



2014

Skipta atkvæði innflytjenda máli?
Do the immigrant's votes matter ?



Svör Sjálfstæðisflokks**Answers from The Conservative party**

SJÁLFSTÆÐISFLOKKURINN

1) *In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?*

We believe that Iceland has an open society in general and welcomes new residents gladly. Icelandic people are in general fairly open to new people.

Við trúum því að Ísland sé opið samfélag, og sem heild bjóðum við nýja íbúa velkomna. Okkar upplifun er að Íslendingar séu frekar opnir fyrir nýju fólki.

2) *What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?*

In 1994 our party signed the European Economic Area agreement that allows people to move freely within the area, we are very proud of that.

Árið 1994 stóð ríkisstjórn Sjálfstæðisflokksins að því að skrifa undir EES samninginn en með honum er frjálst flæði fólks á því svæði leyft, og erum við einstaklega stolt af því.

3) *What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?*

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn wants to nurture immigrants and wants to ensure that everyone should be given the same opportunities and we want to help immigrants to become a part of the society. It is crucial that immigrant don't become an isolated minority within the society. We can prevent that with different methods. The strategy of the government, access to information and education play a pivotal role. It is important to encourage immigrants to learn Icelandic and to familiarize themselves to Iceland's history and culture. Because when you know the language and the foundations that the country is built on it is easier to become a part of the society.

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn vill búa vel að innflytjendum og sjá til þess að þeir njóti jafnra tækifæra á við aðra þjóðfélagsþegna og gera þeim þannig kleift að verða hluti að samfélaginu. Mikilvægt er að sjá til þess að innflytjendur verði ekki einangraður minnihluti samfélagsins, en hægt er að fyrirbyggja slíkt með markvissum aðgerðum. Stefnumótun stjórnvalda, upplýsingagjöf og fræðsla leika þar lykilhlutverk. Mikilvægt er að hvetja innflytjendur til að læra íslensku og kynna sér sögu og menningararf þjóðarinnar því vald á tungumálinu og þekking á grunnstoðum þjóðfélagsins er mikilvægur þáttur í aðlögun að íslensku samfélagi.

4) *What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?*

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn thinks it is very important to prevent any kind of racism and discrimination, and to do that we have to have educate against it. The party thinks that supporting organizations that work against violence, including racism and all discrimination. We have taken part in the human rights strategy for Reykjavík and we

fully support it, in there it says that the society of Reykjavík gets to enjoy the diversity in the culture because where there is knowledge, open-mindedness, equality and mutual respect for people of different culture the society thrives. In the strategy it states that the institutions of Reykjavík have to adapt themselves to a multicultural society and make room for different cultures as users and providers for services, they have to take into consideration the different needs of immigrants, but keeping in mind that they are not treated as a one dimensional group. Those who move here have to be able to adapt to Icelandic society. They who have lived here for longer (either born or moved here) have to adapt to new residents of different cultures. Reykjavík should try and use all the opportunities that a multicultural society gives.

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn telur afar mikilvægt að sporna gegn hvers kyns ofbeldi og skipta forvarnir og rannsóknir þar miklu máli. Landsfundur telur sérstaklega vænlegt til árangurs að styðja félagasamtök og stofnanir sem vinna gegn ofbeldi þar á meðal kynþáttafordóma og alla mismunun. Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn í Reykjavík hefur tekið þátt í mótun mannréttindastefnu Reykjavíkurborgar og styður hana en þar er kveðið á um að mikilvægt sé að reykvískt samfélag fái notið fjölbreytni í mannlífi og menningu þar sem þekking, víðsýni, jafnrétti og gagnkvæm virðing einkenni samskipti fólks af ólíkum uppruna. Í þeirri stefnu kemur einnig fram að allar stofnanir borgarinnar þurfa að laga sig að fjölmennningarlegu samfélagi og gera ráð fyrir útlendingum bæði sem notendum og veitendum þjónustu, taka tillit til sérþarfa útlendinga, án þess að litið sé á þá sem einsleitán hóp. Þeir sem hingað flytjast þurfa að aðlagast íslensku samfélagi. Þeir sem fyrir eru þurfa að aðlagast íbúum af mismunandi uppruna. Í öllu starfi borgarinnar skal leitast við að nýta kosti fjölbreytninnar.

5) *What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?*

In Reykjavík there is an efficient social service that can be very helpful. It is important be informed about what services are available; for children, in the neighborhood, healthcare, translator services or anything like that. There are multiple services and advice that immigrants can get from both the government and city. Reykjavík has a vibrant culture life and libraries offer numerous different multicultural events like book circles, symposiums and etc for children and adults. Most institutions have websites that you can read in different languages.

Í Reykjavík er öflug félagsþjónusta sem hægt er að leita aðstoðar hjá. Mikilvægt er að kynna sér rétt til þjónustu bæði hvað varðar almenn mál eins og hvaða þjónusta stendur börnum til boða, hvaða þjónusta er í hverfinu, hver er réttur til heilbrigðisþjónustu, eða réttur til túlkþjónustu og annað slíkt. Mikið af alls kyns þjónustu og ráðgjöf er í boði bæði hjá ríki og borg hvað varðar atvinnumiðlun og nám til dæmis. Menningarstarfsemi í Reykjavík er öflug og bókasöfnin bjóða upp á fjölmennningarlega viðburði af ýmsu tagi, s.s. leshringi, málfundi og annað slíkt, bæði fyrir börn og fullorðna sem öllum er frjálst að taka þátt í. Flestar stofnanir hafa vefsíður sem hægt er að skoða, sumar á mörgum tungumálum.

6) *What problems does your party's believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?*

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn wants to follow international agreement with regard to asylum seekers, and there is a need to speed the process to ensure a quick and human

procedure. We have to create a facility for those who are unknown asylum seekers while they wait for their case to be resolved. We have to welcome people that need our help.

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn vill fylgja alþjóðasamningum sem gilda um hælisleitendur en þörf er á að hraða afgreiðslu mála þeirra og tryggja skjóta og mannúðlega meðferð. Setja þarf upp biðaðstöðu fyrir óþekkta hælisleitendur á meðan mál þeirra eru í vinnslu og taka þarf vel á móti fólki sem þarf á hjálp að halda.

7) *What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today are more than 20.000 immigrants in Iceland, 10.000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?*

It is crucial that in our society that we have a positive attitude towards immigrants. Also it is important to give people the opportunity to share and understand each others values, knowledge and culture to give other insight and understanding in to our different cultures. Schools and culture institutions have played a vital role in this and it is a must to introduce this very well. Isolation is the opposite of this and that leads skepticism and negativity. We have to do everything to avoid isolation and put our emphasis on introducing our resources to immigrants and encourage them to take an active part in the society.

Mikilvægt er að í samfélaginu ríki jákvætt viðhorf til innflytjenda. Mjög mikilvægt er að gera fólki kleift að kynna og deila eigin gildum, kunnáttu og menningu til að veita öðrum innsýn og auka skilning. Þannig getur fjölmeningin styrkt samfélagið. Skólar og menningarstofnanir hafa gengt lykilhlutverki í þessu og mikilvægt er að kynna það starf vel. Einangrun er andstæða samþættingar og leiðir af sér tortryggni og neikvæðni. Mikilvægt er að sporna gegn einangrun og leggja mikla áherslu á kynningu og fræðslu bæði til innflytjenda og þeirra sem fyrir eru og hvetja til virkrar þátttöku í samfélaginu.

8) *Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?*

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn believes that individual should do what he wants to do to thrive, he can do it alone, with the help of others or in a healthy competition with others, if that happens the society will gain from it. The government sets the ground rules and makes sure they are followed but does not interfere unless it is needed. A vibrant and powerful business environment is the foundation for a good welfare system. It is the governments job to create an environment for growth and advancement, create the rules and insure the freedom of every individual to blossom and create his own value. Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn wants the individuals talent gets to thrive without any discrimination.

