

## Our Demands

'Heidelberg Für Alle' (Heidelberg for Everyone) is an alliance of several institutions, organizations and associations committed to expressing clear demands to the new acting mayor of Heidelberg. Regardless of the election results, our collective demands constitute the needs and requirements necessary for a peaceful coexistence between the civil society and political leadership. They are the comprehensive, cooperative result and declaration regarding the current situation of and vision for the future of the city of Heidelberg.

*We have formulated demands for eight umbrella topics. Click on each demand for more details.*

## Antiracism

The violence and authorization of racism are deeply embedded within our institutions and daily lives. Therefore, the process of revision, reparation and recovery are encouraged and required on all levels. Heidelberg must become an open, just, and anti-racist city, where those affected by racism and discrimination can find shelter and participate within society.

Racism can be aimed at many different groups, such as Black, Asian, Muslim, Slavic and Indigenous people. Antisemitism is also seen as one area of racism. It always refers to the proportions of power, resources, participation, and involvement influenced by the historical heritage of this land up until today. Racism causes a disparity in opportunity, marginalization, and possibly even violence, death, and terrorism.

That's why we demand the **realization of *The 10 Point Action Plan*** by the Coalition of Cities against Racism, which the city of Heidelberg has already signed. As is written in point two, one goal is "to initiate, or further develop the collection of data on racism and discrimination, establish achievable objectives and set common indicators in order to assess the impact of municipal policies." We demand the realization of this point by means of a **questionnaire for all Heidelberg citizens and accompanying studies** showcasing real instances of discrimination and racism in Heidelberg.

Point three of the Action Plan stipulates the following: "To support victims and contribute to strengthening their capacity to defend themselves against racism and discrimination." We demand that this will be realized by establishing a **qualified psychological and psychosocial counseling center** that solely serves those affected by discrimination and racism. Heidelberg must guarantee a safe space for affected persons to be treated without the risk of experiencing further trauma. That's why we demand the establishment and facilitation of institutions offering psychological support to affected persons. In addition, we demand the **financial as well as public support** from the next mayor in regard to projects for and especially by BIPoC in Heidelberg (e.g. AntiRa Network, afro festival, remembrance and change).

Furthermore, we demand the commission of a **critical study about racism** in Heidelberg and its institutions. **Education and training** in anti-racism should be provided as well, e.g. for teachers. We also demand a **reporting office specialized in everyday racism**, as is common in job or apartment hunting, that may offer legal support, if necessary. Most importantly, affected persons have to be provided with all the necessary resources (such as financial and psychosocial help, legal advice, etc.).

## Energy

Strengthening of the trade: the energy revolution and energetic restorations require more people who know how to install building insulation, heat pumps and photovoltaic systems. We are currently experiencing an extreme shortage of skilled professionals. That's why we demand that the trades in and around Heidelberg be made more appealing, and that Heidelberg offer more support in attracting qualified specialists.

Learning and working in a **trade** must become more **appealing**. Achieving this requires a societal image change, the promotion of (re-)education, better work conditions and salaries for apprentices and workers. They need to become part of the conversation, and have their needs met. In consultation with the "Azubis for Future," the Apprentices for Future, and a worker's union, we demand the following:

1. **Local youth organizations** must be able to participate in **networking** events, such as the *Bündnis für Ausbildung und Arbeit in Heidelberg*. Apprentices who wish to participate must be exempted from work and school if necessary. Additionally, workers must have the right of co-decision within committees and their businesses. Whenever the next mayor meets with companies, apprentices must have the right to make themselves heard.
2. Heidelberg must advance new forms of labour in trade. The 6-day work week, as is common in field work, has become archaic. A **work-life-balance** is important for all employees. Heidelberg must **support** companies to successfully change their forms of work.
3. **Events**, such as the *Heidelberger Ausbildungstage*, a convention for apprentices in Heidelberg, need **more support**. Anyone interested must be offered the opportunity to inform themselves about working in a trade. The presence of trade companies needs to be facilitated and promoted more.

