

# Dutch Humanists Meet Norwegian Humanists



22 april 19.30

Zoom bijeenkomst over **de uitgangspunten**

Korte toelichting van uit beide landen en dan een dialoog

April 22, 7:30 p.m.

Zoom meeting on **the starting points**

Brief explanation from both countries and then a dialogue

# Nordic Humanist Manifesto 2016

is a formulation of the common world view of the Nordic humanist organizations.

## The Manifesto

**Humanism is a secular life stance.**

Its starting point is that humans are part of nature, born free and equal in dignity and rights, equipped with reason and conscience.

**Humanists hold that there is no pre-determined meaning to existence.**

We are all free to find meaning and purpose in our own lives; through individual reflection, social interactions and the rich culture humanity has created in science, philosophy and the arts.

**Humanism promotes rationality.**

Critical inquiry, informed reasoning and scientific methods are our best tools for acquiring reliable knowledge of the world.





# And,

- ▶ **Humanists encourage critical inquiry of all ideas and opinions, including our own.**

We should seek out the best arguments and strive to change our minds and adjust our convictions when shown to be wrong. Freedom of speech is essential to test opinions in open debate.

- ▶ **Humanists consider democracy, rule of law and human rights to be crucial, rationally justified values.**

We are part of a society and have a responsibility for our fellow humans and the environment, both locally and globally. We must ensure that our planet is habitable for future generations.

- ▶ **Humanism promotes equality for all.**

Humanists respect freedom of belief and the right of everyone to choose their own life stance. The state should be secular and not grant special privileges to any life stance.

*This is the original text in English.*

[See Norwegian translation](#)

## About the Manifesto

The Nordic Humanist Manifesto 2016 was compiled by six Nordic organizations: The Swedish Humanist Association ([Humanisterna](#)), the Danish Humanist Society ([Humanistisk Samfund](#)), the Icelandic Ethical Humanist Association ([Siðmennt](#)), the Finnish humanists ([Suomen Humanistiliitto](#)), the Finnish free thinkers ([Vapaa-ajattelijain Liitto](#)), and the Norwegian Humanist Association ([Human-Etisk Forbund](#)).

The boards of all organizations adopted the English version of the manifesto in the autumn of 2016, the year of the sixtieth anniversary of the Norwegian Humanist Association. It has been translated to the Nordic languages after its adoption. Additionally the Faroese humanist organization, [Húmanistafélag Føroya](#), which was established in 2016, also have adopted the manifesto.

The Nordic Humanist Manifesto 2016 is a formulation of the common world view of the Nordic humanist organizations.

Dutch children learn these postulates.  
And are asked: What is important to you?



Freedom

Naturalness

Reasonableness.

# VERBONDENHEID



WE HEBBEN ELKAAR NODIG



Bid Maurice - ontwerp en illustratie

Connectedness

# GELIJKHEID



WE ZIJN ALLEMAAL GELIJK EN UNIEK



Bid Maurice - ontwerp en illustratie

Equality

# The five postulates that make up the humanist image of man are:

## ✓ Naturalness

Humans are part of nature and natural forces.

## ✓ Connectedness

We are also naturally cultural beings. Unlike animals, we are able to reflect: to think about our thinking.

People can't live without each other. Because we are connected, we are also responsible for each other, to some extent.

Collaboration is more important than competition. Body and mind are one, but also different parts.

## ✓ Equality

People, for all their outward and inner differences, have fundamentally equal value, equal rights and equal duties.

## ✓ Freedom

People always have the practical freedom to make a choice.

Even though we are influenced by everything, it is always up to man himself whether or not to do something with it. We are all recognizable as human beings and allow us to connect with each other.

## ✓ Reasonableness.

People can and must be accountable for their thinking, feeling and acting. Head, heart and hands.

That does not mean that everything can be reasoned and approached with reason, we are more than the ratio

# The five postulates that make the humanist world are:

## The world is:

### ✓ Experienceable

People experience the world first through their experience, then only through reflection. By thinking about experiences and sharing them with others, we can grow.

Experience (experiencing the world as a whole, feeling)

Reflection (experiencing the world more distantly, knowledge)

### ✓ Existing

The humanistic worldview captures reality as:

experienceable,

Man and the world exist in conjunction. One is no more true than the other.

### ✓ Fully

The world is what it is, there's nothing behind it, above or below. It doesn't take anything outside of this world to explain things.

There's still a lot to discover that we don't know yet.

Full doesn't mean the same as perfect. (Materialism: man is a plaything of the world. Spiritualism: the human mind is transcendent.)

Experience should not be taken as a sham.

### ✓ Happen

The world has no purpose or no cause

The world is in a constant natural making (evolution).

Science explains what things are like, but not why they're there.

Laws of nature help us to create order in constant movement

### ✓ Dynamic.

The world doesn't make sense in itself

The only sentence is the sentence that people can give to their own existence: that is an ongoing experiments.