

Greens call for investment in genuine global security

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In anticipation of the outcome of the strategic defence review being published today, Ellie Chowns MP, who holds the defence brief for the Parliamentary Green Party, said:

“We acknowledge the need for greater defence spending and continued NATO membership, but also call for a more thorough reappraisal of strategic defence alliances. With Trump no longer a reliable ally, we need to deepen our defence cooperation with the EU, and review AUKUS.

“A Green approach to security is not based on arms and threats, but on the three Ds: diplomacy and development as well as defence. Defence policy should not be a simple competition over spending, but based on real commitment to an international order based on human rights, equality and genuine cooperation.

“If we are to avoid the horror of war, we need to look at the deeper causes of insecurity, including poverty and climate change. We strongly support the restoration of the international aid budget to at least 0.7% of GNI, with a considerable proportion spent on climate action.

“And we will continue to argue that real patriotism means to stand against UK-made weapons or components being sold to dictators, human rights abusers or for use against civilians anywhere in the world.”

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Pride Month 2025

Today marks the beginning of Pride Month – an important opportunity to celebrate and stand in solidarity with LGBTQ+ communities in the UK and across the world.

I know that for many, Pride will feel different this year. It hasn't been an easy time for many LGBTQ+ people lately, to put it mildly. And I understand why it may feel like there is little to celebrate right now.

It's clear the fight for LGBTQ+ equality must go on – and I'm determined that Liberal Democrats remain at the forefront of that fight. That includes pushing the Government to ensure the recent Supreme Court ruling doesn't lead

to a roll back of trans rights.



Of course, Liberal Democrats have long played an important role in pushing for LGBTQ+ equality. Like being the first political party to openly oppose the abhorrent Section 28 legislation, back in the '80s. And our instrumental role in getting the Same Sex Marriage Act passed in 2013.

More recently, I'm proud of the incredible work our Equalities Spokesperson, Christine Jardine, has done alongside LGBTQ+ Liberal Democrats to [reaffirm our party's commitment to LGBTQ+ rights at our Spring Conference](#). Together, they set out a clear plan of how we can push for LGBTQ+ equality – from addressing discrimination wherever it occurs, to improving access to healthcare and protecting LGBTQ+ rights abroad.

But the work doesn't stop there. Now, we must put these policies into action and keep doing everything we can to push for the positive change that the LGBTQ+ community deserves.

Because for years, the Conservatives targeted vulnerable LGBTQ+ people – and the trans community in particular – with their divisive culture wars. And I know that many people feel deeply let down by the Labour Government's track record so far when it comes to standing up for LGBTQ+ rights.

Now more than ever, the Liberal Democrats must stand with the LGBTQ+ community. I want to make clear that our party will keep pushing to ensure that everyone's fundamental rights are protected, no matter your orientation or identity.

So we will keep fighting – until we can finally build a society where

everyone is free to be who they are. And that will certainly be something to celebrate.

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Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Casualties caused by Excessive Speed in Northern Ireland 2019-2023 has been published today

Killed and Seriously Injured (KSI) Casualties caused by Excessive Speed in Northern Ireland 2019-2023 has been produced by Analysis, Statistics and Research Branch (ASRB).

Minister confirms 2 June launch for waiting list Reimbursement Scheme

Health Minister Mike Nesbitt has confirmed that the new Waiting List Reimbursement Scheme will commence on 2 June 2025.

Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report released 29/05/25

The Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report has been published today by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).