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn leggur áherslu á að samfélaginu vegnar best þegar hver einstaklingur fær þroskað og notið hæfileika sinna til uppbyggingar og framfara, bæði einn og í samstarfi við aðra og í heilbrigðri samkeppni. Hið opinbera setur leikreglur og sér til þess að þeim sé fylgt en verður að stilla afskiptum sínum í hóf. Öflugt og gott atvinnulíf er forsenda framfara og undirstaða velferðarkerfisins. Það er stjórnvalda að skapa skilyrði fyrir vexti og framförum, búa til ramma, setja leikreglur og tryggja frelsi einstaklingsins til þess að dafna og skapa verðmæti.

Sjálfstæðisflokkurinn vill að hæfileikar einstaklinga njóti sín óháð kynferði, aldri, trú, stöðu eða öðrum aðgreinandi þáttum.

9) *What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?*

All material needs to be accessible in the most used language in Reykjavík. More availability to Icelandic courses. Many neighborhoods in Reykjavík hold out Facebook groups in order to ask questions regarding the area and to point out things that are happening there. It would be ideal to have such a communication platform in order to foster better communication and to unify the groups for better living here in Reykjavík.

Allt efni þarf að vera aðgengilegt á algengustu tungumálunum í Reykjavík. Við þurfum að gefa meiri tækifæri á íslensku menntun. Mörg hverfi borgarinnar haldi úti Facebook síðum um málefni hversins, það væri frábært ef slíkir hópar væru meira opnir kannski fyrir erlendum tungumálum og því gætu fleiri komið að uppástungum.

Svör Vinstri Grænna Answers from the Left Green Movement



1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

Although Icelandic society was created as a multicultural and multi-ethnic society, since Iceland was settled by people of from different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds, a fact which was unquestionably a great source of strength for Icelandic culture, Iceland, due to its geographic isolation and poverty, gradually became a rather closed society. Immigration was very limited, although immigration from Scandinavia played a critical role in creating a modern urban society in Iceland around 1900. It is only very recently that Iceland has again enjoyed the benefits of being a multicultural and multi-ethnic, even multi-racial society.

Due to this Icelanders have a very limited experience with multiculturalism, and can probably be viewed as reserved or excluding to new Icelanders. However, in most cases this is due to a lack of tools in form of knowledge about different cultures and channels to communicate to people of different origins. If we all work together, Iceland should strive towards being a more inclusive and multicultural society.

2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?

The Left-Green Movement played a leading role in the making of Reykjavik's human right's policy, which addresses the rights and of immigrants in the city. The human right's policy forbids any discrimination, including on the grounds of citizens' origin, skin color, nationality or cultural background. The policy was approved in the City council in 2007.

However, formulating a policy is not enough. The Left-Green Movement therefore has emphasized the importance of adhering to this policy, and allocating the necessary funds and effort to achieve its goals and allowing the city to truly live up to its spirit. We should never tolerate any discrimination in Reykjavik, and we firmly believe that discrimination on the grounds of national, cultural, ethnic, religious or racial background can under no circumstances be tolerated. We, in the Left-Green Movement have worked fought for religious freedom in Reykjavik, including the schools, as we have fought to ensure equal rights for all children in pre-schools and

elementary schools, regardless of their faith. We want to ensure fair and equal treatment for people of all faiths and beliefs in the city.

It is our belief that we should not only strive to integrate immigrants into Icelandic society: The contributions of all citizens should be valued, regardless of their origin, and we should foster a truly multicultural society in Reykjavík.

3) What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

We in the Left-Green Movement base our ideology on equal rights of all, regardless of sex, sexual orientation, religion, race or origin. All citizens should have equal opportunities regardless of their social status. Everyone should have access to education, social- and medical services, access to information and unhindered opportunities to exercise their freedom of speech and religion. Every child has the right to a safe environment, education and opportunities to develop and nurture its gifts and interests in its free time.

The city of Reykjavík should offer Icelandic lessons to all staff of foreign background during working hours. The city must also coordinate services for interpreters for children in pre- and elementary schools and for their parents. The same must apply to other services provided by Reykjavík, not least Social Services.

4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

Racism and discrimination, both visible and hidden, should under no circumstances be tolerated.

Research indicates that younger people tend to have negative perceptions of people of immigrant origin. In addition, many ethnic Icelanders tend to see immigrants as “them” vs. “us”, rather than seeing the diversity of society as a source of strength and great benefits to everyone.

We in the Left-Green Movement therefore believe that intercultural awareness, multicultural training and education should be emphasized, raising awareness of the benefits of greater diversity.

Secondly, immigrants need to more visible within society and positive images of immigrants and their contribution should be emphasized. The Left-Green Movement is deeply critical of the negative images of people of immigrant origin which all too frequently appear in the press

Thirdly, racism and discrimination is illegal in Iceland according to section 233a of the General Penal Code and article 180 of the Penal Code No. 19/1940. The Left-Green Movement believes it is important that the legal- and judicial system react immediately and investigates all notices of violence, racism and discrimination or other hate-crimes against people of immigrant origin. The police should adopt an absolute zero-tolerance policy toward such crimes the issue, and we must take firm steps to raise awareness about the detrimental effect such crimes have upon society as a whole.

5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

Reykjavík is a diverse and multicultural society. We believe that everyone can prosper in Reykjavík if society adopts the principles of *acceptance* and *tolerance*.

Multicultural society is founded on diversity, which means that everyone has to “get on board” in order to social integrate. This is a *teamwork* of ethnic Icelanders and people of immigrant origin.

The City of Reykjavík offers wonderful opportunities to prosper, grow and enjoy life. By making full use of all the wonderful opportunities the city has to offer immigrants should find opportunities to prosper. However, we must ensure that everyone has the same possibilities to make use of these opportunities, and that immigrants are aware of the possibilities that exist.

We believe an important way to ensure this is for immigrants to learning Icelandic, since a proficiency in the local language is always a key to participate in the local society and culture. This also applies to Iceland as other cultures. Therefore we believe it is important to strengthen the teaching of Icelandic to immigrants. But we also stress the importance of strengthening the existing interpretation services for those immigrants who have a limited command of Icelandic. It is especially important that we strengthen these services within the school system and social services.

However: We must not overlook the duty the schools have to provide students with education which allows them to maintain and nurture their roots with their own culture and heritage. Therefore, we must ensure that children in the primary school system have the opportunity to learn reading and writing their native languages and mother tongues.

6) What problems does your party's believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

It is completely unacceptable that asylum seekers have to wait for years while their cases are being heard. First and foremost this needs to be changed. It is absolutely critical that those who stay here, whether it is for a longer or shorter period of time, are allowed to live with dignity. The Left-Green Movement therefore believes the City of Reykjavík, which has recently signed an agreement with the Ministry of the Interior to house a number of asylum seekers who are waiting for their cases to be resolved, must do all it can to ensure asylum seekers can live in dignity and thus contribute to Icelandic society.

The Left-Green Movement also rejects the practice of imprisoning or fining asylum seekers or victims of trafficking who enter the country on counterfeited travel-documents.

According to Icelandic law there is a possibility of granting asylum seekers a permission to stay on humanitarian grounds. We in the Left-Green Movement believe that this option could be used more often. While the Left-Green Movement was in government important improvements were made to the status of asylum seekers and

the victims of human trafficking. Among these was a cessation of the practice of sending asylum seekers out of the country to Greece.

7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today are more than 20000 immigrants in Iceland, 10000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

Icelandic society was founded as a multicultural society of immigrants, a status it has now reclaimed. There is no doubt immigrants are a tremendous source of strength to Icelandic society and culture, since they bring diversity, new cultural influences and new approaches and views to old problems. The Icelandic immigrant community is composed of hard working people who want to contribute to Icelandic society and culture.

