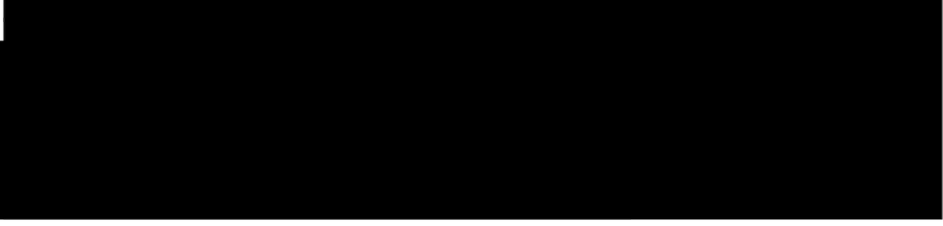


Glasgow Green Party <glasgow@scottishgreens.org.uk>

15/7/2024 23:07

RE: Glasgow Pride Sponsors - Glasgow Green Party

To info@glasgowpride.org



Good evening

Thank you for your reply. It is encouraging to see that your sponsors and partners are now listed on your website, as they weren't at the time of our email. I am sure you would agree that public scrutiny is vital to the good operation of any community group.

I am sorry that you appear to have taken our enquiry as a statement, accusation, or notification of intent to protest. If you refer back to our original email it is clear we are asking a question and simply state that it is to help inform our decision as to whether to endorse/actively encourage our members to attend your event – nothing more.

Please also rest assured that our email was sent under the authority of the duly elected committee of the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Green Party, which is a democratic and member-led organisation. While we take no issue with you CC'ing various other representatives of the Scottish Greens, please note that we have the contact details for our colleagues and would have CC'd them in our original email if it were necessary.

As you note pride represents solidarity. We believe central to solidarity is an intersectional approach across the whole of the global LGBTQ+ community and that is why we think it is important not just to stand in solidarity with Queer Palestinian people against unjust and discriminatory laws but also the more immediate threat of their mass murder at the hands of a state in contravention of international law – solidarity they themselves have called for our community to show globally.

Your accusation that in our enquiry we are 'pinkwashing for other causes which as stated above supports a nation where the LBTQIA+ community is criminalised' not only fundamentally subverts the meaning of the phrase pinkwashing so as to punch down against the less powerful but engages in a deeply offensive trope which holds the Palestinian people, including their LGBTQ+ community, to answer for discriminatory laws imposed on them by a government they last had an opportunity to vote for 18 years ago, and implies that genocide is an acceptable punishment for this. This is a racist double standard which is applied to no other people in the world.

We also think it is essential to fight the existential threat of the climate emergency which will negatively impact the poorest and most marginalised communities globally first, including LGBTQ+ people. That your committee sees these issues as separate from the fight for LGBTQ+ equality rather than interconnected is disturbing.

It is encouraging to hear from you that you have had positive results from engaging with corporations towards fighting discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, however we're sure you are aware that the in the history of the LGBTQ+ civil rights movement its successes have not been gifted to us by capitalist organisations but won through protest, at the ballot box, and through union organising in the workplace.

Indeed the Stonewall Riots, widely recognised as the first Pride, were a reaction against the historic and ongoing discrimination and abuse Queer people have faced at the hands of the police. It was due to that history that we were surprised at your willingness to invoke the threat of police action so readily against an organisation with a significant LGBTQ+ membership asking a simple question of scrutiny.

We hope that Police Scotland do not take a punitive approach to having their time wasted by Glasgow's Pride Limited.

Thank you for your time.

We are hopeful that your future interactions with ourselves or any group in the wider community takes a less confrontational and adversarial approach.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

Ordinary member, Glasgow branch
Scottish Green Party

On 11/07/2024 22:30 BST info@glasgowpride.org wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for bringing this to the attention of our committee however what you appear to be stating is deeply concerning. You will be able to see that our sponsors and partners are listed on our website showing who we are engaging with for Glasgow's Pride 2024.

