



LGBTIQIA+
Greens

**OUR
COMMITMENT
TO
LGBTIQIA+
PEOPLE**

**LGBTIQIA+ GREENS
2019**

This Commitment sets out the impact that the Green Party Manifesto 2019 would have upon LGBTQIA+ people. It has been prepared by LGBTQIA+ Greens, a group of Green Party members who campaign for the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Intersex, Queer, and Asexual people. To find out more about Green Party policies, please refer to the full Green Party Manifesto at <https://www.greenparty.org.uk/assets/files/Elections/Green%20Party%20Manifesto>

FOREWORD

The last two years have been an incredibly turbulent time. Brexit has paralysed the government and poisoned our public debate. There has been a 25% increase in sexual orientation-based hate crimes and a 37% increase in hate crimes against transgender people in the last year and government has failed to progress its LGBT+ Action plan. Under Boris Johnson this government threatens to go backwards.

Back in 2018 Theresa May launched a bold promise to make LGBTQIA+ lives better. Since the launch of her LBGT+ Action Plan the government has:

- > failed to respond to protests against inclusive education, leaving schools unsupported in introducing LGBTQIA+ friendly relationships and sex education
- > neglected to bring forward any plans to ban conversion therapy
- > failed to expand access to HIV prevention drug PrEP to all LGBTQIA+ people who need access
- > enforced the hostile environment against LGBTQIA+ refugees and migrants
- > stalled any progress on reforming the Gender Recognition Act, leaving trans people without better recognition in law
- > abandoned our role in being a global leader for LGBTQIA+ rights, with a Conservative minister defending the brutally homophobic Sultan of Brunei

This is all against a backdrop of an increasingly toxic culture, with certain commentators becoming increasingly hostile to trans people.

LGBTQIA+ Greens have been at the forefront of resisting. From protesting to lobbying decision makers, we've been fighting for the rights of LGBTQIA+ people. We're proud of the progressive and inclusive values in the Green Party Manifesto. With your support and your vote we can champion these values and elect Greens committed to protecting and furthering all our rights.

Chandler & Benali
LGBTQIA+ Greens Co-Chairs

LGBTIQA+ Greens
proud of our diversity



LGBTIQA+ refugees and migrants

The current government's official policy has been to make life in the UK a hostile environment for refugees and migrants. Nowhere is this more clear than the treatment of LGBTIQA+ refugees.

Despite promises for reform we repeatedly see LGBTIQA+ refugees subjected to humiliating interrogations and be deported back to danger. Since 2016 the Home Office has rejected thousands of claims for asylum over gender or sexual identity. Judges have told refugees they are “too religious to be gay” or not “effeminate enough”. This must stop.

The government's flirtation with a No Deal Brexit has also left EU migrants in a great deal of uncertainty. Many LGBTIQA+ migrants who came and built lives here face a bureaucratic and uncaring system. Green MP Caroline Lucas has led the way fighting against a crash out Brexit and the betrayal of EU migrants.

For LGBTIQA+ refugees, the Green Party would:

- > call an immediate suspension of deportation flights
- > conduct a public enquiry into the hostile environment and the mistreatment of LGBTIQA+ refugees
- > end detention of refugees waiting for their claims to be processed.
- > protect the right of appeal, so that every refugee can get a fair hearing.
- > remove barriers to allowing refugees to work whilst their application is under review.
- > Implement the recommendations made by John Vine, former Chief Inspector of Borders and Immigration, which include:
 - » full training for border agents so they can sensitively ascertain refugees' identity and past experiences.
 - » an end to sexually explicit questioning.
 - » ensuring an evidence-based approach is used to assess claims.

78%

OF ASYLUM CLAIMS

**THAT INCLUDED A REFERENCE
TO SEXUAL ORIENTATION
WERE REFUSED IN 2017**

Education

Combatting discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people needs to start in school. Children need to be taught that tolerance and acceptance are a vital part of our society.

The protests against inclusive education have been heartbreaking. Young LGBTIQ+ people deserve to learn what healthy relationships look like, that being who they are is okay and that families come in all sizes.

Without inclusive education we won't be able to tackle bullying in schools or poor mental health for LGBTIQ+ people.

The Green Party would:

- > guarantee mandatory sex, sexual health and relationships education – age appropriate and LGBTIQ+ inclusive – in all schools from primary level onwards.
- > require every school to have an anti-bullying programme that explicitly combats homophobic, biphobic, and transphobic bullying.
- > ensure all teachers and education staff are trained to provide an LGBTIQ+ inclusive education and to look after LGBTIQ+ pupils' well-being.

Intersex rights

Intersex people face prejudice and discrimination because of our narrow societal attitudes towards sex and gender. Intersex people deserve autonomy over their own bodies and freedom from childhood medical interventions that they have no choice over.

The recent treatment of the athlete Caster Semenya has exposed the intersexphobia in society and the policing of intersex people's bodies.

The Green Party would:

- > seek to protect intersex minors from medical interventions that could be delayed until they are old enough to decide for themselves.
- > provide appropriate training to all NHS staff to ensure that intersex individuals and their families do not face negative or prejudiced treatment.

Trans and non-binary rights

Trans and non-binary rights have been under attack in the last few years. Just as more people have the courage to share their authentic selves, a number of commentators have begun to vilify trans people.

Trans and non-binary people are let down by the status quo. The Equality Act and the Marriage Equality Act failed to address the legal inequalities they face.

Giving the partners of trans people the legal right to veto their legal gender recognition is an abomination. The current bureaucratic process of gender recognition is overly long and overly medicalised. We should follow best practice and adopt the processes seen in Ireland and Malta.