Less positive, however, are the negative attitudes immigrants have been met with by some Icelanders. This is probably not simply a response to increased immigration, but rather a negative aspect of an insular culture suddenly exposed to global forces and foreign cultures. Battling such prejudices is therefore an important task for us all, whether it is as citizens or elected officials. And the city must do its share.

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?

Immigrants should vote for the Left-Green Movement for the same reason as native Icelanders. We fight to protect and conserve the environment, both locally and globally, and we want Reykjavík City to shoulder its responsibility for global climate change, by providing more alternative ways of travel, including a better public transportation system. We fight for equality and social justice, we want social justice and a fair and prosperous economy. We will fight for the rights of children and families with children, lowering the financial burden of having school age children by beginning the phasing out all fees currently being charged for having children attend pre-school or elementary school. Such fees are a very heavy burden for many families, including immigrants. We will fight to increase the opportunities for affordable and accessible extracurricular activities for children and teenagers. We will also fight to protect the social safety net, which is important for any families and people who are putting down roots in a new country.

But perhaps most importantly, immigrants should vote for the Left-Green Movement because we welcomes immigrants and all people as they are and believe everyone contributes to society!

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?

We must provide better translation services, and improve the supply of information to immigrants and foreign nationals living in Reykjavik. This includes the translation of

published information, information brochures and other relevant materials from Reykjavik into more languages, so everybody can get the information he or she needs in a language they can easily understand. When communicating with city officials, an immigrant should be able to ask for - and get - an interpreter for his/her own language, even if he/she speaks some Icelandic. This can be vital in many delicate situations.

Svör Pírata**Answers from The Pirates**

1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

It's hard to tell for an insider in Icelandic Society whether or not we're inclusive or exclusive by default. We'd like to think we're inclusive, of course... but here's a very demanding conversation starter.

We believe that the Icelandic society has a great potential. The Icelandic people are broad-minded in general albeit a little backwards sometimes. What we can state is that hate crime is not prevalent in Iceland so far. We can be proud of that. There is, however, perhaps a lack of social integration paths for new Icelanders. That's a discussion that needs to be addressed.

2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?

We allow immigrants to be members of the party and to vote on our election lists as well as policy proposals. We believe that everybody should have the right to have an influence over decision making that affects them. That is a core principle of the Pirate Party. We believe that is a right that needs to be extended to a government level as well, local as well as national.

3) What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

Our core policies, as mentioned in question 2, include the opinion that everyone should have the right to opinion and influence over decision making that affects them. With that in mind we believe that every human being is made equal. Our decisionmaking has reflected that in the past and present.

4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

We absolutely condemn racism of any kind but we do not believe in restricting freedom of speech to achieve that goal. Debate, discussion and information is the key to stopping racism and discrimination wherever it may be. Laws against hate crimes discrimination may, however, be implemented without violating our core principles of individual freedom. We're open to the discussion.

5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

A lot of Icelanders are very proud of their language and don't like to see it changed all that much so learning Icelandic would be the most important thing to learn to prosper in Icelandic society.

6) What problems does your party's believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

The problem with the status of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland at the moment is that the Icelandic government mostly follows the Dublin regulations to the letter. The government needs to be a little more open and more flexible since the Dublin regulations are not a fixed set of rules. They allow for not addressing

7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today are more than 20000 immigrants in Iceland, 10000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

The positives include a more heterogeneous society (Iceland benefits from viewpoints from around the world) and the fact that adult immigrant arrive as full-fledged members into the country, ready to work (so Iceland is therefore benefitting from the expense that some other country put into fostering those people). The negatives can include social isolation of immigrants if we are not careful about welcoming them.

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think immigrants should vote for your party?

The Icelandic Pirate Party is an international political movement with a key emphasis on critical thinking and well informed policy, direct democracy, transparency, privacy, freedom of information and expression. We strive to let all people have an influence and a say in matters people feel they should have a say in. We would like to welcome immigrants to participate in our society with open arms and help them as much as possible to adapt to our slightly bizzare culture.

We are one. We think it's really unfair that the ease of immigration is depending on point of origin.

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?

Svör frá Bjartri Framtíð
Answers from Bright Future



BJÖRT FRAMTÍÐ

1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

Íslenskt samfélag er meira og minna inclusive samfélag. Af því að við höfum verið einangruð lengi fögnum við allri fjölmenningu. Við skiljum þörfina á fjölbreytileika einmitt vegna einangrunarinnar. Síðastliðna áratugi höfum við verið mjög opin og sífellt litið til útlanda eftir fordæmum. Verandi lítil þjóð erum við undir mjög miklum áhrifum erlendis frá.

The Icelandic society has been more or less an inclusive society. The consequences of being isolated for a long time resulted in Icelanders longing for more multiculturalism. Icelanders understand the need for diversity due to this isolation. For decades Icelanders have been open to change and constantly looking abroad for standards and examples. Being a small nation we can't help but being influenced by the outside world.

2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?

Flokkurinn sem slíkur hefur staðið fyrir ákveðnum fjölbreytileika. Hann hefur reynt að skapa andrúmsloft þar sem innflytljendum á að finnast þeir velkomnir til borgarinnar okkar og að hér séu tækifæri fyrir hvern sem er til að blómstra.

Nýverið hóf Reykjavík að taka á móti hælisleitendum sem okkur þykir gríðarlega mikilvægt. Svo má einnig nefna að við höfum startað verkefni sem heitir Icorn og fyrsti notandi þess verkefnis hlaut reyndar íslenskan ríkisborgararétt á síðasta ári.

Borgin hefur staðið að aðgerðum sem stuðla að aukinni þáttöku innflytjenda á atvinnumarkaðnum.

The party believes in diversity. People thrive where there is diversity. The party has tried to create an environment where immigrants should feel welcome and wanted. Reykjavik is full of opportunities for immigrants to grow and prosper.

Recently Reykjavik started welcoming refugees seeking asylum and we believe that is extremely important. In addition to that we have started a project called "Icorn" and the first user of that project received is Icelandic citizenship last year.

We are happy to have supported programs like “Vinnandi vegur” which are aimed at supporting and increasing opportunities for foreigners in the employment market.

3) What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

Við höfum einbeitt okkur að styrkja skóla og frítíma barna meðal annars með verkefnum Einn, Tveir og Fellaskóli sem gengur útá það að skóladagur barna í 1. og 2. bekk er lengur og einnig er þeim boðið uppá frístundaþjónsutu fram eftir degi. Pólskir stuðningsaðilar fara á milli skóla og hjálpa nemendum og fjölskyldum að aðlagast. Þetta verkefni er fyrst og fremst til að hjálpa fólki af erlendu bergi brotið að aðlagast samfélaginu og auka tíma þeirra í íslenskukennslu.

Eins er búið að vera að styrkja sérverkefni tengd íþróttastarfi til að auka þáttöku innflytjenda. Einnig er mikilvægt að virkja fjölmeningarráð sem hefur mikilvægu hlutverki að gegna. Þar að auki er málkönnunarpróf sem framkvæmt var á síðastliðnu kjörtímabili gríðarlega mikilvægt tól sem er vert að nota.

Okkur langar mjög mikið til þess að virkja innflytjendur betur í listalífi og menningarlífi borgarinnar.

We have concentrated our efforts towards supporting school and after school programs such as “Einn, Tveir og Fellaskóli” which is a program where the school day for children in the first and second grade has been lengthened and families are invited to after school programs. Polish support-staff member who travels between schools and assists students and families adapting to the school system. These program are first and foremost aimed at helping foreigners adapting and improving their knowledge of the Icelandic language and culture.

In addition to this we have been supporting specialized programs in athletics in the aim of increasing participation amongst foreigners. Also we feel it is important to activate the Multicultural Council which serves an important role within the city. Last but not least it is important to implement the language-knowledge based tests and use results.

It is our aim to activate immigrants in the arts- and cultural scene of Reykjavík.

