

**Social
Democrats**

LGBTQIA+ Rights

For an Equal and Inclusive Ireland

For the Future
It Starts Here

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LGBTQIA+ Rights

Over the last 30 years, Ireland has made significant progress in terms of LGBTQIA+ 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 LGBTQIA+ people and their families are treated equally across all aspects of Irish society.

Right now, Ireland is ranked 15th in Europe in terms of LGBTQIA+ human rights and policy protections. **We support the goal of getting to No. 1 and making this the best place in Europe to be LGBTQIA+.**

Legislative Reform

In Government, the Social Democrats will:

- Introduce a **National Action Plan Against Hate Crimes** to prevent and reduce hate crimes against the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Continue the process of **updating hate speech legislation** and will ensure that new laws are fit for purpose.
- Amend the **Assisted Human Reproduction Act** and reform the **Children and Family Relationships Act** to close the gaps in the law for LGBTQIA+ families, ensure equality for children of LGBTQIA+ people, and ensure full legal recognition for trans parents.
- Enhance the **Equal Status Act** and the **Employment Equality Act** to provide explicit protections for all LGBTQIA+ people.
- 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 age 16+**.
- Legislate to protect the rights of intersex people – including **a ban on infant genital mutilation**, in line with the laws in place in Iceland.

Health

Evidence shows us that health outcomes for LGBTQIA+ 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 LGBTQIA+ specific services and supports.

In Government, the Social Democrats will:

- Improve access to **gender-affirming healthcare services** based on a model of informed consent in line with 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 LGBTQIA+ **mental health strategy** with community addiction services to match.
- Ensure **LGBTQIA+ Awareness training** is available to all healthcare professionals to equip them to deliver LGBTQIA+ 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, Limerick and Galway.
- Provide funding for **dedicated lesbian and bi women sexual health** support.

Other Measures

In Government, the Social Democrats will:

- Introduce a second **National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy** with enhanced funding, clear targets, and additional staff resources.
- Improve LGBTQIA+ inclusive **relationships and sexuality education** and LGBTQIA+ history in schools.
- Review and update of the **Cineáltas Action Plan on Bullying** including specific prevention initiatives for LGBTQIA+ identity-based bullying.
- **Ensure conversion practices are brought to an end.**
- **Invest in LGBTQIA+ resource centres**, including ensuring access to youth work services, provision of alcohol-free spaces, and providing facilities for older LGBTQIA+ people.
- Create a LGBTQIA+ quality standard for **older people's services** to ensure mainstream facilities are providing LGBTQIA+ inclusive care.
- Respond to the high levels of **LGBTQIA+ homelessness** with dedicated supports and services, including family supports.
- Ensure Ireland's **International Protection process** and direct provision system are supportive and sensitive to the experiences and needs of LGBTQIA+ people.
- Include LGBTQIA+ questions on the **census** to ensure evidence-based allocation of services.
- Expand Ireland's role in **supporting LGBTQIA+ rights internationally.**

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