

The Labour Party LGBT Manifesto 2010



A Labour government will build on the development of LGBT Rights since 1997 and look to tackle persistent prejudice and the cultural lag that undoubtedly exists. Labour will promote equality and challenge homophobia in all its forms.

A Labour Government will deliver:

- **Root out homophobia and discrimination from public services and public life.** Through the implementation of the Equality Act (2:4, Page 21), Labour will unleash its potential to combat homophobia including in schools, hospitals and police authorities - through the new Duty to Promote LGBT Equality. Our legal equality, delivered by Labour, needs to be turned into a reality in the lives of LGBT people across the country. Only Labour will lead this culture change to end the harm that discrimination causes.
- **Reform our schools to tackle homophobia & transphobia (3:5, Page 29)** - the experiences of too many LGBT people in schools are horrifying and cause long-term damage. Labour will improve anti-bullying measures and work to change the culture of homophobia and gender stereotypes, such as tackling the use of the word "gay" as a derogatory term.
"School cultures where sexism, racism and homophobia are tolerated must be tackled. That's why we have given schools up to date anti-bullying guidance - including specific guidance on tackling homophobic bullying - to make sure that they can adopt tougher action against bullies."
- **Outlaw incitement to homophobic hatred in all forms (5:4, Page 40)** - we will repeal Tory Lord Waddington's amendment which continues to allow forms of discrimination. Incitement to homophobic hatred will be put on the same legal footing as incitement to racial hatred.
"We stand full square against people who peddle hatred, racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia and religious intolerance, and will root out and tackle individuals and organisations promulgating such views."
- **Compulsory, inclusive sex and relationship education (3.6, Page 30)** – will ensure young people are empowered and informed to take control of their relationships and sexual health. Removing the opt-out will mean every young person receives inclusive sex and relationship education including discussion of homosexuality as a mainstream element of the school curriculum.
- We will ensure anyone who was convicted of a homosexual offence which was subsequently decriminalised will have the opportunity to have their names removed from the sex offenders register and /or the police national computer on application.

More information about the Labour manifesto is available at:

www.labour.org.uk/manifesto

www.lgbtlabour.org.uk

Three things we are proud of:

- **Civil Partnerships** and the 40,000 that have taken place.
- The **Gender Recognition Act** and those people who have transitioned.
- **Removing homophobia from the laws of the United Kingdom** - Section 28, the unequal Age of Consent, the ban on LGB people serving in the armed forces and discriminatory offences such as gross indecency and buggery have all been removed from the laws of the United Kingdom.

Three things we are defending:

- **Equality in use of goods and services** – we will not allow exceptions for any commercial service providers and that includes owners of bed and breakfast businesses. Discrimination is discrimination wherever it happens.
- **Lesbian fertility rights** - Gordon Brown led Labour MPs to vote to ensure that Lesbian couples could get equal access to free fertility treatment on the NHS; David Cameron led Tory MPs to vote to try to stop this.
- **The Equality Act** - David Cameron tried to kill the Equality Bill in October 2009 and tried to water down important protections. They failed to stop it. Now it is law, it needs a Labour government to turn equality into reality and end the harm of homophobia.

The Tory record with Cameron as leader:

Since David Cameron became Leader of the Conservatives there have been 5 votes on LGBT Equality – each time the Tories voted against our equality

- Goods and Services Regulations – **70% of Tory MPs voted against**
- Incitement to Homophobic Hatred – **All but 5 Tory MPs voted against**
- Lesbian Fertility Rights – **Cameron leads Tory MPs voting against**
- Incitement to Homophobic Hatred (removal of Waddington Amendment) - **Cameron & all but 1 (John Bercow – now Speaker) Tory MP voted against**
- Equality Bill –
 - **Cameron submitted a wrecking amendment**
 - **141 Tory MPs vote against Second reading**
 - **140 Tory MPs vote against enabling the Equality Bill to be debated**
 - **Cameron and 129 Tory MPs vote against the Carry Over motion**

In the final days of the Parliament, the Tories forced the government to remove compulsory sex and relationship education from the legislative programme.

In an interview with Attitude magazine, David Cameron said that Labour's LGBT equality has gone far enough and there is nothing more that needs to be done.

The Record...

The Labour Party is deeply committed to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans equality, and has led the world in equality legislation.

Since coming to power in 1997 the Labour government has done more for the advancement of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans equality than any other government in British history.

Since Labour became Government, it has:

- brought in an **equal age of consent**;
- **scrapped the Tories homophobic Section 28** (Clause 2a in Scotland);
- **ended the ban on LGB people serving in our armed forces**;
- **created Civil Partnerships**, allowing same-sex couples to have loving relationships with the same rights as married couples;
- **ended discrimination** against same-sex partners for **immigration purposes**;
- enabled LGBT couples to be considered for **adopting children**;
- banned discrimination in the workplace and training by the **Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation) Regulations**;
- **outlawed discrimination in use good and services** (with no exceptions);
- created the **Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC)** which gives LGBT people statutory body protection;
- included **homophobia in the definition of hate crimes**;
- ensured statutory **rights for fertility treatment for lesbians** on the NHS.
- **increased sentencing** for homophobic hate crimes;
- **removed outdated offences** such as gross indecency and buggery;
- produced and implemented the **Gender Recognition Act**, allowing trans people to have their true gender recognised in law;
- made it **illegal to discriminate on partnership status**—meaning partners in a civil partnership have the same right rights as married couples.
- **launched a campaign in the UN for the Universal Decriminalisation of Homosexuality** focusing on the 9 countries where it is still punishable by death;
- **opposed homophobic abuse and legislation around the world**

LGBT Labour - The Labour Campaign for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans Rights is a socialist society affiliated to the Labour Party.

LGBT Labour campaigns within the Labour Party on LGBT rights and for a Labour victory.

As LGBT Labour, we are proud of the part Labour Party members and LGBT campaigners played in fighting for equality. We still have much to achieve and that's why LGBT Labour continues the fight - Join LGBT Labour now to get more involved.

www.labour.org.uk/manifesto

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