

## **A Supplementary Gender Edit of Party Manifestos 2021**

In 2021, 25 parties are standing for election on at least on regional list or at least one constituency.

These parties, in alphabetical order, are:

- |                                    |                               |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Abolish the Scottish Parliament | 10.Scotia Future              | 18.Scottish Women's Equality Party  |
| 2. Animal Welfare Party            | 11.Scottish Conservatives     | 19.SNP                              |
| 3. Alba                            | 12.Scottish Family Party      | 20.Social Democratic Party Scotland |
| 4. All for Unity                   | 13.Scottish Green Party       | 21.The Liberal Party                |
| 5. Communist Party of Britain      | 14.Scottish Labour            | 22.The Reclaim Party                |
| 6. Freedom Alliance                | 15.Scottish Liberal Democrats | 23.TUSC                             |
| 7. Independent Green Voice         | 16.Scottish Libertarian Party | 24.UKIP                             |
| 8. Reform UK                       | 17.Scottish Renew             | 25.Vanguard Party                   |
| 9. Restore Scotland                |                               |                                     |

Engender has published a Gender Edit of the Manifestos published by each of the 5 parties elected to the Scottish Parliament in 2016, each of which is running in at least every region.

Given the number of parties running, we have summarised each party's commitments as they relate to women and gender equality and Engender's Manifesto themes in an alphabetical list below. We have however not included every commitment that could be thematically related where the party itself has not made some reference to women or gendered considerations. We will look to update the information if manifestos are published later in the campaign.

### **1. Abolish the Scottish Parliament**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

## **2. Animal Welfare Party**

### [2021 Scottish Parliament Election – Lothian](#)

No points of specific relevance to women's equality.

## **3. Alba**

### [A Manifesto to Shake Things Up](#)

- Scotland does not have the powers to properly recognise the unpaid care work that is predominantly done by women and so this should be made a priority for Scotland when it achieves independence.
- Push for a new approach to economic development which measures not just how the economy grows, but how the economy impacts on Scotland's people.
- Support justice reforms, in which automatic anonymity from court reporting will be granted to all victims of sexual assault, and to victims of aggravated crimes of racial and other forms of discrimination.
- ALBA pledges to be the best defender of women's rights in Scotland. While we agree with equalising the state pension age, ALBA does not support the unfair manner in which these changes were made by the Conservative-Lib Dem Coalition Government in the 2011 Pensions Act. In particular, this poor legislation - and the failure of ministers to properly inform of its timing and consequences - resulted in some 3.9 million in the UK and Scotland, born in the 1950s, suffering uniquely from the imposed changes. As a priority, ALBA elected members will continue to campaign at Westminster to deliver fair pensions for WASPI women.
- Protect and preserve women's rights, not at any expense to others, but as a safeguard for women and girls.
- Women have the right to discuss all policies which affect them, without being abused and silenced.

- Women have the right to maintain their sex based protections as set out in the Equality Act 2010. These include female only spaces such as changing rooms, hospital wards, sanitary and sleeping accommodation, refuges, hostels and prisons.
- Women have the right to refuse consent to males in single sex spaces or males delivering intimate services to females such as washing, dressing and counselling.
- Women have the right to single sex sports to ensure fairness and safety at all levels of competition.
- Women have the right to organise themselves according to their sex class across a range of cultural, leisure, educational and political activities.
- Acknowledges and promotes all of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act 2010 which are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation and sex.
- Understands the controversy and pain which have characterised Scotland's recent attempts at reform; there has been much heat and at times little light.
- The written constitution which ALBA proposes for Scotland, will enshrine the rights of all minorities to equality before the law and offer specific protection through the justice system for crimes based on sexual orientation, racial hatred or other forms of discrimination.

#### **4. All for Unity**

##### [A Manifesto for Change](#)

- Provide enough care at a reasonable wage to stop high turnover and make caring a rewarding career.
- Initiate an independent judge-led inquiry [into "the Salmond Affair."]
- Campaign for the repeal of the Hate Crime Bill immediately and in full.
- Resist all attempt to remove the need for corroboration.

- Propose the removal of “guilty / not guilty” which are emotive and misleading. Verdicts would be limited to “proven” and “not proven”.
- Campaign to amend any laws that reverse the burden of proofs that no Scot can stand in the dock without the presumption of innocence.

## **5. The Communist Party**

### [Our Future is Socialism](#)

- Free childcare and creche services to those in frontline healthcare and essential occupations

## **6. Freedom Alliance**

### [Manifesto for Scotland](#)

No points of specific relevance to women’s equality.

## **7. Independent Green Voice**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

## **8. Reform UK**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

## **9. Restore Scotland**

## [Fresh Thinking on Scotland's Future – Restore Scotland Manifesto 2021](#)

- Outlaw Self ID as inimical to women and children's rights and safety.
- Criminalise the purchase of sexual services and strengthen anti-voyeurism legislation.
- Replace Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood education with politically neutral teaching.

