

# LGBTIQA+ RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS

GREEN PARTY LGBTIQA+ MANIFESTO 2017



# INTRODUCTION

The Green Party have long been at the forefront of advancing the rights of those who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and non-binary, intersex, queer, asexual and aromantic, as well as other sex, sexuality and gender diversities (LGBTIQA+). We stand up for acceptance, a more equal economy, and a fairer society. We're proudly fighting for bodily autonomy for intersex people, for legal recognition for trans and non-binary people, for PrEP for all that need it, and for greater protection for LGBTIQA+ asylum seekers.

2017 has already been a turbulent year for LGBTIQA+ rights. LGBTIQA+ people across the globe are facing state-sanctioned torture, abuse and murder. Donald Trump is repealing and removing protections for LGBTIQA+ people, and the UK Government is following suit by threatening to repeal the Human Rights Act.

In this manifesto, we outline our vision to achieve a more equal economy, to protect our human rights, to improve recognition and

representation, to defend our health services, and to work internationally to advance LGBTIQA+ rights.

Vote Green, and help us build a society that is fairer, sustainable, and more diverse.

**Aimee Challenor**  
Equalities Spokesperson, Green Party



# ECONOMY

Cuts to the NHS, welfare services and public services all disproportionately impact marginalised groups such as the LGBTIQA+ community reducing access to key services such as GPs, mental and sexual health [1]. The Green Party opposes these devastating cuts and would ensure that public services remain well funded and for the common good.

## We would:

- » Ensure local government receives enough funding to protect specialised services such as those focused on sexual health, domestic violence prevention and response, and LGBTIQA+ young people.
- » Protect the welfare state in the face of Government cuts and preserve the vital security net many LGBTIQA+ people rely upon.
- » Properly fund public services of benefit to LGBTIQA+ people.

[1] <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/media/lgbt-facts-and-figures>

# HUMAN RIGHTS

## A. LEGISLATION

Marriage equality was an important step in advancing LGBTIQA+ rights, but there is still more to do to protect the rights of LGBTIQA+ people in society. One in six lesbian, gay and bi people has experienced a homophobic or biphobic hate crime or incident in the last three years [1]. The Green Party would strive to ensure that no LGBTIQA+ person faces discrimination, violence or unequal treatment.

## We would introduce new laws to:

- » Make equal marriage truly equal, not only allowing same-gender partners access to exactly the same pension inheritance rights as any other couples, but also opening up civil partnerships to heterosexual couples and ending the spousal veto.
- » Apologise to and pardon all 50,000–100,000 people convicted of consenting adult same-gender sexual relations under anti-sodomy laws that have now been repealed.

- » Combat all forms of anti-LGBTIQ+ prejudice and violence through improved hate crime protections.

## B. TRANS AND NON-BINARY RIGHTS

In the fight for LGBTIQ+ rights, trans and non-binary people have often been left behind. The Green Party would work to improve the wellbeing of trans and non-binary citizens and ensure institutions like marriage are inclusive of trans and non-binary people.

The Green Party affirm that trans men are men, trans women are women and non-binary genders exist and are valid. We support the right for trans and non-binary people to access services and spaces that match their affirmed gender.

### 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 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 youth and non-binary people to get legal recognition through self-declaration.

- » Campaign for an X gender marker to be added to passports for non-binary and intersex people who wish to use it.

## C. INTERSEX RIGHTS

Intersex human rights issues have for too long remained hidden in the shadows. The Green Party fully supports the rights of all intersex people to self-determination, bodily integrity, and personal autonomy in all medical decisions made about them.

### The Green Party would:

- » Support intersex status being recognised as a protected status in the Equality Act as a first step toward securing legal protections against discrimination for everyone born with an intersex variation.
- » Make it a criminal offence for clinicians or medical practitioners to enact sex assignment interventions or treatments on infants and young children that can be deferred until such time as the individual is able to give their informed consent.
- » Provide appropriate training to all NHS staff to ensure that intersex individuals and their families do not face negative or prejudiced treatment.

