

## Marianne Louise Thieme

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

May 5, 2019



Marianne Louise Thieme holds a Master of Laws (LLM) and is a member of the Dutch parliament, publicist and activist.

Thieme is party leader of Party for the Animals in the Dutch Parliament. The Party has five seats in this house of representatives. The Party for the Animals is the first elected political party in the world that does not focus on the short-term interests of Western people but on the importance of the whole planet and *all* its inhabitants. Thieme studied law at Erasmus University in Rotterdam. Even before she was a student, she felt enormously involved in the fate of animals in our society.

After her graduation, in her spare time, Thieme worked as a volunteer for the Dutch Animal Protection organization. After that, she decided to make her profession protecting animals and in 2001 became a policy officer at “Bont voor Dieren” (Fur For Animals). This organization is committed to protecting animals and banning the use of fur. In 2004 she became director of “Wakker Dier,” the foundation that fights for the abolition of industrial farming.

In the meantime, at the end of 2002, Thieme had founded Party for the Animals together with four others in protest against the fact that animal rights and animal welfare are only a side issue for the existing (green) political parties. With Party for the Animals in Parliament, she wanted to be a pacer in the marathon, which would make the other parties “run faster,” work harder, for the protection of animals, nature and the environment. In November 2006 she was elected to the Lower House with colleague Esther Ouwehand. The Party for the Animals is supported by numerous international opinion leaders, scientists, writers, entrepreneurs and actors: John M. Coetzee, Redmond O’Hanlon, Tom Regan, Will Kymlicka and Sir Paul McCartney.

In March 2017 Thieme led another successful election campaign: the party won five seats in the Dutch Parliament, making the party even more influential. The party has a total of 80 seats in regional parliaments, city councils, the Senate, the House of Representatives and the European parliament. The Party for the Animals has a sister party in 19 different countries.

Thieme has written five books about the planet wide vision of the party for the Animals and has made price winning documentaries like “Meat the Truth,” a film about the meat industry and its impact on climate change. The most recent documentary is “Powerplant,” which gives a vision of the future of a plant-based diet worldwide. She has a biweekly world blog in 12 languages on the international website of the party.

Thieme has two daughters and lives with her husband, Ewald Engelen, in Maarssen, the Netherlands. She became interested in the Seventh-day Adventist Church because of its focus on vegetarianism and care for our planet as a way of good stewardship. She was baptized in 2006.

For her lifelong commitment to stewardship, integrity and the development of the law, Andrews University takes great pleasure in honoring Marianne Louise Thieme with the degree Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.