

Summary. Programme Rotterdam BIJ1

Living
affordably.
VOTE BIJ1

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Preamble.

Dear Rotterdammer,

Some cities you don't get to choose; they choose you, and Rotterdam chose me fifteen years ago when I arrived here with my family from Australia. Since then, this city has been my home. I love its roughness, especially in the evenings, and the way people support one another even when the system fails to do so.

At the same time, this city shows us how the illusion of the free market solving everything has finally failed. More and more people are forced to fight for less and less, while power, influence and money are concentrated in the hands of large companies and those who already have more than enough. Life has become unaffordable for too many Rotterdammers, all under the watch of a political class that feels increasingly detached and is ultimately judged by how it treats the most vulnerable, a test it repeatedly fails.

You see it when yet another residential tower is presented as good news for the neighbourhood. We know what that shiny building really represents. It is a symbol, a message in concrete and glass that says you are no longer welcome here, that this is no longer your neighbourhood.

Gentrification in Rotterdam is accelerating, and the people who rebuilt this city after the war, who shaped its culture and carried its stories, now risk being pushed aside and



forgotten. We cannot allow that to happen.

You also see it in how deeply racism is embedded in our institutions, in the police, in the housing market and on the streets, becoming more visible day by day. For people of colour this is not new, it is everyday reality, yet some political parties do not challenge this injustice but actively fuel it, pitting people against each other and pretending that we are the problem. Meanwhile, the same powers that colonised our countries, waged wars and displaced our communities now claim that we do not belong here. Let me be clear about one thing: we are here, we built this city, and we are not going anywhere.

That is why I cannot accept the fairy tale that Rotterdam is simply “for everyone.”

Our party programme is not organised around what is most important, but around the understanding that different forms of exclusion and exploitation are connected, and so are the solutions. There can be no economic justice without an anti-capitalist approach, no climate justice without decolonisation, and no real LGBTQIA+ safety without confronting Islamophobia and discrimination in all its forms.

What happens here is not separate from what happens in Palestine, Congo, Sudan or elsewhere. The same systems that push people out of their homes in Rotterdam profit from exploitation and violence worldwide, which is why our commitment to justice does not stop at the city limits. Solidarity must be international or it means nothing.

Where there's a will, there's a way. These are political choices. They are packaged in difficult policy language, jargon and political rhetoric to make everything seem complicated. But don't ever let anyone tell you there's no money. That's not true. There is money for expensive residential towers, for prestigious projects such as Boijmans Van Beuningen, and for protecting large polluting companies in our harbour.

I see it as my task, and BIJ1's task, to carry the voices of our neighbourhoods into City Hall, voices from residents, workers, young people, activists, carers and tenants who have understood for years what is going wrong but are ignored because those in power refuse to listen. Our task is to bring their struggle into the belly of the beast, loud and clear, to confront power where it feels most comfortable and make it impossible to ignore injustice, because we will not bow down.

