



Protection Approaches

Tackling identity-based violence

A review of the 2015 general election manifestos

Introduction

With the UK general election nearing, this review sets out what has been promised and pledged in the manifestos of the major UK political parties with regard to combatting identity-based violence, both at home and abroad. It is primarily a survey of political attitudes that provides insight to the kinds of policies we can expect the parties to pursue if they are to form a government following the election. How - if at all - have the major parties demonstrated a responsibility to protect vulnerable groups who face violent discrimination?

We are lucky to live in the UK; for the most part we enjoy the benefits of an open and free democracy supported by a strong civil society and freedoms of speech and the press. Yet most of us during our lives will experience some form of discrimination ourselves, or witness discrimination being directed at somebody else. Unchecked, prejudice and discrimination leads to identity-based violence. In extreme cases, as in many parts of the world, this can become identity-based mass violence, including ethnic cleansing or even genocide.

Attacking somebody because of their identity - be it their gender, sexual orientation, their religion, ethnicity, race, or if they are disabled - is always a crime.

These domestic and international issues cross all governmental departments and are often treated as separate problems. However, the baseline is the same; attacking identity is never conscionable and always preventable.

Protection Approaches works to defend the rights of all peoples at risk of identity-based violence. While our primary focus is the prevention of incidents of identity-based mass violence such as ethnic cleansing or genocide, we believe that it is important all acts of identity-based violence are understood as part of a shared global problem with identifiable causes and combatted with the same tools of prevention.

Scope:

The data for this review is taken entirely from the election manifestos released by political parties earlier this month. The parties whose manifestos we have reviewed are: the Conservative Party, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats, the Green Party, the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP), the Scottish National Party (SNP) and Plaid Cymru.

We have chosen not to include any of the parties who stand only in Northern Ireland. We recognise the importance of Northern Ireland and its parties when discussing identity-based violence in the UK. However to include all of the parties would require a disproportionate amount of resource and space in this review for the 18 parliamentary seats that they represent.

What we'd like to see:

Focussing on the UK we would like to see policies and pledges that would:

- protect vulnerable groups from identity-based crimes

- punish perpetrators of identity-based crimes
- combat divisions in communities and promote social cohesion
- combat extremism, in all its forms, without alienating or scapegoating communities
- protect equal access to human rights
- demonstrate a commitment to protecting vulnerable or marginalised groups

Focussing on the rest of the world we would like to see policies and pledges that demonstrate a commitment to:

- international development, including the UN Millennium Development Goals
- holistic approaches to promoting human rights
- holistic approaches to conflict prevention and resolution
- the principle of responsibility to protect (R2P)
- predicting incidents of identity-based mass violence
- preventing incidents of identity-based mass violence, especially mass atrocities
- protecting groups at risk of identity-based violence, abuse and mass atrocities
- holding those responsible for crimes of identity-based mass violence to account

Summary of findings:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups in the UK:

Although the UK is a relatively peaceful and secure society there remain large numbers of people from many different groups who are at risk of identity-based abuse and violence. These include, but are not limited to: women and girls, certain racial, ethnic or religious groups, LGBT+ communities, traveller communities, people with disabilities or mental health problems, and immigrants.

We'd like to see greater protection of vulnerable groups in the UK with better resources available that provide immediate sanctuary for individuals at risk or experiencing identity-based violence. Strategies that seek a safe and integrated society, robust responses to prejudice, hate crime, and extremism in all its forms, and the rejection of divisive or scapegoating rhetoric.

What we have found:

All parties present a unified stand against female genital mutilation (FGM) and there is a general move towards the greater prioritisation for the protection of women and girls from violence of any kind. While the Conservatives and Labour pledge a secure future for services such as women's shelters and rape crisis centres, the Liberal Democrats promise to create more.

All parties except UKIP pledge to continue to defend the rights of LGBT+ people. Only the Green Party commit to strengthening the rights of traveller communities. Labour and the Liberal Democrats identify the issue of rising anti-semitism and Islamophobia and commit to tackling it and other hate crime. Labour promise to strengthen laws to tackle anti-disability, homophobic, and transphobic hate crime. The Green Party supports a review of at risk groups in the UK and a more comprehensive approach to hate crime.

Plaid Cymru supports using restorative justice where the victims of identity-based crime meet their perpetrator as an effective means of preventing future crimes.

UKIP and the SNP present no policies on the protection of vulnerable groups, tackling hate crime, or identity-based violence.

