

Ways of Europe

Human Rights and Climate Justice Have No Borders

Ways of Europe is committed to building a fairer, more equitable, democratic, and free Europe—starting from its symbolic and physical margins. Meeting in Calais and Dunkerque, places shaped by both industrial transition and human movement, we affirm a simple truth: there is no just transition without migration justice. The just transition must be a whole-society project, and that includes migrants – in policy, media, education, economy, and culture. Climate change, inequality, and human mobility are interconnected realities. This manifesto arises from youth across Europe, imagining a continent where ecological transformation and human dignity advance together. Youth Voices for a Europe that Includes, Integrates, and Innovates.

Our shared demands and visions:

A Just Society must be for everyone. Europe's founding values — dignity, rights, equality — must apply to all who live here, move here, or seek refuge. A democracy that excludes is not a democracy; freedom cannot be selective. This Society must also work for Migrants, a human reality, shaped by inequalities, wars, borders, and climate disruption. Migrants do not bring instability — they reveal it. The crisis lies in systems that decide whose humanity counts.

Europe must replace fear with empathy and transform the way migration is understood. Public narratives too often dehumanise people through fear, stereotypes, and numbers. We call for a shift toward solidarity-based and fact-based communication, supported by media reforms that prioritise truth and context. Education systems should cultivate critical thinking on migration and diversity, through a European-wide curriculum for global citizenship. Culture and artistic expression from migrant communities must be recognised as part of Europe's identity, illustrating that external cultures are deeply rooted within this continent.

Migrants must be heard, represented, and involved in shaping Europe's future. Migrants already sustain key sectors—from care work to agriculture, from construction to digital innovation. A fair transition must guarantee access to green jobs, recognise skills, and qualifications to support jobs in renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, circular economy industries, and digital innovation. Migrants need the right to reskilling, digital literacy, and green skills training so they can participate fully in Europe's ecological transformation. Migrants must have safe working conditions, clear contracts, and equal access to healthcare. Housing policies must prevent segregation and build cohesive communities. Public investments in sustainability must create opportunities for all, structurally transforming economies while reducing inequalities. Economic justice is climate justice, and neither can be achieved without including migrants as full participants.

Economic justice requires recognising migrants' role in Europe's social and ecological transformation. In our experiences with *Words of Europe* and *Ways of Europe*, we've seen that many young people—often even those over 18—struggle to connect with politics, not due to apathy but because they lack accessible, meaningful tools to understand it. Today's political landscape is complex, and social media often distorts more than it informs. That's why we call for greater investment in civic education and critical media literacy, and for formal recognition of the essential work

done by youth workers, educators, and associations. A vote should depend on the ability to understand what's at stake—and it is our collective responsibility to nurture that ability in all citizens.

Education and participation are the foundations of belonging, democracy, and a fair transition. Every person deserves access to language learning, cultural orientation, and inclusive shared spaces in classrooms, youth centres, and neighbourhoods. These spaces must allow people to meet as equals. Their experience, creativity, and innovation are essential assets for the future. Training should also be available to people working in public institutions working with migrant people to adapt their practices and behaviour regarding the language & cultural barriers migrant people can face. By learning practical words at least in English and potentially other languages, first interactions with migrant people could be easier. This access to education also means universal digital access to tools, training, and protection online so that migrants can contribute to Europe's ecological and democratic future.

Protection must replace exploitation, especially in border regions such as Calais and Dunkerque. Migrants face exploitation by traffickers, abusive employers, and institutions that fail to protect them. Trust must be rebuilt through cooperation between NGOs and public authorities, and through safe digital platforms offering rights information, legal support, and ways to report abuse securely. Border budgets must shift away from militarisation toward inclusion, protection, and education. These regions—marked by ports, borders, and industrial decline—should become models of social and environmental repair.

Climate justice must include migration. As the planet warms, more people will be displaced by floods, droughts, and environmental collapse. Yet climate-displaced people remain invisible in law. Europe must recognise climate refugees and include mobility within adaptation and transition planning. Migration is part of how humanity responds to environmental change. A climate-just Europe must be a migration-just Europe.

We demand a Europe that listens, includes, and acts. This manifesto is a call to action. We want a future where migration is seen as a shared story — of courage, adaptation, and mutual transformation. The just transition is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rethink who belongs, who decides, and what kind of society we build. We call on EU institutions, national governments, civil society, educators, and young people to build a future where ecological transition and social justice strengthen one another. Let migrants speak. Let all voices matter. A just transition begins with inclusion. The future belongs to all of us.

Climate Action as a Global Responsibility. Climate change is not only an environmental crisis — it is a human rights crisis affecting access to food, water, safety, and dignity. Its impacts cross borders, making climate action a global responsibility. The European Union must lead by example, championing international cooperation, global climate justice, and the protection of climate-affected communities worldwide. Without strong global engagement, Europe's internal efforts are insufficient. A just transition is only meaningful if it contributes to a safer and fairer world for all.

This manifesto was created by youth, for youth, and for the future that is rooted in dialogue, workshops, and lived experiences across Europe.

