



**Green Party**  
for the common good

**LGBTIQ Greens**  
**2014 European Election Manifesto**



# Introduction



The Greens have always been firmly committed to equal rights. We were the first party in England and Wales to support marriage equality, and MP Caroline Lucas has done much in Westminster to fight for equal pension rights for same-sex couples. Both Green MEPs are members of the European Parliament's Intergroup on LGBT rights and have fought for equality across Europe. They have been powerful advocates for the European Court enshrining the legality of LGBTIQ anti-discrimination laws and tackling homophobia around the world.

Their work has shown that European Union has a strong role in advancing LGBTIQ rights. Greens are proud of our track record of fighting for LGBTIQ rights across Europe. The Green Group of MEPs, more so than any other group, have been, and will continue to be, uniformly committed to equality.

## The EU needs to be a strong advocate of LGBTIQ rights



Whilst multiple EU countries have recently taken significant steps in advancing LGBTIQ equality, too many have moved backwards. Croatia's recent ban on marriage equality, joining Hungary, Bulgaria, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, is a worrying step, as are multiple instances of violence at European Pride marches last summer. Four EU countries have no legal gender recognition and a further 15 require trans people to undergo sterilisation before their gender identity is legally recognised. Elected Green MEPs will ensure that LGBTIQ issues across Europe are taken seriously.

# An Inclusive Society

The EU represents a substantial diplomatic block in the world. The EU has a right and indeed a responsibility to fight for human rights across the globe. Greens have been strong supporters of international LGBT groups and international pride marches. EU support of such organisations, and placing LGBTIQ equality at the heart of diplomatic negotiations with other sovereign states, is a core Green demand.



## Elected Greens will strive to:

- Adopt an EU road map on LGBTIQ equality. Green MEPs will work for a comprehensive EU action plan to champion equality and to ensure it uses its full powers in an effective and coherent way.
- Ensure the adoption of an internal human rights strategy and the creation of a watchdog to hold member states to account for human rights violations against LGBTIQ people.
- Actively work towards the adoption of comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation and the effective implementation of existing standards to make equality a reality.
- Combat homophobic and transphobic violence by extending EU legislation and mobilising all EU agencies to work against all forms of hate crime, including better training for law enforcement officers.
- Take action against school bullying by mobilising EU institutions and Member States to effectively address school bullying, including homophobic and transphobic bullying, through existing EU policies and programmes.
- Promote an inclusive definition of family in all EU competencies, such as freedom of movement and promote respect and recognition of LGBTIQ families.

## Greens in Action

Keith and Jean have attended several Gay Pride events – at home and abroad. Specifically, they have worked to stamp out legal impediments to such events, successfully helping reverse a ban on a Pride rally in Lithuania. They both worked on a new EU Anti-Discrimination Directive and a recent resolution on LGBTIQ rights in the EU, and have campaigned for pan-EU recognition of same-sex marriages and for a strong EU stand against homophobic legislation in third countries – such as Uganda, Nigeria and India – with which the EU does business.

Both MEPs have spoken at rallies throughout the parliamentary term to mark IDAHO – the International Day Against Homophobia – and have promoted more funding for sexual health services – especially services for victims of HIV/AIDS.

# An Inclusive Economy

Greens are particularly concerned about the impact cuts and the austerity agenda are having on LGBTIQ communities throughout Europe. LGBTIQ people are disproportionately reliant on public services due to family estrangement, societal and workplace discrimination, and specific healthcare needs.

## Elected Greens will:

- Support the introduction of the anti-discrimination directive, as proposed by the European Commission, which would ban discrimination on the grounds of age, disability, religion and sexual orientation. This has been blocked repeatedly by Member States, and the Greens will continue to fight these efforts to prevent such anti-discrimination measures.
- Tackle discrimination and inequalities in health by mobilising EU institutions and Member States to effectively address barriers to access to health for LGBTIQ people through existing EU policies and programmes.