Tackling extremism in the UK:

Extremism in all its forms poses the biggest threat to social cohesion and encourages prejudice and identity-based violence. Responses to extremism should be holistic and balance law enforcement with community-

based engagement strategies that prevent alienating or scapegoating identity groups.

What we have found:

The Liberal Democrats, Labour, the Greens, and Plaid Cymru set out holistic approaches to tackling extremism in the UK, matching punitive measures and law enforcement with community-based strategies so as to ensure no groups are alienated or scapegoated. The Conservatives and UKIP pledge a wholly punitive approach. The SNP does not set out an approach to tackling extremism.

Promoting social cohesion in the UK:

A cohesive society works towards the well-being of all its members, fights exclusion and marginalisation, and promotes a sense of belonging. Encouraging social cohesion is the most successful (and economically viable) approach to tackling prejudice, division and identity-based violence.

The issue of immigration is addressed from the perspective of migrants currently in the UK and social cohesion. Feelings around immigration are running high in the UK at the moment and it is a topic that is shaping social attitudes. Divisive rhetoric and scapegoating in parts of the press has blurred understanding of the differences between migrants and asylum seekers, who seek refuge in the UK from some of the world's worst humanitarian crises, including wars in Syria, Iraq, and elsewhere.

We'd like to see policies that promote social integration, tolerance, and community-led initiatives. Pledges to combat divisions in communities. The protection of human rights for all and support for better access to justice for vulnerable groups. Support for civil society initiatives that promote multiculturalism and social cohesion; a balanced approach to freedoms of speech and the press that champions freedom of expression but does not sanction hate speech and scapegoating.

What we have found:

Only UKIP reject multiculturalism. UKIP would withdraw funding for initiatives that promote multiculturalism and promote British culture and values; they propose no policies in support of social cohesion. The Conservatives also promote British values but it remains ambiguous as to which values UKIP or the Conservatives consider to be "British". The Conservatives put forward no policies that encourage social cohesion except for a promise to review

stop and search policies if search-to-arrest ratios do not improve.

Labour, the Liberal Democrats, the Greens, and Plaid Cymru all champion the values of social integration and set out policy promises to advance the rights of minorities.

Human rights in the UK:

The debate over human rights in the UK has become distorted and demonised. Human rights are no longer seen as the universal liberties that we all enjoy but something imposed by Europe to be exploited by non Britons; however, proposals to scrap the Human Rights Act and replace it with a British Bill of Rights, if enacted, could diminish the ability of people in UK to claim to their rights. When there are changes to human rights law it does not necessarily follow that those changes will be negative. Change can bring a chance to strengthen the mechanisms in place to protect our rights. A government can always do more to protect the rights of the most vulnerable within its borders.

What we have found:

UKIP supports leaving the European Convention on Human Rights and scrapping the UK Human Rights Act. The Conservatives also pledge to scrap the UK Human Rights Act. All other parties staunchly champion the UK Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Protecting vulnerable groups and promoting Human rights, social cohesion and peace around the world:

Around the world millions of people live in fear of becoming victims of identity-based crimes. Just as the new government will have a responsibility to protect people within Britain's borders from identity-based violence, the UK government has a responsibility to assist people most at risk abroad.

We would like to see clear commitment to the principal of the responsibility to protect (R2P) as well as a cross departmental prioritisation of the prevention of mass atrocity crimes. Promises of maintaining or increasing the UK's international aid budget alongside prioritisation of peace-building, human rights and social cohesion in the aid strategy. Commitments towards finding solutions to current conflicts and to receive its fair share of displaced persons from around the world. Policies that promote the human rights of already marginalised groups

What we have found:

All parties unanimously support a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine. The Lib Dems and the Conservatives both commit to working towards an "inclusive" settlement in Syria, whilst the Lib Dems are the only Party who say they would support the moderate opposition in that country. Labour, the Conservatives, the Greens and the Lib Dems all will work with global partners to tackle the so called Islamic State in Syria and Iraq.

Only the Liberal Democrats commit to the principle of the R2P in their manifesto. R2P is increasingly making an impact in the pursuit of international conflict resolution and atrocity prevention. In the past, the UK has been described as a flag-bearer of R2P, this move away from the principle is a cause for concern. In March, Protection Approaches and seven other civil society organisations sent a letter to party leaders asking them to commit to R2P and to prioritise the prevention of mass atrocities. You can read the letter and responses [in full here](#).

It is clear that the legacy of the 2003 Iraq invasion continues to influence attitudes of foreign policy and is confused with humanitarian interventions elsewhere. Labour, the Greens, Plaid Cymru, the SNP, and UKIP all cite the Iraq war as a reason for the UK to play a more cautious or less active role in international humanitarian interventions.

