

## Uffe Elbæk

Uffe Elbæk is a Danish social worker, author, entrepreneur, politician and leader of the political party *The Alternative*. From October 2011 to December 2012 he served as the Danish Minister of Culture.

At the outset of his professional career Elbæk worked as a journalist and columnist for various Danish newspapers. In 1982 he founded an open platform for cultural and social entrepreneurship *Frontløberne (The Frontrunners)*, leading it till 1991. In 1991 Elbæk established *The KaosPilots (Chaos Pilots)* - an alternative business school located in Aarhus, Denmark. With its programmes mainly focusing on such areas as leadership, business design, process and project design, Elbæk worked as the business school's Principal till 2006. *The KaosPilots* inspired creation of other international schools in Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands. In 2001 Elbæk received a Danish order of chivalry - Order of the Dannebrog.

From 2007 to 2009 Elbæk was the Director of World Outgames – a sporting and cultural event organised by the LGBT community. In 2010 he founded a consulting company *Change the Game*, focusing mainly on leadership training skills, social innovation and political campaigning.

Elbæk entered the political scene in 2011, winning a seat in Folketinget (the Danish Parliament) general election as a member of *Radikale Venstre* (Danish Social Liberal Party). He was appointed Minister of Culture in the newly formed Danish government. Elbæk resigned from the position in December 2012, continuing his work as a parliamentarian. In September 2013 he left the Social Liberal Party.

In November 2013 creation of a new Green Party *The Alternative* was officially announced, with Elbæk and Josephine Fock - two former members of the Social Liberal Party - as its co-founders. The party has enjoyed growing support in Danish society, gathering 4.8% of the votes and achieving 9 seats in the Parliament in the 2015 general election.

*The Alternative* presents an extraordinary agenda created by more than 700 citizens via so called “political laboratories”. It made history as the first party having 100% crowd-sourced political programme. With courage, generosity, transparency, humility, humour and empathy presented as its main values, *The Alternative* aims to create a new political culture of openness, honesty and citizen engagement. **Combating climate change** and the **rising inequality** serve as the main objectives whilst looking for alternative practices to ensure genuine sustainability. *The Alternative* seeks a sustainable transition environmentally, socially and economically.

Following Elbæk's example, on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 a new political platform *The Alternative UK* was launched in the United Kingdom. However, it does not yet position itself as a political party. Sister initiatives also exist in Norway, Sweden and Nepal.

**For further information see:**

- *The Alternative* website: <https://alternativet.dk/en>
- Party Programme: <https://alternativet.dk/en/politics/party-programme>
- RSA Journal. *A friendly revolution* by Uffe Elbæk: <https://medium.com/rsa-journal/>
- Reimagining politics: an interview with Uffe Elbaek: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mAxkcCjyrlQ>
- The Alternative UK: <https://www.thealternative.org.uk/>