### **10.Scotia Future**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

### **11.Scottish Conservatives and Unionists**

See Engender's Gender Edit of parties elected in 2016.

### **12.Scottish Family Party**

#### **Scottish Family Party Manifesto**

- Invest in support for women facing unwanted pregnancy, helping them to establish a strong network of support and encouraging alternatives such as fostering or adoption.
- Men and women, on average, tend to have different priorities and interests. This diversity is positive and creative, not a problem to eliminate. We do not want to squeeze the sexes into uniformity, but to support men and women as they fulfil their own vision for their lives.
- Gender imbalances in many areas of study and lines of work are not a problem to solve, but a natural manifestation of men and women freely following their own inclinations and ambitions.

- The “Gender Pay Gap” is by and large a reflection of the natural differences between men and women, and no government action is required to address it.
- Do not support gender quotas in business, education or politics and would seek to repeal legislation that already discriminates in this way.
- So-called “equal pay” claims, where women claim to have been underpaid for doing different work than men are unjust. Councils should not have to dissipate their limited resources following these unjust claims. Similarly, businesses should be secure from such opportunistic attacks.
- Organisations in receipt of state funding should be restricted in their campaigning. For example, Scottish Women’s Aid should not be free to argue for liberalisation of abortion law while receiving taxpayers’ money.
- It is illogical to make it illegal to buy something that is legal to sell, so selling sex should also be criminalised. While punishments might be appropriate in some cases, help to move women on from prostitution would be available.
- The Scottish Government’s policy of special treatment for female offenders must end.
- There should be no presumption or implication that accusers will be always be believed. Corroborated evidence should always guide assessment of guilt.
- Steps should be taken to protect the identity of the accused where possible, especially where the accuser has been granted anonymity, until charges are brought, at the earliest.
- Even the current system of recognising gender change undermines the right of women to same sex spaces, makes a mockery of women’s sport, and communicates a harmful understanding of sex and gender.
- Reject the philosophy that regards it as desirable that men and women approach family life and career in identical ways. We believe that each family should make its own decisions in this area, and the state’s role is to facilitate these choices. There is currently generous support for those opting for the twin income model, in the form of subsidised and free childcare. However, those favouring full-time parenthood are penalised rather than supported, paying high taxes to subsidise childcare for other families while receiving no help themselves.
- The Government is doubling the hours of nursery care provided for 3 and 4 year olds. We would offer cash in lieu of this additional provision for families deciding they do not want their young child to spend so long away from a parent.

A family wanting their child to go to nursery in the morning but not the afternoon as well would be entitled to a substantial payment instead.

- Instead of treating married couples as two individuals for tax purposes, we should move to a system that assesses them as a family.
- The SFP does not support the use of NHS resources for any fertility-related treatment apart from for a man and woman in a long-term stable relationship. There must be an intention of a child being brought up by a mother and father.
- Preference should be given to married couples, husband and wife, in fostering and adoption decisions.
- Schools should teach the facts about marriage and its rationale. The tax and benefits system should recognise marriage and ensure that it is never penalised. SFP MSPs would exercise cultural leadership by promoting marriage in the media, the debating chamber and through special events. Steps to make the legal process of divorce easier undermine the status of marriage as a solemn, lifelong commitment.
- Domestic abuse law should not cover vaguely defined “psychological abuse”. It is too imprecise and open to spurious application. For example, laws relating to making a person “dependent on another person” or “feel ... humiliated or degraded” could be interpreted to cover behaviours far short of “abuse” and risk bringing the threat of legal sanction into more superficial relationship conflicts. Such laws are also vulnerable to exploitation for vindictive reasons. There should be no gender-based assumption of blame, but a balanced assessment of the facts.
- Abortion and abortifacients should not be available to under 16s without parents being informed beforehand.
- The legal Age of Consent should be sixteen, without exception.

### **13.Scottish Green Party**

See Engender’s Gender Edit of parties elected in 2016.

### **14.Scottish Labour**

See Engender’s Gender Edit of parties elected in 2016.

## **15.Scottish Liberal Democrats**

See Engender's Gender Edit of parties elected in 2016.

## **16.Scottish Libertarian Party**

[Scottish Libertarian Manifesto Online Version 2021.pdf.](#)

- The abolition of Equality and Diversity quangos. These positions are often highly paid and a waste of taxpayers' money. We promote freedom of opportunity; if you can you may. We reject any attempts at achieving equality of outcome with the imposition of quotas and special privileges for any group based on race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, or class. There are no groups. There are only people and people come individually.

## **17.Renew Scotland**

[Policies](#)

No points of specific relevance to women's equality.

## **18.Scottish Women's Equality Party**

[Build Back Equal](#)

- Lobby for universal free childcare, so every child has access to a quality early learning experience and to level up women's opportunities with men's.



