

LABOUR LEADERSHIP AND DEPUTY LEADERSHIP ELECTIONS 2020

IAN MURRAY MP

Labour is the party of equality.

I am proud of our party's record on standing up for the entire LGBT+ community.

LGBT+ rights have always been advanced when Labour is in power: we abolished Section 28 and Section 2A in Scotland; we equalised the age of consent; we created civil partnerships; and our votes ensured that equal marriage became law. We have always fought for equality and that is one of the main reasons I belong to the Labour Party.

I will never seek to undermine the achievements of the last Labour government, which took huge strides towards greater equality. We should hold our heads high and continue to lead with strong arguments as we have always done.

But we can only deliver greater equality if we are in power. Out of power, we must stand up for what is right, and fight any dilution of equalities we have fought for. But there is still much more to do.

We can't keep losing. We let the country down, and we must be honest about the reasons. I'm the change candidate standing for deputy leader and my detailed plan is to ensure we win, so that we can deliver equality for all.



LGBT+ Labour pledges

I commit to the LGBT+ Labour pledges, which are line with our manifesto commitments, international best practice, and our values as a party.

LGBT+ LABOUR PLEDGES

Leadership and Deputy Leadership Elections 2020

-  **Fully inclusive LGBT+ Sex and Relationships Education for all children in the UK**
I will campaign for: greater training and support for teachers; buffer zones to protect children, parents and staff from protests; and the removal of any exemptions for non-council maintained schools and an end of the parental right to remove children from these classes.
-  **Trans rights and reforming the Gender Recognition Act**
I will campaign to reform the Gender Recognition Act to introduce a self-declaration process and for the introduction of legal recognition for non-binary gender identities. I believe that trans women are women, that trans men are men, and that non-binary gender identities are valid and should be respected.
-  **Tackling the rise in anti-LGBT+ hate crime**
I will campaign for a change in the law on anti-LGBT+ hate crimes to bring them in line with hate crimes based on race and faith, by making them aggravated offences.
-  **A healthcare system that supports the LGBT+ community**
I will campaign for the provision and funding needed for: the full rollout of free PrEP across the UK; IVF treatment for lesbians, bisexual women, trans men and non-binary people; the reduction of waiting times for trans people to access hormones and surgery; and specific LGBT+ mental health services.
-  **Supporting LGBT+ homeless people**
I will campaign to ensure all plans to tackle the homelessness and rough sleeping crisis in the UK have specific provision tailored to understanding the needs and issues unique to LGBT+ homeless people who make up a disproportionate number of the current homeless people in the UK.
-  **Ending Conversion Therapy**
I will campaign for a complete ban on the archaic practice of conversion therapy throughout the UK, which believes that LGBT+ people can be 'cured'. This is a harmful and dangerous practice.
-  **LGBT+ rights globally**
I will campaign to reform the cruel and inhumane rules for LGBT+ people seeking asylum in the UK and will advocate for the appointment of an international envoy for LGBT+ rights.
-  **LGBT+ Leadership within Labour**
I commit to the implementation of a Leadership Programme for LGBT+ members as recommended in the democracy review, such as the Bernie Grant BAME & Jo Cox Women in Leadership Programmes to increase diverse LGBT+ representation. I will review why certain LGBT+ and intersectional minorities are underrepresented at all tiers of internal party democracy.
-  **Fully Independent Complaints process**
I will introduce a fully independent complaints process to tackle incidences of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and all forms of discrimination within the Labour party.
-  **Keeping LGBT+ Labour at the heart of decision making**
I fully commit to consulting LGBT+ Labour, as Labour's official LGBT+ affiliate, when making political and policy decisions that directly affect the LGBT+ community.



Winning Together

In the 2019 General Election, our manifesto failed to convince voters to back us. Too many of our promises were not credible - and it was a catastrophic mistake to face both ways on the constitutional issues of our time. The tragedy is that we lost the opportunity to implement our commitments on LGBT+ equality:

- Put LGBT+ equality at the heart of government, ensuring our public services are LGBT+ inclusive.
- Take steps to safeguard LGBT+ rights inside or outside the EU.
- Tackle the homelessness and rough sleeping crisis in the UK.
- Provide sufficient funding for schools to deliver mandatory LGBT+ inclusive relationships and sex education properly.
- Fully fund sexual health services and roll out PrEP medication.
- Respond fast and firmly wherever LGBT+ people face violence or persecution internationally.