4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

Samskipti fólks og ýta undir gagnkvæma virðingu fólks. Kynþáttafordómar eru eins og risaeðlur. Þeir geta verið mjög öflugir og fyrirferðamiklir en þeir passa samt ekki í okkar heim. Risaeðlur eru útdauða og hafa verið mjög lengi og það sama mun verða um kynþáttafordóma og það er okkar að skapa samfélag þar sem fjölbreyttni ólík menning eru í hávegum höfð.

Communication between people increases mutual respect. Racism is like the dinosaurs. They can be big and powerful but they do not fit into modern society. Dinosaurs are extinct and have been for a really long time. The same same should be said of racism and it is ours responsibility to create a

society where diversity and multiculturalism is embraced.

5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

Fyrst og fremst að læra íslensku. Vera óhrædd við að leita sér úrræða, sækja sér íslenskunámskeið og menntun. Mynda tengsl innan vinnustaðar og leita eftir stuðning í kringum sig, mynda sér tengslanet ásamt því að taka þátt í samfélaginu

First and foremost it helps to study Icelandic. Don't be afraid of seeking support, studying Icelandic and other subjects. Form connections within your workplace and look for support in your neighborhoods. We are ready to support you through city-operated-infrastructures. Participate in the society and form connections.

6) What problems does your party's believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

Fyrst og fremst tekur ferlið alltof langan tíma. Auka þarf samtalið milli ríkis og sveitarfélaga til að hlúa sem best að þessum viðkvæma hóp.

The whole process takes way to long time. The dialog between the government and municipalities needs to be improved. It is crucial for this fragile group.

7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today are more than 20000 immigrants in Iceland, 10000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

Jákvæðu áhrifin eru fyrst og fremst aukinn fjölbreytileiki. Það er mjög jákvæmt að fólk vilji flytja til Íslands. Við erum fámenn þjóð og við þurfum á fleira fólki að halda. Helstu gallar eru þeir að ef innflytjendur eru ekki virkir í samfélaginu og einangrast. Þá hvorki njóta þeir þess sem íslenskt samfélag hefur uppá að bjóða né nítur Ísland þeirrar orku sem þessir einstaklingar geta komið með inn í samfélagið.

The most important positive consequence is most definitely more visible diversity. It is really important that people want to move to Iceland. Icelanders aren't that many and we need more. The main negative consequence would be when immigrants aren't active members of the society. That leads to isolation which again leads to people not enjoying what the Icelandic society can offer them and the Icelandic society won't be introduced to the energy and the culture which people bring with them.

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?

Af því við erum best. Ég hef ekki enn hitt neinn útlending sem ekki vill bjarta framtíð.

Because we are best. I haven't met a foreigner yet who doesn't want a bright future

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?

Almennt þurfum við að bæta samskipti okkar, tala skýrt og skiljanlega. Léleg og óskýr samskipti eru rót flestra vandræða og það á ekki að vera neitt stórmál að koma í veg fyrir það.

In general we need to improve our communication, talk openly and in a way that we understand each other. Bad and unclear communication is the root of most of our problems and it shouldn't be too difficult solving that.

Svör frá Samfylkingu Answers from The Social Democrats



- 1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

Við gerum okkur grein fyrir að Ísland er að mörgu leyti ekki mjög opið samfélag. Íslenska samfélagið er lítið og saumaklúbbsmenning allsráðandi, allt byggist á tengslanet og erfitt getur verið að komast þar inn nýr. Þetta er mikil áskorun fyrir þá sem koma, sama hvaðan þeir eru. Í mörgum tilfellum þarf að bæta möguleika innflytjenda til þátttöku og smærð samfélagsins getur einnig falið í sér mikla möguleika. Hvort tveggja heilbrigðiskerfið og sérstaklega menntunarkerfi er fyrir alla og þar er reynt að bjóða öllum sömu einstaklingsmiðuðu þjónustuna. Við hjá Samfylkingunni erum sannfærð að skólinn hefur mikilvægu hlutverki að gegna í að tengja foreldra af erlendum uppruna í samfélagið.

Að lokum er þetta þó alltaf áskorun sem liggur hjá einstaklingnum sjálfum og það er ekki einfalt að fást við hana og því leggjum við áherslu á verkefni þar sem Íslendingar og innflytjendur hittast á jafningagrundvelli. Gott dæmi um það er verkefni eins og Borgarbókasafnið býður upp á. Það er sannfæring okkar og kjarni jafnaðarmannastefnunar að bjóða öllum sömu tækifæri til að nýta möguleika sína á uppbyggjandi hátt og þess vegna einbeitim við okkur að því gefa börnum af erlendum uppruna betri möguleika til að mennta sig. Á sama hátt leggjum við mikla áherslu á þátttöku í samfélaginu og ekki síst í þessum sveitastjórnarkosningum.

- 2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?

Á síðustu árum hefur Samfylkingin í samstarfi við Besta flokkinn einbeitt sér að fjölmörgum verkefnum til að styrkja fjölmenningu í borginni. Meðal helstu má nefna:

Fyrsta stefna um fjölmenningarlegt skóla- og frístundastarf lítur dagsins ljós vorið 2014. Í henni eru leiðarljós um félagslega virkni og þátttöku, virkt tvítyngi, virðingu fyrir heimamenningu barna og að líta beri á fjölbreyttan bakgrunn sem auðlind í skóla- og frístundastarfi og áhersla um mikilvægi foreldra í skóla- og frístundastarfi barna sinna.

- a) Málkönnunarprófið „Milli mála“ var tekið í notkun árið 2013. Það er verkfæri sem metur raunverulega stöðu barna með íslensku sem annað tungumál. Mjög mikilvægt verkfæri til að koma til móts við börn af erlendum uppruna. Skóla- og frístundasvið réði kennsluráðgjafa til

að aðstoða skólana að meta öll börnin í skólum borgarinnar. Nýjar úthlutunarreglur munu verða til á grunni prófsins og niðurstaðna þess.

- b) 1, 2 og Fellaskóli byrjaði haustið 2012 og er frábært verkefni fyrir börn í 1. og 2. bekk í Fellaskóla. Þau eru nú í samþættum skóla- og frístundadegi, markvissri málörvun, skapandi starfi, félagsþroska og hreyfingu. Börnin fá frítt í frístundaheimili og þátttaka barna í hverfinu í alls konar frístundastarfi hefur aukist.
- c) Í byrjun árs 2014 voru rúmlega 11 milljónir veittar til þróunarverkefna í leik, grunn og frístundastarfi.
- d) Á síðustu þremur árum hefur þróunarverkefnið „Okkar mál“ fengið sjö milljónir króna fyrir sitt góða verkefni. Okkar mál í Fellahverfi er verðlaunað verkefni sem tengir saman leikskóla, grunnskóla og frístundaheimili í Fellahverfi. Markmiðið að auka félagslegan jöfnuð, námsárangur og vellíðan barna í hverfinu.
- e) Meðal annarra verkefna sem skóla- og frístundasviðs hefur staðið fyrir síðustu árin, í samstarfi við aðra er t.d. samstarf við samtökin „Móðurmál“, „Gaman saman“ fyrir pólskumælandi fjölskyldur, „Við og börnin okkar“ á mörgum tungumálum (bæklingur), pólskumælandi ráðgjafi við leikskóla, þróunarverkefni til fræðslu foreldra af filippseyskum uppruna, „Menningarmót“ til að börn kynnist heimamenningu hvers annars, handbók um móttöku barna sem fara úr leikskóla og byrja í frístund, fræðsla fyrir kennara og frístundaráðgjafa og samstarf við íþróttafélög um að auka þátttöku tvítyngdra barna í íþróttastarfi.

Heilahristingur er nú samstarfsverkefni skóla- og frístundasviðs, Borgarbókasafns og Rauða krossins um heimanámsaðstoð veitt af sjálfbodaliðum til barna og ungmenna.