- Extend the expansion of funded childcare to two-year-olds within the next parliamentary term.
- Call for the UK Government to bail out the childcare sector, and for the next Scottish Government to ringfence any bailout funding for operational costs.
- Seek to increase the funding rates offered to partner providers by local authorities.
- Legislate to permanently exempt nurseries and after school clubs from business rates.
- Make social care free at the point of use for everyone, by creating a National Care Service.
- Align social care pay and conditions with those in the NHS to help to narrow the gender and ethnicity pay gaps and turn social work into a secure employment choice.
- Extend the Carers' Allowance Supplement and make it available to all unpaid carers in Scotland, regardless of income and hours spent caring.
- Lobby the UK Government to increase Carers' Allowance across the UK to at least the Real Living Wage.
- Improve the availability of respite care for carers, by including its provision within a newly established National Care Service.
- Prioritise a new funding structure for domestic abuse services which provides funding on an adequate, stable and sustainable basis.
- Protect minimum funding for core services in legislation, so no women and children are left without specialist support, as is the case in North Lanarkshire.
- Review refuge provision across Scotland, and promote the development of 'by and for' services for minoritised people and women with disabilities.
- Introduce a homelessness prevention duty for survivors of domestic abuse, to ensure that local and national government is held to account in its delivery of appropriate and inclusive housing for survivors.
- Introduce a domestic abuse support fund to bridge the gap between leaving and first payment [of Universal Credit]
- Prioritise the development and publication of an Anti-Destitution Strategy, which will support women with no recourse to public funds to access the support they need if they have experienced trauma and abuse.
- Call for immediate funding of refuge space for women and children with no recourse to public funds.

- Change the law on consent, so it is based on some measure of expressive or participative affirmation - that is to say, each individual chooses to engage voluntarily in sex and expresses that positive choice verbally or through another form of communication and each individual proactively seeks consent.
- Support the Misogyny and Criminal Justice in Scotland Working Group and its remit to consider where there are gaps in the law that prevent women from reporting and accessing justice.
- End the not proven verdict, which is a second acquittal verdict that is disproportionately used in cases of rape and attempted rape.
- Push for a pilot of judge only trials for cases of rape and attempted rape to take place as a matter of urgency.
- Increase investment in rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, so they never abuse, harass, assault or rape again.
- Assess the impact of all government policy on women, disadvantaged groups and the environment, and implement gendered wellbeing indicators.
- Convene an annual citizens' assembly, to scrutinise the draft Scottish Budget and make recommendations for change before it is passed into law.
- Lobby to reinstate international aid to the poorest countries immediately to support gender-just climate resilience actions.
- Demand equal representation at COP26, which is taking place in Glasgow this year.
- Lobby to extend the membership of homelessness and housing policy and strategy groups, so that they include women with experience of housing insecurity and gender expertise.
- Call for a review of all existing homelessness and housing strategies to understand how Equality Impact Assessments have affected Scotland's approach to housing, and make improvements where necessary.
- Improve the security of women's existing housing options by making the ban on winter evictions permanent, introducing caps on annual rent increases and giving single parents priority on local authority and Registered Social Landlord housing lists.
- Commission an audit of women's travel patterns across Scotland and charge the National Transport Strategy Delivery Board (NTS2) with the task of acting on its recommendations ☒ Prioritise improving the representation of minoritised

and minority women within our transport authorities as a matter of urgency, to address the clear knowledge gap in this sector

- Involve women's advocacy organisations in the development of the next Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR2)
- Expedite the introduction of a national smart ticketing system so it is fully operational by 2026, which drives down prices for trip-chaining so that women are not indirectly discriminated against because of their travel patterns

### **19.Scottish National Party**

See Engender's Gender Edit of parties elected in 2016.

### **20.Social Democratic Party Scotland**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

### **21.The Liberal Party**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

### **22.The Reclaim Party**

[Free Glasgow](#)

- Repeal SNP's hate crime bill
- Challenge systemic wokeness

### **23.TUSC**

## [Core manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parliament election](#)

- No to sexism and all forms of gender oppression. Ensure women have genuinely equal rights, pay and income. End the cuts and closures of women's services in Scotland. Defend a women's right to choose
- The Scottish government to use devolved powers over benefits to give a mitigation payment, non-means tested, of £137.60 a week to those women born in the 1950s/60s who have been denied their pension

### **24.UKIP**

## [THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT MANIFESTO 2021](#)

- UKIP opposes the creation of statutory definitions of Islamophobia, Transphobia, Misogyny, Misandry and so on which will further curtail freedom of speech.

### **25.Vanguard Party**

No available manifesto document for 2021 elections at 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

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### **ABOUT US**

Engender is a membership organisation working on feminist agendas in Scotland and Europe, to increase women's power and influence and to make visible the impact of sexism on women, men and society. We provide support to individuals, organisations and institutions who seek to achieve gender equality and justice.