## Greens in Action

Cuts in youth, housing and social services are more likely to affect young LGBTIQ people, particularly those who are estranged from their families. LGBTIQ people are more likely to face unemployment and the impact of this can be much greater as they may not be able to rely on wider social networks. Cuts to older and disabled services will have a much greater impact on LGBTIQ people, who are less likely to have children, and will be more reliant on public services. Elected Greens at all levels have opposed the austerity agenda and cuts imposed by the UK and other EU governments.

## Trans issues

Trans rights throughout the EU are patchy. Four EU member states lack gender recognition and a further fifteen require compulsory sterilisation before legal recognition. Greens have a strong record on advocating for Trans people, who are among the most oppressed and discriminated-against in society.

## Elected Greens will:

- Be a leader in calling for an end to requirements to legal gender recognition for trans people that clearly violate human rights, and to actively support the EU in continuing to lead on the depathologisation of trans identities.
- Strongly oppose cuts to the NHS, which will make it harder for trans people to access gender reassignment services.

# LGBT asylum seekers and refugees

The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that people fleeing their country because of their sexual orientation can qualify for asylum in the European Union.

Despite this, the treatment of LGBT asylum seekers remains extremely problematic across the EU. Indeed even in the UK the Home Office has been found to treat LGBT asylum seekers inhumanely. High rates of refusal for legitimate claims, homophobic questioning and inhumane processes are rife across the EU. Greens instead have been powerful advocates of a humane asylum system that recognises the rights of refugees.

## Elected Greens will:

- Ensure effective protection for LGBTIQ asylum-seekers and humane treatment throughout the asylum process. Member States must correctly and fairly examine LGBTIQ people's asylum claims and support EU agencies and national authorities in fully implementing EU asylum legislation.

## Greens in Action

In October 2011, Jean Lambert MEP drafted a successful resolution to extend EU asylum standards to transgender people to include persecution of gender identity as a legitimate ground for asylum. Member States must now consider gender-related aspects in asylum claims. This applies to all EU Member States except the United Kingdom, which shamefully opted out of EU asylum policies.

## Greens in Action

More Green candidates have signed ILGA-Europe's 'Coming Out' pledge than from any other party, to show their commitment to human rights and equality for LGBTIQ people throughout Europe. The pledge asks candidates to commit to ensuring the EU is equipped with a comprehensive action plan to champion equality, to enforce human rights and anti-discrimination measures across the EU, and to tackle school bullying. Additionally, the pledge includes measures to protect both the rights of Trans individuals and the rights of LGBTI asylum seekers.

### On signing the pledge, Keith Taylor said:

"I am extremely pleased to have signed this pledge. As part of the European Parliament's LGBT Rights Intergroup I have worked towards a world free from homophobic prejudice and will continue to do so if re-elected. Candidates must stand in solidarity with the struggles of all LGBTI people; we must continue to fight for equality across the world, whilst not forgetting the continued discrimination and prejudice faced by many. All MEP candidates should include this pledge in their manifesto as this is our opportunity to ensure that human rights and equality remain at the heart of the European Union"



# Greens for a Europe of Equals

**Voting Green and electing more MEPs guarantees more voices in the European Parliament who will stand up for LGBTIQ rights. The Green Group of MEPs, more so than any other group, are wholly committed to equality.**

## **Elected Greens will seek to:**

- Make EU membership conditional upon granting rights for LGBTIQ citizens. Greens also support making LGBTIQ rights a core European competency, and would argue for a vote to enshrine a set of minimum rights for LGBTIQ people via legislation in parliament.
- Support LGBTIQ rights, oppose racism, ableism, sexism and all other forms of oppression around the world.
- Encourage the EU to work with and hear the voices of discriminated-against groups and their chosen representatives.



## LGBTIQ Greens

LGBTIQ Greens look to advance Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex & Queer (LGBTIQ) equality in our society and to raise awareness and understanding of Green and progressive values among LGBTIQ people.



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