We welcome that all parties, except UKIP, commit to the figure of 0.7% of GDP for international aid and prioritise the UK's role in advancing human rights around the world. UKIP would cut £9billion from the aid budget and close the Department for International Development.

Labour and the SNP support establishing a Special Envoy for LGBT+ rights around the world, demonstrating a commitment to protecting LGBT peoples around the world from identity-based crimes; Labour also supports a Special Envoy for Faith Matters.

Only Plaid Cymru acknowledged the UK's obligation to receive its fair share of displaced persons from around the world; furthermore the party expressed its desire for Wales to do so and to become a place of sanctuary for those fleeing wars in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. While Plaid Cymru should be praised for prioritising the needs of refugees, it is disappointing that the other parties make no firm commitments.



Conservative Party

UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups:

The Conservatives commit to “promote equal treatment and equal opportunity for all in a society proud of its tolerance and diversity”. The party pledges to champion the rights of the LGBT+ community, and to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls by promising a “secure future” for forced marriage units, refugees and rape crisis centres.

There are no specific policies on tackling discrimination or protecting any other at risk groups.

“At the heart of our approach lies an uncompromising defence of British values”

Tackling extremism:

“At the heart of our approach lies an uncompromising defence of British values, and a very simple message: in Britain, you do not just enjoy the freedom to live how you choose; you have a responsibility to respect others too.”

Commitments to stand against all forms of extremism, including non-violent extremism and tackle the roots are not matched with policy proposals: increasing powers to outlaw groups that are deemed to foment hate through new Banning Orders, new powers to prevent those who may be seeking to radicalise people online from using the internet or communicating via social media, and measures to ensure colleges and universities do not give a platform to extremist speakers do not tackle the roots, but early branches.

Promoting social cohesion:

There are no policies for promoting community engagement. There are no policies for promoting social cohesion beyond plans to examine stop and search practices if stop to arrest ratios do not improve.

The promise to control immigration features heavily in

the manifesto. The pledge to ‘deport first, appeal later’ has legal ramifications regarding the UK’s obligations as an EU member. Plans to “tackle health tourism” are ambiguous and the definition of health tourism or which patients would be effected is not discussed, however a commitment is made to recover “up to £500 million from migrants who use the NHS by the middle of the next Parliament”.

Human rights:

The Conservatives’ promise to repeal the Human Rights Act and introduce a British Bill of Rights. If enacted the European Court of Human Rights would no longer have jurisdiction in the UK and the UK may be forced to withdraw from the European Convention on Human Rights. Under a British Bill of Rights “basic rights” would remain but broader application would be weakened. The only concrete example given about the impact of the changes is that “among other things terrorists and other serious foreign criminals” would be prevented from using some human rights claims to prevent deportation. This could also impact the human rights of immigrants as the Conservatives promise a ‘deport first, appeal later’ rule for all immigration appeals and judicial reviews, including where right to family life is involved, apart from asylum claims.

Abroad:

The Conservative party does not commit to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) or to prioritising mass atrocity crimes. Foreign policy has a focus on British security and prosperity rather than global security or the protection of vulnerable groups. The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative would be continued and support global processes on arms control.

The Conservatives are committed to maintaining 0.7% of gross national income on international development. The main focus of the spending is reduction of poverty and saving lives through improved health rather than promotion of human rights, peace and social cohesion. The manifesto does emphasise the importance of peace, stability and effective institutions for reducing poverty.

The Conservatives support a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine, and pledge to pursue “an inclusive settlement in Syria and Iraq.”



Labour Party

UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups:

Labour promise to take a lead on challenging prejudice and discrimination in the UK. They also promise a zero-tolerance approach to hate crime, citing anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Pledges are made to strengthen the law on anti-disability, homophobic, and transphobic hate crime. Policy details are not elaborated.

Violence against women and girls is identified as a priority and with concrete policy commitments. Labour will publish a Violence against Women and Girls Bill, appoint a commissioner to set minimum standards in tackling domestic and sexual violence, and provide more stable central funding for women's refuges and Rape Crisis Centres.

Tackling extremism:

When discussing extremism Labour focusses almost entirely on Islamic extremism rather than extremism in all its forms. Labour recognise that to tackle Islamic extremism it is important to engage with the personal, cultural and wider factors that turn young people to extremism. The manifesto promises to involve communities in countering extremist propaganda and to build resilient institutions for social integration.

