



**THE DANISH SOCIAL
DEMOCRATIC PARTY**



SOCIALDEMOKRATIET

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN OUR PARTY

In this publication you will find an introduction to our party and policies, our history and organization, and our international involvement.

First and foremost, the Social Democratic Party is committed to the pursuit of a more just society. Our goal is clear. We want a society where everyone has the same opportunities in life.

Tomorrow must be better than today. We strive for a Denmark with low unemployment, where we can afford high quality common welfare and where we continuously grow stronger. Both as individual human beings and as society as a whole.

For me, this is about believing in the future. That our communities make us stronger individuals. That economic responsibility and social justice mutually rely on each other.

For almost 150 years, the Danish Social Democratic Party has been changing our society to the better. Step by step towards a society characterized by our core values of freedom, equality and solidarity. For a century and a half, no other party has been more influential in building the Danish welfare society.

While we work in a Danish context, we are part of a global movement and our aspirations and values apply everywhere. We therefore put great emphasis on international cooperation - in the Nordic countries, in Europe and across the globe.

Best regards,



Mette Frederiksen,
Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Denmark



THE PARTY IN BRIEF

At the national election on June 18, 2015 the Social Democratic Party received 26.3 pct. of the votes and won 47 seats in the Danish Parliament Folketinget – three seats up from 2011. This once again made the Social Democrats the biggest party in Parliament – a position we held from 1924-2001. However, the centre-left coalition of five parties only managed to get 89 seats against the centre-right's coalition of 90 seats – the exact amount needed to command a majority.

Following the election the party went into opposition after having been the leading party in a government coalition, and at an extraordinary congress in June 2015, Mette Frederiksen was elected as the new party leader.

The Social Democratic Party has an extensive presence throughout the country and is founded on a strong volunteer commitment in a decentralized party organization. The party has developed from a large Danish workers' movement and maintains close ties to trade unions, cooperatives, sporting and cultural organizations, and adult educational institutions.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN NUMBERS

AS OF JUNE 2016

46 of the 179 members of the
Danish Parliament (Folketinget).

33 mayors in 98 Danish municipalities,
including the four biggest cities, and
725 local councillors.

Three out of five region mayors and
65 members of the regional councils.

Three out of 13 Danish members of
the European Parliament.

Approx. 38,000 members.

METTE FREDERIKSEN

– party leader and candidate for Prime Minister

Mette Frederiksen is born and raised in Aalborg, an industrial city in the Northern part of Jutland. She has been a member of the Social Democrats since her teenage years, where she also joined the ANC to support the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa.

Mette was first elected to the Parliament in 2001. She was elected party leader on June 28, 2015, after having been the Minister of Employment and Minister of Justice in the previous, Social Democratic government from 2011-2015.

She has a Bachelor of Science in Administration and Social Sciences from Aalborg University and a Master of Arts in African Studies from the University of Copenhagen.

Mette is a mother of two – her daughter Ida Feline and her son Magne.



OUR VALUES

**WE BELIEVE
IN THE FUTURE.
WE CREATE IT –
AS INDIVIDUALS
AND AS A
SOCIETY.**

Mette Frederiksen

Since 1871 the Social Democratic Party has been the engine of change in the Danish society, with an ideological foundation of democratic socialism. Throughout our history, freedom, equality, and solidarity have consistently remained the fundamental values that guide our efforts.

We have come a long way since 1871 - many battles have been won, but challenges remain and new ones arise.

Our aim is, and has always been, social justice. We want a

society in which citizens have the best conditions to realise their potential.

We labour to secure full employment, a high level of social protection and sustainable economic growth.

We want to make sure that everyone is entitled to welfare, education and employment in a healthy environment. Therefore, we continue our struggle locally, nationally and internationally.

FREEDOM

Freedom is about securing the democratic rights of each individual, but is not limited to this. Freedom is also about opportunities in life. For us as Social Democrats, community and the opportunities it provides are the only way to secure each individual the full freedom to pursue their dreams and exploit their skills.

Without a strong community, freedom is only for the few.

EQUALITY

As Social Democrats, equality is a socially just distribution of wealth in society.

There must be equal opportunities and access for everyone. This is regardless of gender, ethnicity, religion, culture or social class.

Equality is also about respecting the rights of fellow citizens to live a life that is different from how others live their lives. As such, equality is not uniformity, but the opposite.

We have come a long way in providing free and equal access to education, healthcare and other welfare services. This has made Denmark a more equal society.

SOLIDARITY

Solidarity means that we are there to support each other, support the unemployed and take care of our senior citizens, vulnerable and sick in our society. We still believe that those with broad shoulders should bear the heaviest burden.

