

Supporting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual &  
Trans Young People in Ireland

belong<sup>TO</sup>

# #VOTE WITH PRIDE

**BeLong To Youth Services  
General Election Manifesto 2020**



**On February 8th, your vote in the General Election will be crucial to decide the future for LGBTI+ young people in Ireland. Despite significant achievements within the past number of years regarding LGBTI+ equality and inclusion, there is still so much more to do as we witness a rise in hate speech and hate crime directed at LGBTI+ young people.**

Our **#VoteWithPride** campaign aims to improve safety, equality and inclusion for LGBTI+ young people in the lifetime of the next government.

**As a voter**, we are calling on you to ask your election candidates if they will pledge their support to our manifesto commitments and create a better future for LGBTI+ youth.

**If you are a candidate**, you can show your support for our manifesto which sets out a roadmap towards equality for LGBTI+ young people by declaring your support online using our **#VoteWithPride** hashtag.

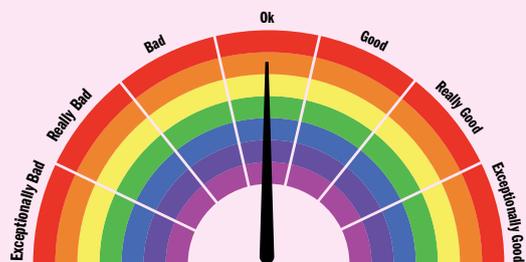
These are commitments that, if implemented, will have a profound and positive impact upon the lives of LGBTI+ young people. With your support, we can create a world where LGBTI+ young people are equal, safe, and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences.

**This election, please join us and #VoteWithPride**

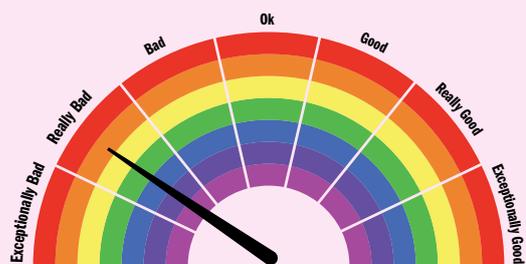
## Rainbow Barometer – National LGBTI+ Youth Strategy

We asked LGBTI+ young people how they felt about the implementation of the National LGBTI+ Youth Strategy in relation to their real-life experiences. They highlighted safety in schools, mental health services and sexual health services as their priorities and rated progress as follows:

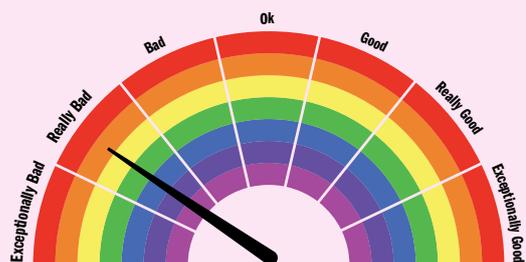
**Create a more supportive and inclusive environment for LGBTI+ young people in formal education settings.**



**Respond effectively to the mental health needs of LGBTI+ young people.**



**Strengthen sexual health services and education to respond to the needs of LGBTI+ young people, including in the area of sexual consent.**



## THE COMMITMENTS

Our Manifesto sets out ten commitments the next Irish government must pledge to take action on in order to protect and advance LGBTI+ young people's rights and equality.

| WE ARE CALLING FOR A COMMITMENT TO |  |                       |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 1                                  | Full implementation of LGBTI+ Youth Strategy 2018-2020.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2                                  | Roll-out timely appropriate national trans health services.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3                                  | Fully support, and fund schools to implement LGBTI+ inclusive relationships and sexuality education.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4                                  | Review and update hate speech and hate crime legislation to ensure it is fit for purpose and uses up-to-date terminology.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| 5                                  | Take action on the health inequalities faced by LGBTI+ people by requiring and resourcing all national and local health and social care organisations to ensure their services are safe and supportive for the LGBTI+ community. | <input type="radio"/> |
| 6                                  | Make a sustained financial investment in LGBTI+ specific youth work to ensure it is safe and supportive of the needs of LGBTI+ young people.   | <input type="radio"/> |
| 7                                  | Resource in LGBTI+ led non-governmental organisations to support and provide services to LGBTI+ communities around Ireland.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| 8                                  | Implement the Gender Recognition Act review report, to provide legal gender recognition to non-binary people and extend the act to include legal gender recognition for trans young people under 18.                             | <input type="radio"/> |
| 9                                  | A review and update of the National Action Plan on bullying (2013) and provide specific prevention initiatives for LGBTI+ identity-based bullying in schools.  | <input type="radio"/> |
| 10                                 | Ensure schools are safe supportive spaces for LGBTI+ students free from anti-LGBTI+ bullying by implementing the recommendations from the School Climate Report 2019   | <input type="radio"/> |

## How you can #VoteWithPride

### If you are a voter

- Share this manifesto with your networks online: [www.belongto.org/votewithpride](http://www.belongto.org/votewithpride)
- Show your support on social media:

*I have pledged my support for BeLonG To Youth Services General Election Manifesto.*

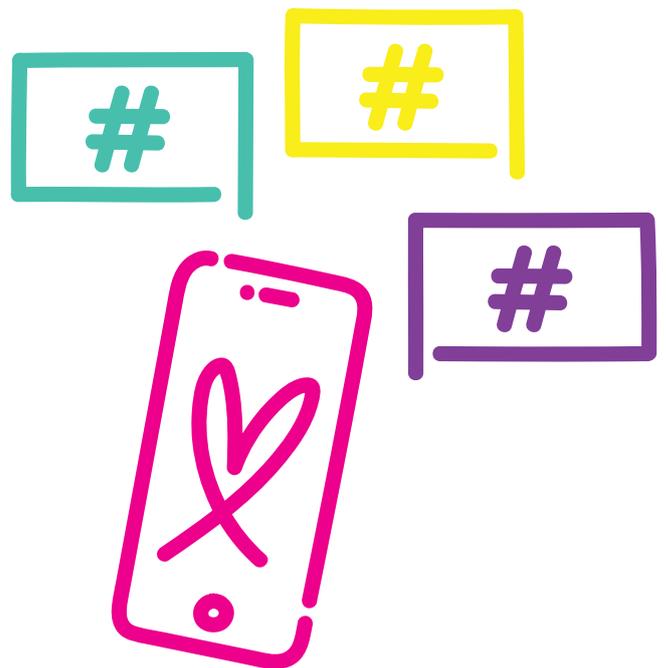
*The fight for equality is not over. These ten commitments will protect and extend the rights of LGBTI+ young people in Ireland.*

*Read the manifesto here: [www.belongto.org/votewithpride](http://www.belongto.org/votewithpride) #VoteWithPride*

- Contact the candidates standing in your constituency asking them to publicly pledge their support for this manifesto.
- Make sure you **#VoteWithPride** on February 8th.

### If you are a candidate

- Show your support for LGBTI+ young people by declaring your support online using our #VoteWithPride hashtag.



BeLonG To Youth Services is the national organisation supporting lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+) young people in Ireland. BeLonG To provides free youth groups, support services and crisis counselling for LGBTI+ young people across Ireland. The organisation also advocates and campaigns to create a world where LGBTI+ young people are equal, safe and valued in the diversity of their identities and experiences.

[www.belongto.org](http://www.belongto.org)

01 670 6223

[votewithpride@belongto.org](mailto:votewithpride@belongto.org)

RCN: 20059798  
CHY: 16534

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