



This document sets out a summary of the commitments made in party manifestos which relate to women's rights and gender equality. All parties standing in Scotland are listed, in alphabetical order, along with summaries of manifestos from the Groups they sit within in the European Parliament (where relevant).

## The Brexit Party

- No manifesto published (14/05/2019)
- No current European Parliament Group

## Change UK – A Charter for Remain

- “We are **stronger, safer and better off in the EU**. Change UK MEPs will... Campaign for your **right to a final say in a People's Vote** – and we will campaign for Remain, making the positive case for Britain in Europe”
- “**Whenever disaster strikes, it is women and girls who experience it most acutely**, so it cannot be right that **only a fraction of humanitarian aid is spent on tackling the epidemic of gender-based violence in crises.**”
- “The barriers of poverty, prejudice and discrimination facing individuals should be removed and **advancement occur on the basis of merit**, with inequalities reduced through the extension of opportunity, giving **individuals the skills and means** to open new doors and fulfil their ambitions.”

## Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

- No manifesto published (14/05/2019)

### ECR Group - *Making the EU work better for YOU*

- No mention of **women, gender or equality**

## Scottish Green Party - *Choose Hope Over Hate*

- **A feminist and diverse Europe** : **Equality** is at the heart of Scottish Green policies, and we will work with the European Greens and others to celebrate diversity and deliver radical reforms that lead to real equality across Europe. Greens will work to ensure **all European policies recognise diversity and contribute to the prevention of discrimination and violence**. We will also call upon the EU and all countries to **implement the Istanbul Convention to combat violence against women**.
- Thanks to the efforts of the Green MEPs in the current European Parliament, **negotiations are under way** to guarantee **non-transferrable parental leave rights for both parents**, well-paid **paternity leave**, and **carers leave**.
- Your Scottish Green MEPS will:... **Demand free, accessible, and safe sexual and reproductive health care; Secure equal pay for equal work and gender-balance across all European power structures...**

### European Greens/European Free Alliance

- “Fight for a **feminist Europe, against gender-based violence and for equal rights for all**: **Gender equality is at the heart of Green policies**. We want the **right to abortion to be included in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights**. We want to **guarantee free and accessible, good-quality and safe sexual and reproductive health care and services for all, including abortion**. Europe needs to **fight gender-based violence as laid out in EU policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**. All European countries must **implement the Istanbul Convention** as a matter of priority. We are **determined to secure equal pay for equal work** and a more **gender-balance composition of power structures**.”

## Scottish Labour - *Transforming Britain and Europe for the many, not the few.*

- “Labour will **continue to oppose the Government’s bad deal or a disastrous no deal**. And **if we can’t get agreement** along the lines of our alternative plan, **or a general election**, Labour **backs the option of a public vote**.”
- “Labour helped deliver **minimum maternity and paternity leave** across the EU, and Labour MEPs delivered the working time directive, limiting the hours people are forced to work.”
- “Labour has a strong record on progressing **women’s rights and freedoms** that we can be proud of. However, more can be done. Labour will **maintain its commitment to ratify the Istanbul Convention on domestic abuse**. It is shameful the UK remains one of only a handful of countries in the EU not to have ratified the convention.... We will **ensure women are equally represented** across political and decision-making structures, take effective measures to **close the gender pay gap** and **protect and enforce the principle of equal treatment between persons** irrespective of racial or ethnic origin. Labour will continue to protect and promote LGBT+ rights and will stand up and **speak out against any forms of discrimination across the EU**.”

### Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) *A New Social Contract for Europe*



- **“A FEMINIST EUROPE WITH EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL: Any form of discrimination is unacceptable** in our modern European societies. We want a **binding EU Gender Equality Strategy**, through which we will continue to lead the fight to **end the pay and pension gaps, combat sexual harassment and gender-based violence**, and ensure that every individual has **access to their full sexual and reproductive rights**. Every person has the right to decide over their own body. We believe in a society where **women and men enjoy the same work-life balance and equal political participation; every woman has the right to a career**, just as every man has the right to raise his children and care for his family. We will be relentless in our fight to **end all forms of discrimination.**”

## Scottish National Party

- The SNP’s six candidates – three men and **three women** – are...
- And so membership of the European Union is not just about economic and social benefits. It is about the values we cherish – freedom, democracy, the rule of law, **equality**, respect for human dignity and human rights.

## European Greens/European Free Alliance

- **“Fight for a feminist Europe, against gender-based violence and for equal rights for all: Gender equality is at the heart of Green policies.** We want the **right to abortion to be included in the EU’s Charter of Fundamental Rights**. We want to **guarantee free and accessible, good-quality and safe sexual and reproductive health care and services for all, including abortion**. Europe needs to **fight gender-based violence as laid out in EU policies on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence**. All European countries must **implement the Istanbul Convention** as a matter of priority. We are **determined to secure equal pay for equal work** and a more **gender-balance composition of power structures.**”

## Scottish Liberal Democrats - *Stop Brexit / Bollocks to Brexit*

- **“Every vote for the Liberal Democrats is a vote to stop Brexit and stay in the European Union.”**
- **“It doesn’t have to be this way. We can stop Brexit through a People’s Vote.** We can stay as a leading force in the European Union, shaping its future with our MEPs sitting at the decision table.”
- **“While progress has been made towards equality for women, ethnic minorities, disabled people and LGBT+ people, there are many challenges still to overcome.** There is **increasing hostility towards women and minority groups – especially online – and reports of hate crimes are on the rise**, including a big spike in the number of hate crimes following the 2016 Brexit vote. We are committed to **combatting this type of discrimination, promoting equality and tackling hate crime**. The EU sets a **minimum standard for protection against discrimination on the grounds of gender, gender identity, race, disability and sexuality**. States that violate

these protections must face sanctions..... **Gender-based violence and sexual harassment remains a huge problem** in contemporary society and we are **committed to tackling it. Combatting violence against women and girls is a priority for us** and we call for all EU member states, including the UK, to **ratify and bring into law the Istanbul Convention. Women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights**, and all women should have access to **affordable, good-quality sexual and reproductive health care and services**. We are committed to **promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls**, and to working for the **same rights and opportunities across all sectors** of society, including **economic participation and decision-making**, regardless of gender. All countries across the EU, including the UK, need to do more **to promote better participation of women**, disabled people and ethnic minority people in the labour market in order to benefit from their full economic potential. To make further progress, a **continued assessment of the effectiveness of existing public policies and workplace practices** is needed. Only with resolve and a continued focus can European countries ensure that the whole population **enjoys equal treatment.**”

**Alliance of Liberals and Democrats of Europe (ALDE) *Freedom, opportunity, prosperity: the Liberal vision for the future of Europe***

- **“Gender-based violence and sexual harassment** is still a huge problem in all our Member States. **Combatting violence against women is a priority** for us and we call on all Member States to **ratify the Istanbul Convention. Women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights are human rights**, and the Member States of the EU **needs to provide all women with accessible, affordable, good-quality sexual and reproductive health care and services.**”
- **“As liberals, we are committed to promoting gender equality and empowering women and girls**, and to work for **the same rights and opportunities** across all sectors of society, including **economic participation and decision-making, regardless of gender.**”
- **“Europe still needs to do more in order to include women in the labour market** in order to benefit from their full economic potential. To make further progress, a **continued assessment of the effectiveness of existing public policies and workplace practices is needed**. Only with resolve and a continued focus can European countries ensure that **men and women both contribute to the economy and society in a gender-equal way.**”

**UK Independence Party – *Vote to make Brexit happen***

- No mention of **women, gender or equality**
- **“Leave the EU under the policy of unilateral and unconditional withdrawal.”**

**Europe of Freedom and Democracy**

- No manifesto published (14/05/2019)