The Green Party would:

- > improve access to medical services and gender identity clinics, particularly for trans and non-binary young people.
- > remove the spousal veto so that married trans people can acquire their gender recognition certificate without having to obtain permission from their spouse.
- > strengthen hate crime legislation and public education to tackle harassment and abuse of trans and non-binary people, especially women.
- > update the Gender Recognition Act to allow trans and non-binary people to get legal recognition through self declaration.
- > change the law so a X gender marker would be added to passports for non-binary and intersex people who wish to use it.



International relations

In too many places in the world LGBTIQ+ rights are at a standstill or moving backwards. The election of various authoritarians has seen LGBTIQ+ people face harassment, abuse and even state backed executions.

The UK must be a global leader and have the courage to challenge wrongdoing by other leaders. For too long we've made excuses or ignored the actions of other world leaders.

The Green Party would push for global action on LGBTIQ+ rights by:

- > challenging criminalisation, discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people in other countries and working in solidarity with campaigners there.
- > pressing the Commonwealth to grant accredited status to a Commonwealth LGBTIQ+ association and to urge all member states to end the criminalisation of homosexuality and to protect LGBTIQ+ citizens against discrimination and hate crime.

Asexual and aromantic rights

Asexual and aromantic people are often misunderstood and face ignorance that puts them at risk of discrimination and sexual violence. The Green Party recognises that asexuality and aromanticism are part of the diverse range of human experience.

The Green Party would:

- > reject any stigmatising of asexual and aromantic people.
- > aim to include details about asexuality and aromanticism in general education curricula so that asexual and aromantic people can flourish in society.
- > provide protection against discrimination and harassment for asexual and aromantic people.



LGBTIQ+ Greens co-chair Benali Hamdache speaking at the protest against Brunei's death penalty for homosexuality

Health

Cuts to the NHS and sexual health services disproportionately impact LGBTIQ+ people, who have greater need of these services and the cuts have threatened dedicated services.

Indeed there are glaring health inequalities for LGBTIQ+ people, who are more likely to have mental health problems and specific types of cancer - but health services are ill equipped to provide the bespoke services needed.

Local council cuts have particularly devastated sexual health services. Funding has been cut by a quarter and as a result we're seeing people being turned away and skyrocketing sexually transmitted infection rates.

Finally the rise of chemsex has deeply impacted parts of our community. Dangerous and toxic drugs like crystal meth and GHB have caused injury and tragedy. A public health approach to drug use is vital and legalisation would better help us educate and better manage addiction.

The Green Party would:

- > Increase funding for sexual health services
- > ensure PrEP - a daily pill which prevents HIV infection - is provided by NHS England without delay.
- > ensure a proper parity of esteem for mental health and physical health services - with funding to make that happen.
- > address long wait times and a shortage of gender identity clinics around the UK through increased funding.
- > push for consultation on reducing the 12-month blood donation deferral period for men who have sex with men.
- > take a public health approach to dealing with drugs and addiction.
- > work with Public Health England to develop a 5 year plan for health campaigns targeted at LGBTIQ+ people
- > ensure medical schools better embed the needs of our community in their learning

Public safety and the law

Keeping LGBTIQ+ people safe and ending discrimination in the law should be the goal of any government. The Green Party wants to see more done.

The Alan Turing law pardoned the thousands of men who had been criminalised for sodomy. However many campaigners still want to see an official apology from the government and we support that call.

More must be done to make marriage truly equal. Loopholes still exist that disadvantage trans and same gender partners.

The Green Party would:

- > finally ban the harmful “conversion therapy”
- > End the spousal veto, which forces married trans people to seek permission from their spouse for their legal gender recognition
- > apologise to the 50,000–100,000 people convicted of consenting adult same-gender sexual relations under anti-sodomy laws that have now been repealed.
- > better advertise and improve the scope of the pardoning system for people who were convicted of consenting adult same-gender sexual relations
- > ensure hate crimes based on sexual orientation, gender identity or disability are treated equally to those based on race and faith.

IN THE LAST FIVE YEARS,
HOMOPHOBIC HATE CRIME HAS
ALMOST DOUBLED AND
TRANSPHOBIC HATE CRIME HAS
MORE THAN TREBLED

Economy

Cuts to public services and a wholesale attack on the welfare state have left many LGBTIQ+ people vulnerable. Young LGBTIQ+ people make up a quarter of the young homeless population. This government has devastated the financial and social support so many of our community need.

The Green Party would:

- > take a Housing First approach to homelessness - giving homeless people an unqualified right to get housing.
- > Increase funding for domestic violence services, sexual health services, community pride events and homelessness services
- > end the overly punitive and harmful approach to granting benefits - replacing it with a system of Universal Basic Income that gives everyone confidence they will get sufficient support when they need it, including disabled people

Sport

Whether on or off the pitch, too many LGBTIQ+ experience discrimination while enjoying sport. No one should have to listen to offensive chants and comments, or feel unable to take part in a sport because of fear of discrimination. Almost half of LGBTIQ+ people have witnessed homophobia or transphobia in sport – that isn't good enough.

The Green Party would encourage all sports communities to recognise and protect the rights of LGBTIQ+ people.

The Green Party would:

- > Ensure all staff working with sports clubs and at grounds are trained to look after LGBTIQ+ pupils' wellbeing while also identifying and ending discrimination.
- > Make sure sports governing bodies take action to end homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
- > Support campaigns to end abuse against LGBTIQ+ people in sport.



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