



1 BASIC POLITICAL DOCUMENT FOR THE WELFARE PARLIAMENT IN OSLO AND AKERSHUS

2 Mandate

3 The Welfare Council in Oslo and Akershus is an interest organization and the highest student political body in 4 welfare issues associated with the Student Organization SiO, Oslo Municipality and Viken County Municipality.

5 The principle of equal right to education is the overriding and governing goal of the Welfare Parliament's 6 policy. The free principle is one of the basic principles within Norwegian higher education. Principle 7 shall also apply to international students. The education system should be something more than an 8 preparation for working life; it must be an element in the building of society and democracy. It is therefore important that different economic, social and cultural backgrounds do not affect the ability and opportunity 10 to take education.

11 The Welfare Council shall be consulted in all matters of importance to the organization and the students' 12 welfare services. The Welfare Parliament's shop stewards shall at all times work to ensure that the Welfare Parliament's adopted 13 policies are promoted. The Welfare Parliament shall facilitate a good, safe and eventful 14 student life.

15 Oslo and the surrounding area houses a large proportion of Norway's students and the Student Organization SiO is one of the 16 largest organizations in the country. Thus, the Welfare Parliament also has a national responsibility to work 17 for students' living conditions, but with a special focus on the local and regional challenges that 18 exist in connection with being in a metropolitan and press area.

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20 The welfare offer

21 The students' basic welfare needs shall be covered in areas such as study financing, housing, 22 kindergarten, health, sports / training, transport and voluntary activities, and thus enable the principle 23 of the full-time student. The welfare offer must be flexible and adapted to the students' various 24 prerequisites and needs. In order for all the society's services to be available to all 25 students, there must be a gender-neutral alternative for all registration with SiO.

26 The student association's offer must be a supplement to the ordinary municipal and state 27 welfare offer, and not a replacement. Therefore, the state and the municipality have an important responsibility as 28 guarantors for key welfare schemes such as student housing construction, health services for students, 29 student financing, kindergarten financing, a good public transport offer and social benefit schemes.

31 In many areas, students have not followed the general increase in the population's prosperity. Therefore, it is important that the state, municipality and other actors take greater responsibility for students' welfare and in this way ensure a real equal right to education. Oslo and Viken as host municipalities and counties have a 34 special responsibility in recognizing the resource that students constitute. In collaboration with students 35 , Oslo Municipality will work for Oslo as a student capital. There must at all times be a common meeting point between the students and the municipality.

37 The individual educational institution has a responsibility to support the organization and welfare services for its 38 students. This will take place through, among other things, good free station schemes, direct subsidy of the 39 society's services and facilitation of a good physical, psychosocial learning environment and 40 student culture. Student associations are an important contribution to the students' welfare services. Both SiO,



41 educational institutions, and municipal and state agencies are responsible for facilitating 42 and supporting student culture.

43 Student organization SiO

44 Access to SiO's welfare services shall in any case be granted so that the principle of equal rights 45 to education is safeguarded and promoted. SiO, as the country's largest student organization, will strive to be a pioneering model for student welfare in Norway.

47 The student organization SiO shall provide students with an adapted offer with financially favorable 48 welfare schemes. SiO shall ensure equal access to the society's welfare benefits, regardless of 49 which member institution you belong to, which education you take, which country you come 50 from, functional ability and which life situation you are in.

51 It is the students who are both owners and users of SiO and pay for large parts of the services 52 through semester fees and deductibles. The Welfare Council's shop stewards, who make up a majority in the 53 Executive Board, are a fundamental part of user management, which is an important principle in the 54 Communities. This principle is emphasized in the Welfare Parliament's input to the main board, and it is thus important that the students on the board do their utmost to take into account the Welfare Council's 56 policy . The organization is best served by a real student management - it is the students themselves who know 57 best what kind of welfare services the students need. Students shall have the opportunity to participate in all 58 stages of the organization.

59 The semester fee is an important source of income for SiO. It is important that this is kept at a level that 60 maintains a good welfare service. If the semester fee is to be changed, this must be done in accordance with 61 decisions in the Welfare Parliament.

