The Scottish Greens believe in a progressive and inclusive Scotland where the LGBT+

community and intersex people can live and thrive freely. We believe in the right of all

people to live without harassment, discrimination or persecution and in the full provision

of services regardless of where a person lives in Scotland.

The Scottish Greens were the first party in the Scottish Parliament to support equal

marriage. Over a decade before this was achieved in 2014, Scottish Greens’ Co-Leader,

Patrick Harvie, pushed for civil partnerships to become law. The Scottish Greens

have also consistently pushed for the protection of the LGBT+ community and intersex

people through hate crime legislation and advocating for a more equal society.

We recognise that trans women are women, trans men are men, and that non-binary

identities are valid. We see no conflict between this statement of fact and the rights of

others. The Scottish Greens will always promote intersectionality and inclusive eco-

feminism through working with those of us in the Rainbow Greens and with other

representative groups such as the Scottish Greens’ Women’s Network, Disabled Greens,

Greens of Colour and the Scottish Young Greens as well as with external partners and

organisations. The Scottish Greens have always stood for the rights of the LGBT+

community and intersex people and we will continue to do so.

There are huge challenges to overcome in Scotland, and the UK, as a rising tide of anti-

LGBT+ bigotry infects our political and media discourse. We have already seen a dilution

of promised LGBT+ policy reform and witnessed the continued assault on the rights of

our LGBT+ and intersex siblings in other nations across the planet. With both the powers

of devolution and independence, we stand ready to push back.

The fight for LGBT+ equality in Scotland begins with:

* Ending discrimination and tackling hate crime against LGBT+ and intersex people.
* Removing health and social care inequalities by dismantling barriers to such care

 for LGBT+ and intersex people.

* Providing education in schools that actively combats prejudice or bullying of

 LGBT+ and intersex people.

* Ensuring the gender and sexual orientation of all people is recognised and

 protected in law.

Scottish Green MSPs will work for a Scotland that can tackle these challenges by proudly advocating for new policies for LGBT+ and intersex inclusion, fighting discrimination, harassment and hate crimes affecting LGBT+ and intersex people and enforcing existing duties.

**Health & Wellbeing**

We recognise the unique challenges faced by the LGBT+ community and intersex people

in securing appropriate health and social care in Scotland. The Scottish Greens will seek

to remove barriers that impact on the wellbeing of LGBT+ and intersex people when

securing these services. We aim to:

* Ensure that health and social care services for LGBT+ and intersex people are

 available across Scotland, with emphasis on improving access to services for

 those living in rural communities and outside of Scotland’s largest urban areas.

* Enhance mental health provision across all sectors for LGBT+ and intersex people

 by recognising the increased risk of mental health problems amongst LGBT+

 people, including depression, self-harm and suicide due to marginalisation within

 various societal settings.

* Promote an informed consent model of trans healthcare to replace the current

 gatekeeping model experienced by trans people. This will bring trans healthcare

 into line with other services. Until the informed consent model is rolled out across

all areas of trans healthcare, we will continue to push for access to Gender

Identity Clinics within 18 weeks, in line with NHS standards for other services.

* Push for a ban on unethical and unnecessary interventions that seek to alter a

person’s sex characteristics or to change the sexual orientation or gender identity

of LGBT+ people without their consent. This includes medically unnecessary

surgery on intersex minors and so-called “conversion therapy” at both the

Scottish and UK levels.

* Ensure that fertility services and guidance are fully accessible to LGBT+ and

intersex people through funding, training and any necessary legal changes.

* Ensure that elderly care and end of life care meet the needs of LGBT+ and

intersex people for safe spaces and support services across Scotland.

* Push for a fully equal blood donations and vaccinations policy that doesn’t

discriminate against LGBT+ people based on their relationship status or gender.

* Widen the provision of Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and Post-Exposure

Prophylaxis (PEP) medication to allow anyone who wishes to, and can safely take

the drug, to be able to access this medication.

**Sport**

Sport and sporting events offer many benefits to people, including promotion of health

and wellbeing and development of social networks. LGBT+ and intersex people can still

face discrimination including transphobia, homophobia, biphobia and other forms of

discrimination within sporting communities. We aim to:

* Provide inclusive physical education by working with local authorities to ensure

schools provide classes and sports kit that are appropriate for a pupil’s and child’s

gender identity.

* Support existing and new LGBT+ sports organisations and community groups

across Scotland.