In addition to this, there must be a bigger **focus on sustainable resources and renewable raw materials during apprenticeship and in-service training**. To create a liveable future, heating engineers need to acquire knowledge on installing heat pumps and performing hydraulic balancing, to name just one example.

We demand larger-scale development of photovoltaics in Heidelberg

A 2012 analysis commissioned by Heidelberg showed that the power generation potential using photovoltaics (PV) in Heidelberg lies within at least 45% of the current power consumption. Open space PV plants also show great potential. However, only 3.5% of the power currently used in Heidelberg is generated through PV. Overall, only

14% are from renewable energy sources. This is not enough! That's why all buildings within the city must be equipped with PV-systems before 2028.

For all other buildings, the city of Heidelberg must develop an implementation plan outlining how – if possible all – the great potential of PV can be utilized until 2030. Its potential lies at a minimum of 400 MW. The municipal council has only decided on a goal of 25 MW so far, to be reached by 2025. The intention is to have Stadtwerke Heidelberg become involved in the development of open space PV plants in other parts of Germany. We need more ambitious objectives that will help us reach the full capability of PV on Heidelberg's roofs.

As part of the implementation plan, industrial, commercial, and private house owners must be contacted and asked to install PV systems on their roofs. Whenever an owner cannot or doesn't want to do this themselves, public utilities, the Energiegenossenschaft Heidelberg (cooperative society of energy, HEG for short), or others must then request to lease the roof surface for that purpose. Heidelberg University must also be requested to either install PV systems themselves or make their roofs available to the HEG or public utilities.

This will be financed using concepts similar to those of the HEG, meaning that citizens will have the opportunity to provide capital. Achieving this level of development will require an investment of over 350 million euros, which will be economical long-term, regardless of the increased factoring caused by climate change.

Additionally, the new mayor must advocate for reducing regulatory barriers, especially regarding the protection of historical buildings.

**We demand a fast development of wind power generation: Within the next two years, location and investors must be decided to prevent further delays in construction.**

There are not currently any wind turbines in Heidelberg, as the search for locations failed in 2016. This is unacceptable. The turbines being part of the view from Heidelberg castle is not a good enough reason to stall the energy revolution. We are very happy that the location search has once again commenced this year.

Whenever a new location is determined, the protection of local species must always be considered.

After a preferential site has been decided, construction must start as quickly as possible, which is why wind velocity should already be measured at any possible location (explanation: after a preferential site has been found, and before construction can actually begin, wind velocity must be measured for approx. one year. This determines what kind of wind turbine, if any, would be best suited to the location. This lengthy process can be hastened if started as early as possible).

Note: The HEG is willing to invest in wind energy if Heidelberg supports them, e.g. by offering affordable surface rent.

The district heating network must be adjusted to lower temperatures, allowing more renewable heat to be used. Heidelberg must facilitate changing the heating systems in all buildings (even those not attached to the district heating network) to low-temperature or floor heating. Heidelberg must advertise this for house owners.

We are very happy that Heidelberg is currently working on switching from the district heating network to renewable heat generation like deep-seated geothermal energy and river heat pumps. However, river (water) heat pumps are only economical and ecologically friendly if the temperature level isn't too high. Geothermal power plants also work better at lower temperatures. Currently, large parts of Heidelberg's district heating system are run at 110° to 130° during the winter, which is too warm for river heat pumps.

In order to use the great potential of river heat in Heidelberg, the high temperatures in large parts of the heating system need to be reduced to a maximum of 90°. The heating system must be adapted. To achieve this, contracts with clients within the district heating system must be changed. If necessary, pipes and pumps may also have to be adjusted.

Just as for river heat pumps within the district heating system, heating pumps heating individual houses work using the same principles. They are most effective when the heating water is kept at lower temperatures. Heidelberg should therefore advocate for and advertise the installing and usage of lower-temperature heating systems and floor heating.

## **Refuge and Shelter**

The Patrick-Henry-Village (PHV) must be updated according to modern standards of living and is also in need of improved infrastructure.

We demand that Heidelberg will begin modernizing the PHV buildings **now**. Refugees and others are in dire need of affordable living spaces.

