



**WA**  
**VENSTREALLIANSEN**

The Leftist Alliance

Candidate list and list programme 2022

University of Stavanger

English

<b>List of candidates:</b> .....	2
<b>Core issues</b> .....	2
<b>List programme</b> .....	3
Democracy .....	3
The Student Welfare Organization SiS .....	4
Solidarity with the Labour Movement.....	5
Equal Access to Education and the Fight Against Inequality.....	5
Learning Environment .....	6
Student Health.....	8
Feminism.....	9
Inclusion and the Fight Against Discrimination.....	10
International Solidarity .....	11
International Students and Exchange .....	12
Climate, environment and animal welfare .....	12
Internships, practice periods and student life .....	14
Students' Rights .....	15

## List of candidates:

- |              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| 1. candidate | Benedicte Molnes           |
| 2. candidate | Ragnar Falch               |
| 3. candidate | Mona Watson                |
| 4. candidate | Christoffer Raarup Sennels |
| 5. candidate | Ekho Halvorsen             |
| 6. candidate | Marija Stevkovska Pedersen |
| 7. candidate | Linn Lofthus               |
| 8. candidate | Ole Lunde                  |

## Core issues

- Services for students should be cheaper, in particular the food in canteens and the café. Vegetarian meals should be cheaper than non-vegetarian counterparts.
- There should be better options for studying on campus. Power outlets must be accessible in classrooms and lecture halls. There must be water dispensers in all buildings.
- Video recording of lectures should be made available to the students. This is not a replacement for obligatory lessons but will be a resource available for reviewing the curriculum.
- Services for mental health to the students must be improved. The work of arranging "low threshold activities" shall be continued. The university should help student associations and student groups use the university's space for socializing in order to make campus life more vibrant.

# List programme

## Democracy

Student democracy and university democracy are fundamental pillars in the university's role as a critical institution. An active student democracy makes the university better. Student democracy must be strengthened by providing good, predictable conditions and good training. VA also defends the university's democracy and the institutions' right to self-governance.

- The student politics must be democratized.
- The Student Parliament must examine alternative models for student democratic engagement, such as a citizens' jury.
- Students should have the right to bring cases to the Student Parliament. Such cases require 100 signers.
- Efforts should be made to increase voter turnout in student elections. Information campaigns and information about the election during class can contribute to this.
- The principal must be elected. Being able to stand for election as principal should not require principal competence.
- The university will operate its own buildings.
- UiS must offer in-depth training to all student representatives.
- The university should have guidelines for student democracy and shop stewards at the faculty and department levels that give students good conditions and rights for their democratic work.
- The Student Parliament should have as open processes as possible and inform more about the work they do.
- Student associations should have easy access to areas and services on campus.

## The Student Welfare Organization SiS

Through the Welfare Council, students have influence over the Student Welfare Organization SiS, and thus over the student welfare services in Stavanger. VA will use that power actively.

- The rent for the SiS homes must be reduced, so that it becomes possible to live on support from Lånekassen when renting from SiS.
- The student democracies must have real influence on the Student Welfare Organization SiS, through a power-critical Welfare Council.
- The Welfare Council should have the right to file a motion of no confidence toward its representatives.
- The leadership salaries of SiS must be reduced.
- SiS should be subject to the Freedom of Information Act.
- SiS café and other services should be cheap for students. SiS should not finance the profits of other companies. The money SiS earns on students will go back to the students' welfare.
- The possibility of reducing SiS's equity should be investigated. This can free up funds at lower prices in the services for students.
- Efforts will be made to reduce the NSO share with the aim of freeing up funds at lower prices.
- The student housing should have shop stewards from each student city, which will then have a dialogue with the homeowner.
- We support a SiS monopoly on the different welfare services on campus. This is vital to make sure the money goes to the students and that they are democratically controlled by the students.
- There must be a breakfast deal for students. There should be a discount for a cheap, healthy and filling breakfast in the morning hours.
- ● The canteens on campus must have good vegetarian and vegan alternatives to non-vegetarian food. An effort must be made that 30% of the food on offer are vegetarian and vegan options.
- ● Vegetarian food should be cheaper than their non-vegetarian counterparts.