Á Mannréttindaskrifstofu Reykjavíkurborgar hefur ráðgjöf til innflytjenda verið aukin vegna áherslna borgarstjórnar á fjölmenningu í borginni. Ráðgjöfum hefur fjölgað úr einum í fjóra. Mannréttindaskrifstofa Reykjavíkur veitir innflytjendum sem búa í Reykjavík upplýsingar og ráðgjöf í því skyni að tengja þá við borgarsamfélagið og auðvelda þeim aðgang að þjónustu borgarinnar. Ráðgjafarnir tala sex tungumál: ensku, íslensku, litháísku, pólsku, filipeysku og rússnesku. Ef þörf krefur er möguleiki að fá túlkþjónustu. Ráðgjöfin kostar ekkert.

Fyrsta fjölmenningsræðing er haldið í nóvember 2010. Fjölmenningsræðing er nú haldið annað hvert ár. Tilgangurinn er að skapa vettvang þar sem innflytjendur í Reykjavík gætu miðlað upplifun og reynslu af þjónustu borgarinnar og lagt fram sínar hugmyndir og tillögur að bættri þjónustu.

Sérfræðingur í innflytjendamálum hóf störf á mannréttindaskrifstofu árið 2012 og sama ár var sett á fót fagteymi í innflytjendamálum innan borgarinnar 2012. Árið 2013 hóf Mannréttindaskrifstofa að starfsstöðum borgarinnar margbreytileikafræðslu um þá hópa sem mannréttindastefna tekur til, búa í borginni okkar og við þjónustum. Fræðslunni er m.a. ætlað að auka skilning á fjölmenningslegum vinnustöðum og þjónustu í fjölmenningsarsamfélagi.

- 3) What **policies** does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

Samfylkingin hefur skýra framtíðarsýn um fjölmenningslegt samfélag á Íslandi þar sem aðfluttur Íslendingar og afkomendur þeirra eiga ríkan þátt í því að á Íslandi þróist gott og gjöfult samfélag á 21. öldinni. Viðurkenning á mikilvægi innflytjenda er leiðarhnoða í aðgerðaáætlun Samfylkingarinnar í málefnum innflytjenda.

Bætt staða innflytjenda er ekki aðeins réttlætismál heldur liður í að byggja upp fjölmenningslegt samfélag sem eflir mannauð og eykur fjölbreytni. Hvort tveggja stuðlar að meiri sköpun og víðsýnna hugviti samfélaginu til góðs.

- 4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

Lykillinn að því að stöðva kynþáttahyggju og útskúfun er að fræðslu samhliða góðum fyrirmyndum sé haldið á lofti.

Við trúum því að þessi nálgun þurfi að hefjast snemma á námsferlinum. Fræðsla í leikskólum hefur í auknum mæli miðast að jákvæðum hliðum fjölmenningsar. Frábært dæmi um það er t.d verkefnið „fljúgandi teppi“ sem fer milli skóla. Því miður þá gerist það oft að mismunun birtist á alvarlegan hátt t.d á húsnæðismarkaðinum þar sem leigusalar vilja frekar íslenska leigjendur en útlenda. Þetta er erfitt viðfangsefni og flókið. Samfylkingin vill auka framboð á ódýru húsnæði í borginni sem mun vonandi leiða til þess að spennan af völdum mismununar minnki á markaðinum.

Hitt áhersluatriði Samfylkingarinnar er að gera Reykjavíkurborg að betri vinnuveitenda sem gefur fólki af ólíkum uppruna sömu tækifæri. Samhliða þessu ætti borgin að fræða alla starfsmenn hennar um þau tækifæri sem felast í fjölmenningslegu starfslíði. Við styðjum eindregið Mannréttindaskrifstofu í þessu samhengi.

- 5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

Að flytja til annars lands er alltaf áskorun, það kemst enginn hjá því að takast á við hana en það er samt svo margt sem við getum gert að styðja innflytjendur betur í því ferli. Til dæmis með hvatningu til að læra tungumálið, að taka þátt, að vera virkur íbúi, styðja við börnin og skóla þeirra, taka þátt í hverfiskosningum um framkvæmdir, nota þjónustu borgarinnar og koma með ábendingar um það sem betur má fara, almennur náungakærleikur og þátttaka. Það er óþarfi að hafa þessa miklu áherslu á lýtalaus íslensku –bara þora og vera með, við lærum saman! Notum tækifærið til að tala tungumálið og mætum á foreldrafundi jafnvel þótt það sé svólítið erfitt. Spyrjum spurninganna sem við þurfum að fá svör við. Finnum tækifærin og hikum ekki við að nýta okkur þau. Kúrsinn í háskólanum? Tékkum á honum! Mörg

verkalýðsfélög bjóða upp á allskonar þjónustu fyrir innflytjendur en það þarf oft að bera sig eftir henni. Ekkert gerist sjálfkrafa. Lærðu að þekkja borgina þína og landið sem þú býrð í og gerðu það að þínu.

6) What problems does your party's believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

Móttaka og þjónusta við hælisleitendur eru á forræði ríkisins. Hins vegar hefur Reykjavíkurborg sýnt frumkvæði að því að óska eftir því að taka á móti hælisleitendum í Reykjavík. Gengið var frá samningi þess efnis við innanríkisráðuneytið árið 2013. Á hverjum tíma eru um 50 hælisleitendur í Reykjavík. Reykjavíkurborg hefur einnig tekið á móti kvótaflóttamönnum í nokkur ár og lagt mikinn metnað í móttöku og þjónustu þeirra. Vonandi mun okkur ganga jafnvel með hælisleitendur. Samfylkingin mun leggja metnaði í það.

7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today are more than 20000 immigrants in Iceland, 10000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

Við fögnum því að fjölmennigarlegt samfélag sé orðið að veruleika hér á Íslandi, framlag innflytjenda að samfélaginu er ómetanlegt og við viljum leggja áherslu á öll þau tækifæri sem innflytjendur flytja með sér. Þegar barn er fædd þá byrjum við ekki á að hugsa um hvaða vandamál gætu skapast og hvað þetta kostar allt saman, við fögnum því og einbeitungum okkur að þeim verkefnum sem þarf að leysa. Af hverju hugsum við ekki svona þegar innflytjendur koma til Íslands?

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?

Samfylkingin er hluti af sterkri og rótgróinni hreyfingu jafnaðarmanna á Norðurlöndunum. Þar hafa verið byggð upp einhver samkeppnishæfustu samfélög í heimi með jafnrétti, velferð og samfélagslega ábyrgð í fyrirrúmi. Samfylkingin er hluti af stórrí alheimshreyfingu jafnaðarmanna sem berjast fyrir opnum samfélögum, víðsýni og kjarninn er að allir fái tækifæri til að njóta sín. Það er kjarninn í okkar stefnu.

Við leggjum áherslu á:

-Meiri stuðning við tvítyngd börn til að læra móðurmálið sitt

-Auka til muna samstarf skóla og foreldra af erlendum uppruna

-Byggja fleiri leiguíbúðir til að laga spennuna á húsnæðismarkaðinum í Reykjavík

-Gera Reykjavík að betri vinnuveitenda fyrir fólk af erlendum uppruna.

Samfylkingin hefur löngum lagt áherslur á félags- og velferðarmál. Tveir af tíu efstu fulltrúum okkar eru innflytjendur. Slíkt er ekki upp á teningnum hjá hinum flokkunum. Samfylkingin hefur verið leiðandi í málaflokknum um langt skeið. Við erum stolt af því að

hafa Sabine Leskopf og Tomasz Chrapek þátttakendur í okkar stefnumótun og ofarlega á lista. Samfylkingin vill samfélag þar sem allir hafa hlutverk, þar sem fólki er treyst. Árið 2007 var Landneminn stofnaður, félag jafnaðarmanna sem vilja vinna að góðu fjölmenningarlegu samfélagi. Það félag hefur staðið fyrir sérstökum málefnaþingum um málefni innflytjenda og hefur verið þingflokkur og borgarstjórnarflokknum til ráðgjafar.