* Promote inclusion by addressing discrimination on the grounds of sexual

orientation, gender identity and intersex characteristics in sports and implement

policies of equality and inclusion in sports.

* Work with sporting governing bodies to implement LGBT+ and intersex inclusive

policies and maximise LGBT+ and intersex participation in causal and competitive

sports. We support the Leadership, Equality and Active Participation in Sports

(LEAP Sports Scotland) and their efforts to eliminate discrimination against

LGBT+ and intersex people in schools, amateur and professional sports.

**Education**

Education is vital to achieve LGBT+ and intersex equality, both in schools and with the

wider public. The Scottish Greens recognise that more needs to be done to ensure that

LGBT+ and intersex inclusive education becomes a reality in Scotland. We aim to:

* Ensure that the Time for Inclusion Education (TIE) campaign recommendations

are implemented in full without further delay. This includes the delayed delivery

of promised funding to assist this important work. Read more about the TIE

campaign and their recommendations here: https://www.tiecampaign.co.uk/our-

work

* Provide educational and financial support services to those estranged from their

parents and guardians or who are care experienced. We will work to ensure that

LGBT+ and intersex individuals are able to fulfil their educational and professional

potential. This includes appropriate funding and removal of barriers to educational

participation.

* Provide training and make available LGBT+ and intersex inclusive professional

development for all health and social care professionals throughout their

professional practice.

* Provide resources for teacher training. We will seek to ensure training for all

teachers so that they are better educated regarding LGBT+ and intersex issues

and can effectively tackle bullying and harassment based on sexual orientation,

gender identity and intersex characteristics.

**Law & Justice**

The Scottish Greens will champion equal protection and recognition before the law in

Scotland and across the UK for the LGBT+ community and intersex people. The legal

framework established by the Equality Act (2010) and the Gillick competency, enshrined

in Scots law through the Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991, must be preserved

and progressed. Access to essential services, such as health and social care or education, and protection from discrimination should not be denied due to legal barriers. We aim to:

* Secure the devolution of equalities, employment and immigration legislation to

Scotland in order to fully implement protections for LGBT+ and intersex people in

these areas.

* Decriminalise sex work and recognise sex worker’s rights to ensure all sex

workers, including members of the LGBT+ and intersex communities, are

protected by the law.

* Implement reforms to the Gender Recognition Act. This includes; recognising

non-binary identities and all genders, providing options for such identities on legal

documentation such as passports and providing access to health care for trans

minors with parental or guardian consent.

* Ban ‘conversion therapy’ pertaining to sexual orientation and gender identity, in

Scotland and across the UK.

* Ensure hate crime legislation protects LGBT+ and intersex people from

harassment, discrimination, or persecution.

* We will seek to end the practice of unlimited detention of asylum seekers by

demanding the closure of the detention centre in Scotland, and campaign for the

closure of all detention centres across the UK. We will end the humiliation of

‘tests’ to prove LGBT+ identity for LGBT+ asylum seekers. We will campaign for

accommodation for asylum seekers to be locally run and accountable, and safe

for all to openly express themselves, free from harassment, discrimination, or

persecution.

**International Inclusion**

The Global Green and LGBT+ Rights movements are truly international. We recognise

that people deserve human rights, security, dignity and freedom to be themselves no

matter where they come from. The LGBT+ community, alongside others, can often face

persecution when resources are short. The climate crisis will see further resource

depletion and displacement of peoples creating a perfect storm in which the forces of

bigotry can grow. We aim to:

* Enshrine international human rights laws and the Yogyakarta Principles into Scots

law. Read more on the Yogyakarta Principles here: http://yogyakartaprinciples.org/

* Push for LGBT+ representation at the COP26 Summit. This will ensure the voices

of LGBT+ people are heard at this important summit.

* Provide LGBT+ inclusion in Scottish Government international development

policies to ensure that the programs supported and funded by the government

are LGBT+ inclusive. This should include the promotion of LGBT+ and other

human rights in Scotland’s international affairs.

**Inclusive Pandemic Recovery**

The global Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on Scotland and Scottish society.

The Scottish Greens know that spending on public services have a disproportionate

effect on the LGBT+ community and intersex people. This can include financial hardship

from redundancies, changes to social security, reduced access to safe accommodation

and a reduction in the health and social services that meet their specific needs. Scottish

Green MSPs will fight to protect and support funding for healthcare and education

services, and to reduce the effects of the pandemic on services for LGBT+ and intersex

people.