

Liberal
#PortugalMaisLiberal

PORTUGAL LIBERAL MANIFESTO

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The time has come for Portugal to learn from the past, to understand the challenges of the present and, above all, to evolve so as to strengthen the hope in our collective future.

#PORTUGALMAISLIBERAL

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In a time when threats and opportunities, both at a local and global level, have increased, we the Portuguese people, assembled through new digital platforms of communication and collaboration, declare our conviction in the need to strengthen liberal principles and values for the progress of our society, and we affirm our trust in the following declaration:

CHAPTER I

1. Man is first and foremost a being endowed with the ability of independent thought and action, with freedom of choice and with the ability to distinguish right from wrong, influencing Society and taking responsibility for his actions.
2. Respect for the human person and for the family, regardless of its form, is the true basis of society.
3. The State is recognised as an instrument of society's collective development process; where the State is above the Citizen; but where Man is also above the State.
4. The State is solely the instrument of Society which it serves and should assume no power in conflicts with the fundamental rights of Citizens and with the essential conditions for a responsible and creative life, namely:
 - a) Personal freedom, guaranteed by law and by the independence of the administration of justice;
 - b) Freedom of worship and liberty of conscience;
 - c) Freedom of speech and access to information;
 - d) Freedom to exercise citizenship, to associate and not to associate;
 - e) Freedom to choose one's occupation or profession;



- f) Freedom to obtain, throughout life, a full and varied education, in accordance with one's ability and regardless of social origin or economic means;
- g) The right to private ownership of property, tangible or intangible, and the right of free initiative;
- h) Freedom of consumption and the opportunity to reap the benefits of the productivity of the labour and the industry of man, insofar as these activities do not threaten the sustainability of Society;
- i) Security from the effects of sickness, unemployment, disability, and old age;
- j) Equality of rights and responsibilities between Citizens, regardless of ancestry, gender, race, origin, religion, political or ideological convictions, education, economic means, social condition, or sexual orientation.

5. The State should be limited in its capacity of indebtedness and of appropriation of resources belonging to individuals or Organisations, namely through the use of fees and taxes.

6. These rights and conditions can only be secured by a true democracy. A true democracy is inseparable from political liberty and is based on the following fundamental premises:

- a) Defence of the rule of law against all internal or external forms of suppression of democracy;
- b) Separation of legislative, executive and judicial powers;
- c) Limitation of Government powers over Citizens, and its subjection to the rules of transparency;
- d) Conscious, free and informed consent by the majority, expressed through the civic exercise of free and secret suffrage;
- e) Guaranteed representation of the interests of Citizens, be they geographic or of another form;
- f) Respect for the freedoms and opinions of the minorities;
- g) Guaranteed access to instruments of evaluation, interpellation and monitoring of their representatives.



CHAPTER II

1. The suppression of economic freedom leads to the inevitable disappearance of political and social freedom. We oppose such suppression, whether brought about by State ownership of property or restrictive competition practices. We admit State ownership only for those undertakings which are beyond the scope of private enterprise or in which competition no longer plays its role.
2. The welfare of individuals in society must prevail and must be safeguarded from the abuse of power by all interest groups, be they public or private, political, economic or of any other nature.
3. A continuous improvement of the conditions and environment of employment is essential. The rights, duties and interests of professionals and companies are complimentary, such that their collaboration is vital for the success of the economy.
4. Innovation is an essential element of social and economic development, noting that Information and Technology are fundamental resources for the creation of wealth in Societies, be it by satisfying their necessities, by reducing risks or by the optimisation of resources.



CHAPTER III

1. The full exercise of one's citizenship is the necessary compliment of freedom and every right involves a corresponding duty. If institutions are to be effective, every citizen must have a sense of responsibility towards his fellow men and actively participate in the resolution of common problems.
2. The social responsibility of companies, associations and non-profit organisations must be valued.
3. It is the duty of the State, through different mechanisms, to promote and encourage civic education and the social and environmental responsibility of Citizens, with the objective of making society sustainable.



CHAPTER IV

Peace and prosperity in Portugal can only be assured if an increasingly number of Citizens recognise and defend the following conditions:

- a) Respect for the right of all to enjoy the fundamental human liberties;
- b) Respect for the right of other nations to their language, faith, laws and traditions;
- c) The free exchange of ideas, information, goods and services between nations;
- d) Free movement in Portugal and between all countries, especially in the European area, without censorship or protectionism, be it of a customs or commercial nature;
- e) The development of the more disadvantaged regions, with the intervention and collaboration of its Citizens, being that it is both in their own interest and in the interest of the world as a whole;
- f) Active and responsible collaboration between nations in the framework of regional and international organisations, in order to resolve international challenges and problems;
- g) Active defence of Nature and its preservation for future generations;
- h) Institutional integrity, be they public or private, and the fight against corruption in all its forms;
- i) The use of public resources for the satisfaction of present needs cannot compromise the satisfaction of the needs and freedoms of future generations;
- j) Capacity to collaborate and the creation of synergies with their European, Lusophone and Atlantic partners.

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We call upon all
Citizens who are in
general agreement with
these ideas and
principles to join us in
an endeavour to win
their acceptance in
Portugal.

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LIBERAL**

WWW.LIBERAL.PT

INFO@LIBERAL.PT

