

Joining up the policies

Anti-discrimination policies on their own aren't enough. It's vital to see the connections between one policy decision and its effects elsewhere in society. Cuts and austerity measures have a disproportionate effect on LGBTIQ people because of higher levels of reliance on public services due to family estrangement, societal and workplace discrimination, and specific healthcare needs.

Likewise, cuts in youth, housing and social services are more likely to affect young LGBTIQ people, particularly those who are estranged from their families. LGBTIQ people are more likely to face unemployment and the impact of this can be much greater because they may not be able to rely on wider social networks. Cuts to services for older and disabled people will have a much greater impact on LGBTIQ people, who are less likely to have children and will be more reliant on public services.

So, restoring the public realm contributes to equality and diversity.

WOMEN

Since 2010, recent progress in advancing women's equality has been undermined and reversed. Women are now:

- **Poorer** – nearly three-quarters of the government's 'savings' have been paid for by women;
- **Earning less** – the value of low pay in particular is declining, and the pay gap between men and women in their twenties has doubled;
- **Over-burdened** – as support services have been slashed, women are left carrying the load; and
- **More at risk of gendered violence** – because funding for services that support survivors of sexual and domestic violence has been reduced.

This is all a consequence of deliberate government action. The Public Sector Equality Duty, which assesses the impact of government, is designed to solve problems in isolation – the lack of a job or of a place to live, an illness – but problems usually arise together. An alternative approach, based on Women's Centres, has shown the potential to break down barriers and provide an effective holistic approach that facilitates resilience and recovery for women and their families. The Green Party would fund the creation of a nationwide set of pilots, and if their early promise turns out to be fulfilled would intend expanding this to a universal nationwide scheme, run in the voluntary sector by women but given secure long-term core funding through local government.

We will also:

- Make *equal pay* for men and women a reality.
- Require 40% of all members of public company and public sector boards to be women.
- *Listen to girls and young women* about relationships education and about sexism in the media and make *personal, social, health and economic education* (PSHE) a compulsory part of the school curriculum.
- Take steps to tackle *media sexism*, starting with working with retailers to stop lads mags and other pornography from being sold in supermarkets and newsagents.
- Ensure that the laws to prevent *discrimination* against women on the grounds of pregnancy and maternity are properly enforced.
- Follow Scotland's lead and make it illegal to stop *nursing mothers* feeding their babies in a public place.
- Ensure consistent long-term funding for a national network of *Rape Crisis Centres*, spending up to £100 million on the network over the course of the Parliament.