

**Social
Democrats**

LGBTI+ Rights

Justice and Equality

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LGBTI+ Rights

Ireland has undergone a historic and unique expansion of civil and social liberties. The marriage equality referendum and gender recognition acts of 2015 were the result of a long and worn road of progress. As a new party our history is not only rooted in these achievements but empowered by it.

But there are still rights and struggles to be won to ensure that LGBTI+ people and their families are truly equal across all aspects of Irish society and, in particular, to ensure that young LGBTI+ people can grow up in a vibrant and diverse society that truly values them and in which they can flourish.

Legislative Reform

- We will introduce **effective hate crime legislation**, in consultation with the LGBTI+ community, community groups, the Gardaí, and relevant stakeholders. We will continue the process of updating hate speech legislation and will ensure that new laws are fit for purpose and use up-to-date terminology.
- We will **reform parental rights** to ensure LGBTI+ parents are equally treated under the system, in recognition of the efforts many campaigners such as the Equality for Children group have made.
- We will implement the recommendations of the Gender Recognition Act review report to provide **legal gender recognition to non-binary people and trans people under 18**.
- We commit to using **gender neutral pronouns** whenever possible in future legislation and recognise Them/They pronouns.

Health

There is a unique intersection between the LGBTI+ community and healthcare reform. The fundamental breakdown that exists at the moment is a lack of patient driven care. Often LGBTI+ members are more deeply aware of their own needs and not listened to. We want to change this. In particular the Social Democrats see a breakdown in decent trans healthcare as a major concern.

We would:

- Develop **national trans health services** to provide effective and timely care. and introduce an informed consent model of trans healthcare.
- Assess the professional development needs of local care teams to ensure access to hormone prescriptions from GPs.

- End the 1 year MSM blood ban and bring it up to international standards.
- Expand **access to free contraception and affordable PrEP.**
- Expand the availability of the HPV vaccine
- Review healthcare provision to intersex people and ensure best practice is rolled out nationwide.
- Create a LGBTI+ **mental health strategy** with community addiction services to match.
- Ensure LGBTI+ Awareness training is available to all Healthcare professionals to equip them to deliver LGBTI+ inclusive care.
- Develop the strategies and services to **end new HIV transmissions by 2030**, as outlined in the Fast-Track Cities model, including developing and implementing a new National Sexual Health Strategy and including measures to **end HIV-related stigma and discrimination.**

Other Measures

- Fully implement the existing National LGBTI+ government strategies and create a **longer-term LGBTI+ inclusion strategy** on top of the current 2 year cycle strategies
- Ensure the full implementation of the **LGBTI+ Youth Strategy 2018-2020.**
- Introduce LGBTI+ inclusive relationships and sexuality education and history in schools.
- Review and update of the **National Action Plan on Bullying (2013)**, including specific prevention initiatives for LGBTI+ identity-based bullying.
- **Ban conversion therapy.**
- Commit to **protections and rights for intersex people.**
- **Invest in LGBTI+ resource centres**, including ensuring access to youth work services, provision of alcohol-free spaces, and providing facilities for older LGBTI+ people.
- Create a LGBTI+ quality standard for **older people's services** to ensure mainstream facilities are providing LGBTI+ inclusive care
- Establish the scale of **LGBTI+ youth homelessness** as part of a wider youth homelessness strategy, and examine the need for gender neutral homeless services and appropriate responses to the issues faced.
- Reaffirm **asylum status of LGBTI+** people coming from nations where they face oppression and reform the application process in a way that recognises human dignity.
- Ensure Ireland's International Protection process and direct provision system are supportive and sensitive to the experiences and needs of LGBTI+ people.
- Investigate the possibility of including LGBTI+ questions on the **census** to ensure evidence based allocation of services.
- Expand Ireland's role in **supporting LGBTI+ rights internationally**



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