

Scottish Green Party Manifesto

Summary of LGBT commitments

The Scottish Green Party Manifesto makes several commitments which specifically refer to LGBT people. They have also released a mini-manifesto which specifically relates to issues of LGBTI equality – you can [read this here](#).

Commitments included in the main manifesto:

Scotland can support people into work:

Equal access. Too many people are marginalised in the labour market including unpaid carers, disabled people, women, LGBTI+ people and those from minority ethnic groups. Green MSPs will support calls for a Gender Equality in Business scheme to incentivise gender-sensitive employment practices, and public procurement laws that allow decisions to be based on sustainability, equality, community benefit and local supply, not just the short-term cost. Greens will also back a non-permanent commission to tackle gender and racial occupational segregation in the labour market and lay out the case for the devolution of equalities legislation.

Support for employment. Powers to support people unemployed for a year or more will be devolved to Scotland over the next Parliament. The largest scheme, the Work Programme, has failed to deliver for the people who need it and now faces a funding cut of 87%. Green MSPs will push for a new scheme delivered on a non-profit basis, contracted locally to the public and third sectors, which recognises the value of voluntary work and makes a genuine investment in participants' skills. Such a scheme would address barriers to accessing work on account of age, disability, race, ethnicity, gender and sexuality. Greens will also push for devolution and expansion of the Access to Work scheme that supports disabled people to start or remain in work.

Scotland can close the attainment gap:

Equality and diversity. Scottish Greens will show leadership on inclusive education policies for all pupils and families from primary age regardless of race, disability, sexual orientation or gender identity, including a strong stance on bullying. We want to see all schools become UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools, where children's human rights are embedded in a school's ethos and culture to help all pupils realise their potential. Scottish Greens also support the Time for Inclusive Education campaign, which promotes inclusive LGBTI+ school environments. We will also push to strengthen links between education and other children's services with child poverty strategies. We believe in funding training for teachers so that they are able to tackle diversity issues in the classroom.

Broader curriculum. Education should prepare the next generation in practical ways for the challenges they will face throughout their lives. Literacy and numeracy must sit alongside interpersonal skills, creative skills, confidence, physical education and good mental health. We will support a curriculum that gives students experience in global citizenship, environmental awareness, and their rights and responsibilities as Scottish citizens. All schools should provide robust 'relationship, sexual health and parenthood' education, covering the principles of equality, consent, signs of abuse and the full spectrum of gender and sexuality. The curriculum should also reflect modern industries, such as computer programming, bioscience, the creative industries and technological innovation.

Scotland can build good health for all:

Good mental health. Mental health has been secondary to physical health for too long, and too long seen as something separate from inequality, poverty and poor local environment. Green MSPs will fight for equal consideration for mental and physical health across all health and social care sectors. We support the Declaration of Rights for Mental Health to ensure that all people with mental health issues are treated equally, with dignity and respect. We will fight for more resources and professional training to meet the needs of people facing financial deprivation; LGBTI+ people, disabled people, young people and other groups that often suffer poor mental health; and to counter the inter-generational effects that abuse can play in poor mental and social health.

Narrowing LGBTI+ health inequalities. Scotland's LGBTI+ population face health inequalities. We will push for access to appropriate healthcare for trans people, including specialist treatment and advice as part of transitioning and we will push for access to treatment within 18 weeks, in line with NHS standards for other services. Green MSPs will call for a ban on unjustified medical interventions that seek to forcibly alter a person's sexual characteristics or to change the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTI+ people. This would include medically unnecessary surgery on intersex minors and so called 'conversion therapy'. We support a review of blood donation restrictions and support exploring the extension of the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme to young people of all genders.

Scotland can take action for equality and diversity:

Working with communities. The vast majority of Scotland's population has poor access to resources, opportunities and security compared with those who are privileged and powerful. We will prioritise the goal of equality and work with those whose chances in life are reduced because of class, race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation, religion or belief, to develop our plans for an equal Scotland

Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex (LGBTI+) people. There must be equality before the law regardless of gender, gender identity or sexual orientation. We will back the campaign to reform gender recognition law in line with international best practice. We will call for a government-led review of legislation and services to identify inequalities for LGBTI+ couples and people of all non-binary gender identities, and for legislation to make Civil Partnerships open to all couples on an equal basis with marriage.

Gender Equality Bill. Gender inequality is deeply entrenched in Scotland's economy, politics and culture. Despite some progress, the rate of change is incredibly slow. As a result, diverse groups of women, including disabled women, refugee women, unpaid carers, older women and lone parents experience discrimination, poverty and insecurity. LGBTI+ people including trans people and those of minority gender identities are also significantly affected by gender inequality. Green MSPs will support a Gender Equality Bill to drive progress against all forms of gender inequality.

LGBTI+ duty. We support comprehensive action to tackle discrimination and inequality in employment and public services. We will push for enforcement of the existing legal duty to deliver effective services directly to the LGBTI+ community

Scotland can create safer communities:

Tackling violence. Too many women and men in Scotland experience violence. We will propose increased support for the vital work undertaken by the Scottish Violence Reduction Unit and for a sustainable, long-term funding plan to resource violence against women services, including women's aid groups and rape crisis centres. We will work to ensure provision of appropriate support services for LGBTI+ people who have been subject to domestic or sexual abuse.

Hate crime. Our Green MSPs will stand firm against hate crime and show leadership on tackling crimes motivated by prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. We will work to improve research, data collection and reporting processes. We will support the development of an action plan to tackle Islamophobia and religious hate crimes.

Scotland can be a sporting nation:

Community sport. Scotland has 13,000 sports clubs, 900,000 members and almost 200,000 people dedicated to volunteering in sport. As well as fun and enjoyment, sports clubs bring great benefits to people and society. Green MSPs support the expansion of Scotland's sports clubs through support for volunteering, accessible facilities and funding to enable more women, LGBTI+ people, minority ethnic communities and disabled people to participate.

Scotland can welcome refugees:

Safe route to the UK. We want an asylum system which treats people with dignity not contempt. Green MSPs will support campaigns to create a safe and legal route to the UK, limit detention to circumstances where a UK citizen would also be detained, and close Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre. Detention should never be imposed on those who might suffer additional harm due to their age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, pregnancy, health, or experience of rape or torture.