But solidarity is also about each of us contributing and taking responsibility for the community.

Solidarity is the will for togetherness – also when it comes to supporting the poor and vulnerable – internationally, nationally and regardless of race, colour or creed.

OUR KEY ISSUES TODAY

EVEN THOUGH THE WORLD HAS CHANGED SINCE THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY WAS FOUNDED ALMOST 150 YEARS AGO, THE FUNDAMENTAL IDEA IS STILL VALID. WE MUST SOLVE SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS IN LIFE TOGETHER; TAKING CARE OF OUR ELDERLY; ENSURING THAT HIGH QUALITY HEALTHCARE IS NOT ONLY FOR THOSE WHO CAN AFFORD IT; THAT DAY CARE INSTITUTIONS AND SCHOOLS ARE WELL-RUN AND OPEN TO ALL.

A HEALTHY ECONOMY

The welfare society presupposes a strong economy. Through public investment and progressive reforms during our time in government, we made sure that the Danish welfare society came safely through a period of global financial crisis. We invested in public renovation and construction to create jobs, while updating the Danish infrastructure.

Now, the Social Democratic Party wants to ensure that growth benefits all. In the years to come, we therefore want to invest in strengthening welfare and education and in creating jobs.

By tidying up taxes and fees and pursuing tax evasion aggressively, we will continue our work to make it easier to do business in Denmark.

Furthermore, we want to strengthen our infrastructure by providing high-speed Internet and better and affordable public transportation.

JOB CREATION

Fighting unemployment has always been a core task for the Social Democratic Party.

With a Housing Act in 2014 our government secured 18,000 extra jobs through the renovation of more than 50,000 public houses. Through our kick-start of the economy, an Energy Act and reforms, we have created a healthy foundation for growth and job creation in the coming years.

Growth must be combined with a strong effort against social dumping. We have to protect the robust Danish wages and working conditions and we must ensure that Danish workers and companies are not driven into unemployment through the import of low wage labour. Everyone on the Danish labour market should receive a salary according to established Danish standards.

IMPROVING CHILDCARE, SCHOOLS, HEALTH CARE AND ELDERCARE

In Denmark, we look out for one another. As a result, the Danes enjoy a high level of common welfare such as childcare, equal and free access to education, health care and eldercare. We believe that our common welfare is not only vital to the life chances of individuals, but also to our future prosperity as a society. This is why we continuously need to modernize and strengthen our universal welfare services.

However, the aging population and growing medical expenditures are imposing challenges to the quality of our welfare services. We believe that growth in public expenditure is necessary to sustain and develop our common welfare and thus to provide the best education for our children and a world class health care service.

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

As social democrats we want to leave the planet to our children in a better shape than when we received it. However, this demands ambitious, progressive policies on the environment, nature and climate.

Denmark is a small country and climate change and environmental pollution have no borders. But we can make a difference by leading through example.

Under Social Democratic leadership Denmark became a world leader in making a green transition and has adopted the most ambitious climate goals in the world.

We did this because we have an obligation to do so. Furthermore, leading the green transition is also creating many new jobs in Denmark.

FOR THE DANISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, THE GOAL WILL ALWAYS BE THE SAME: **PEOPLE'S WELL BEING.**

H.C. Hansen
Prime Minister and party leader, 1955-1960

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN A GLOBALIZED WORLD

We live in an increasingly interconnected world, where climate change is only one of many transboundary challenges.

As Social Democrats, we believe in international cooperation to solve transboundary problems such as organized crime, tax evasion, refugee and migration flows or migrant labourers, that risk undermining national wage- and labour standards.

We also believe that it is in our interest as a small country to contribute in building a global society characterized by cooperation and regulated by international law instead of the law of the jungle. We strongly advocate international activism and a solid Danish engagement in international organizations, be it on a Nordic, European or global level, including the EU, NATO and the UN.



THE YOUTH MOVEMENT

The Social Democratic Youth of Denmark (DSU) is an independent youth organization affiliated to the Social Democratic Party.

In DSU, politically interested young people have the opportunity to learn how to make political change, organize and influence decision-making at a local, regional, national and international level.

It is a community comprising more than 2.600 members, who are all interested in working for the most vulnerable in society and a more just world.

Free Forum (Frit Forum) is an organization composed of students at higher educations, who find common ground in Social Democratic values. The main goal of the organization is to engage students in political and societal discussions regarding the organization of our society, while also filing candidates for the annual university elections in Denmark.



OUR HISTORY

The Social Democratic Party was founded in 1871 as the International Working Mens' Association for Denmark. At that time, the political party and the trade union were one organization. The purpose of the party was to unite the rapidly growing working class in a political party based on a socialist foundation.