Lots of love,

Tikhoe Isaack

Lead candidate Rotterdam BIJ1



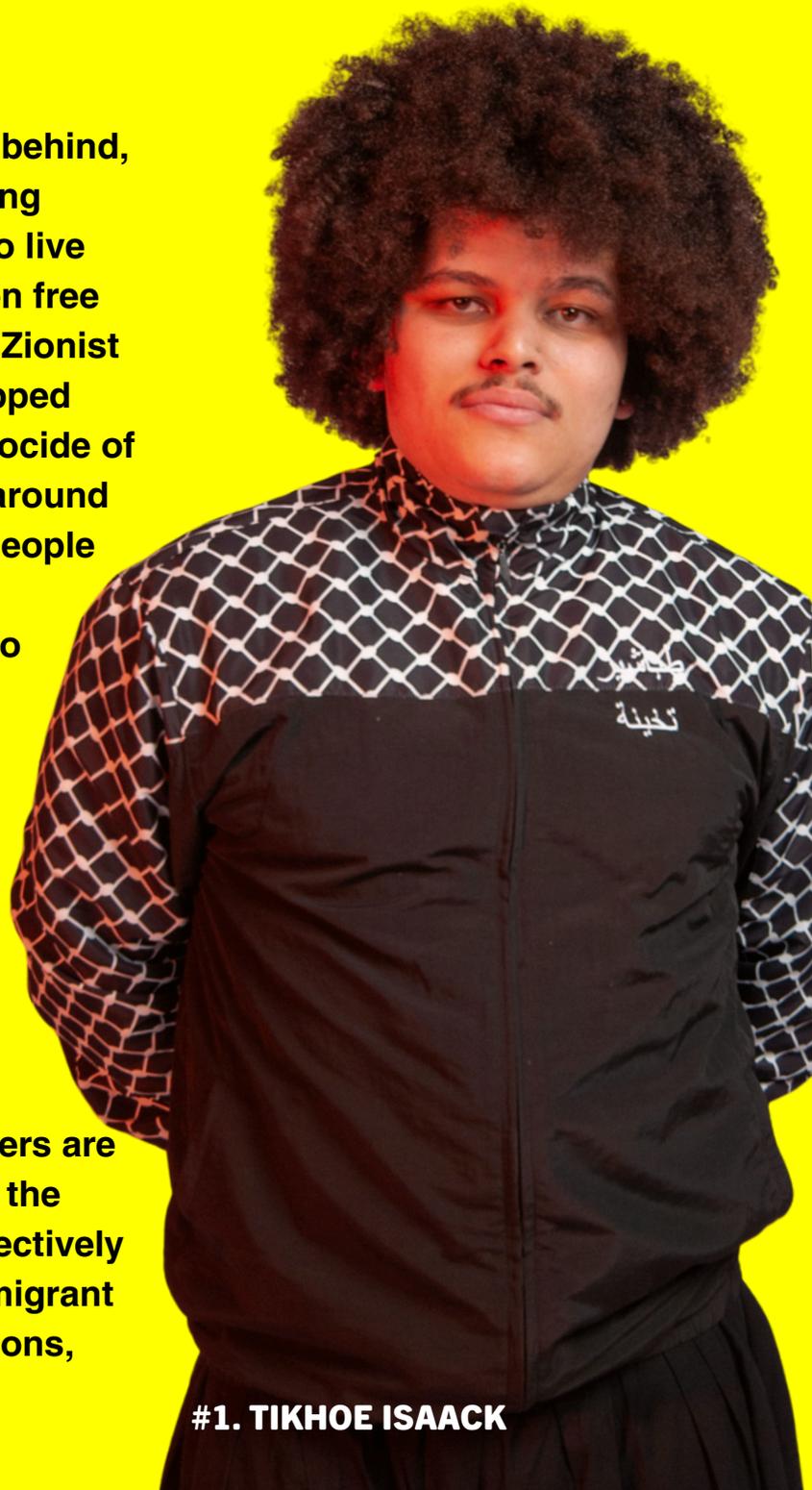
Introduction

Everyone deserves to be able to live a dignified life without worries. But for many people in Rotterdam, this is becoming increasingly difficult. Every day they feel the consequences of a political system that leaves them struggling to survive. What we are experiencing in Rotterdam is not a series of isolated problems. **It is a system that treats the city as a profit model.**

Homes are vacant while people are sleeping on the streets. Rents are skyrocketing and wages are falling behind, while property developers are making record profits. Tenants are forced to live with mold, while slumlords are given free rein by the city council. In the port, Zionist weapon components are being shipped through, later to be used in the genocide of the Palestinians and in other wars around the world. In the south of the city, people are being pushed out of their neighborhoods because they can no longer afford to stay.

Everything is becoming more expensive, life is harder and the city less liveable for the people who make Rotterdam, Rotterdam.

But the city also shows a different side. In the neighbourhoods where renters organise to reclaim vacant housing. In workplaces where workers are standing up against exploitation. In the communities where people are collectively rising up against gentrification. In migrant communities that have, for generations, shown what solidarity truly means.



#1. TIKHOE ISAACK

That is the Rotterdam we are fighting for: a city where solidarity is stronger than hate. A city where housing and living are affordable, where no one has to sleep on the streets, and where existence is not a gift, but a right. A city where you can make ends meet. A city where you can live affordably.

With the following 35 points, we want to make this dream a reality.



#2. PRECIOUS SADHOE

Housing without worries.

1. At least 70% of all new housing will be social housing.

We will establish a municipal construction company that builds for the people of Rotterdam, not for profit. In this way, we will sideline profit-driven property developers.

2. We will expropriate the real estate mafia.

Housing is a right, not a market where investors are allowed to get rich. That is why we will expropriate homes that remain vacant for long periods, as well as slumlords who line their pockets at the expense of their tenants.

3. We will abolish the ban on squatting.

As long as homes are left unnecessarily empty, squatting is a right. We will end the squatting ban and allocate no capacity to enforcing it.

4. A roof over everyone's head.

There will be a regional plan to combat homelessness based on 'Housing First' principles. Until then, there will be shelter available to all homeless people without previous conditions, with special attention to more vulnerable groups in society.

Living affordably.

5. Free public transport for everyone.

Being able to move freely through the city is a basic right. We will make public transport completely free, improved, and accessible.

6. Investing in neighborhoods.

In addition to all the rising costs, politicians have in recent years also dismantled the safety nets that keep Rotterdam residents afloat. We will therefore make structural funding available for the places in the city where people support one another, such as community centers, neighborhood restaurants, and food banks.

7. End the debt industry.

Debts will be written off more often and taken over by the municipality. Rotterdam residents have been among the greatest victims of the childcare benefits scandal: the debts of the victims will be taken over immediately and without conditions.

8. Growing up without worries.

There will be free healthy school meals at all primary schools, and everyone will receive free childcare, without any obligations or requirement to apply for jobs.

9. Fair work and income.

The municipality will declare that every working person must receive a minimum wage of €19 per hour, an employment contract, collective labor agreement (CLA) rights, and a pension. We will abolish the mandatory reciprocal obligation attached to social assistance.

10. Sex work is work.

The municipality will treat sex work like any other profession. The minimum age will remain 18.