## D. ASEXUAL AND AROMANTIC RIGHTS

Asexuality and aromanticism are often thoroughly misunderstood by society 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.

**1 IN 6**

**LESBIAN, GAY & BI PEOPLE  
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LAST 3 YEARS**

# HEALTH

There is a humanitarian crisis in the NHS. This crisis, which disproportionately impacts the LGBTIQ+ community, has been deliberately caused by a Government determined to see it privatised. Cuts to the NHS make it harder for trans people to access gender reassignment services, weaken HIV prevention services and restrict access to mental and sexual health services. Nearly half of trans people under 26 said they had attempted suicide [1]. The Green Party would reverse these cuts and ensure the NHS is funded properly.

## The Green Party would:

- » Reverse the creeping privatisation of the NHS by introducing a NHS Reinstatement Bill.
- » Push for consultation on reducing the 12-month blood donation deferral period for men who have sex with men.
- » Ensure PrEP – a daily pill which prevents HIV infection – is provided by NHS England without delay.

# EDUCATION

Too many LGBTIQ+ people have their school life marred by homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying, with more than half of gay, lesbian and bi pupils experiencing bullying [1]. Even more do not receive the LGBTIQ+ inclusive education they need to navigate life. The Green Party would improve education and challenge bullying in schools, so that every student can be given the chance to succeed in life.

## The Green Party would:

- » Guarantee mandatory HIV, sex, 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 qualified and trained to provide an LGBTIQ+–inclusive education and to look after LGBTIQ+ pupils' wellbeing.

# INTERNATIONAL

## A. MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

The UK has proved to be a safe haven for many LGBTIQ+ EU and non-EU citizens seeking a welcoming place to live. Free movement of people across the EU should be celebrated as giving an opportunity for LGBTIQ+ people to build a life in a country where they are treated more fairly.

In 73 countries sex with someone of the same sex is illegal – in ten countries it carries the death penalty. [1] In many more LGBTIQ+ people face violence, persecution and intimidation because of their gender identity, sexuality or intersex status.

In the past five years the number of LGBTIQ+ people seeking asylum rose by 400% [2]. But many flee horrific experiences only to find a hostile asylum process in the UK, with their initial applications incorrectly rejected by immigration decision-makers, only to be accepted on appeal.

The Green Party would act to protect LGBTIQ+ migrants and asylum seekers.

## The Green Party would instigate:

- » An immediate moratorium on deportation of LGBTIQ+ refugees until the system is reformed.
- » End of detention of refugees waiting for their claims to be processed.
- » The protection of the right of appeal and access to legal aid, so that every refugee can get a fair hearing.
- » The removal of barriers to allowing refugees to work whilst their application is under review.
- » The full implementation of 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 is used to assess claims.

## B. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

While the situation has improved for LGBTIQ+ people in the UK, too many LGBTIQ+ people abroad live in fear of violence and are marginalised from society. The Green Party would speak out against those countries that discriminate against, marginalise and kill LGBTIQ+ citizens, and work with countries leading the way in recognising and protecting the rights of LGBTIQ+ people.

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

- » Challenging criminalisation, discrimination and violence against LGBTIQ+ people in other countries and working in solidarity with campaigners there.
- » Using the International Court of Justice and International Criminal Court to prosecute regimes that commit injustices against LGBTIQ+ citizens.
- » Ending the sale of weapons and military equipment to regimes that violate human rights.

- » Deploying sanctions against regimes that violate international human rights standards.
- » 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.

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# CULTURE

## 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. [1] 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 and identify and end discrimination.
- » Make sure sports governing bodies take action to end homophobia, biphobia and transphobia.
- » Support campaigns to end abuse against LGBTIQ+ people in sport.

[1] <http://www.stonewall.org.uk/media/lgbt-facts-and-figures>



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