

ChristenUnie/SGP Expat Agenda

1. Bridge the gap

The ChristenUnie/SGP believes in Together The Hague. A city where people of all faiths and creeds can live together. Fundamental to this, is to embrace and respect each other, to know our society's values and to strive for prosperity for our city and families. Expats are as much part of this as any other citizen. Too often, however, there seems to be a bridge. Therefore:

- ⊕ we want to involve the municipality much more in expat activities,
- ⊕ we want to involve the needs addressed by expats in new policy; including a separate chapter in the annual budgets.

2. Houses: sufficient and smart

One of the biggest challenges to the city: sufficient and affordable housing for all. Expats are easily overlooked, although we already house about 45-50.000 of them in the city. The ChristenUnie/SGP wants affordable housing throughout the city and thus diminish the barriers between social groups:

- ⊕ we want expats to be part of the housing policy in new development plans near expat zones,
- ⊕ developers of new campuses to always include a percentage of Sqm student housing in the building,
- ⊕ when there is room for it, we co-house social groups. Also new houses should include efficient IoT products, such as domotics for elderly.

3. Welcome package

The ChristenUnie/SGP wants expats to feel welcome in the city. Therefore, everyone, including expats, will receive (English) welcome packages. These are funded by the government, but composed by the neighbourhood. In this package you will find information about the city, your new neighbourhood and how to get around.

4. English signage

With many international companies and institutions, it is hard to deny we are an international city. But how international a city is, should be defined by the way we treat our expats. The ChristenUnie/SGP wants to pay more efforts to it. For example, think of sufficient English signage to get around in the city.

5. Retain talent

We grew as an international city by housing campuses of THUAS, the University of Leiden and courses from Delft in our city. Most of which are in English. Because of that, we grew as a student capital too. But too often we lose that talent because there's hardly any policy on bridging the gap between finishing your course here and getting a job at the same place too. Therefore the ChristenUnie/SGP wants:

- ⊕ more international companies and institutions investing time, money and social capital in the city,
- ⊕ more international students,
- ⊕ the option to involve your startup in your required internships.

6. Education for our children

Getting more expats in the city, means getting more families into the city. In a time when families tend to leave because a lack of housing, we work on more housing. But family life is about much more. Therefore, the ChristenUnie/SGP wants to invest in the education of their children.

- ⊕ We want to involve them in local communities to bring their education into practice,
- ⊕ We want to provide enough room for international schools, especially when it comes to primary education,
- ⊕ We want multifunctional use of school buildings to be developed by international schools in order create communities.

7. Health care

The number one concern for people in our city is health care. And so it is to the ChristenUnie/SGP. Much of the information provided usually is provided in Dutch only. Therefore, often expats are unaware of all the benefits of our health care system. We want them to be equally treated and informed when it comes to the basic needs of all humans: proper health care.

8. Freedom of faith

Many expats organise themselves in their own communities and associations. In many cases they also attend churches or other houses of faith where most of their fellow expat-nationals go to. The ChristenUnie/SGP believes that these faith-based associations, churches or other religious institutions mean a lot to many expats. We want to cherish room for these associations and churches and do not want to discriminate them on funds.

9. Keep the green alive

The former coalition has showed itself an opponent of green in the city. The ChristenUnie/SGP wants to maintain our quality of life and attraction to others. Therefore, we have to cut the cutting of green and trees.

10. Clean city

The ChristenUnie/SGP supports a clean The Hague. On the one hand that requires more enforcement, especially near the beach and the Zuiderpark. On the other hand, we want to cut the rate of bicycles left behind by former owners. For this, we organise a drop-off twice per year.



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