



queer  
greens

Manifesto

2016



"The Queer Greens are to be congratulated on their work, putting together a manifesto for LGBTQ rights in Northern Ireland. It has been clear for quite some time now that public opinion is way ahead of the old political landscape on these issues, and I know that many people want to see Northern Ireland enjoy the same progress toward equality that is now the norm across most of Europe.",

"Scotland has made big strides in the journey toward an equal society. From once being thought of as socially

conservative and sexually repressed, we're now in a far better position to protect LGBTQ people's rights at work, in education and other public services, and in home and family life. When Glasgow welcomed the Commonwealth Games recent, we were able to build links with equality and human rights activists from around the world to share experiences and learn from one another.",

"I have no doubt that the Greens in Northern Ireland will continue to work hard to advance the interests of LGBTQ people, and equality for everyone. I'm happy to offer the support of the Scottish Green Party, and I'm sure that goes for the wider Green family too."

**Patrick Harvie MSP**

## Introduction

**Northern Ireland is currently at a crossroads, either we wish to promote the type of society that is both welcoming to others and just for its citizens, or we can continue down the path of repression and inequality for the Queer community.**

We can only work to ensure that it is not the latter and Northern Ireland is shown worldwide as a beacon of Equality, Civil rights and Democracy.

**This is what Green Party candidates will work to achieve.**

**Too long** have we waited to achieve full and equal marriage equality like our friends and family all around us, only to be told at the last minute that we weren't good enough.

**Too long** have we allowed a sexual orientation strategy & gender strategy to be kicked down the path and ignored.

**Too long** has prejudice and bigotry infected our very system of government and blocked any chance of free, safe and legal healthcare for women that is provided elsewhere on these islands.

The Green Party in Northern Ireland says **it's time for change.**

**This manifesto outlines what each and every candidate of the Green Party will strive to achieve for the LGBTQ community in Northern Ireland if elected to the assembly.**

## Healthcare

**LGBTQ people are much more likely to avail of the healthcare provisions of a state, it is our job to ensure that healthcare is adequate, available and accessible enough to suit their needs.**

This is why Green Party candidates will fight to achieve the following aims;

- Remove the lifetime ban on blood donation for men who have had sex with men and a commitment to follow further SABTO recommendations.
- Reform of transgender healthcare services to align them more with the needs of the community, providing treatment on an “informed consent” basis without psychiatric frameworks.
- Outlaw LGBTQ “conversion” or “reparative” therapy.
- Bring forward an inclusive, robust, timetabled and resourced HIV & STI prevention and sexual health promotion strategy for Northern Ireland.
- Extend the HVP vaccination procedure to young boys as well as girls entering puberty.
- Bring forward clear guidelines for medical professionals on abortion.
- Review access to IVF and bring this in line with other parts of the UK.
- Support efforts in the community & voluntary sector to provide alternative models of care for transgender people.
- Ensure “normalising” genital surgery and hormonal interventions are not performed on intersex people until they are capable of communicating informed consent as adolescents or adults.
- Specific additional funding for training on LGBTQ issues for healthcare professionals.
- Specific additional funding for mental health services, particularly services for children & adolescents.

## Justice

**Liberation and Justice are two sides of the same coin for the Green Party, you cannot achieve one without the other. We must not allow our people to be subjected to laws outdated by centuries or for our judicial system to discriminate.**

Green Party candidates will seek reform to;

- Extend the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland.
- Update Prison Service policy to ensure transgender prisoners are housed in facilities correct for their gender, and not in solitary confinement.

## Education

**The Green Party is committed to promoting a single, secular, state-funded, integrated education system for all of Northern Ireland's young people. We must ensure that our education system works for everyone and is inclusive of LGBTQ people.**

Green Party candidates will aim to reform education in the following ways;

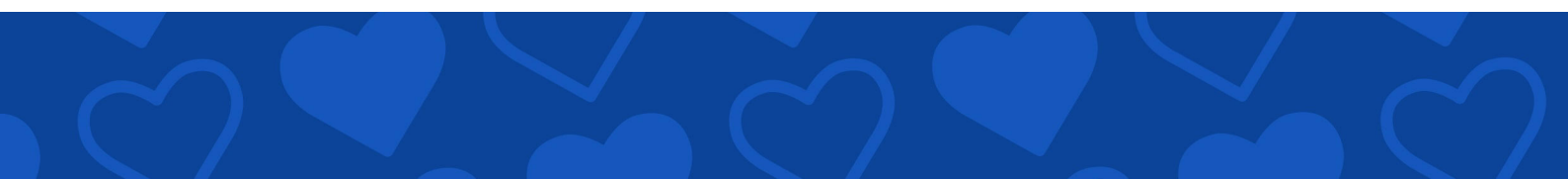
- Bring forward a bill for comprehensive mandatory age-appropriate relationships and sexual education from P1 to post-primary school level.
- Bring forward an anti-bullying strategy inclusive of homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.
- Designate primary and post-primary schools under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.
- Review curriculum for inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## Legal Reform

**We must ensure that our laws are human rights compliant, fair and unbiased when it comes to crime and treat every citizen as equal.**

This is why Green Party candidates will fight to;

- Bring forward a Gender Recognition Bill for Northern Ireland, on a basis of self-declaration requiring no medical diagnoses or interventions, inclusive of non-binary people and those under the age of 18, with no lower age limit, and removing the use of the Gender Recognition Register and the Gender Recognition Panel.
- Bring forward legislation for equal marriage similar to the Scottish model.
- Implement an inclusive, robust timetable and resourced sexual orientation strategy and gender strategy.
- Remove exceptions to employment regulations on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Review hate crime legislation and codify gender inclusion in the hate crime categories.
- Expand good relations to the hate crime categories.





**The Green Party is committed to a fair, equal and just society that is free from prejudice and discrimination.**

**We seek to promote a culture and society that is rich and diverse, and fights for the liberation of marginalised groups.**

Our Queer Green candidates:



**Ellen Murray,**  
West Belfast:

"I am standing for election because I believe that our political system, which impinges on every aspect of our lives, should be accessible to everyone."

"As a young, queer, trans woman, I hope that standing for election as an MLA will offer choice and hope for those who need it most."



**Georgia Grainger,**  
Strangford:

"Having been Chair of Young Greens from 2014 to 2015, I'm now Equalities officer for the Green Party in Northern Ireland and Environmental and Ethical Trading officer for Queen's University Belfast Students' Union."

I've been involved in campaigns for equal marriage, integrated education and fossil fuel divestment."



**Malachai O'Hara,**  
North Belfast:

"Almost 20 years after the Good Friday Agreement, North Belfast remains divided. Its people's potential that is stunted by division and exacerbated by social deprivation."

"As a Green Party representative I will be a champion for transparency and accountability. I will hold the Executive to account on its commitment to build social housing."

"I will continue to campaign for a radically new approach to addressing poor mental health and work to release the potential of all people in North Belfast."



**Mary Hassan,**  
Foyle:

Mary is a well-known campaigner for Marriage Equality, having represented the LGBT community in televised debates with David Cameron, Ed Miliband and UKIP officials among others.

She has been a driving force in grassroots LGBT activism in the UK, Ireland, Central America and the United States and works full-time for The Rainbow Project in both Foyle and Belfast.



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**FIGHTING FOR LGBTQ PEOPLE'S RIGHTS & LIBERATION**