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About USNEF

USNEF is an association that aims to promote the interests of the population in the North Frisian region.

1. Introduction

The social position of minorities, migrants and women deserves the attention it most likely will receive in the reports of the other stakeholders. However, the struggle for a just and dignified society should rest on a basis of recognition of the rights of all citizens. This report therefore emphasizes a number of issues that are equally important, but which are often omitted when considering the evaluation of the human rights situation in the Netherlands.

2. Financing of political parties

- 1 Politics in the Netherlands has been highly professionalized and placed at a distance from ordinary citizens. This undermines the country's democratic nature and prohibits genuine universal participation. Although elections are held regularly, policy is largely determined in meeting rooms where so-called social partners make agreements in mutual consultation with each other that serve as the basis and implementation of a large part of government policy. This consultation undermines the democratic quality of government policy. There is also a large overlap between civil society organizations and the government, with individual careers being characterized by work and employment for both groups. In practice, this means that civil society is often an extension of the government, which in this way dominates the social debate.ⁱ In addition, the financing of civil society organizations ensures that their supporters are not rooted in society but in government offices, because both the jobs and the financing are largely dependent on the government for their realization. Furthermore, the ministries fund activism to change policies through legal instead of democratic means. For example, an organization that is financially dependent on the government has started and won lawsuits to change climate policy by appealing to the public interest. ⁱⁱSuch political-administrative constructions are inherently undemocratic and undermine the belief in democracy among ordinary citizens, who lack the possibilities to exercise real influence on government policy.
- 2 Another issue that puts democracy at a distance from the ordinary citizen is the financing of political parties. ⁱⁱⁱPolitical associations can be established fairly easily, but access to sufficient financial resources to take action and generate attention is minimal. The government subsidizes membership parties that have a seat in the House of Representatives. The financing of political parties is seen through the lens of: who pays, decides. For example, it is forbidden to receive donations from outside Europe and all donations above 4500 euros must be made public in order to prevent political parties from becoming the mouthpiece of financiers. However, government funding for political parties, which is currently over sixteen million euros, is increasing, which inevitably leads to a greater focus on the government rather than on the citizen, and thus reduces the democratic quality of politics.

3. Political cordon sanitair and cancel culture

- 3 Organizations that are unconstitutional are banned and dissolved by the Dutch court. As a result, such organizations cannot participate in democratic elections or participate in the

governing coalition and administration. However, there is an undemocratic rule that excludes political associations from cooperation and governance. This rule is known as 'cordon sanitair'. The leaders of the main political parties make it clear before, during and after the elections that they will not cooperate with (right-wing populist) parties that they regard as indecent and immoral. ^{iv}These populist parties do not violate the Rule of Law as laid down in the constitution, but they violate the rules of decency as drawn up by the establishment in order to maintain their positions of power. This undemocratic behavior undermines the principle of the democratic Rule of Law and the idea of participation, access and democratic cooperation for all.

- 4 The decency rules that the establishment uses to exclude political opponents on undemocratic grounds also lead to a violation of freedom of expression. It is not possible for people to freely express ideas that are lawful but break the rules of decency to fully participate in the social debate. They are cancelled, which means that their career opportunities are lost. This threat means that populist parties have great difficulty attracting people who want to commit themselves professionally, because any personal association with such parties leads to automatic exclusion from social life. In this way, the debate degenerates into a bureaucratic consultation of like-minded people that excludes alternative views and is therefore inherently undemocratic.

4. Institutionalized Discrimination and Hate Speech

- 5 The Netherlands has an extensive set of laws to combat discrimination. These rules are supported by the vast majority of the population and strictly enforced by the government. However, there exists a gap in the fight against discrimination that is not addressed and even facilitated by the government. For example, the government supports social and academic activism that adorns itself with the term 'anti-racism'. ^vIn practice, however, such activism is often polarizing, discriminatory and hate-mongering, with the fight against racism being of secondary importance to an undemocratic seizure of power by the established order.
- 6 Anti-racism activism is provided with false arguments by academic activism that can itself often be called racist and sexist in many ways. These biased and dishonest studies create an image of an inherently racist society where white men's views of women and ethnic minorities determine the latter's lack of success in society. According to these studies, white men are intrinsically racist and sexist and this can only be remedied through a civilizational mission consisting of awareness training, affirmative action and a radical change of power structures. However, such studies are activist agitprop disguised as objective science and create a polarizing environment because they isolate a scapegoat in society who is guilty of the broken dreams and failures of individuals who suffer from the lack of recognition of their desired but never realized leadership. The evidence of these studies comes from social and psychological research. The first kind of research makes generalized comparisons between the social positions of men, women and cultural minorities, while the second kind of research relies on psychological tests.
- 7 In researching social positions, the major differences between the situations of white men are deliberately not taken into account. In addition, the comparison is made with the top in mind, with high positions being seen as the ultimate measure of social success. However, the white men who do not hold top positions are condemned by the investigations because they are considered privileged but in reality lack these rights. The arguments for generalized privilege are used as a smokescreen to disguise the actual selection for good positions. This selection is not based on skin color or gender, but on membership of unofficial small network

