

# ELECTION BRIEFING 2019 UPDATE: Manifesto commitments

*Below are the most significant manifesto commitments on some of the key issues covered in Election Briefing 2019. If a party is not included, that is because its manifesto does not contain any new developments in the areas considered.*

## CONSERVATIVES

### Drugs

The Conservatives pledge to tackle drug addiction, drug-related crime, and “take a new approach to treatment”.<sup>1</sup>

### Gambling

The Conservatives promise to review the Gambling Act.<sup>2</sup>

### Persecution of Christians

The party promises to implement the Bishop of Truro’s recommendations on combating persecution of Christians overseas.<sup>3</sup>

## LABOUR

### LGBT education

The party promises “mandatory LGBT+ inclusive relationships and sex education”.<sup>4</sup>

### Marriage and the family

Labour says it will “introduce a no-fault divorce procedure”.<sup>5</sup> The party published a funding report with plans to scrap the marriage allowance alongside its manifesto.<sup>6</sup> The party says a Labour Government would “fully implement” same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland.<sup>7</sup>

### Transgenderism

The party commits to reforming the Gender Recognition Act to “introduce self-declaration for transgender people”.<sup>8</sup>

### Abortion

Labour pledges to decriminalise abortion. It also says women in Northern Ireland should have access to abortions there.<sup>9</sup>

### Drugs

Labour promises to “progress clinically appropriate prescription of medical cannabis”.<sup>10</sup>

### Gambling

Labour says it will curb gambling advertising in sports and introduce a new gambling Bill, including a levy to help tackle problem gambling.<sup>11</sup>

## SCOTTISH NATIONAL PARTY

### Drugs

The SNP wants to introduce facilities where drug addicts can inject themselves and will call on Westminster to devolve drugs policy.<sup>12</sup>

### Gambling

The SNP says it will “press for greater devolution of gambling regulation” and “press the UK Government to stop underage gambling on video games”.<sup>13</sup> It also promises to “support a full public health inquiry into gambling related harm”.<sup>14</sup>

## LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

### LGBT education

The Lib Dems say teaching on LGBT+ relationships, sexual consent and “issues surrounding explicit images and content” will all be included in sex and relationships education.<sup>15</sup>

### Marriage and the family

The party pledges to introduce “a right to no-fault divorce”. The party would also scrap the tax allowance for married couples.<sup>16</sup> The party commits to removing provisions that prevent same-sex weddings within the Church of England and Church in Wales.<sup>17</sup>

### Transgenderism

The party pledges to ‘completely reform the Gender Recognition Act’, including removing the need for medical diagnosis. It would also recognise “non-binary gender identities” and introduce an ‘X’ option to designate sex on passports.<sup>18</sup>

### Abortion

The party commits to decriminalising abortion across the UK and introducing ‘buffer zones’ around abortion centres.<sup>19</sup>

### Drugs

The party would end prison sentences for the possession of drugs for personal use. It supports a legal, regulated cannabis market in the UK, including making it available through licensed outlets.<sup>20</sup>

### Gambling

The party commits to restricting gambling advertising, banning the use of credit cards for gambling, and introducing a compulsory levy on gambling firms to tackle gambling problems.<sup>21</sup>

### Persecution of Christians

The party promises to: “Protect, defend, and promote human rights for all, including LGBT+ individuals who are persecuted across the world as well as those persecuted for their religion or belief.”<sup>22</sup>

## PLAID CYMRU PARTY OF WALES

### Drugs

The party wants a National Commission on reforming drug law.<sup>23</sup>

### Transgenderism

Plaid pledges to make changing legal sex a “streamlined, de-medicalised process”.<sup>24</sup> The party also wants to include “gender identity” as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.<sup>25</sup>

## GREEN PARTY

### LGBT education

The party would “end the opt-out of LGBTIQ+ inclusive” lessons and fund lessons covering “all aspects of sex and relationships”.<sup>26</sup>

### Transgenderism

The Green Party commits to allowing under 18s to gain legal recognition in their ‘self-declared’ sex. It also promises to increase funding for gender identity clinics, and to introduce an ‘X’ option to designate sex on passports.<sup>27</sup>

### Drugs

The party calls for heroin to be made available on prescription, as well as the creation of ‘drug consumption rooms’ where users can inject themselves.<sup>28</sup>

## CHRISTIAN PEOPLES ALLIANCE

### LGBT education

The party says it is opposed to compulsory sex education.<sup>29</sup> It also criticises the imposition of “secular liberal LGBT based” ideology in schools.<sup>30</sup>

### Marriage and the family

The party will provide a grant of £12,000 when men and women first get married and £6,000 on the birth of their first child.<sup>31</sup> The CPA has pledged to repeal same-sex marriage legislation.<sup>32</sup> It would restrict adoption to heterosexual married couples.<sup>33</sup>

### Drugs

The CPA has pledged to “take a stricter approach to drug use because of the clear link between drug use and crime”.<sup>34</sup> It also promises to make counselling available for drug addiction free of charge.<sup>35</sup>

### Gambling

The CPA proposes to repeal the Gambling Act 2005 and put new controls on casinos as well as mandatory warnings of the risks of gambling in all betting shops.<sup>36</sup> Gambling advertising would also be banned.<sup>37</sup>

### Transgenderism

The CPA would make “any kind of gender reassignment treatment or surgery on children” “strictly illegal”.<sup>38</sup> Medical transition for adults would not be funded by the NHS. Those “suffering from ‘gender dysphoria’” would be offered therapy.<sup>39</sup>

### Abortion

The party is committed to outlawing abortion, human cloning, embryo experimentation and all forms of euthanasia.<sup>40</sup>

### Persecution of Christians

The party would seek international agreements to protect Christians from persecution.<sup>41</sup>

## REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 18  
<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*, page 20  
<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, page 53  
<sup>4</sup> The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 69  
<sup>5</sup> The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 48  
<sup>6</sup> Funding Real Change, the Labour Party, 2019, page 5  
<sup>7</sup> The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 83  
<sup>8</sup> *Ibid*, page 68  
<sup>9</sup> *Ibid*, pages 48 and 83  
<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, page 35  
<sup>11</sup> *Ibid*, page 55  
<sup>12</sup> SNP Manifesto 2019, November 2019, pages 5 and 15  
<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, page 28  
<sup>14</sup> Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 33  
<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, page 74  
<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*, page 23  
<sup>17</sup> *Ibid*, page 75  
<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*, page 75  
<sup>19</sup> *Ibid*, page 61  
<sup>20</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>21</sup> *Ibid*, page 92

<sup>23</sup> Plaid Cymru General Election Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 35  
<sup>24</sup> Plaid Cymru General Election Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 77  
<sup>25</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>26</sup> Green Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 63  
<sup>27</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>28</sup> *Ibid*, page 67  
<sup>29</sup> Christian Peoples Alliance Manifesto 2019, page 40  
<sup>30</sup> *Ibid*, page 41  
<sup>31</sup> *Ibid*, page 4  
<sup>32</sup> *Ibid*, page 9  
<sup>33</sup> *Ibid*, page 10  
<sup>34</sup> *Ibid*, page 36  
<sup>35</sup> *Ibid*, page 12  
<sup>36</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>37</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>38</sup> *Ibid*, page 15  
<sup>39</sup> *Loc cit*  
<sup>40</sup> *Ibid*, pages 18-19  
<sup>41</sup> *Ibid*, page 48