During city planning, open **spots in kindergartens and schools for refugee children** must be allowed for. **Language and cultural classes** must be offered in community centers in each district, that are open to everyone interested. To help refugees be a part of everyday life in Heidelberg, **commute between their arrival hub and downtown needs to be improved**.

The newly elected mayor is required to realize the municipal council order of 2018 and offer shelter to refugees from the EU's outer borders. He or she must advocate for all refugees.

We demand that the new mayor make the realization of the 2018 municipal council order one of their priorities and start offering shelter to **refugees from the EU's outer borders**. Toward the regional council, they must advocate for **taking in more refugees**, explicitly **ALL** of them, no matter their origin country.

We demand that the new mayor advocate for **state-wide accommodation programs aimed at Yazidi and other people at the EU's outer borders seeking refuge**. While these programs have already been planned, they have yet to be realized.

We demand better living conditions for refugees in Heidelberg and the volunteers helping them. Offers aimed at refugees need to be better developed. The immigration authority needs to develop a margin of discretion that works in favor of all refugees.

We demand the public authorities gear themselves towards the needs of those seeking shelter. We demand **easy to understand authority communication** and the **funding of easy-access language classes** for all refugees. All **programs aimed at refugees**, like leisure activities, meeting centers, and cultural and educational programs, must be furthered financially. Heidelberg must open more **consultation offices** for refugees, which would also result in new job openings for social workers. Medical consultations and comprehensive healthcare must be available to all refugees. We demand that **proof of identity be possible via affidavit**. The immigration authorities' margin of discretion, e.g. in regards to employment bans, must be harnessed to benefit refugees. Instead of deportation, the „**Bleiberecht**,“ the right to stay, must be upheld, according to Residence Act §25 and §25b. We also demand a free, working **Wi-Fi connection** in all refugee shelters

We demand a new concept for the collaboration between authorities and active citizens. Most social work is done by volunteers. Heidelberg must create better conditions for them and **dismantle any bureaucratic barriers for volunteers**.

## **Open Spaces**

The city of Heidelberg must create consumption-free spaces

A rural society thrives when people come together, learn and spend time with each other, regardless of their financial status. This is impossible if only those able to afford visiting a café, bar or restaurant can move freely within social spaces.

That's why we demand the **facilitation and creation of non-profit, accessible open spaces** at central locations, which can be used during all seasons, offer gender-neutral sanitary facilities, and which are free of general suspicion and the oppressive presence of police officers or other security personnel. These open spaces will invite people to be who they are where they are. The autonomous management in collaboration with the citizens must be encouraged and realized. Initiatives, organizations and advocacy groups must be involved in the development, guaranteeing accessibility for all citizens. This would include those working with poverty, anti-discrimination, disability, environment, climate, and species conservation, as well as youth and diverse religious organizations.

## **International Responsibility Concerning the Climate Crisis**

Heidelberg must become a haven for those seeking refuge due to the effects of the climate crisis.

Even today, millions of people are being forced to relocate due to the effects of the man-made climate change. **Before 2050, this will have increased to more than 200 million people.** Usually, the countries and people most affected are the least responsible for the damage done to the planet. Despite this, **the climate crisis is not recognized as a reason to seek refuge.** We demand that Heidelberg will **provide shelter** and decent living conditions **to climate refugees** regardless. Those affected must be provided with the opportunity of open exchange, so they may **give voice to their experiences, their demands and needs and do so in their native language.**

We demand a relief fund to support MAPA in handling the climate change.

MAPA, short for the Most Affected People and Areas, must be supported as they are dealing with the consequences of climate change. As a wealthy city in a country whose contribution to climate change is way above average, Heidelberg bears an international responsibility. That's why we demand **a relief and adaptation fund** used to **support towns and villages in MAPA areas during and after climate-induced disasters.** This could be financed by raising parking fees within the city, raising taxes on underused living spaces, and by transferring marketing funds. Additionally, Heidelberg must **try to establish collaborations with other cities,** which will help in securing higher funds.

We demand more support in the local fight against the climate crisis.