“People's differences are not excuses to treat them badly or unjustly”

Promoting social cohesion:

Labour has committed to establishing a comprehensive race equality strategy and have a stated aim to make sure national institutions, including Parliament, the police, judiciary, civil service, and the boardrooms of companies, are more representative. They promise to champion LGBT+ rights and to challenge all prejudice before it grows, whether in schools, universities or on social media.

Stricter controls on immigration are one of Labours five election pledges. Labour do distinguish between migration and asylum claims, pledging that a Labour

government would provide refuge for those fleeing persecution by upholding our international obligations, including working with the UN to support vulnerable refugees from Syria. Clear commitments are not made.

Human rights:

Labour champion the Human Rights Act as a powerful means of redress for some of the UK's most vulnerable citizens. Labour promises to stand up for citizens' individual rights by protecting the Human Rights Act and by remaining within the jurisdiction European Court of Human Rights.

Abroad:

Labour promises to support human rights around the world and put individual freedom at the heart of their foreign policy. They promise to maintain the UK's commitment to spend 0.7% of gross national income on international development with a commitment to work in fragile and conflict-affected states to improve the lives of those affected by violence.

Labour does not acknowledge their responsibility to protect, or R2P as a growing global norm. Labour does address the issue of overseas military intervention, the need to learn the lessons of previous interventions, especially the 2003 invasion of Iraq. “A Labour Government would not propose the use of military force without judging whether reasonable diplomatic efforts have been exhausted, the action is proportionate and in partnership with allies, whether there is a clear legal basis, and if there is a clear plan, not just for winning the war but also for building a lasting peace”

Labour plans to appoint a Global Envoy for Religious Freedom, and establish a multi-faith advisory council on religious freedom within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. they will also appoint an International LGBT Rights Envoy to promote respect for the human rights of LGBT people, and work towards the decriminalisation of homosexuality worldwide.

One of the first acts of a Labour would be to “conduct a wide-ranging review of Britain's place in the world and how we can best uphold our values and the national interest.”

Labour commit to pursuing a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.



UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups:

The Liberal Democrats commit to reviewing the process of assessing threats against different ethnic and religious communities to ensure all groups in the UK are properly protected. They promised to support civil society projects aimed at tackling intolerance.

The party is “determined to combat anti-Semitism and anti-Muslim hate in the UK” and will work closely with faith and community organisations to prevent hate crime.

To tackle violence against women and girls, teachers, social workers, police officers, and health workers in areas of the country where there is high prevalence of female genital mutilation or forced marriage will be trained to help those at risk and national sources of funding for a national network of rape crisis centres and refuges for victims of domestic violence are promised.

The Liberal Democrats also plan to outlaw caste discrimination and to tackle disability hate crime by ensuring proper monitoring of incidents.

Tackling extremism:

The Liberal Democrats will ensure their efforts to tackle terrorism do not stigmatise or alienate Muslims or any other ethnic or faith group. They plan to work with religious and community leaders, civil society groups and social media sites to counter the narratives put forward by extremists and ensure government supports communities to help prevent those at risk of radicalisation from being drawn into illegal activity. There are no new policy proposals on countering extremism in the UK.

Promoting social cohesion:

The Liberal Democrats promise to boost police recruitment from BAME groups and improve safeguards in police stop and search powers in England and Wales. They plan to support civil society organisations in building relations between different faith communities and make homophobic chanting, as seen during many football matches, a criminal offence.

On immigration the Liberal Democrats are strong on setting out its benefits and the rhetoric is not as divisive as seen in other manifestos

Human rights:

The Liberal Democrats promise to protect the Human Rights Act, comply with decisions of the European Court of Human Rights. They will enshrine the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in UK law.

Abroad:

The Liberal Democrats are the only party that state their commitment to the principle of the responsibility to protect (R2P) and recognise its focus on security of individuals not states. They are committed to maintaining the 0.7% of national gross income funding to international development and plan to use all aspects of government policy – trade, aid and diplomacy as well as military cooperation – to focus UK policy on conflict prevention. They promise that conflict prevention will be a priority in a Strategic Defence and Security Review which should begin immediately after the election.

Liberal Democrats state a determination to combat anti-semitism and anti-Muslim hate internationally whilst they will appoint an ambassador level “Champion for Freedom of Belief” and campaign for the abolition of blasphemy, sedition, apostasy and criminal libel laws worldwide. They also plan to promote international recognition of same sex marriages and civil partnerships as part of an International LGBT Rights Strategy that supports the cause of decriminalising homosexuality in other countries.

