

## Manifesto for MERA25 in Sweden-Final (in English)

Today we face multiple crises yet we do not know if and how these will be addressed. We do not know because those wielding power, namely the wealthy, big businesses and their politicians, decide behind closed doors. This results in choices that prioritise profit over people and planet. **MERA25 wants to end this.** Instead, we seek to have the people in control over our common destiny, not those that merely seek the bottom line.

**MERA25 believes it is time for people to democratically decide on how our economy is run, taxes are spent, backlogs in health and housing are cleared, peace is achieved and, ultimately, what future we want ahead of us.** Together, we can urgently address common challenges, including:

- Increasing inequality: Sweden's poor are getting poorer and the rich are getting richer;
- Declining living standards: Prices for basic goods have skyrocketed while affordable housing is non-existent;
- Threats to peace: Our centuries old policy of military neutrality is gone;
- Environmental catastrophe: Time is running out to reverse climate change;
- Lack of trust in politics: Loss of faith in the existing political establishment fosters acquiescence to authoritarianism, thus increasing discrimination against minorities;
- Perpetual violence: Ongoing detrimental impact of gender-based violence, crime and gangsterism with no end in sight; and
- Declining public services: Public goods are increasingly privatised and equal and fair service delivery is disappearing.

What we face today has been brought about by political choices that favour the rich. It is therefore unsurprising that while 300 000 people have no income and 200 000 earn less than 50 000 kronor per year in Sweden, the country has also seen a staggering increase in billionaires, surging from 20 to over 500 since the 1990's. This trend is the outcome of an inextricable link between politicians and powerful corporations whose sole purpose is profit.

It's time to say enough is enough! **An alternative path where people are empowered to decide on their lives must be taken.** A road that provides for an **affordable and healthy life** for people in Europe and beyond!

### **Our Alternative Vision for Sweden, Europe and Beyond**

We will fight for **fair wages** across Europe to reduce inequality and use the Swedish model as our framework. Our goal is a dignified working life for all with the implementation of a **4-day work week**. Furthermore, we will aim to introduce a pan-European **Universal Living Income** to provide those in need a decent and purposeful life, free from interference, poverty and exploitation.

To increase affordability, we want to **remove European Union laws that keep prices artificially high** (e.g. the electricity market) and **ban value added tax on essential goods at the point of consumption** (i.e. water, food, medicines, home energy). Legislation will be introduced to **end the ability of companies to manipulate patents** that artificially keep the price of medicines high. Sectors dominated by a few large companies will be **reformed so that monopolies are removed**.

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We want an **independent and non-aligned European Union dedicated to global peace**. This means replacing military blocs with an inclusive international security framework that addresses tensions by peaceful means, promotes freedoms, combats poverty and exploitation, pursues social and environmental justice, and ends the dominance of one country over another.

To restore nature, we will embark on an ambitious **Green Public Works Programme** as outlined in our [Green New Deal for Europe](#). This will include creating decent **green jobs**, making all municipal public transport in Europe free or cheap to incentivise its use, and investments in **shared services** across the continent. This will be funded through a wealth tax on the top **1% of Europeans owning over 30% of the wealth**. Specifically on housing in Sweden, we will push for the Riksgalden to issue 100 billion Krona of bonds for the construction of public housing.

To foster trust in politics, we advocate **for a new layer of democracy between the public and elected representatives**. These **will take the form of randomly selected residents** (democratic deliberation councils) that **will direct critical areas of public governance**. In addition, we will advocate for **maximum transparency on the inner workings of the European Union**. Freedom of information will be strengthened and whistleblowers protected. Meetings of groups and committees will be livestreamed and decisions taken will be subject to European Parliament oversight.

We will **fight for the rights of women and minorities** across the European Union. Urgent measures include ensuring full access to reproductive rights, strengthening the fight against human trafficking and gender-based violence, as well as prohibiting child marriages and genital mutilation. These issues will be included alongside other crimes such as rape in key EU legal frameworks such as the **Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the directive to combat violence against women and domestic violence**. **Furthermore**, we will seek to align all EU country domestic legislation with the provisions of the Istanbul Convention. Furthermore, we will advocate for concluding the work on the otherwise delayed **anti-discrimination directive** to remove legislative gaps on such issues throughout the European Union. We will champion strict and far-reaching implementation of human rights by increasing the monitoring powers of the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights.

We will work to end violence in society by **addressing the root causes that compel people to turn to crime**. To do this we will **invest in education and social services to support young people who are vulnerable** and develop concrete pathways away from gangsterism. We will thus advocate for a **non-violent and community centred** approach to break the cycle of violence.

To **reclaim public goods**, all essential services **will be publicly owned and managed**. A specific national citizens assembly, modelled along our democratic deliberation councils, will be created to achieve this. Members of this assembly - selected by lot - will direct policy, propose legislation, select senior judges, and approve senior appointments in organisations dealing with public goods (e.g., the central bank, care, welfare, education, health, energy).

**Sign up and support us to realise politics by the people in Sweden, Europe and beyond!**