



LGBT+ Labour Questions - Lisa Nandy Response

1. What have you done in your time as a Member of Parliament and prior to your election to improve the lives of LGBT+ people?

I'm proud to be an ally of the LGBT+ community. Whether that was supporting activists to organise the first-ever Wigan Pride in 2016, or supporting trans constituents as they navigate their transition. The LGBT+ community and other marginalised communities have been amongst the first to feel the impact of cuts to public services which is why I've worked with organisations like Youth Chances to improve service provision for LGBT+ young people and have challenged the austerity politics of successive Tory governments.

In the House of Commons, I've voted consistently for LGBT+ equality and I've championed talented LGBT+ members to put themselves forward as Labour candidates. At a time when the debate around gender identity has become toxic in our country and party I have never shied away from standing up for trans rights and have always been a vocal champion. I have fought against and will continue to stand up to Tory attempts to weaponize LGBT+ identities as part of a culture war as we saw they attempt to do at the last election.

I grew up under the shadow of Section 28 and saw the devastating impact it had on my friends. It was local community groups that offered them the only protection and place of safety from a hostile government that was intent on making them live in shame and fear. It was a Labour Government that repealed Section 28, a government that put improving the lives of LGBT+ people in this country and around the world at the heart of their work.

Since entering parliament I have seen the futility of opposition, chances to change the lives of LGBT+ people wasted and the services that my friends once relied on cut to the bone and in many cases cut altogether. We can not be complacent and as leader the LGBT+ community would have a lifelong ally in me.

2. As Labour Leader, what is the first change in legislation you would campaign on to improve the lives of LGBT+ people?

The first critical legislative change I would campaign on if elected leader is the long-awaited and desperately needed reform to the Gender Recognition Act. The GRA was a groundbreaking piece of legislation when it was introduced by the last Labour Government in 2004 but it is now outdated and is stigmatising trans and non-binary people and preventing them from receiving

the support they deserve at the moment they need it the most. The current gender recognition process creates unnecessary barriers preventing the majority of trans and non-binary people from achieving recognition in the eyes of the law.

We need to ensure that trans and non-binary people are able to declare their own gender and that the process of having their gender recognised in law becomes a simple administrative process instead of an expensive, invasive medical process.

It is shameful that the Tories have been allowed to get away with kicking their GRA consultation into the long grass when it got too difficult for them. We are now seeing trans people attacked in the media on a daily basis and women being pitted against each other. I will always stand up and say that trans women are women ensure that we hold this government to account and secure the legislative changes the trans community deserve.

But we cannot stop there. Despite years of progress for the LGBT+ community, we are starting to see the daily lives of LGBT+ people get harder. The rapid rise in hate crime is leaving many frightened to live their lives without fear or violence which is why I would support the move to make LGBT+ hate crime an aggravated offence. The disproportionate numbers of young homeless people being LGBT+ shows we are a long way from acceptance and I would ensure that tailored solutions to this crisis are at the heart of my housing policy. LGBT+ people need to know they are loved, accepted and supported so I would support a complete ban of the shameful practice of conversion therapy in the UK. It is ludicrous that we have a solution to prevent the transmission of HIV but the government is refusing to fund it, I would support the full roll out of PrEP now.

This September we will see the implementation of fully inclusive sex and relationships education across England following the lead of the devolved administrations in Wales and Scotland. This is a vital step in ensuring all children are taught about the power of our diverse communities and ensure that young LGBT+ people can learn about their identity and their peers learn to be proud of them. We need to put the dark days of Section 28 behind us and ensure that all teachers and schools have the training and support they need in order to ensure the introduction is a positive experience and that we put the days of protest and hate behind us. I would follow the Welsh Government's lead and remove the opt-out that allows parents to remove their children from these classes.

But focusing on individual legislative changes shouldn't be the limit of our ambition. As the party that introduced the Equality Act, we have led the way on the mainstreaming of equality and diversity and we must not allow ourselves to become complacent. Too often LGBT+ specific services are seen as add ons and LGBT+ experiences are side-lined and the first to go when budgets are being cut. As leader I will support equalities groups to deliver enhanced political education across our party, mainstreaming LGBT+ equality and ensuring it is a foundation of our policy formation process.