**MAPA representatives and other activists** in Heidelberg need more visibility. We demand that free or inexpensive **spaces be made available to them.** A **fixed budget** will additionally support activist persons and groups in furthering their cause. This budget must be accessible without big bureaucratic obstacles. **Local companies** must be supported to remain **independent from global, neo-colonial, and exploitative systems.**

## **LGBTQIA+ and Feminism**

Heidelberg must become a city free of sexism and hostility toward queerness.

We demand **educational work** provided by the city of Heidelberg to further the citizens' understanding of **queer and feminist topics.** Heidelberg must be a safe space **free of any form of discrimination** based on gender, gender identity, and sexuality. Queer persons and groups must be provided a safe environment. These spaces, which will be used to aid networking in queer communities, must be **queer and self-administered.** Projects like the Queer Youth must be carried forward and empowered.

**Women** also need more **safe spaces, such as women's shelters**, which must also be open to transwomen. Existing capacities and resources must be increased.

Aside from this list of demands, put together by the alliance "Heidelberg für Alle", the open alliance "The Bubble" has compiled their own demands for the new mayor of Heidelberg. While we support them, they are not part of this petition. You can find them [here](#).

## **Homelessness and Shelter-lessness**

We demand an effective fight against forced homelessness and shelter-lessness as well as the destigmatization of unhoused people. Existing building structures, which can easily be assessed as hostile, must be dismantled and should not be rebuilt.

**Forced homelessness and shelter-lessness must be combated when they arise.** This means that rent should not rise to such an extent that people can no longer find housing (see demands on Living and Living Space).

Public space in Heidelberg is hostile to homeless people, and many security policy practices are not suitable for combating homelessness and shelter-lessness, but rather reinforce stigma through the harassment that this group of people experiences. We demand an **end to anti-homeless architecture**, e.g. the abolition of space dividers, which prevent people from lying and sleeping in public places, coverings/fencing that make niches inaccessible, grilles that close access to warming ventilation shafts, and general lack of space to sit or lie down, e.g. at the busstop. This is also in the interest of accessible and barrier-free spaces for people with disabilities, the elderly and all other people. Furthermore, we demand the **promotion of alternative intervention, support and advisory services** that are conducted outside security policy tasks of the police and instead **support and center people who are most impacted with whatever they need**. This includes an **end to inappropriate expulsion** of unhoused people from the cityscape.

## **Social Justice**

We demand a clear strategy which should reduce poverty and risk of poverty in Heidelberg over the next eight years by a defined target of 30%. In the process of creating the urban development concept (STEK), Objective 1 of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals), "No Poverty," should be strongly taken into account in a sustainable manner.

The poverty rate in Heidelberg, as detailed in the 2018 social situation report, is "only" 7.6%. However, this is still too much for a rich city like Heidelberg, and it doesn't take people at risk of poverty into account. Due to the extreme lack of affordable housing, poor people often leave Heidelberg or are expelled beyond the city limits. This is not acceptable. **Poverty should be effectively combated through employment programs, cheap housing, stable social networks in the districts, sufficient childcare, and other methods.**

Inclusion must be promoted on all levels.

Inclusion as a guiding principle of an urban society goes far beyond physical accessibility for people with disabilities. It means **abolishing all barriers and exclusions from social participation for everyone**. As a first step, public space must become as barrier-free as possible. Modern **buildings** must be **barrier-free**, and **all major renovations** should take this into account. This is in line with the current law, however, accessibility is still not widely implemented. All **digital offers** over which the city has an influence must also be **barrier-free**.

**Inclusion** as a focus must also be a natural part of the **educational landscape** (in kindergartens and schools; not only Pustebelme). **Cultural opportunities** should also be **accessible** and designed inclusively, as well as sports facilities and opportunities.

When recruiting **people with disabilities**, it must be mandatory that the city administration and all urban institutions **meet the employment regulations** (at the bare minimum).

## **Participation and Language**

The city must consistently offer translations in multiple languages and easily-understandable wording for Heidelberg's digital and analog materials, and must make this readily available in order to break down barriers to basic services and participation in society.