groups (in Dutch: 'ons-soort-mensen'). Nevertheless, the policy legitimized by the studies is based on the idea that all white men occupy a privileged top position, putting underprivileged white men doubly behind others who are recipients of affirmative action.^{vi} The result is that these views and policies create a hierarchical, discriminatory society with three broad categories; at the top the privileged few who hold key positions and are part of the interconnected networks of power, in the middle the group that receives privilege on the basis of gender and ethnicity and at the bottom the white men who are demoted to being third class citizens. These actions create the opposite of what genuine antiracist policy should have as its objective.

- 8 In addition, there are the psychological tests that provide arguments for pursuing (anti-) discriminatory policies. These studies are based on the idea that people have (negative) prejudices about others and that these views lead to the exclusion of women and cultural minorities from good social positions. The results of these activist studies are completely dependent on the research set-up. For example, the prejudices that are measured are first psychologically activated in the test persons with a preliminary investigation, after which the research observes these pre-created facts. The tests actually create the bias that is meant to be measured. In this way, prejudices about a particular cultural group are confirmed, while in reality prejudice takes many different forms and is dependent on a person's social position and particular world view. In a diverse society, there are million different kinds of prejudices. However, the studies produce a predetermined set of so-called biases that are useful for legitimizing policies which are desired by the establishment. The prejudice against underprivileged white men (in Dutch: 'dat-soort-mensen') is incidentally the most widespread and strongest among almost all groups in society. However, these biases are ignored in policy making that is legitimized by this type of research. Through unfair, skewed and controlled studies, white men who do not belong to the top of society are disadvantaged and discriminated against. The studies create negative associations, or prejudices, towards a certain group, namely white men who are not in top position.
- 9 In addition, many studies about the history of the Netherlands have appeared in the last few years that have been ordered by the government to come to terms with the past. In the current context, this means that the past is used to change the social order in the present. For example, the city councils of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Utrecht have ordered studies into their role in colonial history and slavery in preparation for compensation of the descendants. ^{vii}However, such compensation rights for historical suffering are only given to these groups who are members of the ruling coalition and are not granted to the many white Dutch people who have been marginalized for centuries, such as the Catholics in the provinces of Brabant and Limburg or the Frisians in the north. Therefore, these studies use the past to create a new form of injustice in the present.
- 10 Another example of discrimination is the forced change of the terminology used to describe the skin color for Dutch people of European descent. Previously, the term 'blank' was used for skin color, which held a neutral meaning. However, this fell out of use rapidly and was replaced by the term 'wit'. Every language changes as a result of different circumstances, but this change was imposed from above and has a discriminatory background. Guidelines for inclusive language were drawn up a few years ago by various organizations and everyone is in theory free to either use the word 'blank' or 'wit'. ^{viii}However, the underlying assumption is that anyone who uses the word 'blank' is racist and denies historical colonialism, so that in almost all publications the word 'wit' replaces the term 'blank'. However, 'wit' is not a neutral description of skin color but a value judgment about a person's view of humanity and the world. The word 'wit' is associated with racism, oppression, barbarity and is a catchall term for every injustice against non-Europeans that has occurred in the past. The term 'wit' is not a

translation of the English word 'white', but is more closely related to the term 'white trash'. The word 'wit' is used very negatively and used to portray people as uncivilized and guilty of historical suffering. High-ranking white persons have embraced the term “wit” for their civilizational mission to exclude underprivileged white people from good positions.

- 11 The foregoing is a brief summary of conscious and unconscious hate speech that is too often overlooked in the fight against discrimination, racism and polarization. You reap what you sow and if the Netherlands wants to remove itself from the abyss that leads to a conflict society instead of a sustainable participation society, then it is not hatred and prejudice that should be sown, but humanity.

5. Colonial dependency

- 12 Equal opportunities and possibilities for citizens who live outside the immediate circle of the established order are increasingly restricted, causing their economic, political and social position to deteriorate. Although the Netherlands is a geographically small country, there are nevertheless major, and increasing, differences in economic development between the regions. The Randstad, in which most major cities are located, is leading and drains the periphery of opportunities and developments. The region outside the Randstad is additionally financed in order to counteract the decline, but in reality the opportunities given are subordinate to the opportunities taken away; you give crumbs while you take away the treasures. Many peripheral regions have been given the status of developing areas, but where on a European scale it means that they are emerging regions, in practice this is the opposite in the Netherlands. For example, the North Frisian region has gone from a developed region a decade ago to a transition region in the European Union classification today, and this decline is seen as a given rather than a sign for policy changes. ^{ix}The areas outside the Randstad are treated by many, including the government, as a colonial dependency rather than an integral part of a democratic country. For example, large cities like Amsterdam have introduced official quotas to ensure that local government employees are a reflection of the diverse urban population of the particular city. ^xHowever, this purposefully ignores the fact that these cities have a national function and that the opportunities in Amsterdam and the other large cities in the Randstad are largely the result of their central function. People outside the big cities are therefore discriminated against and deprived of the opportunity to participate equally in the national democratic structures.