3. How will you root out incidences of homophobia, biphobia and transphobia alongside all other forms of discrimination in the Labour Party?

Being a member of the Labour Party is not a right it is a privilege and I will update our disciplinary rules to reflect that. Concerns about the influence of factionalism and political interference in the process are not limited to antisemitism cases. It is unacceptable that LGBT+

members have faced homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in our party and it is shameful that LGBT+ people have not felt confident in the reporting and handling of cases.

As I have spoken about in detail we need to move towards an independent process as quickly as possible. In my first few months as leader I will make this a top priority, from overseeing the drawing up of plans, to introducing any potential rule changes to the NEC myself.

In the meantime, we need to better implement the processes we have. Training must be provided automatically to anyone and everyone with responsibility for handling and making judgements on cases where there are accusations of homophobia, biophobia and transphobia. If we are ever going to re-establish trust then we need to be open about what is happening. There should be full transparency by publishing figures on cases and the actions taken.

The fight against homophobia, biphobia and transphobia can not be one LGBT+ members fight alone and talk of solidarity and allyship is meaningless without action. Under my leadership we will develop bystander training for all party members, empowering everyone to challenge the hateful rhetoric that has no place in our movement.

We will end the practice of "Reminders of Conduct" letters being sent in place of proper investigation. Beyond these moves, and my call for zero tolerance of homophobia, biophobia and transphobia, I will have no active role in the disciplinary process which must be independent of interference by the leader's office

This new process must have support throughout the party and ensure the voice of LGBT+ members are heard and LGBT+ Labour will be consulted throughout.

4. How would you ensure that an increased number of diverse LGBT+ people are selected to represent the Labour Party at all levels of local, devolved and national elected office?

The Labour party has led the way in securing representation for LGBT+ people in parliaments across the UK but there is still a long way to go. LGBT+ people should be represented at every level in our movement and in every part of our country.

The first step to achieving this is to celebrate our current LGBT+ representatives. We need to champion the leaders we already have and ensure that every LGBT+ person knows their place is in the Town Hall, the GLA, Welsh Assembly, Scottish Parliament or UK parliament. Visible role models are vital to inspire the next generation as well as ensure LGBT+ people can feel confident their needs are heard at every level of Government. Who better to tackle hate crime than an LGBT+ Police and Crime Commissioner? Who better to know what local services mean to LGBT+ people than a local Councillor or Metro Mayor? There is no layer of government or community in this country that cannot and should not have LGBT+ representation.

Any perception that LGBT+ people can only represent certain areas, or that LGBT+ candidates are in some way unappealing to the electorate has no place in any political Party and certainly not our Party. LGBT+ prejudice can slip into our selection processes, and I have heard too many stories about excellent candidates who were written off as they 'wouldn't be right round here', or who couldn't be on the ballot as they aren't a family man'. In towns like Wigan, the sentiments of solidarity, loyalty and love were what drove people to come together to feed starving families during the miners strike, and has driven the emergence of the Hope Not Hate

groups that have sprung up across our northern towns to counter the rhetoric that seeks to divide us. To treat our voters as ignorant or bigoted is to play the Tories game, and it insults those communities as much as it does the LGBT+ community.

As Leader I will support a diverse range of LGBT+ people to get selected at every level. The absence of a single trans or non-binary representative from parliament is shameful and at the last election, the diversity of candidates was poor with disabled and BAME LGBT+ candidates especially low. As leader I would ensure the creation of a leadership programme for LGBT+ people in the party in partnership with LGBT+ Labour. I would also draw on the expertise and experience of the existing leadership programmes currently being run by Labour Women's Network, the Jo Cox Women and Leadership programme, the Bernie Grant Leadership Programme and the Fabian Women's Network to ensure a diverse range of LGBT+ people are being trained at every possible opportunity, reflecting their intersectional identities. We then need to ensure that these candidates are being selected in winnable seats and not seen and an add on at the bottom of the candidate lists.

Our LGBT+ members deserve the full support of the Labour party. We are the party of equality and we must continue to ensure our representatives reflect the communities we aim to serve.