Heidelberg's official channels of communication, in particular **its own website**, must be offered **in other languages** that represent the diverse cityscape. In addition, they should also be accessible in "**Leichte Sprache**" (according to the rules of the network of easy language: Netzwerks leichter Sprache). The multilingualism of urban society must be reflected in its institutions.

The city must enable opportunities for participation through the use of interpreters in order to allow all Heidelberg residents to take part in events and services.

Open meetings with the general public such as **conferences, announcements, hearings, etc.**, which invite political participation, must allow **all people equal access**. Formal language, as well as the formatting of language, can exclude people in a wide variety of ways. With the help of **interpreters (sound language and DGS (German sign language))** on site, communities can have their voices heard, and the reality of urban society can be reflected in these participatory processes.

We also call for the evaluation and adaptation of given practices and tenders in order to counteract direct and indirect discrimination through language.

**All municipal job advertisements**, including those that lead to public or private contracts or collaborations, must be examined and adapted to determine whether they construe indirect discrimination through language. When possible, this **discrimination should be prevented**. This discrimination might be the qualification "Mother tongue: German," or that tasks and responsibilities require a certain level of German language skills, even though German is not actually important for the fulfillment of obligations.

## Traffic

The city should establish equal space and access for various modes of transport. New sealing should be avoided as much as possible. \*

Heidelberg is currently a city built primarily for car traffic. While car traffic has several lanes and/or additional parking spaces on the side of the road in many places, there is often an absence of bike paths (or the paths end abruptly). The bicycle path towards Ziegelhausen/Schlierbach, for example, is particularly dangerous.

Therefore, **areas must be reallocated in accordance with** the environmental network, which deprioritizes car traffic. Where this is not possible, it should be examined whether the reassignment of previously unused areas is feasible or whether the **interaction of means of transport can be optimized in other ways**. Where appropriate, the distribution between public transport and non-motorized traffic should be changed. In addition, **parking spaces for cars** should be **reduced**, and **bicycle parking spaces should be added**. **Parking fees for cars** should be increased to the **real costs**.

Public transport must be free of charge or at least cost-effective, and should connect all districts well at all times. \*

In order for all citizens to be able to switch from cars to **public transport**, it must be **reliable and cost-effective (ideally free of charge)**. It also must **connect all districts**. The **mountain districts of Boxberg and Emmertsgrund** must not be forgotten! Express lines can be a possibility here. Realistic route timing should be examined on a case-by-case basis, a possible guideline is a 10-minute cycle during the day (or at least hourly), with a half-hourly cycle at night. This is necessary for inclusive mobility because many people can't afford cars or aren't able to obtain a driver's license (due to health reasons, visa status, or being a minor). We therefore welcome the fact that tickets are currently subsidized for young people and senior citizens. However, this is not enough: climate-damaging greenhouse gases will only be sufficiently reduced if all people switch to climate-friendly mobility. Therefore, subscriptions and tickets should be cost-effective for all people. However, the price reduction can be less for people with more money than for groups who need it.

We demand the establishment of a car-free zone in Altstadt. Car-free quarters should also be implemented in Bergheim, Weststadt and other districts. \*

Heidelberg should have a high living quality for its residents. Car-free quarters have been proven to contribute to a higher quality of life. That's why we demand that the city of Heidelberg set up more **car-free areas** and enlarge existing ones.

For Altstadt, this means examining whether the driving exceptions can be further reduced. It also means looking into the expansion of existing car-free areas and/or creating new ones. In Bergheim and Weststadt and in **other districts where possible, more car-free areas are absolutely necessary**. Here too, exceptions must be reduced to a minimum. A starting point for the selection of areas can be existing low-traffic zones. The number of roads in which inevitable exceptions are allowed must be kept as low as possible. It should be noted that **people** who are dependent on a car for social participation due to a **disability or illness** must **be included**.

