

# General Election 2020

## Community Platform Manifesto



Who we elect to represent us matters: what they stand for and their values are important.

We want to elect political representatives who put people and communities first, who reflect the diversity of our society, and who can demonstrate that they will uphold our core values of: **Community**, **Participation**, and **Decency**. The Community Platform asks the candidates running for election to Dail Eireann how they will make these values a reality if elected.



## Community



The Community Platform defines the value of community as: people looking out for each other and having a sense of belonging; communities that are welcoming, inclusive, and nurturing; and building communities that are socially, economically, culturally, and environmentally sustainable.

The value of community should motivate government and national representatives to resource, create, and empower communities where: people are connected to each other and have a sense of place and belonging; difference is valued and incorporated in an inclusive manner; and resilience is fostered alongside a capacity to respond to challenges of environmental sustainability, justice, and social inclusion.

**We expect government and national representatives to:**

- **Provide multi-annual resources to independent community organisations that promote social inclusion.**
- **Devise and implement a national policy strategy for achieving connected, inclusive and resilient communities.**
- **Promote and support the transitions urgently required at community level to meet the challenges of climate change, inequality, and uneven development.**



## Participation



The Community Platform defines the value of participation as: people speaking up and having a say, with their views being heard and valued; different voices and the perspectives of different groups in society having an influence to advance equality, social justice and sustainability; and active engagement in decision-making, rebalancing of power in this process, and investing resources to support this engagement.

The value of participation should motivate government and national representatives to engage those who are currently marginalised and excluded from such decision-making in the co-creation and co-monitoring of key policies, policy strategies, programmes, and public services.

**We expect government and national representatives to:**

- **Develop diverse models for co-creation and create spaces for their effective implementation, involving those who are currently marginalised and excluded from such decision-making.**
- **Create and enable robust, meaningful, and equal partnerships between the public sector and civil society organisations that bring forward the needs and interests of those who are marginalised and excluded.**
- **Protect and enable an independent, critical, and informed civil society voice on public policy and the current context.**



# Decency



The Community Platform defines the value of decency as: valuing people's shared humanity and human dignity, and having mutual respect; compassion and mutual support; everyone having a quality of life, with their needs met and a capacity to choose the life they wish to lead; and decent work, accommodation and services for everyone.

The value of decency should motivate government and national representatives to ensure every person has access to adequate income, standard of living, accommodation, health and well-being, education, and public services, such that they are afforded dignity, have real choices, and enjoy a capability to flourish.

**We expect government and national representatives to:**

- **Co-create with civil society a shared vision for economic equality based on the value of decency, and a strategy for its achievement.**
- **Invest in public services and sustain a tax base for such investment to adequately meet needs and reach high standards.**
- **Establish and fulfil the right to a home.**

**#MyValuesMyVote**

The Community Platform is an alliance of 30 national networks and organisations in the community and voluntary sector working to address poverty, social exclusion and inequality.



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COMMUNITY PLATFORM  
CHALLENGING POVERTY & INEQUALITY