From the middle of the 19th century, Denmark was in a process of industrialization, during which the rural population moved into the cities and became workers. The Social Democratic Party grew from a demand to provide everybody with decent living conditions and democratic rights. The focus was the wellbeing of the individual.

In 1884 the first two Social Democratic MPs were elected and in 1909 the party joined a coalition government headed by a Social Liberal Prime Minister.

At the parliamentary election in 1924 the Social Democratic Party became the biggest party receiving 36.6 pct. of the votes and formed the first Social Democratic led government. This was led by Thorvald Stauning, who served as Prime Minister from 1924-1926 and again from 1929-1942.

Also in 1924, just nine years after women won the right to vote, Denmark got its first female minister, one of the first in the world. Her name was Nina Bang and she became minister of education. In 2011, the circle was closed when the Social Democratic party leader Helle Thorning-Schmidt became the first female prime minister of Denmark.

From 1924-1982 the Social Democratic Party held governing power with only a few exceptions and was the driving political force in developing the Danish welfare society. Until 2001 the Social Democratic Party remained the biggest political party.

In June 2015, we regained this status.

Social Democratic election poster from 1926 portraying workers, servants and smallholders demonstrating. A man to the right is carrying the Social Democratic flag.



TIMELINE

Social Democratic prime ministers and historic events

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY is founded by Louis Pio, Harald Brix and Paul Geleff.

1871

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC FEDERATION is formed dividing the party and the trade unions into two entities with close ties. Later, the Worker's Co-operative becomes the third pillar of the Danish workers' movement.

1872

THE THREE FOUNDERS are imprisoned and in 1873 the party is outlawed.

1878

PETER THYGESEN HOLM AND CHRESTEN HØRDUM become the first two Social Democratic MPs.

1884

INTRODUCTION OF PARLIAMENTARISM IN DENMARK ensures that no government can be appointed with a majority against it.

1901

WOMEN AND SERVANTS GAIN THE RIGHT to vote through a constitutional amendment. Until then, only 15 pct. of the population could vote.

1915

THROUGH 'KANSLERGADEFORLIGET' **STAUNING** carried out a reform that ensured social benefits for the needy. The victory at the 1935-election, with the famous slogan "Stauning or Chaos" initiated a comprehensive democratization of Danish society, as a protection against fascism and Nazism.

1933



VILHELM BUHL
(1942-1942, 1945-1945)

Denmark is occupied by Germany

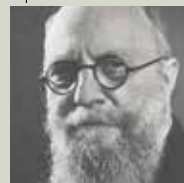
VILHELM BUHL is the second Social Democratic Prime Minister. (1942 - 1942, 1945 - 1945) He led a government of national unity during the occupation and immediately after World War II

Denmark becomes a member of **NATO**

1949



NINA BANG



THORVALD STAUNING
(1924-1926, 1929-1942)

THORVALD STAUNING becomes the first Social Democratic Prime Minister (1924-1926 and 1929-1942) and Nina Bang becomes the first female minister.

1924



HANS HEDTOFT
(1947-1950, 1953-1955)

World War II ends **HANS HEDTOFT** prime minister (1947-1950 and 1953-1955). During his time in office Denmark joined NATO. In 1953 he became the first president of the Nordic Council.

1940

1945

Denmark becomes a member of the **NORDIC COUNCIL**

1952

H.C. HANSEN, prime minister (1955-1960) His government practices an active trade- and foreign policy, that clearly places Denmark on the side of the U.S. and the West in the Cold War.



H.C. HANSEN
(1955-1960)

VIGGO KAMPMANN, prime minister (1960-1962) With the slogan "Make good times better" the Social Democratic Party achieved the largest election victory in the post-war period with 42.1 % of the votes. The production and the employment rates were high. Working hours got reduced from 48 to 45 hours a week and education and research received big appropriations.

1955



VIGGO KAMPMANN
(1960-1962)

1960

JENS OTTO KRAG, prime minister (1962-1968 and 1971-1972) Krag held several different cabinet positions between 1947-72. He was one of the most important architects behind the post-war policies of the Social Democratic Party and in the creation of the modern welfare society.



JENS OTTO KRAG
(1962-1968, 1971-1972)

1962

ANKER JØRGENSEN, prime minister (1972-1973, 1975-1982) further developed the welfare society. Voluntary early retirement and nine years of mandatory schooling were introduced.



ANKER JØRGENSEN
(1972-1973, 1975-1982)

1972

Denmark becomes a member of the **EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**. Krag hands over the position as prime minister to Anker Jørgensen.

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS are in opposition to a Conservative-Liberal government that led Denmark through what is popularly known as the poor 80's.