### **Scientific Verifiability of Climate Protection Measures**

The measures taken by the city should be checked for their effectiveness at regular intervals and, if necessary, improved. \*

In order to reduce Heidelberg's contribution to fueling the climate crisis as much as possible, it is important to **regularly check (at least annually) whether the measures taken effectively reduce CO2 emissions**. However, this must also take into account the global effects. The **goal** should be **climate neutrality by 2030**, i.e. a 100% reduction by 2030. It is unacceptable if future measures fail (as the climate protection action plan did)! (Clarification: The climate protection action plan should reduce Heidelberg's emissions. Unfortunately, the measures of the climate protection action plan can only reduce Heidelberg's emissions by about 14%, and these measures have not even been fully implemented. That is why the climate protection action plan has failed in our eyes.)

### **Living**

Housing must be affordable for everyone. Therefore, vacancy must be combated and property removed from the speculative market. Housing should be increasingly self-managed.

Living should not be a luxury! While landlords profit from high rents, many people have to give up their rental apartment, live together in a confined space, move to distant districts, or, in the worst case, live on the street. **Housing is a fundamental right, which is why we demand that no more profits must be made from housing**. We demand an **effective fight against vacancy**, for example, through a tax on underused housing that exceeds a limit of 50sqm per person. **Property** must be taken from the speculative market and **transferred to municipal property**. More **self-managed housing** is needed, for example, in the form of cooperatives, tenement house syndicates, or grassroot democratic AöR (public law institution), while profit-oriented real estate companies should be largely socialized.

We demand that every year, a new 4% of all houses are renovated to be energy-efficient. The renovation should not increase electrical bills: if necessary, the difference should be compensated by the city. \*

According to information on [the city of Heidelberg's website](#), around 1% of all houses are currently renovated annually. That's not enough! That is why we demand that the **renovation rate** be increased to **at least 4%** in order to effectively reduce the energy output of public buildings, industry, and private households.

Due to the energy renovation, the additional costs are reduced by saving energy, but the base rent is still often greatly increased. In order for life in an energetically renovated apartment to be financially possible for all people, electricity bills should **preferably not increase after the energy renovation**. For people who have little money available, the **city must compensate for the difference by funding it**. Especially in light of the extremely high energy and heating costs, the promotion of energy renovation must also be prioritized from a social point of view.

Renovating/preserving existing buildings before building new ones creates socially friendly, sufficient, flexible, public interest-oriented, and barrier-free housing. \*

In order to meet the need for socially just, affordable housing, questions about sufficiency must be asked. Such questions include how much living space a person needs, how flexible the living space is (e.g. the possibility of changing size of living space after big life changes (e.g. children moving out)), and how accessible the space is. Housing projects geared towards the common good, multi-generation houses, and rental syndicates should be strongly promoted, since there are many positive examples of people in such housing projects already living sufficiently. Cooperation with such housing projects and cooperatives is also important and must be strengthened.

Existing buildings must be used for the creation of new housing whenever possible. New living space can be created by renovating, using previously empty buildings, reallocating buildings, and increasing existing buildings. To this end, the city must provide advice and receive input. The construction of a building already accounts for a significant proportion of the emissions and resource consumption that are attributed to the building sector. Only some of the emissions are emitted during the period of using the building. Therefore, renovation must be prioritized on already sealed areas and new construction must be avoided.

If new buildings must be built, already sealed areas should be used for this. If it is necessary to build on previously unsealed surfaces, correspondingly large sealed surfaces should be renatured as compensation.

For additions and new buildings, sustainable building materials such as wood, straw and clay must preferably be used. In addition, when planning new buildings, concepts for effective living and building with multiple functions must be implemented. Since education and information for the population are crucial for this, a city advice center for more efficient use of living space in new buildings must be set up.

In addition, we demand a balanced use of the district so that mixed neighborhoods are created instead of separate residential, leisure and shopping districts. This includes preventing spatial exclusion of socially and financially disadvantaged people through affordable housing. Therefore, urban areas must not be sold as profitably as possible, but according to the best concept for balanced district use, social and climate-friendly living, and construction.

\*This demand was made at the [Climate Assembly](#) on the 23rd of September.

Transparency note: on Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, in the topic "Participation and Language," the words "German Sign Language" were added as an explanation of the abbreviation "DGS."