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?

Við þurfum einfaldlega að skapa fleiri tækifæri þar sem þessir hópar geta unnið saman, leyst vandamálum saman og taka saman þátt í þessu samfélagi hér í borginni. Þess vegna viljum við

- Auka samstarf milli leikskóla, skóla, frístundaaðila og Þjónustumiðstöðva til þess að bæta þjónustu og bjóða vettvang í hverju hverfi fyrir sig
- Auka notkun mentor hugmyndarinnar á mismunandi hátt, bæði hjá börnum og ekki síst hjá foreldrum af erlendum uppruna þar sem samskiptin fara fram á jafningargrundvelli
- Bjóða upp á stað þar sem félög innflytjenda geta hist sem hefur sárvantað síðan Alþjóðahúsinu var lokað á Hverfisgötunni. Mörg þeirra félaga hafa engan stað til að hittast, engan stað til að fagna fjölmenningu

Við teljum einnig að Reykjavíkurborg þurfi að gera átak í upplýsingamiðlun um tækifæri og þjónustu sem er í boði.

ENGLISH VERSION

1. We are very much aware that to a certain degree Iceland is an exclusive society. Iceland is very small, people tend to move within established structures of family and friends and it can be difficult to find a way to fit in. This very often is a challenge for newcomers, no matter where they come from. Very often, migrants only need a better platform to get involved in society and the smaller size of this society also presents opportunities. Both our health system and particularly our school system are strongly inclusive and aim at providing the best possible service no matter on how different individuals' needs are. We firmly believe, for example, that for most of us, schools are a material point of contact with society and we put serious efforts in increasing communication between schools and parents of foreign origin. Both the school and the health care system in Iceland are essentially inclusive and we have invested a lot of work in making schools inclusive. The challenge will always be a challenge of individuals, to put yourself out there is not easy and therefore, we particularly encourage and support projects where Icelanders and migrants meet on a basis of equality, such as the projects offered by the City Library. We firmly believe that the core of social democracy will always be to provide everyone with the same opportunities to flourish and that is why we focus on providing immigrant children with better chances for an education.

2. During last term, Samfylking and Jón Gnarr's Best Party have placed emphasis on many projects with the aim of supporting diversity in the city. For instance: Very soon, the first policy for Multicultural Schools and Leisure Activities will be introduced. The policy contains guidelines for social inclusion and participation, active bilingualism, respect for the native cultures of children and that students with diverse backgrounds should be considered valuable resources in schools and leisure centres, and that parental participation is extremely important. "Milli mála", a language skills assessment test was launched in 2013. This is a valuable tool for assessing the actual language skills of children who speak Icelandic as a second language. This evaluation is very important when developing methods that are best suited to the needs of children of foreign origin. The Department of Education and Youth has hired a special educational consultant to assist all schools assess their students. New rules regarding testing and how results will be used will be developed. 1, 2, and Fella School begin in the autumn of 2012. This is a special program where 1st and 2nd graders are in an integrated school and leisure program, receive special language stimulation, creativity is encouraged, and there is increased opportunity for physical activity. Children receive free entry to the after-school centre, and participation in the neighbourhoods' leisure and sports centres has increased. In 2014 approximately 11 million ISK were reserved for playschools, primary schools and leisure activities. In the past three years the pilot program "Okkar mál" received 7 million kroners. This prize winning project in the Fella neighbourhood connects the playschool, the primary school and the after-school programs together. The aim is to increase social equality, academic skills and the well-being of the children in the neighbourhood. The Study Cafe/Heilahristingur is the cooperative project of the City Library, The Department of Schools and Youth and The Red Cross. Volunteers offer homework assistance. Other projects that the Department of Schools and Youth have participated in the past years is cooperation with Mother-Tongue-Association of Bilingualism, the „Gaman/Saman/Fun-together“ project for Polish families, the „Our Children, Ourselves“ booklet in 4 languages, providing a Polish speaking teachers' advisor for the city's playschools, informational meetings and training for Pilipino parents, intercultural get-togethers for children to learn about other cultures and share about their own. A handbook for children leaving playschool and taking their first steps in organised leisure activities, teachers' training, and cooperation with sports associations in order to find ways of increasing participation amongst immigrant children in sports. The Reykjavik City Human Rights Office has hired immigrant counsellors. There are currently 3 counsellors offering counselling and information in 5 language and working with interpreters when needed. The goal of this counselling is to increase immigrant access to city services, and to promote active participation and integration. This service is free of charge. The first Multi-cultural Congress was held in November 2010. The congress is held every other year. The goal is to give immigrants living in Reykjavik a voice and to hear their suggestions on how to make city services better. In 2012 the Human Rights Office hired a specialist in immigration

issues and founded an interdepartmental professional council. In 2013 the Human Rights Office began offering diversity and cultural training about the various minority groups that are represented in the Human Rights Policy. The goal of this training is to increase understanding and cultural competency.

3. The Social Democratic Alliance has a clear vision of a multicultural society in Iceland where immigrants and their descendants have a significant role in shaping Iceland's future as a good and generous society in the 21st century. Based on recognition and respect for cultural diversity.
4. We believe that this is an approach that has to start early, education in playschools in this area has been increasingly focused on the positive aspects of multiculturalism, and we support, for example, the City Library's Flying Carpet project. Very often, however, discrimination appears in very serious forms in a very hidden way, for example in the housing market, where landlords prefer Icelandic tenants rather than foreigners. This is very complex and difficult to combat, but Samfylkingin focuses on offering much more affordable housing solutions in Reykjavik and this will hopefully help to decrease the tension on the market. One other focus point in our policy includes making Reykjavik a better employer, by giving more opportunities to staff of foreign origin, but by also educating existing staff on the positive opportunities within a multicultural workforce. We also strongly support the efforts of the Human Rights Office in this respect.
5. We encourage them to learn the language, to actively participate and to support their children and their schools, to vote in local, neighbourhood elections, to avail themselves of the services on offer and to offer ideas and suggestions on how things can be done better. And also to have brotherly love and to get involved. Don't worry about speaking perfect Icelandic, take a chance, and speak out. Moving to another country is always a challenge, there is a lot we can do to support immigrants in the process of integration, but it always comes down to accepting this challenge. We speak to you as those who have this experience – it is not easy to build up self-esteem again and win the respect of others when you are struggling with not being able to express yourself the way you want to. But there is no way around it: Fight to learn the language, use every opportunity to speak it, go to parents' meetings, even though you feel insecure, ask all the questions you need to ask, find opportunities of doing the things you enjoy and are interested in. Don't hide away and remain an expat for the rest of your life, take advantage of opportunities, check what the university has to offer, labour unions also provide a lot of support, you just have to ask for it – and get to know this city, this country to make it yours.
6. In Iceland, the state is responsible for issues concerning refugees seeking asylum here. In 2013, however, and on initiative of the City of Reykjavík, a contract was entered into with the Ministry of the Interior to receive asylum seekers in Reykjavík. At each given time, around 50 asylum seekers dwell in Reykjavík. The City has also received

quota refugees for a number of years and invested a considerable effort in welcoming them here and providing them with the service they need. We sincerely hope and will do our best to be just as successful in receiving asylum seekers.

7. We celebrate the multicultural society that Iceland has become, migrants have greatly enriched our lives and we want to focus on the huge opportunities that migrants bring with them. When a child is born, we don't start thinking of all the problems it might someday encounter – instead we celebrate and then we focus on the projects we need to work on to provide the opportunities it deserves. Why don't we think the same when immigrants come to Iceland?
8. The Social Democratic Alliance is part of a strong and well-established movement of Social Democrats in the Nordic countries. We believe that equality, welfare and active participation of all members of society are the hallmark of a successful society and a prerequisite for a competitive labour market. Our pillars are: Education, employment and welfare for everyone.

