

**Social
Democrats**

LGBTQI+ Rights

For an Equal and Inclusive Ireland

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LGBTQI+ Rights

Over the last 30 years, Ireland has made significant progress in terms of LGBTQI+ equality and acceptance. The successful Marriage Equality Referendum in May 2015, and the Gender Recognition Act of 2015, were important moments on that journey of change.

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 all LGBTQI+ people and their families are treated equally across all aspects of Irish society. Right now, Ireland is ranked 16th in Europe in terms of LGBTQI+ human rights and policy protections. **We support the goal of getting to No. 1 and making this the best place in Europe to be LGBTQI+.**

Legislative Reform

- We will introduce **effective hate crime legislation**, in consultation with the LGBTQI+ 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.
- Upon the introduction of hate crime legislation, we will introduce a **National Action Plan Against Hate Crimes** to prevent and reduce hate crimes against the LGBTQI+ community.
- We will introduce **fully inclusive Assisted Human Reproduction** legislation and reform the Children and Family Relationships Act to ensure equality for the children of LGBTQI+ people.
- We will enhance the **Equal Status Act** and the **Employment Equality Act** to provide explicit protections for all LGBTQI+ people.
- We will implement the recommendations of the Government's Review of the Gender Recognition Act to provide **legal gender recognition to non-binary people and trans people under 18**.
- We will legislate to protect the rights of intersex people – including a **ban on infant genital mutilation**, in line with the laws in place in Iceland.
- We commit to using **gender neutral pronouns** whenever possible in future legislation, and recognising Them/They pronouns.

Health

Evidence shows us that health outcomes for LGBTQI+ people are often poorer.

This is a result of discrimination, historic underinvestment and neglect of the community's needs. We are committed to ending these health inequalities and investing in LGBTQI+ specific services and supports.

We would:

- Introduce **accessible trans-affirming healthcare services** based on a model of informed consent and international best practice.
- Expand **access to free contraception and affordable PrEP**.
- Review **healthcare provision to intersex** people and ensure best practice is rolled out nationwide.
- Create a LGBTQI+ **mental health strategy** with community addiction services to match.
- Ensure **LGBTQI+ Awareness training** is available to all healthcare professionals to equip them to deliver LGBTQI+ inclusive care.
- Develop the strategies and services to **end new HIV transmissions**, 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**.
- Create regional versions of the **Gay Men's Health Services** in Cork and Galway. Provide funding for dedicated lesbian and bi women sexual health support.

Other Measures

- Introduce a second **National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy** with enhanced funding, clear targets and additional staff resources.
- Improve LGBTQI+ inclusive **relationships and sexuality education** and LGBTQI+ history in schools.
- Review and update of the **Cineáltas Action Plan on Bullying** including specific prevention initiatives for LGBTQI+ identity-based bullying.
- **Ensure conversion practices are brought to an end.**
- **Invest in LGBTQI+ resource centres**, including ensuring access to youth work services, provision of alcohol-free spaces, and providing facilities for older LGBTQI+ people.
- Create a LGBTQI+ quality standard for **older people's services** to ensure mainstream facilities are providing LGBTQI+ inclusive care.
- Respond to the high levels of **LGBTQI+ homelessness** with dedicated supports and services, including family supports.
- Implement the recommendations of the *Believe Me Or Not, But I am Who I Am* report to improve outcomes for LGBTQI+ refugees and asylum seekers.
- Ensure Ireland's **International Protection process** and direct provision system are supportive and sensitive to the experiences and needs of LGBTQI+ people.
- Include LGBTQI+ questions on the **census** to ensure evidence-based allocation of services.
- Expand Ireland's role in **supporting LGBTQI+ rights internationally.**

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