Liberal Democrats believe the UK should intervene in conflict only when there is a clear legal and/or humanitarian case, endorsed by a vote in Parliament, working within the remit of international institutions.

“We respect the rights of human beings wherever they live”

The party promises to support a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine and favour broadening the international coalition against the so called Islamic State. In Syria, the Liberal Democrats support the moderate opposition fighting both President Bashar al-Assad and IS and will continue to push for an inclusive political transition.



UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups:

The Green Party would require all police forces to have equality and diversity liaison officers whose remit is to tackle and take preventive action on crimes originating in discrimination against any group, and to treat crimes arising from such discrimination on a par with racist crimes. They also promise to implement a UK-wide strategy to tackle violence against women, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, female genital mutilation and trafficking.

Tackling extremism:

On the issue of countering extremism at home, the Greens promise “measures to protect against terrorism, ensuring that civil liberties are not undermined in the process.” No policy pledges are set out but commitments are made to ensure that “communities are not scapegoated, action reflects a genuine assessment of the threat to our security and effective programmes to prevent radicalisation and to deradicalise individuals.”

Promoting social cohesion:

The Green Party put forward a range of policies to promote social cohesion. They promise to make equality and diversity lessons mandatory in all schools and provide training for teachers and educational staff on all diversity and inclusion issues. They promise to tackle racism within the police force, and ensure that all public bodies are more representative of the populations they serve.

They commit to strengthening Travellers’ rights, and ending the stigma against people with mental health problems including tackling discrimination in employment. The Greens support LGBTIQ rights and aim to build a society where everyone is valued, respected and empowered, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.

Human rights:

The Green party reject the position on immigration put forward by Labour, the Conservatives, Liberal Democrats

and UKIP, focussing on strengthening institutions rather than curbing immigration levels. They are the only party that directly address the issue of scapegoating immigrants in the current political climate.

“It is wrong to scapegoat immigrants for problems with housing, education, health or local authority services”

Abroad:

The Green party present a foreign policy based on the promotion and defence of human rights through international aid but make no commitment to the Responsibility to Protect.

The Greens pledge to take a “leading role in preventing violent conflict, genocide and war crimes overseas” by supporting local capacities to avoid, manage and resolve conflicts; and by enhancing the UK’s role in peacekeeping and the protection of non-combatant communities

The Green party remain cautious over the concept of military intervention for humanitarian reasons and instead “advocate for regional solutions to conflicts and for the UK to take a lead in advancing diplomatic, economic and political solutions”

They advocate the use of sanctions and legal action via the International Criminal Court for those violating international human rights standards, citing examples of Syria, China, Sudan, and Pakistan.

The party commits to pursuing reform of the United Nations and associated bodies, including plans to make it more representative and effective by abolishing permanent seats on the UN Security Council (UNSC)

The party pledges to enhance UK cooperation with civil society and international agencies to implement UNSC resolutions, particularly regarding the role of gender violence in war and the necessity to involve women at all levels in preventing war and building peace and security.

The Greens would increase the overseas aid budget from 0.7% of GDP to 1.0% of GDP over the next Parliament.

The Greens support a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.



UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups:

Beyond a pledge to introduce a mandatory reporting requirement for suspected cases of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) for front-line professionals such as teachers, social services, GPs, nurses and police, UKIP makes no commitments to tackling discrimination or protect those at risk of identity-based violence.

Tackling extremism:

Little is said by UKIP on tackling extremism. They promise that Ofsted inspectors would monitor British values in schools with a view towards “combatting extremism and radicalisation rather than criticising widely-held Judeo-Christian beliefs”. It is unclear what this means and UKIP provide no details on what would be monitored, or how assessments would be made. UKIP also promise to prevent repatriation of those who leave Britain to fight alongside terrorist organisations and to seek to remove their citizenship.

Promoting social cohesion:

UKIP rejects multiculturalism believing that it is a cause of division and would instead “promote a unifying British Culture, open to anyone who wishes to identify with Britain and British values, regardless of their ethnic or religious background.” Details of the British culture UKIP envisions are not made.

“We reject multiculturalism, the doctrine whereby different ethnic and religious groups are encouraged to maintain all aspects of their cultures, instead of integrating into our majority culture”

UKIP make several policy pledges aimed at promoting British culture and rejecting multiculturalism including ending the use of multi-lingual formatting on official documents; challenging the ‘culture of offence’; reviewing funding for public bodies which promote divisiveness .

funding for public bodies which promote divisiveness through multiculturalism.