#3. JELEESA LYNCH
Wijkraad: Pendrecht, Zuidwijk

Equal rights for all Rotterdammers.

11. Decolonisation and anti-racism.

We endorse the Black Manifesto and use it as the framework for anti-racism policy. We will appoint an Alderman for Decolonisation, and the Anti-Discrimination Reporting Center will be made more accessible and with a lower threshold.

12. Reparations and restoration for the colonial past.

There will be large-scale research into how Rotterdam's colonial and slavery history continues to affect the present, with reparative measures linked to its findings.



#4. NATHAN MIANGO

13. Nothing about us, without us.

The municipality will provide structural support to initiatives from LGBTQIA+ communities (of color) and will work directly with them in developing policies that concern them.

14. Accessibility is a right.

All public locations, such as school buildings and metro stations, will be made accessible to everyone. All municipal communication will be offered in multiple languages and written at B1 language level.

15. No human being is illegal.

Rotterdam will become a sanctuary city that actively resists the criminalisation of migrants by our government. Undocumented people will receive the same rights and opportunities as any other Rotterdam resident.

16. All power back to the neighborhoods.

District councils will be granted statutory advisory rights and real input on all municipal plans that affect their neighborhoods.

17. Solidarity: internationally as well.

Rotterdam will end cooperation with states and companies involved in genocide, occupation, or climate destruction. Weapons, fossil products, and other military infrastructure will not be welcome in our port.

Care and real safety.

18. Aid as safety.

Real safety does not come from more law enforcement on the streets, but from mutual aid. Local police officers will be replaced by mediators and street educators. The municipality will stop arming officers, conducting preventive stop-and-search practices, and using animals as weapons. We choose de-escalation and greater oversight of power structures.

19. An end to gender-based violence.

Women's shelters and organisations combating violence and femicide will receive structural increases in funding and space to provide support and shelter.

20. Child protective services must be just.

Young people must have full say over their treatment. Their care will continue until the "Big Five" are in place: safe housing, education/work/daytime activity, financial stability, a social network, and access to support services. The municipality will end the strict age cutoff of 18.

21. A trans clinic in Rotterdam.

By organising space, resources, and cooperation with specialised healthcare providers, we will establish a trans clinic that can offer appropriate care to all trans and queer people.

22. Sexual healthcare for everyone.

The municipal health service (GGD) will provide free, accessible sexual education and STI care, including for undocumented residents.

23. Visible community links return.

Care providers who literally walk through neighborhoods and know residents will return. Street doctors and nurses will receive structural financial support. No one will be refused based on documentation status or income.



#5. MIKA BEAU DALDEROP

Wijkraad: Oud-Charlois, Wielewaal

Climate justice, Now.

24. Break with the fossil fuel industry.

The municipality will immediately stop cooperation, subsidies, or permits for companies that produce fossil fuels, pollute our environment, or violate human rights (such as Shell and BlackRock).

25. A just energy transition.

The transition to clean and renewable heating will begin in the neighborhoods where the need is greatest. Social housing and low-income households will be prioritised for insulation and sustainability upgrades.

26. Radical climate measures.

Rotterdam will oppose false solutions that fail to tackle the climate crisis at its root and that shift responsibility onto ordinary people. We choose system change: phasing out fossil fuels, holding polluting companies accountable, and reducing CO₂ emissions. Rotterdam will be climate neutral by 2030.

27. A harbour free from exploitation.

Rotterdam recognises the harbour as the fossil heart of the Netherlands (oil, coal, and gas) and takes responsibility for the enormous climate damage caused by the industry and transit trade. We will transform the port from a conduit for profit into a place of local, circular, and meaningful production. A permanent citizens' assembly on the harbour's future will be established, with binding voting power for residents, climate justice organisations, trade unions, and dockworkers.

28. Rights for animals.

Animals are not objects or products. The municipality will stop supporting organisations that exploit animals, such as zoos and commercial breeders. Veterinary care will be free.

29. Rotterdam becomes car-light.

But only once free and accessible public transport has been realised.



#6. ML BEEKMANS

Fair education and culture.

30. Education is a right.

Preschool will be free, and parents will no longer pay a personal contribution.

31. Decolonial education.

Anti-colonial programs will become the standard in schools, and the municipality will collaborate with grassroots organisations to share knowledge from the perspectives of Indigenous peoples, the Black community, and people of color.

32. Inclusive education.

Educational institutions will work together as equals on regional projects, breaking down the hierarchy between vocational (MBO), applied sciences (HBO), and research universities (WO). We will ensure that neurodiverse students receive education that suits them and make schools accessible in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

33. Education is not a product, but a public responsibility.

We oppose market forces and performance pressure in education. Schools will belong to the community, through neighborhood schools cooperatively governed by parents, students, and teachers.

34. Funding culture.

There will be increased funding for emerging, young, and small(er) creators and initiatives, with special attention to people from groups that experience structural inequality.

35. Knowledge is the power of the people.

We will protect independent and critical journalism.



#7. VENUS BIJLEVELD
MA'MAQUEEN

Living
affordably.



BIJ1