## **Solidarity with the Labour Movement**

The trade union movement is a cornerstone in the creation of a just society. In the Nordics, it is under heavy pressure due to today's free trade, increasing liberalization of the Working Environment Act and the declining degree of unionization.

- The university should ensure good working conditions for its employees. The Working Environment Act must be interpreted strictly. Full-time and permanent positions should be the norm.
- Promote working life demands in the Welfare Council and the Student Parliament, which will be made in collaboration with the shop stewards.
- Non-negotiable support for all strikes on campus.
- The university should employ cleaners, rather than outsource them.

## **Equal Access to Education and the Fight Against Inequality**

Everyone should have an equal right to education. We know that class background still plays a significant role and that the social differences in Norway are increasing. VA will work for measures against inequality in education.

- The class divisions in higher education must be erased. Higher education should be free, and financial background should not be a prerequisite for starting or completing higher education.
- Introduce free textbooks through a loan scheme. Another option is the use of digital books paid for by the university.
- The study grant will be increased to 2.5 G and given for 12 months. Initially, efforts will be made to increase it to 1.5 G.
- Ensure the free principle in all teaching both in Norway and internationally. Nothing should cost.
- It will not cost students extra to be sent in practice with a long travel distance or to live in another city/municipality due to remote practice. The faculty must

take responsibility and find solutions to either prevent students from having to travel far or face the consequences when there are no other solutions.

- Reverse the government's change in the conversion scheme regarding the study loan and grant.
- Housing prices in Stavanger will be regulated through public ownership of housing.
- The housing demand should be met with the building of housing by the public sector.
- The university will never introduce an Honours-program. The resources must be reserved for all students instead.
- The work with strengthened working life relevance should not be a back door for commercialization of education. The business community's defining power over what is relevant knowledge must be limited, in order for the university's role as a critical knowledge institution to be preserved.
- The university must establish a loan scheme for computer equipment for students, so that students have equal opportunities to follow their education.

## **Learning Environment**

A good learning environment, both physically and mentally, is important for students to thrive in education. Learning should be a democratic dialogue between students and lecturers, where power is decentralized. The matter must be taken seriously, and the quality must be risen.

- We will work to make the university ad-free. Commercial interests should not permeate the campus experience.
- Concretize requirements for learning environments in a new regulation on learning environments with accompanying guidelines. Make it so students can democratically design the teaching in ongoing dialogue with lecturers.
- Support an expansion of pedagogical teaching for lecturers. Teaching should be equal with research.
- There should be more student assistants.

- Work to have digital recording and teaching in all subjects, even after the pandemic is over. It should be a resource for students to repeat the curriculum.
- There should be specific requirements that lecturers include digital students in the teaching.
- We require that there are enough power sockets in all lecture halls and classrooms.
- There should be water dispensers in central buildings on campus.
- Introduce requirements for systems for internal control for the physical learning environment at all institutions in new regulations on the learning environment.
- Give the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority a clearer mandate as an appeal and control body for the physical learning environment for students.
- Give the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority the authority to sanction institutions that do not follow up the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority's requests for a learning environment.
- Introduce requirements for anonymised systems at all institutions for appealing against bullying cases and harassment.
- The reporting system must be easily accessible where students are, online and physically on campus.
- Work for automatic justification for the exam.



## Student Health

Students' health should be taken seriously, especially mental health. We think that measures are important and believe that the causes must be taken seriously as well. Inequality is linked to health and social problems. Inequality can partly because it restricts access to help, and also lead to problems on it own.

