



**RAINBOW  
GREENS**

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MANIFESTO 2021***

***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. [Read more here on informed consent in trans healthcare: \*https://www.gendergp.com/informed-consent-transgender-hormones-testosterone-estrogen-blockers/\*](https://www.gendergp.com/informed-consent-transgender-hormones-testosterone-estrogen-blockers/)

- 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.



**VOTE LIKE  
OUR FUTURE  
DEPENDS  
ON IT**