As you will be aware, Pride is a celebration of the inclusion, rather than exclusion, of people coming together in love and friendship, to show how far LGBTQ+ rights have come, and to stand with those in the 65 nations and territories where our community can be jailed or even sentenced to death and killed for being who they are, <https://www.humandignitytrust.org/lgbt-the-law/map-of-criminalisation/>. These nations and territories currently include 31 in Africa, 22 in Asia which includes in Palestine where a member of our community can be imprisoned for 9 years, 11 in the Caribbean, Americas and Pacific, and in Russia. Pride represents solidarity, collectivity, and identity as well as resistance to discrimination and violence specifically for the LGBTQIA+ community.

Our sponsors and partners are committed to supporting the LGBTQIA+ community as a workforce and as a strong part of society. We ensure this through strong engagement with the organisations through reviewing policies and confirming that they do not discriminate against our community. These organisations have clearly shown that they are not only inclusive of our community but are supportive of working towards a greener net zero world however they do face today's societal norms in being to work against to achieve this.

Glasgow's Pride does not condone any form of pink or rainbow washing which by definition is a critical term used to refer to the practice of attempting to benefit from purported support for LGBTQ+ rights, often as a way to profit by brands who do not directly support our community or to pull attention to a separate agenda such as Just Stop Oil attempted during Pride in London, or as you are stating with the conflict in Gaza.

Glasgow's Pride stands with the European Convention on Human Rights as this is what has provided our community with the freedoms which we can enjoy here in Scotland. We also do not condone any form of war or contravention of the ECHR be this the Palestine-Israel conflict which began in 1948, the current ongoing wars involving Russia, Ukraine and Chechnya, or any form of harassment or violence to our community which can be seen in Scotland by the increase in hate crime reporting.

Glasgow's Pride is here to stand against the hate faced by our community in a safe and appropriate manner. Any attempted to hijack or disrupt the events will be seen as being against the LGBTQIA+ community and attempted pinkwashing by distracting attention away from the challenges face by our community. We will work with authorities to ensure that the event is carried out safely for attendees and ensure appropriate action is taken where required by the appropriate bodies.

I have copied in the Councillor and your party's co-leaders, and other representation, all of whom have already been invited to the march and Mr Harvie has provided their apologies for the event, to ensure this an accurate position of the Scottish Green Party with such threats of pinkwashing for other causes which as stated above supports a nation where the LGBTQIA+ community is criminalised, and will pass this email to our media team, Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council for their awareness.

Should anyone from the senior leadership of the Scottish Greens wish to discuss what has been raised, we at Glasgow's Pride would be happy to however the timing of a discussion prior to the event cannot be guaranteed.

Kindest regards

The Glasgow's Pride Team
Glasgow's Pride Limited

www.GlasgowsPride.org

Remember to register and join us on Saturday 20th July.
Check our website and social for up to date details.

-----Original Message-----

From: Glasgow Green Party <glasgow@scottishgreens.org.uk>

Sent: Thursday, July 11, 2024 3:20 PM

To: info@glasgowspride.org; marchreg@mardigla.org

[REDACTED]
Subject: Glasgow Pride Sponsors - Glasgow Green Party
Hello

I am contacting you on behalf of the Glasgow branch of the Scottish Green party. A number of our members are interested in taking part in your pride celebrations this year.

However, we have concerns in ensuring that any event we encourage members to attend aligns with our party's ethics - we particularly want to avoid endorsing any event which could be engaged in the 'pinkwashing' of companies tied to the ongoing genocide in Gaza or those which are accelerating the climate crisis (Fossil Fuel companies). Could you please provide a complete list of your corporate sponsors for Glasgow pride? If you are not able to do this could you please provide your reasons as to why not?

I have CC'd [REDACTED] a Green elected councillor for [REDACTED] and therefore has an interest in this matter.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]
Ordinary member, Glasgow branch
Scottish Green Party