I support these policies from the manifesto, and – working with members and supporters - we must continue to fight for these changes in opposition. But we are up against an 80-seat Tory majority. That’s why the Labour Party has to change so that we become electable again.

I have raised many of these issues internationally on a regular basis through my membership of both the Foreign Affairs Select Committee reports and the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We must ensure we make our voices heard internationally as well as nationally.

I have a five-point plan ready:

- 1) I will visit every seat we lost, won and may never hold in every nation and region of Britain to understand why Labour lost - and report back to party conference.
- 2) I will launch a Labour Party Campaign for Britain’s Future to determine how our country should be governed by giving more power to local communities.
- 3) I will take personal responsibility for rooting out antisemitism, bullying and harassment across the party.
- 4) I will organise effectively to ensure we target resources where needed, led by our members’ local knowledge.
- 5) I will never compromise on our Labour values or face both ways on the biggest issues of our time and will work to build a broad coalition of support as I have done in my own seat.

Trans rights

Transphobia has absolutely no place in the Labour Party, or anywhere else in society. In the fight against prejudice and hate and the campaign for trans rights, we must also ensure that our party lives up to our values. Trans people are discriminated against, face an increased risk of hate crime, have difficulty accessing public services, healthcare, housing and employment, and are at greater risk of mental health issues. I have been actively campaigning for more mental health counsellors in schools.

It is our moral duty to campaign for trans rights and to stand up for trans people. Trans rights are human rights. The Labour movement has always fought for equality for everyone, and that is the fundamental principle on which we should build.

I support Labour's 2019 manifesto commitments on trans rights, which included reforming the Gender Recognition Act to introduce self-declaration for transgender people in line with international human rights best practice.

I strongly hope this debate can be more civil and inclusive. I recognise that many members (a large number who I have the upmost respect for) have concerns about Labour's existing commitment to reform the Gender Recognition Act. It is important that everyone makes their case respectfully. Progress is only achieved when we come together to resolve our differences in a constructive manner. We have only ever made progress in equality by taking people with us and that involves a process of debate, discussion, and dialogue with each other.

The union UNISON has done a tremendous amount of work in this area and reminded us all that self-declaration has been in place for over 40 years for passports, driving licences and most other documentation. The union points out that 'self-declaration procedures for changing gender on these UK ID documents have been working smoothly for over 40 years, with no evidence of misuse. It is now time to bring the process for birth certificates into line with all other ID by reforming the Gender Recognition Act'.

International best practice has been identified by the Council of Europe (of which I am a member), the International Commission of Jurists and other bodies.

Labour's commitment to women's equality

I am determined that we never lose sight of the Labour Party's historic commitment to women's equality. Our party must always be committed to tackling sexism, discrimination and harassment of women. As part of my commitment to women's equality, if elected deputy leader I will propose the creation of an additional deputy leader post reserved for a woman, so there is always at least one woman in our leadership team. I also believe any future leadership and deputy leadership elections should be decoupled.

But it is about much more than our internal procedures. It is about making society fairer. Our manifesto commitments on women's equality, which I support, included:

- Setting new standards for tackling domestic and sexual abuse and violence, and appointing a Commissioner for Violence against Women and Girls.
- Upholding women's reproductive rights.
- A new Department for Women and Equalities, with a full-time Secretary of State, responsible for ensuring all our policies and laws are equality-impact assessed in order to deliver a fairer society for women.

There is no conflict between trans equality rights and women's equality rights. That will not change if the Gender Recognition Act is reformed in line with Labour's manifesto pledge.

In Scotland, where I am an MP and the debate on self-declaration is further advanced than elsewhere in the UK, I have listened to many organisations including **Close the Gap, Engender, Equate Scotland, Rape Crisis Scotland, Scottish Women's Aid, Women 50:50 and Zero Tolerance**. They have issued a joint statement which confirms: "We do not regard trans equality and women's equality to be in competition or contradiction with each other." I want to listen to the experts in the field on this issue (as on other issues). I will continue to listen to and engage with women's organisations and campaigners as we fight for equality for everyone.