

# THE GLADBECK DECLARATION

## HOW WE WANT TO LIVE TOGETHER IN OUR COMMUNITY IN THE FUTURE

We declare that we have common values which determine how we will coexist.

This is hereby based on the principles of our fundamental law and the liberal democratic fundamental principles of the Federal Republic of Germany. Everyone who lives or works in Gladbeck is required to actively participate and implement these values.

We consider our town as open and tolerant, whereby we always treat each other with respect and friendliness. This therefore includes showing respect for each other, irrespective of origin, age, gender, religion, appearance, economic situation, sexual orientation, disability or handicap. We treat each other honestly and trustingly and are interested in each other, rather than excluding other people.

We always make a contribution to the way we live together. Everybody should therefore be involved based on their wishes and abilities. We are always welcoming to new arrivals in our town.

We are a town which demonstrates solidarity with one another. We assist each other by building on our traditions. Everybody is allowed to show weaknesses and, all those in need, will always receive the support they require.

We notice and appreciate the positive elements in our town and the achievements which everyone makes in their lives for themselves as well as for others.

Respect does not just refer to people, rather also to places, locations, our streets, parks, schools, playgrounds or sports fields. We always treat them respectfully. They are our own places, they are where we feel at home. Protecting our environment is a particularly important asset which we will jointly try to preserve.

It is imperative that we always demonstrate consideration for each other, in public as well as in private. Everyone deserves the right to live in peace, quietly and undisturbed. Individual freedom ends where the freedom of other people begins.

We live together in peace and security. Of course there will always be conflicts but we will resolve them peacefully and with words, without reverting to violence. Problems will be stated clearly, without hurting anyone, whether this takes place in direct conversation or in the social media.

We refuse to tolerate discrimination, racism and right-wing populism. We possess the courage to face up to such issues with moral courage.

Everyone is therefore responsible that we can live these values together. We are always receptive for jointly renegotiating the values, which have been stated in this declaration, when this seems applicable for us.

Because: Something new always creates an opportunity which, we in Gladbeck, will embrace with courage and optimism.