

Sexual Orientation and Identity Policy

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Vision

The Green Party envisions an Aotearoa New Zealand which:

- Celebrates diversity and encourages appreciation between groups.
- Eliminates legislative barriers to full participation in society.
- Eliminates institutional discrimination.
- Ensures schools, workplaces, and communities are educated about sexual orientation and gender identity.

Definitions

Fa'afafine – biological males in Samoan society who have a strong female gender orientation. Also referred to as 'third gender'.

Genderqueer – a person who does not fit the male/female gender identity binary.

Intersex – a person who does not fit the biological male/female binary.

Rainbow – an inclusive term to describe any person (or community) not predominantly heterosexual, or with an identity that is not their assigned gender role, or anyone questioning their gender or sexuality, or experiencing same sex love or attraction.

Takatāpui – Māori word for LGBT people.

Transsexual – a person who identifies as being of the opposite sex from that which he or she was born.

Introduction

New Zealanders with a sexual orientation or gender identity different from that of the majority include people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, genderqueer, transexual, intersex, takatāpui and fa'afafine. These New Zealanders are a significant group in our society and have been marginalised through legislative barriers, institutional discrimination and casual prejudice.

The Green Party encourages social cohesion and acceptance within New Zealand. The "rainbow" communities cross social, educational and economic boundaries. As a result they are natural champions of diversity that has the potential to enrich us all. The Green Party's fundamental values lead us to promote an inclusive society in which each minority group feels at home.

Key Principles

1. Rainbow communities are entitled to equal opportunities in law and in practice.
2. Rainbow and heterosexual partnerships are equally entitled to respect and support.
3. Parenting skills are distinct from sexual orientation or gender identity.
4. Community development is crucial for the empowerment of rainbow communities.
5. All people, no matter what their health or partnership status, have the right to adequate medical care and protection from discrimination within the health services.
6. The interests and identity of rainbow students in schools and tertiary institutions need to be protected.
7. Rainbow communities are entitled to fair and just treatment in their dealings with police, penal institutions, courts, and the military.

Specific Policy Points

1. Support for Rainbow Communities

The Green party is committed to reflecting the gender and sex diversity within our societies. We believe our communities will be healthier and more vibrant when we're all acknowledged and included. This means we will:

1. Amend discriminatory laws and policies to ensure the government complies fully with the Human Rights Act 1993.
2. Support the extension of all legal partnership arrangements and rights to same-sex couples.
3. Establish equal criteria for both rainbow and heterosexual couples in their assessment for suitability and eligibility for parenting.
4. Encourage the development of adequately resourced community centres, outreach programmes and events, and the creative self-expression of people with rainbow identities through drama, literature and the arts.
5. Develop specific health programmes, including professional education, in partnership with rainbow communities.
6. Support the creation of safe and supportive educational environments, such as through the inclusion of sexual orientation and gender identity in teacher training and development, the teaching of human rights in schools, and the creation of partnerships with schools and rainbow youth organisations to reduce the unacceptably high level of suicide and drug abuse.
7. Support initiatives to educate all institutions, including police, penal institutions, courts, and the military, in sexual orientation and gender identity issues.
8. Encourage participatory research into individual life experience to identify ways to encourage rainbow communities' physical and mental health and safety.
9. Take an active role within the international community to promote human rights issues in relation to rainbow communities and people throughout the world.

2. Support for Transsexual, Genderqueer, and Intersex

Society is organised around a gender binary that reduces gender to two categories of man and woman, and marginalises people who are intersex, transsexual and genderqueer. This binary means the existence of intersex, transsexual and genderqueer people is hidden or medicalised and their health, wellbeing and ability to participate in society is compromised.

The Green Party will:

1. Clarify gender identity as a basis of non-discrimination.
2. Actively seek to address the long ignored needs of transsexual, genderqueer and intersex people.
3. Involve intersex people in the development of public policy around intersex issues.