

ANNEX to the civic integration contract

Welcome to Flanders and thank you for joining the civic integration programme.

In Flanders you are welcome regardless of your cultural background or history. We do expect you to respect certain rights, obligations, freedoms, and values that are relevant to living together in peace, safety, and prosperity.

It is therefore important that you want to get acquainted with these rights, obligations, freedoms, and values during the civic integration process and that you are willing to uphold them at all times.

During the civic integration process, we will explain:

- what the essential rights and obligations entail.
- why they are important in Flanders.
- what they mean in everyday life.
- which steps you can take if your rights or other people's rights are being violated.

Statement

I am willing to learn about the rights, obligations, freedoms and values in Flanders and I will respect them. I will comply with the legislation of the Flemish Community, the Flemish Region, and this country.

Essential rights and obligations in Flemish society you must respect:

- Belgian and Flemish legislation and this country's democratic principles.
- human rights, as described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.
- every person's liberty and personal integrity. Everyone is entitled to the fundamental freedoms embedded in the Belgian Constitution. This applies in particular to:
 - **freedom of opinion and freedom of expression.** Everyone is free to form their own opinion and to freely share their beliefs, spoken or written. Incitement to hatred or violence is a criminal offense and gives rise to conviction by the court.
 - **freedom of assembly and of association.** Everyone is free to join an assembly or association, but no one shall be forced to join an assembly or association.
 - **freedom of religion.** Everyone is free to choose which religion or ideology they adhere to. They may also choose not to adhere to any religion or ideology. Everyone has the right to change religion or ideology or to renounce their religion.
 - **freedom of perception regardless of sexual orientation.** A relationship between two men or two women is equivalent to a relationship between a woman and a man. Two women or two men can marry each other and raise children together.
 - **freedom of education.** Education providers are free to organise education and to shape it in terms of content. Parents, pupils, and students are free to choose education in conformity with their own convictions. Everyone also has a right to education, with respect for fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Men and women have equal rights and obligations. Together they contribute to society.
 - Men and women have equal rights to education and work.
 - They are free to participate in the democratic process, including elections.

- Both men and women pay taxes.
 - Every adult is free to choose, without coercion from parents or relatives, a profession, a place of residence or a partner.
 - In Flanders, both parents are responsible for the maintenance of their children and ensure that they receive the best possible tuition and education, so they become active citizens. All boys and girls have equal opportunities.
 - Boys and girls should not be forced into marriage.
- It is an offense to commit violence against one's husband or wife, children, or other people. Threatening with violence is also punishable in Flanders.
 - Flanders strongly condemns any act of terrorism.
 - Any witness to an attempted crime that endangers other people's lives or seeks to undermine the very foundations of society will do everything possible to prevent that crime and to notify the police.
 - Integration into society is important and is a condition for continuing to benefit from the right to residence in this country as provided for in Article 1/2, §3 of the Aliens Act.
 - Knowledge of the Dutch language offers opportunities and is essential for active participation in society. Therefore, it is important to make an effort to learn Dutch.
 - Citizens and families are deemed to be responsible for their livelihood. As a society, we take care of those who are (temporarily) unable to provide for their livelihood, we expect everyone to contribute to this social protection of vulnerable citizens.