- Students will have access to good and free health services at the various campus departments.
- Mental health care must be available to students as soon as possible and the waiting time must be cut through an increase in the budget.
- We want mental health care to be free until you are 25 years old, regarding the national healthcare system. Student mental health care will come in addition to the national healthcare.
- Even more low-threshold services related to mental and physical health must be established on campus. There should be a good selection of books on positive psychology, cognitive behavioural self-help and such, in the library.
- UiS will facilitate for breastfeeding by offering good and comfortable spaces to do so.
- UiS must arrange rest rooms/rest areas for students on an equal footing with employees.
- Ensure that there are non-alcoholic and inclusive events.
- Events must have options for dietary allergens, halal, kosher and other religious dietary considerations. Everything must be marked.
- We support the introduction of a student doctor.
- UiS's student doctor must have the competence to prescribe hormones for gender confirmation treatment
- Dental health services should be provided free of charge for students at the university. Until then, the current dental care refund arrangement should be maintained.
- Birth control should be free.
- Students should have access to free and easily accessible information and help with questions related to sexual health.

## Feminism

The Left Alliance is a transinclusive, feminist organization. In today's society, heteronormative men as a group generally have more power than women. Power is skewed between genders in society. VA wants to achieve a fairer gender balance. VA works according to principles of feminist practice. That is, we want to ensure gender statistics are kept, encourage women and non-binary to have a say in discussions and in other ways work to make visible and counteract the imbalance of power caused by structural gender discrimination.

- The university must ensure gender equality through the strengthening and further development of quota schemes, such as gender points. There should be gender quotas for employees also, to ensure gender balance when it comes to professors and other positions.
- There should be more female and trans (both binary and non-binary) authors on the curriculum.
- The university must introduce a scheme for free sanitary products on campus.
- The university's reporting routines must be robust, and it must be easy to report sexual harassment and other critical matters. We support the "si ifra"-system.
- Start working on the introduction of "pink competence" courses about gender and sexual diversity to lecturers at the university. The teaching must be adapted to all gender identities.
- Work for equal pay between men and women.
- Parental leave must be universally available to all students at the university as an institution, regardless of faculty affiliation and gender. Information about the parental leave schemes should be easily accessible to students via the university's website and the information centers of the various faculties.
- There must be gender-neutral toilets at all faculties.

## **Inclusion and the Fight Against Discrimination**

The university must be an institution that is open to everyone. Too many people experience discrimination in Norway, whether it concerns one's ethnic background, sexual orientation, disability or other factors. We recognize that structural discrimination exists in Norway. Therefore, VA will shed light on discrimination and fight it.

- The university and all offers for students should work for full universal design and facilitation. We support the university's action plan in this area and want it to go faster.
- Democracy requires inclusion. There should be zero tolerance for direct and indirect discrimination. Islamophobia, antisemitism, racism, sexism, transphobia, discrimination against LGBT+ people and other groups should be combated through enforcement of the Equality and Anti-Discrimination Act and relevant parts of the Working Environment Act.
- Ensure that Pride is still supported by the university.
- The Sámi National Day should be marked by the university.
- Ensure that the Language Act is followed. At least 25% of the written material must be in Nynorsk.
- Ensure that all exams are available in Nynorsk.

## International Solidarity

VA believes it is important to show international solidarity and support oppressed students' fight for the right to higher education. We will be a driving force for international law, human rights, and fair trade.

- Continue and strengthen the Students at Risk and Scholars at Risk programs.
- Refugees with higher education should be allowed to use their education in Norway.
- Research should be published in open journals whenever possible.
- The university must become a fair-trade university as USN is. This means that it becomes committed to working for fairer trade conditions for developing countries. Environmental, social and economic conditions should be improved in trade to reduce global inequality. This will mean that more fair-trade products are available at the university.
- We believe that UiS shouldn't cooperate with countries that greatly violate international law or human rights.
- Have a quota scheme for refugee students.
- Decolonize the curriculum. We must have a full perspective of the world and not just a Western one.
- Have good exchange agreements for students and for research positions.

## **International Students and Exchange**

International students should be included. We know it can be tough to go to a new country. Therefore, we must ensure as much inclusion as possible. At the same time, we must ensure that all students, regardless of background, can go on exchange programs. We believe that cultural diversity strengthens the University of Stavanger and Norway.