62 The Welfare Parliament wants a flexible, service-oriented, sustainable, strong and efficient community that 63 leads the way in the green shift. Through a constructive collaboration, the Welfare Parliament will lay down 64 framework conditions for SiO's further operations.

65 The organization shall be politically neutral and religiously independent.

66 SiO Housing, training, daycare, food and drink shall be self-financing and shall not be subsidized 67 by semester fee funds.

68 Salary moderation shall be the current principle for determining SIO's director's salary.

69 The director's salary of SIO's director shall never exceed 3 times what the average employee in 70 SIO earns.

71

72 Housing

73 The students' wishes and needs must be leading for the Welfare Parliament's housing policy. Student housing 74 is an important educational policy measure to ensure equal access to higher education in Norway. Furthermore, there is a 75 instrument that contributes to easing the pressure and prices in the private rental market. In addition , 76 construction of more student housing contributes to improving students' finances and a realization of 77 full-time students. The coverage rate in Oslo and Viken should be at least 20%. Municipal processes 78 must be streamlined and simplified to ensure a satisfactory construction speed. Building good 79 student housing is all about price, location and building quality. SiO will work to meet all these needs.



81 In order to be able to take care of the students who come from other countries to study in Norway in a good 82 way, it is essential that they get a place to live. International students and exchange students are 83 potentially vulnerable groups, and must be prioritized in the society's student housing allocation.

84 Samskipnaden's housing must be a safe, affordable and green housing offer for students.

85 The Welfare Parliament, together with other welfare councils, student policy organizations and 86 organizations across the country, will work to achieve a goal of building a minimum of 3,000 new 87 student housing units with a national grant each year until the goal of a national coverage rate of 20% 88 is reached.

89 Homes built with subsidies will be preferable, as it reduces the cost for 90 students through rent. It is important that the cost framework for government grants for 91 student housing construction is of a size that makes it possible to build with grants, also in 92 press areas. The subsidy level must be such that the self-payment the students make through the rent 93 is not too large. The subsidy share shall not exceed 49%, to ensure SiO's ownership of the 94 student housing units. We must always strive to build as sustainably as possible with a focus on 95 solutions that are cheap to operate over time, and the housing mix must be adapted to different lifestyles 96 in terms of location, size and price.

97 Samskipnaden must continue to take its share of responsibility for reducing the climate impact by 98 building homes that are energy efficient, using sustainable materials and facilitating the 99 students living in the homes to be able to make environmentally friendly choices. The homes will be built in connection with 100 to public transport routes, institutions and where students stay and move the most.

101 New creative solutions to housing and life challenges can be positive, but should not necessarily 102 be imposed on the community. Their task is to build affordable, green and safe housing for 103 students. It is the students' needs that will form the basis for the development of the society's 104 housing portfolio.

105 A student housing is not functional forever, even with good maintenance. When 106 grants are not awarded for rehabilitation projects, the students' rent is affected. It is important that the state takes 107 responsibility for planning the rehabilitation of homes where it is not appropriate to demolish and build 108 new ones.

109 The state and municipality must facilitate a good rental market, through an active rental housing policy. Most 110 students live in privately rented homes, which means that there must also be a focus on 111 this area. The rental market must be more predictable through regulation of price and 112 housing standards. Students' own competence must be raised so that they are at all times secure in their own 113 rights.

114 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 115 • The organization shall work for agreements with the institutions that secure international
- 116 students and exchange students a place to stay.
- 117 • Municipal processes around student housing construction must be streamlined and simplified.
- 118 • The cost framework and the subsidy framework must be increased.
- 119 • The state and municipality must facilitate a more predictable, price- and standard-regulated
- 120 private rental sector through an active rental housing policy.



- 121 • The subsidy scheme must be adapted so that annual support is also provided for the rehabilitation of
122 student housing.
123 • All new buildings in SiO shall have green solutions, and shall preferably be of plus house standard,
124 minimum zero energy standard.
125 • Both housing construction and housing mix must be based on the students' wishes and needs.
126 • There must be good routines for following up residents.
127 • All new buildings must have energy labeling A.
128 • SiO's rental prices must be lower than the market price.
129

130 *In addition to this, existing policies in this area are elaborated in housing policy documents.* 131

132 Health

133 Students' health, both mental and physical, is very different from the rest of the population - also other 134 in the same age group. The students' health and well-being survey has for a long time shown that 135 students are far more exposed to serious symptoms. Why this is the case is still unclear . The work of following up students' mental health must be strengthened.