6. Instrumentalization of LGBTI rights

- 13 For decades, the Netherlands has played an international pioneering role in the emancipation of homosexuals, lesbians and transgenders. The social acceptance of identities deviating from the straight standard had increased by the turn of the century to the extent that marriage on 1 April 2001 was opened up to gays and lesbians and the straight standard was replaced by a human standard. Many civil society organizations and individuals contributed to this paradigm shift that opened up a more inclusive future. However, the present has degenerated into a different future than was predicted. For example, the social acceptance of non-heteroorientation has changed from tolerance to indifference to instrumentalization. The organizations that previously received great support from the population are now almost completely dependent on government support. ^{xi}LGBTI rights are now taught and imposed rather than passed on and communicated. This situation causes people to profess tolerance towards the LGBTI community by mouth, while they see them as people who suffer from a disability and need help. In addition, LGBTI rights are not granted

to individuals, but are used as a weapon in a fight for privileges in society.

- 14 The loss of tolerance and the increasing instrumentalization of LGBTI rights is noticeable everywhere in society, but is hidden and downplayed as much as possible. An example to demonstrate this is the following event that received a lot of attention: a young man with budding homosexual feelings was treated unfairly by the leadership of the Reformed Church in the city of Krimpen aan de IJssel of which he was a member. This was picked up by the media and led to great public outcry and a criminal charge. The Reformed community was reviled for its archaic, reprehensible ideology towards homosexuality.^{xii} However, this indignation is not an example of tolerance but of instrumentalization. It was a stick to beat the Reformed community with and thus marginalize them. The intolerant, hateful treatment of LGBTI people in other parts of the country is simultaneously being ignored. It is well known, for example, that the tolerance of LGBTI people has plummeted compared to its heyday in the early years after the turn of the century.^{xiii} A 2021 study that was ordered by the municipality of Amsterdam shed light on the situation of LGBTI people in the capital. The researchers were smart and honest enough to make it a study based on interviews instead of a statistical study with a summary and analysis of recorded facts, as there are no reliable figures available on the discrimination against LGBTI people. This research provides a disturbing picture of the real situation of the lack of tolerance towards LGBTI people. However, the public outcry about the results of this research was minimal and no policy changes were effected. In addition, this research was kept secret for months. It was ready for publication well before the national elections, but was only made public after the elections had been held so as not to influence the public debate.^{xiv} Most of the perpetrators of the intolerant attitude towards LGBTI people turned out to be people who belong to the followers of the ruling coalition.^{xv}

ⁱ<https://www.wyniasweek.nl/alleen-invloedrijke-linkse-clubs-krijgen-subsidie/>

ⁱⁱ<https://www.rechtspraak.nl/Bekende-rechtszaken/klimaatzaak-urgenda>

ⁱⁱⁱ<https://kennisopenbaarbestuur.nl/thema/financiering-politieke-partijen/>

^{iv} Rutte, Klaver, Hoekstra and Kaag speak out against cooperation with the extreme right - https://www.limburger.nl/cnt/dmf20220212_96258448

^v<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/opinie/opinie/2020/07/racisme-onder-mom-antiracisme-experiment-kan-alleen-verkeerd-aflopen-767052/>

^{vi}<https://www.oneworld.nl/lezen/discriminatie/racisme/dos-en-donts-voor-witte-bondgenoten/>

^{vii}<https://www.knaw.nl/nl/actueel/nieuws/het-slavernijverleden-loopt-door-tot-op-de-dag-van-vandaag>

^{viii}<https://over.nos.nl/nieuws/waarom-gebruikt-de-nos-soms-wit-en-soms-blank/>

^{ix}https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/is-my-region-covered/

^x<https://www.binnenlandsbestuur.nl/carriere/diversiteitsbeleid-amsterdam-minder-vrijblijvend>

^{xi}<https://www.coc.nl/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/COC-Jaarrekening-2020.pdf>

^{xii}<https://regioonline.nl/binnenland/dominee-kort-wordt-gehoord/>

^{xiii}<https://onderzoek.amsterdam.nl/artikel/amsterdam-volgens-homos-niet-meer-gay-capital-of-the-world>

^{xiv}<https://www.binnenlandsbestuur.nl/bestuur-en-organisatie/wethouder-ontkent-wegmoffelen-rapport-over-homodiscriminatie>

^{xv}<https://www.ewmagazine.nl/nederland/achtergrond/2021/07/dader-homogeweld-in-amsterdam-is-vaak-allochtoon-835735/>