- Work against an introduction of tuition fees to international students.
- The university must ensure that as much information as possible is in English and available to international students.
- The university must have inclusive social events for international students, so that they experience belonging and well-being.
- Students must be offered good exchange schemes.
- The opportunity to go on exchange should not be limited by financial conditions.
- Students must have democratic influence over the university alliances that the university is part of.

## **Climate, environment and animal welfare**

VA puts the environment before profit and wants environmentally friendly institutions for higher education. Environmentally friendly research must be taken seriously. The climate and environmental crises are the biggest challenges of our time. Therefore, research on energy must reflect a principle that sustainable, renewable energy sources are what the society of the future will be built on. At the same time, we will fight for animal welfare.

- UiS, StOr and SiS should cut emissions by 80% by 2030 and be climate neutral by 2040. This is Stavanger municipality's goal.
- The university, StOr and SiS must have a radical and ambitious climate and environmental strategy, which sets clear goals for reducing its own greenhouse gas emissions. A significantly more detailed carbon budget

than today's budget is needed to achieve this.

- The Student Parliament will set up a working group to create an environmental political platform. The platform must aim to decarbonise UiS, SiS and StOr. It must have many points on environmental policy and promote a green shift both in terms of climate and the environment.
- We are in support of the UN's SDGs being part of the university's and SiS's strategies.
- We support the university's work as Eco-Lighthouse certified.
- The university should declare a climate crisis.
- Employee use of air travel should be limited.
- The university will facilitate more electric car use among students and teachers, to reduce the use of fossil cars.
- Recycling must be easier throughout the university.
- Efforts will be made to create cycle paths to the student cities.
- The city bike scheme will be expanded, and there will be stations on campus, at student housing and other places students travel.
- Oil research at the university will be phased out, and focus will be placed on research within green and renewable energy solutions. The university will be a leader in green research in Norway and contribute to Stavanger becoming the renewable capital instead of the oil capital.
- The university should show visibility in the collaborations they have with the business community and establish a committee for ethical guidelines, to ensure that climate research remains independent.
- The university will have more environmental and climate-related electives and programmes. We support phasing out oil education.
- Environmental and climate perspectives must be included in more study programs.
- More and better green areas must be established for students. Also, generally more vegetation on campus.
- The university must control the air quality inside and out, and make sure that it is satisfactory.
- New buildings connected to the university will be built with new and innovative energy technology. They must have the highest energy label.
- All material used at the university should use the Nordic Ecolabel.

- Books and texts should be offered in digital format.
- The canteens should have more vegetarian and vegan options. Events should also have such options. There should always be alternatives for halal, kosher, and other religious dietary considerations. As well as consideration for allergens. Everything should always be marked.
- Food waste from the cafeterias and events should be reduced. There needs to be cooperation with the “Matsentralen”.
- Work against animal testing in research.
- There should be more buses to the university available, especially outside of Stavanger.
- The student discount on the bus pass should apply to all students.
- The student bus pass should apply to the whole county.
- The university will reduce its emissions of microplastics.

## **Internships, practice periods and student life**

We believe that internships are important for future job opportunities and therefore support it. At the same time, gender balance is an important goal. The well-being of the individual student while in practice is very important to ensure

- All study programs must have access to internships. The internship courses must be available to both students at bachelor's and master's level.
- The university must create qualification positions for the underrepresented genders to achieve a gender balance in professional environments where it is needed.
- Ensure that students in practice have the same expectations and requirements for them, regardless of which practice teacher they get. There must be equal requirements for the same type of practice. It is a recurring problem that real practical requirements depend on the individual practical teacher the students get in practice.

## Students' Rights

Students' rights must be taken seriously, and VA will fight for them to be strengthened.

- Introduce a provision in law or regulations that complaints that are not formally processed within a reasonable time, are to be regarded as a refusal that can be formally appealed (cf. regulation to the Education Act, § 9a-4, 3rd paragraph).
- Give the Norwegian Labour Inspection Authority and the student ombudsman the right of initiative in complaints about the learning environment where there is not already a complaint from students.
- Give the Norwegian Student Organization or other suitable actors increased funding to be able to assist students legally in judicial review of cases concerning the learning environment.