

SNP

LGBTI EQUALITY MANIFESTO 2019



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This election is a crucial vote for Scotland that will determine our future. We are at a crossroads - with two very different paths ahead of us.

Scotland can vote SNP to beat the Tories, escape Brexit and have a choice over our future - or we can have it dictated to us by Boris Johnson, who wants to drag Scotland out of the EU against our will and threatens our rights, society and economy.

The SNP is committed to protecting Scotland's future and securing full equality for LGBTI people. Equality and human rights are fundamental to our values as a progressive social democratic party - and we have a proud record of advancing and championing LGBTI rights.

Under the SNP government, Scotland has become the best country in the UK and one of the best in the world for LGBTI equality. We have delivered wholesale reform, including the most progressive equal marriage, hate crime and Turing laws in the UK, record funding for LGBTI organisations, and becoming the first country to commit to LGBTI inclusive education.

This manifesto sets out our commitments, for the UK general election, to secure LGBTI equality in those areas of responsibility that remain reserved to Westminster.

A vote for the SNP on 12th December is a vote to advance LGBTI equality, escape Brexit and put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands - not Boris Johnson's. Together we can build a better, fairer and more equal future for Scotland.



Nicola Sturgeon
First Minister



SNP PRIORITIES FOR LGBTI EQUALITY

Scotland's future in Scotland's hands

Scotland's membership of the EU, and our place at the heart of Europe, has helped advance LGBTI equality across Scotland, Europe and the world - by sharing best practice, collaborating for change and protecting our fundamental rights.

Scotland didn't vote for Brexit - but we have been completely ignored by Westminster and now find ourselves on the verge of being dragged out of the EU against our will - inflicting lasting harm on our rights, our society, living standards, public services and the economy.

Brexit is bad news for LGBTI rights - reducing cooperation, undermining protections, and leaving LGBTI equality in the hands of an increasingly right-wing Tory government, led by a man who has used homophobic slurs and is in step with Nigel Farage and Donald Trump.

A vote for the SNP is a vote to escape Brexit and put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands - not Boris Johnson's. SNP MPs will work to stop Brexit and ensure the people of Scotland have a choice over our future - instead of having it dictated to us by Westminster.

That choice will be a matter for the Scottish people to decide - but independence offers Scotland the opportunity to advance equality - with LGBTI rights embedded in a written constitution, with the full powers to improve equality in the law and society, and with the ability to champion LGBTI equality as an equal partner on the world stage.

Devolve equality powers

While Scotland is in the UK, SNP MPs will continue to demand the full devolution of equality, employment and immigration powers so that the Scottish Parliament has the powers to protect LGBTI equality and make Scotland a fairer and more equal place to live.

Discrimination protections

While equality law remains reserved to Westminster, SNP MPs will press the UK government to take action so that all LGBTI people are fully protected from discrimination and harassment, including multiple discrimination.

Gender recognition

The SNP government was the first in the UK to commit to reforming gender recognition law to secure equality and human rights for trans people. A draft Gender Recognition (Scotland) Bill will be published by the end of this year, with a consultation on the detail of the legislation. SNP MPs will press for Westminster to recognise in reserved areas any changes to the law in Scotland, and press for the same actions to be taken at Westminster.

Non-binary recognition

SNP MPs will press the UK government to allow non-binary people to record their gender as "X" on passports and all other UK-wide records and identity documents. The SNP government is also establishing a non-binary working group to consider changes to procedures and practice in Scotland.

Intersex equality

SNP MPs will press for intersex people and organisations to be fully consulted on changes to the law and policy to introduce effective protections for intersex people's human rights.

PrEP

Scotland was the first UK nation to approve the provision of Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by the NHS to prevent HIV. SNP MPs will continue to support efforts to improve the availability of PrEP on the NHS in the rest of the UK too.

Turing Law

The SNP government introduced the Historical Sexual Offences (Pardons and Disregards) (Scotland) Act 2018, the UK's most extensive Turing Law, with a public apology by the First Minister on behalf of the country. SNP MPs will continue to press the UK government to extend the scope of its legislation - so that it also covers all the old discriminatory offences and provides an automatic pardon to gay and bisexual men who are still alive.

LGBTI conversion therapy

The SNP opposes LGBTI conversion therapy practices, which are discriminatory and proven to have a harmful effect on the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTI people. SNP MPs will press the UK government to reform laws and regulations, which are reserved to Westminster, to ban and prevent the practice of LGBTI conversion therapy.

Protecting human rights

SNP MPs will oppose any attempt by the UK government to roll-back equality and human rights, including attempts to scrap the Human Rights Act, withdraw from the European

Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) or water-down the Equality Act. We will demand human rights protections are maintained at least in line with evolving European standards.

Asylum

While Asylum remains reserved to Westminster, SNP MPs will press for reforms to ensure that people forced to flee persecution because they are LGBTI have access to asylum in the UK, are not held in arbitrary detention, and are treated in a fair manner with dignity and respect.

International rights

The SNP will continue to champion the advancement of LGBTI equality and human rights around the world. While foreign affairs remain reserved to Westminster, SNP MPs will continue to press for the establishment of a special envoy to promote the rights of LGBTI people, and to make LGBTI equality an integral part of UK foreign policy.

Leadership

The SNP has a proud record of championing equality for LGBTI people in government and at Westminster. In the last Parliament we had the highest proportion of LGBTI MPs of any party and we hope to continue this record. A vote for the SNP on 12th December is a vote to advance LGBTI equality, escape Brexit, and put Scotland's future in Scotland's hands.

LGBTI EQUALITY IN DEVOLVED AREAS



LGBTI equality is a key priority for the SNP government. Over the past 12 years we have delivered wholesale reform and made huge progress in areas devolved to the Scottish Parliament.

Under the SNP, Scotland has become the best country in the UK for LGBTI equality - and we are also recognised as one of the best countries in the world for LGBTI rights.

The SNP government has led the way in the UK. We reformed sex laws and have delivered the most progressive and extensive equal marriage, LGBTI hate crime and Turing Laws. We opened up adoption and IVF for same-sex couples, we made Scotland the first country in the UK to approve the provision of PrEP by the NHS, we reformed blood donation rules, and we are committed to ensuring LGBTI inclusive education across Scotland.

Despite deep Tory-Lib Dem cuts to Scotland's budget, the SNP government has given record funding to Scottish LGBTI equality organisations, and we are driving forward LGBTI equality in our public services and across society.

The next steps in our mission to advance LGBTI equality in Scotland include reforming gender recognition laws and improving gender identity services, further improving LGBTI hate crime legislation, tackling bullying and abuse, and making further progress for LGBTI equality in key areas such as education, health, mental health, policing, justice, sport and culture.

Scotland is now one of the best countries in the world for LGBTI equality. Together we will make it even better - and ensure Scotland's future is in Scotland's hands.



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by visiting www.snp.org/general-election-2019**

Be a voter on December 12 and #VoteSNP

Polls open 7am to 10pm

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Promoted by Peter Murrell on behalf of the Scottish National Party, both at Gordon Lamb House, 3 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh, EH8 8PJ