1980's

THE DANES VOTE AGAINST the Danish electorate votes against the Treaty on European Union (The Maastricht Treaty).

1992



POUL NYRUP RASMUSSEN
(1993-2001)

THE EUROPEAN UNION TREATY is ratified after alterations have been made including the four Danish op-outs and a second referendum in Denmark was held.

1993

POUL NYRUP RASMUSSEN prime minister (1993-2001) With Poul Nyrup Rasmussen as prime minister, Denmark got a new start. With public investments and strong measures for supplementary training and activation of the unemployed, the upward trend in the unemployment rate was broken, and in the late 90s the number of unemployed was reduced by 50 pct.



HELLE THORNING-SCHMIDT
(2011-2015)

HELLE THORNING-SCHMIDT, prime minister (2011-2015) becomes the first female prime minister of Denmark. The first years of Helle Thorning-Schmidt's government were characterized by the financial crisis that demanded strong economic intervention. She managed to steer Denmark safely through the financial crisis. Her government was characterized by broad cooperation across the parliamentary political divide, resulting in many major reforms.

2011

INTERNATIONAL

All over the globe Social Democratic parties rally around the same fundamental values and principals about democracy, human rights, solidarity and peaceful coexistence.

Originally founded as a Danish branch of an international movement, the Social Democratic Party has a long tradition for a strong, international engagement through the sharing of political ideas and experiences across borders. This is maintained through extensive bilateral relations and through a range of international memberships.

On the next page you can see some of our most important international member organizations.

NORDIC COOPERATION - SAMAK

SAMAK is the Co-operation Committee of the Nordic Social Democratic parties and trade union LOs. The first Workers' Congress in this partnership was held in Gothenburg, Sweden as far back as in 1886 making SAMAK possibly the world's oldest, international political organization.

There are many cultural, social and political similarities between the Nordic countries, and in SAMAK the Nordic Labour movements and Social Democratic parties cooperate closely on a wide range of policy areas.

Recently, SAMAK has been particularly active in securing and further developing the Nordic Model, through the broad NordMod2030 research project and "The Sørmarka Declaration" political manifesto.

There is also a significant cooperation between Social Democratic parliamentarians through the Nordic Council – an inter-parliamentary forum for cooperation between the Nordic countries.



IN EUROPE – PES AND S&D:

At the European level, we are members of the Party of European Socialists, PES, that constitutes an important platform for coordination and the exchange of ideas between Social Democratic parties in Europe and in pushing for a more Social Democratic Europe.

From 2004-2011, our former party leader and prime minister, Poul Nyrup Rasmussen, was president of the PES.

Our members of the European Parliament are organized in the group of Socialists & Democrats, S&D.

GLOBAL

The Social Democratic Party of Denmark was among the founders of Socialist International in 1951.

Today, we focus our global engagement in the Progressive Alliance network that brings together a long list of socialist, social democratic and progressive parties and organizations from all over the world.

Mette Frederiksen at the SAMAK annual meeting in Stockholm, January 2016 with the party leaders from Sweden, Norway, Finland and Iceland.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY WORK

The Social Democratic Party is engaged in partnerships with political parties in developing countries aimed at strengthening or introducing democracy.

The cooperation is funded through the Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) that was established in 2011 after social democratic pressure. DIPD is a part of the official Danish development assistance.

Through DIPD the Social Democratic Party has gained a new way of channelling international solidarity and is currently cooperating with sister parties in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

The main idea is to facilitate the exchange of inspiring ideas – in Denmark and within our partner countries. Through the projects we focus on political and organizational capacity building in the parties: discussing the interpretation of social democracy across different continents and cultures; building more autonomous party organizations with stronger internal democracy and capacitating party members; promoting youth, women, and marginalized groups in politics and strengthening the coherence of democratic forces in authoritarian regimes.

SWAZI DEMOCRATIC PARTY, SWADEPA

SWADEPA was formed by former trade union leaders and civil society activists in 2011 and we started the partnership in 2012.

SWADEPA is struggling to promote democracy in the small Kingdom of Swaziland that is the last absolutist monarchy in Sub-Saharan Africa. Despite having a parliament, the government is only accountable to the King and political parties cannot participate in elections.

However, by filing individual candidates and succeeding in getting them elected,

SWADEPA is forming a progressive parliamentary caucus that is pushing for democratic change.

We are working with the SWADEPA leadership to establish a strong political party in a country where political parties were banned in 1973. The project focuses on capacitating SWADEPA politicians and future candidates politically, training organizational grass-roots, building a more inclusive party organization in a patriarchal society and forging alliances in the democracy movement domestically and internationally.





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