UKIP acknowledge that “British values include tolerance of religion. They are committed to protecting religious freedoms for all believers in the UK, in accordance with Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” However they stress that “those faiths and beliefs must exist firmly within a British framework.”

UKIP have firm commitments to control immigration which they say is to blame in part for an over-stretched NHS and a high benefits bill.

Human rights:

UKIP plan to remove the UK from the jurisdiction of the European Court of Human Rights as well as repeal the Human Rights Act. Under the changes, human rights would be enshrined in law via a UK Bill of Rights with the Supreme Court acting as the final authority. It is likely that these changes in Human Rights law would seek to water down the protections contained in the Human rights Act and enshrined in European law.

Abroad:

UKIP will repeal the legislative commitment to spending to 0.7% of GNI on international aid. The manifesto demonstrates a disregard for international development, stating “we object taxpayers’ money being sent to already economically thriving countries; countries with poor human rights’ records; and to money being spent on politically correct vanity projects that do nothing to lift developing nations out of poverty.” UKIP promise to close the Department of International Development (DfID) and “merge its essential functions” with the Foreign Office.

UKIP provides no coherent foreign policy vision, lumping humanitarian interventions with the War on Terror, and stating “we should stand firmly alongside our allies around the world, but cannot continue committing troops into conflict at the drop of a hat.”

UKIP do not acknowledge a responsibility to protect, either as an international norm or as a concept. There is no commitment to tackling serious human rights abuses, whether mass atrocities or crimes or sexual violence.

UKIP is committed to promoting a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.



UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups: The SNP have few policies in this area. Their manifesto commits to supporting calls for setting up a Race Committee to advise the work of the Equality and Human Rights Commission, promoting female representation in politics, and fair pay to close the gender pay gap.

Tackling extremism: There are no real policy commitment in this area beyond calling for a proportionate response to extremism and support for “targeted, and properly overseen, measures to identify suspected extremists and, if necessary, examine their online activity and communications.”

Promoting social cohesion: The SNP have few policies aimed at increasing social cohesion. However they do say that diversity is one of Scotland's great strengths and that although effective immigration controls are important, it must be remembered that migrants make a significant contribution the Scottish economy and our society.

Human Rights: The SNP say that human rights are at the heart of their policies, they oppose proposals to scrap the UK Human Rights Act and the withdrawal from the EU Convention on Human Rights

Abroad:

The SNP support maintaining 0.7% of GDP for international aid.

They will advocate for the creation of a Special Envoy to promote the rights of LGBTI people around the world as an integral part of UK foreign policy.

The SNP support a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine.

There is no mention of R2P in the party manifesto however the SNP leader Nicola Sturgeon has responded to a letter from Protection Approaches and seven other civil society organisations asking party leaders to commit to R2P and to prioritise the prevention of mass atrocities. [Her reply](#) states that “The SNP support the principal of responsibility to protect and we would act to encourage UK governments to follow it at all times”.



UK:

Tackling discrimination and protection of vulnerable groups: Plaid Cymru believe that everybody, regardless of their characteristics or background has a place in Wales’ future. Measures are proposed to bolster the rights of several marginalised or vulnerable groups include people with disability or mental health difficulties, older people, LGBT people and women.

Tackling extremism: Plaid Cymru pledges to work across Welsh communities, whatever their backgrounds, to promote a Welsh civil identity through schools, by faith and community organisations and wishes to avoid stigmatisation and division.

Promoting social cohesion: Commitments are made to ensure that all schools include teaching of tolerance and anti-discrimination. Plaid Cymru refrain from scapegoating immigrants for problems instead making it clear that the Party stands for all people in Wales no matter where they are from.

Human rights: Plaid Cymru say that they are committed to human rights, they support the Human Rights Act and the European Convention on Human Rights.

Abroad:

Plaid Cymru do not commit to the principle of the responsibility to protect (R2P) but state that proposed military intervention should be “legal according to the UN convention.”

The party pledges continued support for the 0.7% of GDP for international aid. Plaid Cymru support a Welsh Peace Institute to research, advise and inform policy makers on the consequences of their decisions and to promote conflict resolution. They advocate an EU civilian peace corps to work in areas of potential conflict,.

Plaid Cymru supports a two-state solution in Israel and Palestine. They also support “the rights of minorities in all parts of the world, including the Kurds, Tamils, and in Western Sahara, amongst others.” The party states that Wales will accept displaced persons and refugees where possible and appropriate but makes no firm commitments.

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