



Participation statement

Welcome to the Netherlands!

The Netherlands is a democracy and a constitutional state. This means that everyone has the same rights and that everyone must abide by the same rules. In the Netherlands, freedom, equality and solidarity play a central role. These values correspond to rights that you may call upon. These values can only be maintained if everyone actively contributes towards society. Participation in the Netherlands is very important.

Freedom:

In the Netherlands, everyone may think, do and say what they like.

This means that:

- everyone can express their opinions;
- everyone may have their own faith or choose not to;
- everyone may be open about their sexuality;
- everyone is entitled to make their own choices and be independent (the right to self-determination)

There are also corresponding limits. Whatever someone says or does may not contravene the law. For example, you cannot deliberately discriminate against someone or incite them to hatred or hostility.

Equality:

In the Netherlands, all citizens are treated equally. Discrimination on the basis of gender, beliefs, origins or sexuality is not accepted.

Solidarity:

In the Netherlands, citizens are all responsible for society. Citizens have a right to a safe environment, decent housing, fair employment conditions, a minimum wage at work, a good education and top quality medical care. The government is obliged to protect people against exclusion and unfair treatment. Citizens must, in principle, maintain themselves. If this is not possible, and nobody can help, the government will provide assistance.

Participation:

In the Netherlands, we ask all citizens to contribute towards a pleasant and safe society, e.g. by working, going to school or by taking part in voluntary work. This may take place in your neighbourhood, school or in an association. Speaking the Dutch language is vital in this context.

I hereby state that I have read, understood and will respect the above information about values in Dutch society. I also state that I will make an active contribution towards Dutch society and will be given the space to do so by my fellow citizens.