137 A measure is needed from a political point of view that lays down conscious guidelines for further 138 work and which maps out which areas different student health actors should focus their efforts on . This will be helpful in coordinating the efforts of several actors in student welfare, so that you get the maximum out of the funds you have at your disposal.

141 SiO Health specializes in student health, and will therefore often be the best option 142 students have. The services must be located so that they are as accessible as possible to students.

143 Samskipnaden shall aim to be a comprehensive provider of health services for its students.

144 Until the public sector takes responsibility for students' dental health, this must also include 145 dental health services.

146 International students and exchange students do not have the same rights when it comes to health care as Norwegian students. This means that their everyday study life can be experienced 148 less safely. Efforts must be made to have a comprehensive offer also for international students and 149 exchange students.

150 Samskipnaden possesses a unique expertise in students' mental health. Therefore, we need 151 that the state allocate sufficient funds to the organizations' health services. SiO differs from other 152 private health actors in that their goal is to constitute a comprehensive and adapted offer for students 153 as a social group, and not necessarily to be an active competitor. Therefore, 154 The Welfare Parliament will work for a predictable state subsidy scheme to increase the capacity of 155 the health service in the organizations and that the municipality contributes to students' health services.

156 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 157 • The working committee will work across SiO's service areas, as well as towards the public sector, to prevent
158 and treat mental illness among students in Oslo and Viken.
159 • Student health shall be defined as a separate concept, and it shall build on the definition that follows from
160 the Students' health and well-being survey.



- 161 • National authorities must take greater responsibility for financing and coordinating student health
162 services.
- 163 • A report must be submitted on students' mental and somatic health situation.
164 The report must be followed by a report to the Storting with a survey of necessary measures at state and
165 municipal level, which must be implemented.
- 166 • The organization's health services must be located where the students travel and stay
167 seg.
- 168 • Efforts must be made to ensure that international students and exchange students also receive good health care
169 while staying in Norway.
- 170 • A predictable state subsidy scheme will be worked on to increase its capacity
171 mental health service in particular.
- 172 • Efforts will be made to provide municipal grants for students' mental health
173 health service.
- 174 • SiO shall have easily accessible information for Norwegian and international students on its website which
175 describes the rights of students with disabilities, chronic illness and health problems who need
176 accommodation. This shall, among other things, contain information on what can be expected from the
177 facilitation of everyday study.

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179 *In addition to this, existing policies in this area are elaborated in a health policy document.*

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181 **Student financing** 182 The

principle of equal right to education is the overriding and governing goal of the Welfare Parliament's 183 policy. The free principle is one of the basic principles within Norwegian higher education. The principle 184 shall also apply to international students. The student grant must reflect the real expenses

185 students have. The student grant must be adapted so that all students have the opportunity to be 186 full-time students.

The fact that students are in a vulnerable financial situation should not be 187 the main reason why students work alongside their studies. It should be a choice the individual

188 students can take themselves.

189 Arrangements should be made for students to be able to have children during their studies, and immediately after the end of 190 studies. The right to parental scholarship must be introduced for applicants who are in the transition phase between 191 completed education and professional activity.

192

193 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 194 • 12 months of study support must be paid.
- 195 • The student grant must be fixed at 1.5 times the basic amount in the National Insurance Scheme.
- 196 • Students with children must receive study support that is twice the basic amount
197 National Insurance.
- 198 • The right to parental scholarship must be introduced for applicants who are in the transition phase between
199 completed education and professional activity.
- 200 • Students shall be entitled to unemployment benefits upon dismissal.
- 201 • The change in the conversion scheme shall be reversed so that at least 40 per cent of the student loan
202 is converted into a scholarship upon credits obtained.

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205 **Students with children**

206 It must be possible to have children during the study period without having to interrupt the course of study. Therefore, 207 state and municipality must have good support schemes for students with children. The student organization must have 208 good offers for students with children that enable life as a parent of young children, as 209 study full-time.

