Proud of our Diversity
“In recent years we have made huge progress and gains for LGBT+ citizens and in the building of a more equal society. Together we have achieved much, but there is still much to do to build a society that is equal for all. I believe that we can do it together, and I look forward to working with my LGBT+ friends and colleagues to achieve that goal.”

The erosion and diminishing visibility of LGBT+ venues across the country is cause for concern, in London alone 25% of LGBT+ venues have closed with notable institutions in Manchester and Brighton also suffering. We recognise that LGBT+ bars and clubs serve an important role in LGBT+ society, personal development, and our wider national culture and we must maintain these community hubs for future LGBT+ communities. As part of our commitment to creating an equal society for Britain’s LGBT+ community we will:

- Preserve the cultural and historic heritage of LGBT+ venues by supporting the expansion of Asset of Community Value status derived from planning legislation, securing venues for future LGBT+ communities by ensuring greater protection of venues from demolition or change of use.
- Maintain Britain’s place as one of the world’s leading proponents of LGBT+ rights and we will fight to secure and build on all EU derived LGBT+ rights, enshrining them in UK statute.

Jeremy Corbyn
Proud of our Diversity
Security at work
and equal access to justice

Whilst open homophobia in the workplace is rarer than it once was, we know that discrimination against LGBT+ workers remains both a spoken and an unspoken reality. The Conservative government’s introduction of employment tribunal fees has led to increased difficulty in bringing discrimination claims – which Labour has already committed to abolishing. As part of our commitment to security at work we will:

- Abolish fees to access the Employment Tribunal, making it easier for LGBT+ workers to bring discrimination claims where homophobic or transphobic discrimination has occurred.

Strengthen employment and trade union rights, including extending collective bargaining coverage to create more equal workplaces – including rights from day one in a job, such as protection from unfair dismissal – and create statutory rights for trade union Equality Reps. Strong trade unions in the workplace give people a means to enforce their rights at work, and workplaces with effective trade unions have better equality policies and guard against discriminatory work practices and ensure that family-friendly rights and policies apply equally to LGBT+ families.

We will initiate £500 billion of investment in Britain’s infrastructure, backed by our publicly owned National Investment Bank and regional banks, building the manufacturing and new industries of the future to move us to a high skilled, high tech, low carbon economy. We will take action to secure our environment for the benefit of us all and we will act to protect the future of our planet, with social justice at the heart of our environment policies.

As well as creating the high skilled jobs of the future we will act to improve all working lives by taking action against insecure work and creating equality in the workplace.

A Labour government will use public procurement as a lever to improve equality in employment and in the workplace by explicitly including the promotion of equality in contract criteria. We will also ensure that the promotion of race, gender, LGBT+ and disability equality forms part of the value for money consideration for contracts and thereby improve companies’ equality practices.

Investing in infrastructure such as high-speed broadband, energy, transport and homes will not just create decent jobs and grow our economy but will underpin improving lives and our society in multiple ways.

Our public investment strategy will also provide a foundation for the economy to grow, and from which we can properly fund and democratise our public services. This will put the public
back into our economy and services, and end the cuts to our public services. We will end the austerity that has hindered LGBT+ equality and has harmed specialist LGBT+ services which focus on removing barriers to LGBT+ equality.

It is already difficult for young LGBT+ people who do not feel safe in their family home or home town to relocate. Young LGBT+ people have long been over-represented among the homeless, with research from the Albert Kennedy Trust finding that they are up to 24% of the young homeless population. Yet Government changes to housing benefit policy are further exacerbating homelessness and housing problems among young LGBT+ people. We will take action to prevent homelessness as part of our secure homes guarantee, we will build a million new homes in five years, with at least half a million council homes, through our public investment strategy and end insecurity for private renters by introducing rent controls and a charter of private tenants’ rights.

**Achieving equality in education**

Fostering a positive and inclusive climate for learning improves educational outcomes for all students, yet a recent survey by Cambridge University revealed that 55% of LGBT+ people experience homophobic bullying in Britain’s schools. These pressures coupled with a lack of representation in the curriculum are likely to impact negatively on the educational attainment of LGBT+ students and this must be addressed. Schools are not only a place for learning but a miniature version of society and we must implement nurturing practices in education and promote the rich diversity of our social fabric in schools in order to overcome homophobia and transphobia in society as a whole. We are committed to a National Education Service open to all. As part of our commitment to equality and inclusivity we will:

- Work with schools to promote a safe and inclusive environment for LGBT+ young people and encourage the adoption of inclusive practices and language to ensure that LGBT+ students achieve positive educational outcomes.
- Advance LGBT+ inclusion in the education system by updating the national curriculum to reflect LGBT+ historical figures and LGBT+ rights.
- Ensure that inclusive Sex and Relationship Education is made compulsory in schools with a focus on sexual health, healthy relationships and tackling homophobia and misogyny.
Some of Britain’s most glaring inequalities are in relation to health and ongoing Conservative austerity has affected access to distinct health services used by LGBT+ patients. The types of services affected include funding for both treatments and information and advice services which compound the serious health inequalities experienced by LGBT+ people. We recognise that tackling health inequalities is not just a matter of social justice but bears real economic benefits and spending on preventative and personalised healthcare saves the NHS money.

- Our task in government will be to **secure our NHS and social care** - we will end the privatisation of our NHS and bring it back into public hands. We will work with LGBT+ groups to improve health services for LGBT+ patients, including working with the trans community to improve access to gender identity services.

We will support the right to PrEP and work with and support organisations campaigning to accelerate the provision of PrEP to those at the highest risk of contracting HIV.

There has been a 22% rise in the number of hate crimes recorded against gays and lesbians in 2014-2015. Home Office figures reveal that transgender hate crime rose by 9% last year and was the least commonly recorded hate crime. These figures account for reported crimes alone and not the thousands of unrecorded offences which sadly disguise the true scale of homophobia and transphobia in Britain.

The last few months have seen the horror of mass murder come to LGBT+ venues in the US, and we must ensure that our police are properly prepared to prevent and respond to any attempt at these kind of incidents.

- We will take active steps to ensure that all police officers are adequately trained about homophobic and transphobic hate crimes and additionally educated to understand the barriers in reporting these types of crime.

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*Jeremy Corbyn* for [Proud of our Diversity](#)
We will implement Stonewall’s recommendation to work with schools, the police and local authorities to prevent homophobic and transphobic crimes from happening in the first place. We will use our partnership approach so that police take the message directly into our schools that homophobic and transphobic crime is deeply damaging to our society and to the individuals subjected to it.

**Increasing LGBT+ people’s representation in democracy and our party**

Our democracy should represent the society we represent and we are proud that the British Parliament has the highest proportion of LGBT+ representation in the world. We must however continue to build on this record and further promote diverse representation at every level of our democracy and society. The Labour Party itself must ensure that it is a welcome, accessible and inclusive environment for everyone and that we are removing barriers to people becoming involved and represented at every level of our party structures.

- Within the party we have already committed to taking forward the recommendations of the Shami Chakrabarti Inquiry to consult on and introduce a wider Equal Opportunities Policy, training and guidance for members and staff.

- We have also committed to supporting the Shadow Secretary of State for Women and Equalities and creating advisory boards for all equality strands, including disabled people. This will ensure that equality is at the heart of all our policies.