Our focus for the coming elections is on the following issues:

- Offer better possibilities for bilingual children to study their mother tongue.
- Building more rental housing to improve the situation on the rental market for everyone.
- Make Reykjavík a better employer of people of foreign origin.
- We have for a long time had major influence on humanitarian issues in this society, we provide immigrants with opportunities.
- 2 of our top 10 candidates are migrants. Sabine Leskopf and Tomasz Chrapek play an active role in our campaign and are responsible for our policy on immigrant matters, welfare and education.
- We give migrants a voice as active members of this society.
- We also have formed an association called The Settlers which is actively involved in immigrant issues and consists of both Icelanders and immigrants interested in human rights and democracy.
- We have held a large congress called “Let's Talk” where immigrants were invited to come and discuss a number of issues that concern them on a local and national level. Top members from the party addressed and welcomed the participants in both Icelandic and English.

9. We need to create more opportunities in which these different groups can work together on various projects, solve problems together and participate in Reykjavik society. Therefore, we want to:

- increase cooperation between preschools, schools, sports clubs and neighbourhood city service centres in order to provide better service and platforms in each area
- increase the use of mentors on different levels, particularly for children, but also parents where Icelanders and immigrants meet on a level of equality

- provide a platform where immigrant associations can meet, since the Intercultural Centre was closed, many immigrant associations do not have facilities to hold meetings, no place to celebrate our multicultural society
- we also think that the City needs to make a major effort to improve the flow of information on the opportunities and services we already have

Svör Framsóknarflokks Answers from The Progressive Party



FRAMSÓKNARFLOKKURINN

- 1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

I believe that we can safely say that the Icelandic society can be considered both inclusive and exclusive. This is probably due to the fact that through the centuries Iceland has been inhabited by people of Scandinavian origin, fairly isolated from the rest of the world. The increase in immigration, experienced by other European countries in the second half of last century only started to effect Iceland in the last two decades of the 20th century. Based on my conversations with immigrants, I am sad to say, that it seems that their own experience differs, depending on the color of their skin and/or their origin. We are therefore facing the challenge of making the Icelandic community, as the multicultural community it has become, more inclusive and less exclusive. We are optimistic that we can achieve this.

- 2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society?

Human rights issues are at the very core of Framsóknarflokkur's policy. By insisting on the elimination of all forms of discrimination Framsóknarflokkurinn has contributed to a successful integration of immigrants to the Icelandic communities. However, integration can never be regarded as a one way street. The people, that live here already, must also be ready to display flexibility to the cultures and expectations of the people who have moved here.

- 3) What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

One of Framsókn's fundamental policies is that everyone is to enjoy equal opportunities to an education and that education should be free of charge. However, these are only words if they are not followed by actions. Therefore we believe that closer attention needs to be given to the language education for children of immigrants and their wellbeing in the primary schools. A good knowledge of the Icelandic language is often a decisive factor in the success of the child when it enters the secondary schools and later in universities. At the same time,

Framsóknarflokkurinn encourages, respects and intends to support immigrants in protecting their own cultural heritage, including their native languages.

- 4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

We believe that the educational system plays a fundamental role in eliminating racism and discrimination in the long run. People often consider members of Framsóknarflokkurinn as being especially proud of the Icelandic cultural heritage and the history. I suppose that this is true. This also means that we understand the pride that others feel about their own cultural heritage and their willingness to protect it. These are not conflicting sentiments – they are shared. And when centuries pass, current times will be a part of the Icelandic cultural heritage, one that we will hopefully all share our pride in.

- 5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially, educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

Framsóknarflokkurinn does not feel comfortable to suggest, instruct or advise other people about integration. Instead we would like to seek advice from you. We would however urge you to seek information about the Icelandic society and we will strive to improve your opportunities to do so. We would like to see immigrants taking part in the democratic process and we invite you to visit us so we can benefit from your knowledge and we would appreciate if you would get involved in improving the Icelandic society by participating in our policymaking and representation of that policy. I am proud to be able to say that many immigrants are members of Framsóknarflokkurinn and we would like to increase their numbers.

- 6) What problems does your party believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

First and foremost we feel that we should stop sentencing asylum seekers to prison for presenting forged documents on entry to Iceland. This practice is undoubtedly against international human rights standards. We must keep in mind that refugees and asylum seekers are not travelling to Iceland of their own free will. They have been forced to escape warfare, persecutions and human rights abuses and seek our protection. We must ensure them due process, in reasonable time and adequate condition while their applications are being processed. The delay in processing applications is an issue that needs to be addressed..

- 7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today there are more than 20000 immigrants in Iceland, 10000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

We believe that immigrants have brought a valuable contribution to Reykjavík's culture. The value of the mixture of different cultures, added to the existing Icelandic culture, has created something greater than was here before. There are no threats to the Icelandic culture. We do not recognize any negative consequences of immigration to Iceland.

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?

The most important thing is that immigrants take active part in the democratic process. We believe that access to information and expression of opinions are vital for immigrants so that they can make decisions about their participation. No doubt most of them will then realize that our policy, based on the notion of cooperation and respect for the individual, will appeal to them. The most important thing is that immigrants vote – and hopefully they will vote for us.

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster better communication between the different groups living here?

The city of Reykjavík has to present a more multicultural front. I looked at the city's website yesterday and focused on photographs from primary schools and kindergardens. I saw only pictures of children with white skin color. It seemed that other skin colors did not exist. This is very different from what I experience when I enter schools in Reykjavík. I wonder why the schools are presented in this way. We need to present Reykjavík as the multicultural city it is. We also need to ensure that leaflets, posters and information on the internet are presented in such a way that immigrants actually know our structure and then we need to make sure to ensure that interpreters are available so immigrants have equal access to public services to those that understand Icelandic or English. In addition to this we must raise multicultural awareness in the educational system and eliminate all kind of racism and prejudice.

Svör Dögunar við spurningum fjölmeningarráðs Answers from Dögun



1) In your party's opinion, is Icelandic society an inclusive or exclusive society? Why or why not?

Þótt mikið verk hafi verið unnið hefur íslenska samfélagið því miður ekki gefið innflytjendum tækifæri til að samlagast. Það eru hindranir á vinnumarkaðinum og hvað varðar menntun. Almennt eru Innflytjendur ekki enn samþykktir sem fullgildir þegnar á Íslandi. Stundum eru tungumálaerfiðleikar notaðir sem hindrun fyrir innflytjendur og börn þeirra. Á síðastliðnum árum hefur orðið vart við aukna þjóðernishyggju. Slík þjóðernishyggja bitnar á innflytjendum og því miður hafa ýmsar opinberar stofnanir og fjölmiðlar sýnt dæmi þess.

Although much work has been done, the Icelandic society is still exclusive in some ways. The immigrants still do not have the same opportunities as the Icelandic people in work and education and social acceptance (housing). The Icelandic language is used sometimes as a pretext to hinder the foreign born and people of foreign decent from these important things. We have seen a rise in nationalistic ideas growing here and even politicians taking part in enflaming nationalistic ideas to promote their policies. Some important offices in government are also hindering that the immigrants from participating fully in the society.

Although much progress has been made regarding assimilation of immigrants to the Icelandic society in recent years, it still remains exclusive. There are obstacles on the labour market and regarding education. Immigrants are not generally accepted as full members of the Icelandic society. Language skills are also used as a hindrance in the treatment of immigrants in Iceland. Since the economic crash of 2008 attitude towards immigrants has become more negative. Nationalism and national sentiments have grown in the Icelandic society. This kind of renewed nationalism tends to hit immigrants hard.

2) What is your party's greatest achievement with regards to the integration of immigrants within the Icelandic society? Dögun has not participated in parliamentary elections. The party

is participating for the first time in the local elections of 2014 for the office of mayor of Reykjavik.

