



LGBT+ Labour Questions - Rebecca Long-Bailey 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?

When I came to Parliament, I made it a key commitment to ensure I stood up for the equality and human rights of all people in our community, country and world. This has particularly been true of our LGBT+ community. My voting record in Westminster reflects this spirit - most recently I was proud to vote for equal marriage to finally be extended to those in Northern Ireland.

In my constituency, I have been proud to stand with our LGBT+ community and have supported Pride in Salford. In the last year, we have even had the introduction of a 'Salford Pride' beer! It is clear to me and many others in this Parliament, that with an increasingly right wing and 'Trumpian' Prime Minister and government, those who come under attack will be women, migrants, refugees, BAME communities and LGBT+ people. We must ensure the next labour leader and all Parliamentarians centralise the rights of LGBT+ people across the country and world.

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

There are many changes I believe we in the Labour party need to make as we are facing an increasingly reactionary government that is linking up with and looking up to the likes of Donald Trump. Standing up to one of the most dangerous Prime Ministers of modern time and in solidarity with all those who come under attack from this government will be my absolute priority. I have also made clear my support for reforming the Gender Recognition Act as part of advancing equality for trans people

We must remember that Labour is the party of abolishing Section 28, equalised age of consent, civil partnerships, and we need to ensure the fight for equality is not undermined. We must make sure this spirit remains a central value of our party. I will first fight all the cuts to our health service and will fight to make it better funded and better resourced, and to make sure the NHS is returned to public hands and for genuinely comprehensive healthcare that is inclusive for women, migrants, refugees, BAME and LGBT+ and that our health services are responsive and meeting the needs of all, including through fully funding sexual health services and roll out PrEP medication. I will also ensure mandatory and inclusive LGBT+ relationship, sex and consent education in all our schools and oppose vigorously the rise of the far right and hate crime that threatens LGBT+ people.

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

AND

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?

I have made it clear in this leadership race, that there is no room for any form of discrimination in our party and we need to ensure our processes work for all forms of discrimination, bullying and harassment. It is clear to me that our internal process must be robust, fit for purpose and ones our members can have real confidence in. Building an ever more inclusive and participatory and diverse Labour party has to be a central tenet of any future Labour leader.

As Labour leader, I will ensure we encourage LGBT+ forums at local levels and that CLPs and regions have LGBT+ officers as part of having a more member led party at local, regional and national level. We will put party policies in the hands of our members and ensure we are diverse at every level and that we are working with trade union LGBT structures and campaigning organisations, increasing women, BAME, disabled and LGBT+ representation.