Equality, connection and enforcement are the pillars of the following objectives:

1. Helping Rotterdammers become more relaxed with the diversity of Rotterdam.
2. Spreading knowledge and awareness about prejudices and discrimination in Rotterdam to improve equal opportunities and inclusiveness.
3. Maintaining and enforcing rules to ensure that everyone feels safe, welcome and connected in Rotterdam.
4. Helping vulnerable Rotterdammers become more assertive and resilient for participation in society.

We encourage participation and interaction so that everyone can contribute to a relaxed city. We pay extra attention to vulnerable groups for whom it is more difficult to participate. We are:

1. Creating a safe environment for every resident to live relaxed and free, spreading knowledge and awareness about the importance of equal treatment and equality of religion, culture, colour, gender, sexual preference and background.
2. Assisting the integration and participation of migrants into society within one year of obtaining a [temporary] residence permit, helping them become more familiar with the rights and duties that the Dutch constitutional state entails.

This action plan demonstrates the willingness of the municipality to ensure equal opportunities. Accordingly, the municipality is committed to advance principle 3 of the EU Pillar of Social Rights by investing €16 million into the integration of refugees and €13 million into actions promoting social inclusion (2019-2022).

Bert Wijnnga



Vice Mayor for Enforcement, Public Space, Integration and Community

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