3) What policies does your party currently support with regards to the idea of fostering a multicultural society?

Dögun is a party that supports strongly a multi-cultural society and wants to work hard against racism and prejudice. The party wants education in the Icelandic language for all students and wants to support parents in withholding the native language of their children. All immigrants should be able to cultivate their own culture and share it with the local inhabitants. The party believes that this multi-cultural approach enriches the Icelandic society and that it broadens their perspective. Dögun also believes that this approach makes Iceland more competitive internationally.

Immigrants must be able to enjoy the basic social justice and equality of the society and participate fully on all levels. The unity of immigrant-families must be supported.

Immigrants should be able to obtain information, as the right to information is fundamental to all members of society. A center of information, for this purpose, should be re-established.

The education and experience of immigrants is an under-exploited resource. All immigrants shall have an equal position (compared to local inhabitants) on the labour market and share the same terms of contracts as the local population. A working permit shall never be limited to just one single employer. Educational authorities shall try the best they can to evaluate the education and experience of immigrants so that there won't be any inequalities, compared to the local inhabitants.

4) What specific ideas can your party offer for addressing and stopping racism and discrimination in Iceland?

Dögun stands for zero tolerance regarding discrimination at schools and on the labour market. We want clear and simple lines of communications between immigrants and all public institutions. All public officials should receive education and information about multiculturalism. Ombudsman for Immigrants should be established.

5) What suggestions would you offer immigrants on how they can prosper within Icelandic society, socially,

educationally, professionally, or otherwise?

Immigrants should respect Icelandic values and norms, but they should also inform the society about their own norms and values. They should be active in obtaining information about the Icelandic society and how it functions. The same should be done regarding the rights and duties of the inhabitants of the Icelandic society. Immigrants should be encouraged to have their

education valued rightly. They should be encouraged to learn Icelandic and to be open to educational opportunities.

6) What problems does your party believe need to be solved regarding the issue of refugees seeking asylum in Iceland?

Dögun wants immigrants to be well received in Iceland and wants Iceland to respect all UN resolutions regarding refugees. It wants all institutions working on this matter to do so efficiently. All refugees should enjoy basic human rights and standard of living. Immigrants should be able to obtain working permits and to enjoy opportunities in the educational system.

While waiting for conclusions regarding asylum, asylum-seekers should be able to live under basic human conditions. Transparency shall be guaranteed on all levels of the asylum-seeking process and a waiting time up to two years is totally unacceptable. The Icelandic society should look upon the asylum-seekers as guests and treat them as such.

Asylum-seekers, who come from war-torn countries, and suffer from e.g. post-traumatic-stress-syndrome should get special assistance.

7) What do you think are the consequences, positives and negatives, of immigration in Iceland, knowing that today there are more than 20,000 immigrants in Iceland, 10,000 of them living within Reykjavík's municipality?

The world is more and more like the global village, and we, as global citizens can not isolate us. Dögun would like to look upon immigrants as individuals who enrich the Icelandic society in every way. With multi-culturalism, there are problems, but they shall be dealt with as any other problems. We tend to look more positively on a multi-cultural society than a monotone-society, both economically and culturally.

8) Can you describe in brief why do you think should immigrants vote for your party?

By voting for Dögun í Reykjavík, you will be sure that your voice will be heard. We have Salmann Tamimi in the third place on our list. He is a fierce fighter for human rights and rights of immigrants. Even if the unlikely event that we don't get 15 seats, we will be watching and helping in achieving the society we all love to be in. Piotr Karol Murawski, an immigrant from Poland, is in the 17th. place of the list.

9) What do you think can be improved in the city of Reykjavík in order to foster a better communication between the different groups living here?

Dögun emphasizes education in multi-cultural issues on all levels of the educational system. One way of strengthening the ties between different groups would be for example to have joint activities at various youth centers around Reykjavik. By doing so the participants could learn the norms, values and customs of each other.

Engin fulltrúi frá Alþýðuhreyfingu hefur tilkynnt komu sína á fundinn
No candidate from Alþýðuhreyfingin has announced it's participation.



Voting Procedures – Instructions for Foreign Nationals Regarding the Local Government Elections in Iceland on 31 May 2014

The general election of municipal governments will take place on 31 May 2014.

Right to vote

Foreign nationals are granted the right to vote depending on length of residence in Iceland:

- Nordic nationals when they have had legal residence in Iceland **for a period of three consecutive years from 31 May 2011.**
- Other foreign nationals when they have had legal residence in Iceland **for a period of five consecutive years from 29 May 2009.**

Anyone who has the right to vote can also run for office as a candidate for municipal government.

Am I on the electoral roll?

Anyone who has the right to vote will automatically be on the electoral roll in the municipality where he/she has registered legal residence on **10 May 2014** and will only be able to vote there. If you are not sure whether you are listed on the electoral roll, you can get information about this from the National Registry. The electoral roll will also be accessible for a period of at least 15 days prior to election day on the website www.kosning.is. The roll is also available at municipal government offices no later than ten days prior to the date of the election.

I have recently moved or I intend to move. Will I be able to vote in my new municipality?

Yes, if notification of change of address has been submitted to the National Registry prior to 10 May 2014.

Where do I vote?

At the polling station on election day

- Most voters will cast their votes at the polling station on election day, 31 May 2014.
- Municipal governments announce where the polling stations are and when they are open.

Pre-election voting before the election day

- Pre-election voting will take place at the district commissioners' offices from 5 April 2014. Information about opening hours and location can be found on website: www.syslumenn.is.
- Pre-election votes can also be cast at Icelandic embassies and consulates overseas. For further information about location and opening hours see the Ministry for Foreign Affairs' website: mfa.is.
- Further information regarding pre-election voting, including voting in institutions and in private homes and instructions on how to cast a pre-election vote are to be found on a **video-film** on the website: www.kosning.is.

Voting at the polling station

1. Prove your identity by producing an identity document (with a photograph, e.g. your passport, driving license or ID-card) or in some other way which the electoral commission considers satisfactory.

2. If you are entitled to vote, you will be given a ballot paper which you then take into the polling booth.
3. In the polling booth, you vote by making a cross (x) with a pencil in the box in front of the letter representing the list of candidates of your choice.
In some smaller municipalities voters cast their votes by writing the names of their preference candidates on the ballot paper. You may bring a list with their names with you into the voting booth to refresh your memory.
4. In the polling booths there are cards in Braille (for people with poor sight) with information about the letters representing the candidate lists. If you need assistance with voting, you may nominate a member of the electoral commission to help you. You may also request that a representative of your own choice help you to vote in the polling booth.
Assistance in the polling booth may only be given when voters are unable to vote in the prescribed manner due to poor sight or the inability to use their hands. Voters in this situation who are also unable to express their wishes to the electoral commission may submit certificates from their rights protection officers, in which case they will be allowed to have help with voting from a representative of their choice.
5. If you want to change the order of the candidates on the list of your choice, write the number 1 in front of the name you would like to place at the top, the number 2 in front of the name you would like to have in second place, and so on. If you want to remove a candidate from the list, cross his or her name out.
You are not permitted to make changes to lists of candidates other than the list for which you vote or to make any other markings anywhere on the ballot paper, as this may invalidate your vote.
6. If you find you have indicated something you did not intend on your ballot paper by mistake, or if you spoil your ballot paper in some other way, give it to the electoral commission and you will be given a new one.
7. Make sure that no one sees who you have voted for, because if this happens, your ballot is considered invalid and may not be put into the ballot box.
8. When you have indicated your vote, fold the ballot paper along the same fold lines as it had when you received it and put it into the ballot box. Then leave the polling room.

Voting ends on Saturday night, 31 May, and polling stations close at the latest at 22:00. Following this, the ballots will be counted and the results will then be announced in the media. Blank and invalid ballots are also counted and their numbers announced.