210

211 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 212 • SiO Kindergartens shall be an example to follow in terms of standard of equipment, outdoor areas and buildings.
- 213 • For parent couples where one or both parents study, the father / co-mother shall have the right to
- 214 «Father quota».
- 215
- 216 • For students with children, student aid and maintenance scholarships must be paid over 12 months.
- 217 • SiO's kindergarten offer shall be adapted to the students' flexible situation.

218 **Students with children must receive student support, which is twice the basic amount in the National Insurance Scheme.**

219

220 **Serving offers for students**

221 SiO Food and Drink must be adapted to the students' needs. This means that there will be 222 varied offers that take into account different food intolerances, allergies and preferences in all SiO's 223 food outlets. In particular, the plant-based alternatives must always contain a full-fledged 224 protein source.

225 Samskipnaden will continue the work of making students' serving offerings sustainable, 226 through the continuation of Kutt Gourmet, increased focus on food waste and plant-based food as well as 227 introduction of new solutions such as price differentiation and by donating to players who 228 are not in competition with SiO Food and drink.

229 Samskipnaden shall aim to have restaurants also in smaller institutions.

230 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 231 • SiO shall aim to have restaurants at the smaller institutions associated with them.
- 232 • The organization shall have extended opening hours during the examination period.
- 233 • The organization must make it easy to choose healthy and sustainable food, and must place great emphasis on
- 234 animal welfare and environmental considerations in its purchases and agreements with suppliers.
- 235 • SiO must be open about which companies they have supplier agreements with.
- 236 • SiO's food offerings must be clearly marked for what is meat, vegetarian and vegan, so that
- 237 it becomes easier to choose green

238 Some students have longer school days and thus need longer opening hours at SiO Mat og 239 Drikke. Therefore, longer opening hours must be offered at SiO Mat og Drikke, especially during the 240 exam periods, as it is both desirable and a fact that students spend more time at the 241 school.



242 In addition to this, existing policies in the area are elaborated in "Guidelines for SiO Food and Drink", 243 "Environmental policy document" and in selected resolutions. 244

245 **Public transport and transport** 246 Oslo and the

host municipalities' students must have a good public transport service. The public transport offer must be 247 affordable and adapted to all students' everyday study, regardless of age. There must be public transport routes to 248 and from the places where students live, stay and travel. The host municipality and county must take 249 responsibility for all students to be able to benefit from a wide public transport offer with well-discounted 250 prices, also at night.

251 Student price for transport services must be adjusted so that it corresponds to students' purchasing power 252 compared with other groups in society. It must be possible for students to commute 253 between place of study and residence without having to have very high expenses for public transport.

254 The student discount on public transport must be at the same level as the fee discount, and 255 students who live and study in different zones should be able to travel zone-free to and from the place of study.

256 Students also make extensive use of walking and cycling paths. The infrastructure must be 257 designed so that the city is accessible and experienced as safe. The municipality must facilitate 258 students in a simple and safe way to move between place of residence and study by cycling 259 and / or walking.

260 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 261 • Student discount on public transport must be on a par with salaries.
- 262 • Students who live and study in different zones must be able to travel zone-free to and from
- 263 the campus if there is a need for it.
- 264 • There must be good night bus offers.
- 265 • Infrastructure and urban development must be adapted for students.
- 266 • Oslo city bike must be adapted for students to a greater extent than today.

267 **Training and Sports**

268 Facilitating good training and sports facilities for all students is an important 269 health prevention measure.

The goal is to get more students active. Physical activity promotes 270 health, provides profits and is an important and well-documented tool in the prevention and treatment of 271 a variety of diagnoses and conditions. In many cases, activities, especially those run by the sports associations, also create an important social arena for students.

273 Student sports are often downgraded. The municipality, the districts and the sports districts must recognize 274 student sports as a very important continuation of youth sports and a recruitment arena 275 for adult sports, and thus facilitate this both through increased funding and access 276 to municipal facilities.

277 SiO Athletica is an important and effective offer for students. It is important that this offer is well 278 adapted to students and their needs. In addition, SiO Athletica must facilitate 279 student sports, among other things by offering relevant areas at good times. SiO Athletica 280 also has a responsibility to ensure that the various sports teams are allocated training times for 281 match settlement before the federations' deadlines, so that there are no extra fees in connection with

282 this.



