

Rainbow Policy

Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa New Zealand which:

- Celebrates diversity and encourages understanding between groups.
- Eliminates legislative barriers to full participation in society.
- Eliminates institutional discrimination.
- Ensures schools, workplaces, and communities are educated about diversity in sexual orientation, and gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics.

Introduction

Rainbow¹ New Zealanders are a significant group in our society and have been marginalised through legislative barriers, institutional discrimination and casual prejudice.

The Green Party encourages social cohesion and acceptance within Aotearoa New Zealand. Rainbow communities cross social, educational and economic boundaries. Their diversity has the potential to enrich us all. The Green Party's fundamental values lead us to promote an inclusive society in which each minority group feels at home.

1 *Rainbow* – An umbrella term that embraces any person whose sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics (SOGIESC) differs from majority, binary (female/male) norms. This includes lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, takatāpui, intersex, queer (LGBTIQ) and other culturally specific terms such as fa'afafine.

Takatāpui – An umbrella term that embraces all Māori with diverse gender identities or expressions, sexualities and sex characteristics. It emphasises Māori cultural and spiritual identity as equal to – or more important than – gender identity or expression, sexuality or having diverse sex characteristics.

Intersex - an umbrella term embracing people born with physical sex characteristics that do not fit medical and social norms for female or male bodies.

Trans – An umbrella term embracing people whose gender identity or expression does not solely match the sex they were assigned at birth. This includes trans women who identify as women, and trans men who identify as men. When used as an umbrella term, trans also includes non-binary and genderqueer people who identify as outside the gender binary of women and men.

Key Principles

1. Rainbow communities are entitled to equal opportunities in law and in practice.
2. Rainbow partnerships are entitled to respect and support.
3. Parenting skills are distinct from a parent's sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics.
4. Community development is crucial for the empowerment of Rainbow communities.
5. All people, no matter what their health or partnership status, have the right to adequate medical care and protection from discrimination within the health services.
6. The interests and identities of Rainbow students in schools and tertiary institutions need to be protected.
7. Rainbow communities are entitled to fair and just treatment in their dealings with police, penal institutions, courts, and the military.

Specific Policy Points

1. Support for Rainbow Communities

The Green Party is committed to reflecting Rainbow diversity within our societies. We believe our communities will be healthier and more vibrant when we're all acknowledged and included.

Policy Positions

- 1.1. Amend discriminatory laws and policies to ensure the government complies fully with the Human Rights Act 1993.
- 1.2. Support the extension of all legal partnership arrangements and rights to all Rainbow couples.
- 1.3. Establish equal criteria for both Rainbow and non-Rainbow couples in their assessment for suitability and eligibility for parenting.
- 1.4. Encourage the development of adequately resourced community centres, outreach programmes and events, and the creative self-expression of people with Rainbow identities through drama, literature and the arts.
- 1.5. Develop specific health programmes, including professional education, in partnership with Rainbow communities.
- 1.6. Support the creation of safe and supportive educational environments, such as through the inclusion of Rainbow identities in teacher training and development, the teaching of human rights in schools, and the creation of partnerships with schools and rainbow youth organisations to reduce the unacceptably high level of suicide and drug abuse.

- 1.7. Support initiatives to educate all institutions, including Local and Central Government, police, penal institutions, courts, and the military, about Rainbow issues.
- 1.8. Encourage participatory research into individual life experience to identify ways to encourage Rainbow communities' physical and mental health and safety.
- 1.9. Take an active role within the international community to promote human rights issues in relation to Rainbow communities and people throughout the world.

2. Support for Intersex, Trans and Non-Binary People

Society is organised around a gender binary that reduces gender to two unchanging categories of man and woman, and marginalises people who are intersex, trans and non-binary. This binary means their existence is hidden or medicalised and their health, wellbeing and ability to participate in society is compromised.

Policy Positions

- 2.1. Clarify gender identity and expression and sex characteristics as prohibited grounds of discrimination.
- 2.2. Actively seek to address the long-ignored needs of intersex, trans, and non-binary people.
- 2.3. Involve intersex people in the development of public policy around intersex issues