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".1

Gambling
The Conservatives promise to review the Gambling Act.2

Persecution of Christians
The party promises to implement the Bishop of Truro's recommendations on combating persecution of Christians overseas.3

LABOUR

LGBT education
The party promises "mandatory LGBT+ inclusive relationships and sex education".4

Marriage and the family
Labour says it will "introduce a no-fault divorce procedure".5 The party published a funding report with plans to scrap the marriage allowance alongside its manifesto.6 The party says a Labour Government would "fully implement" same-sex marriage in Northern Ireland.7

Transgenderism
The party commits to reforming the Gender Recognition Act to "introduce self-declaration for transgender people".8

Abortion
Labour pledges to decriminalise abortion. It also says women in Northern Ireland should have access to abortions there.9

Drugs
Labour promises to "progress clinically appropriate prescription of medical cannabis".10

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

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.12

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".13 It also promises to "support a full public health inquiry into gambling related harm".14

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.15

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.16 The party commits to removing provisions that prevent same-sex weddings within the Church of England and Church in Wales.17

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.18

Abortion
The party commits to decriminalising abortion across the UK and introducing ‘buffer zones’ around abortion centres.19

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.20

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.21

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.”22
PLAID CYMRU PARTY OF WALES

Drugs
The party wants a National Commission on reforming drug law.23

Transgenderism
Plaid pledges to make changing legal sex a "streamlined, de-medicalised process".24 The party also wants to include "gender identity" as a protected characteristic under the Equality Act.25

GREEN PARTY

LGBT education
The party would "end the opt-out of LGBTIQA+ inclusive" lessons and fund lessons covering "all aspects of sex and relationships".26

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.27

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.28

CHRISTIAN PEOPLES ALLIANCE

LGBT education
The party says it is opposed to compulsory sex education.23 It also criticises the imposition of "secular liberal LGBT based" ideology in schools.30

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.31 The CPA has pledged to repeal same-sex marriage legislation.32 It would restrict adoption to heterosexual married couples.33

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

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.36 Gambling advertising would also be banned.37

Transgenderism
The CPA would make "any kind of gender reassignment treatment or surgery on children" "strictly illegal".38 Medical transition for adults would not be funded by the NHS. Those "suffering from 'gender dysphoria'" would be offered therapy.39

Abortion
The party is committed to outlawing abortion, human cloning, embryo experimentation and all forms of euthanasia.40

Persecution of Christians
The party would seek international agreements to protect Christians from persecution.41

REFERENCES

1 The Conservative and Unionist Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 18
2 Ibid, page 20
3 Ibid, page 53
4 The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 69
5 The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 48
6 Funding Real Change, the Labour Party, 2019, page 5
7 The Labour Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 83
8 Ibid, page 68
9 Ibid, pages 48 and 83
10 Ibid, page 35
11 Ibid, page 55
12 SNP Manifesto 2019, November 2019, pages 5 and 15
13 Ibid, page 28
14 Liberal Democrat Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 33
15 Ibid, page 74
16 Ibid, page 23
17 Ibid, page 75
18 Ibid, page 75
19 Ibid, page 61
20 Loc cit
21 Ibid, page 92
22 Plaid Cymru General Election Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 35
23 Plaid Cymru General Election Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 77
24 Ibid, page 67
25 Ibid, page 41
26 Green Party Manifesto 2019, November 2019, page 63
27 Ibid
28 Ibid, page 67
29 Christian Peoples Alliance Manifesto 2019, page 40
30 Ibid, page 41
31 Ibid, page 4
32 Ibid, page 9
33 Ibid, page 10
34 Ibid, page 36
35 Ibid, page 12
36 Loc cit
37 Loc cit
38 Ibid, page 15
39 Loc cit
40 Ibid, pages 18-19
41 Ibid, page 48