283 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 284 • Student sports shall have access to municipal facilities, and be prioritized after children's sports, but before
285 corporate sports.
- 286 • SiO shall not create competing offers with student sports and shall facilitate
287 student sports.

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289 *In addition to this, existing policies in this area are elaborated in a sports policy document.*

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291 **Culture and volunteering** 292

A good and vibrant cultural life is important for well-being and well-being. Students who thrive in the city they live in, 293 also thrive better as students. Oslo has a large and varied cultural offer, which helps to make the city attractive to students. For the cultural offer to be available to students, both 295 must be financially available, and it must be known among students that the offer exists at a 296 student-friendly price.

297 In Oslo and the surrounding area, there are more than 450 student associations. The associations provide students with a 298 unique event offer and activities that take place on the students' own voluntary initiative.

299 Commitment and well-being can be difficult to construct, but good framework conditions increase the possibility of 300 development. Student associations and student culture create an identity and belonging to the 301 student community, in addition to the fact that it plays an important role in competence building beyond the framework set by the 302 educational course. Student culture and volunteering are part of the general culture and 303 volunteering. Thus, the public sector has an equal responsibility to support the student culture and -

304 volunteering as for the general culture and volunteering.

305 The Welfare Parliament believes that:

- 306 • The public sector is responsible for facilitating actors in student culture and -
307 volunteering in the same way as for other actors in cultural life and volunteering.
- 308 • SiO has a special responsibility to see the student culture and volunteering in Oslo and the surrounding area
309 context.
- 310 • The public cultural life shall, as a general rule, offer a discount upon presentation of a valid
311 semester certificate and the offer must be known among the students.
- 312 • Students must be listened to in matters concerning student culture and volunteering.

313 *Beyond this, existing policy in the area is elaborated in a cultural policy document.*

314 **Oslo as a student city**

315 The Welfare Parliament believes that Oslo should be Norway's best student city. It is important to recognize that Oslo 316 has different prerequisites than other student cities, which offer different challenges, but also many 317 opportunities. The Welfare Council believes it is important that Oslo's students have common meeting places where 318 people can meet across educational institutions and academic affiliation.



319 That is why the Welfare Parliament wants a central student house for Oslo's students. A centrally located 320 student housing is a way to create a new common meeting place. A new student house is about solving 321 common challenges for the institutions, associations in Oslo and consolidating Oslo as a student city, in a 322 effective way. A student house in the city center shall be available and free of charge for all students in Oslo and the surrounding area. On the other hand, it is important that this house does not conflict with other possible student houses in 324 Oslo and the surrounding area.

325 It is also important that the city in general recognizes the students as the resource they are. Being 326 a student city contributes both to life in the city and it generates jobs. In addition, 327 students contribute significant sums in tax revenues to the municipality. Municipalities, businesses, 328 institutions and other social actors shall facilitate that students can contribute 329 constructively to the development of society both in the local community, nationally and globally.

330 It is important to have a good dialogue between the municipality and the students, and the students must have a permanent place in 331 Strategic Cooperation Forum, formerly Knowledge Oslo. The Student Capital, a co-operation forum 332 between student leaders in Oslo, will act as chair of the Strategic Co-operation Forum and it is 333 that politicians who are invited to discuss individual issues in the Student Capital meet.

334 Oslo and the surrounding area consists, in addition to the five largest, of several smaller educational institutions. Not 335 all of these are represented in the Student Capital and it is important that a dialogue is arranged for 336 their student leaders as well. There should be a council for student leaders at the 337 educational institutions with less than 1,500 students.

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339 **Democracy and participation**

340 Everyone has the right to have their voice heard in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Students are 341 experts on their own lives and challenges. Student management as a principle is based on this. An important 342 task for the Welfare Parliament is to support the local student democracies that are associated with the 343 community, especially organizationally.

344 The Welfare Council's policy and the Executive Board's decisions shall at all times be rooted in the 345 student body, and our activity and policy shall be accessible to the student body.

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347 *Adopted by the Welfare Parliament on 7 February 2021.*