

1987



David Norris is elected to the Senate - the first openly gay member of the Oireachtas (parliament).

1989



Incitement to hatred based on sexual orientation is outlawed.

1993



Decriminalisation of Homosexuality.

1998



Prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in employment.

equal

THANK YOU IRELAND!

Over the last three decades, Ireland has progressively introduced rights and protections for LGBTI+ persons. In May 2015, Ireland became the first country in the world to endorse marriage equality through a popular vote. Ireland's Marriage Equality referendum gave a strong signal to the world of Ireland's commitment to welcoming and promoting equality. This journey at home has gone hand in hand with our prioritisation of LGBTI+ rights in our foreign policy. Our commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of LGBTI+ individuals, who continue to endure disproportionate levels of discrimination in many countries, is reflected in our foreign policy strategies, including "The Global Island: Ireland's Foreign Policy for a Changing World". This commitment is delivered through our engagement at international human rights fora, notably at the UN and EU, and through our bilateral relations.

2000



Prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation in the provision of goods, services, accommodation and education.

2010



Civil Partnership Act - same-sex couples can enter into a Civil Partnership.

2014



Under the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission Act 2014 all public bodies have responsibility to promote equality, prevent discrimination, including on the basis of sexual orientation, and protect the human rights of their employees, customers, service users and everyone affected by their policies and plans.

2015



Employment Equality Amendment Act grants additional protections to LGBTI+ citizens working in religious institutions.

2015



The Gender Recognition Act permits transgender citizens to self-declare their gender when updating passports, driving licences, obtaining new birth certificates, and getting married.

2015



Marriage Equality Referendum: Ireland becomes the first country in the world to publicly vote to allow equal marriage between two people without distinction as to their sex.

2016



Creation of LGBTI+ National Youth Strategy highlights the state's commitment to listening to the needs of Ireland's young LGBTI+ citizens.

Ireland is committed to supporting its citizens travelling overseas and its large diaspora. Ireland's Emigrant Support Programme supports projects that foster a vibrant sense of community and identity in our diaspora around the world, such as the "I Love Ireland" Festival in Tokyo. In recent years, the programme has funded Irish LGBTI+ groups in London and Sydney, along with a research project into the history of the LGBTI+ Irish diaspora, which will be used as an international exhibition by Ireland's mission network in the coming years. "Ireland's Diaspora Strategy 2020-2025" sets out how we will work with our diaspora to promote our values abroad, and celebrate the diversity of our diaspora, by supporting our LGBTI+ diaspora community through initiatives to promote inclusiveness, tolerance and respect for diversity.

Our diplomatic network actively supports LGBTI+ rights by participating in Pride parades and similar events across the world and offering support to LGBTI+ civil society organisations. For example, in September 2020, Ireland's Ambassador to Poland co-signed an open letter from 50 ambassadors supporting efforts to raise public awareness of issues affecting the LGBTI+ community in Poland and paying tribute to the hard work of LGBTI+ and other communities in Poland to end discrimination, in particular on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Ireland also works with civil society groups tackling issues affecting LGBTI+ persons through its Irish Aid development programme; for example, in 2019, Embassy Malawi collaborated with Frontline Defenders to present Eric Sambisa, a Malawian LGBTI human rights defender and director of NYASA Rainbow Alliance (NRA), with a 2019 Frontline Defenders Africa Regional Award.

The rights of LGBTI+ persons are a human rights priority for Ireland and we continue to support initiatives condemning violence and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity and promoting the rights of LGBTI+ individuals in international fora.

Ireland is a member of the Equal Rights Coalition, an inter-governmental coalition of 42 countries dedicated to advancing the human rights of LGBTI+ people and promoting inclusive development. The coalition was launched in July 2016 at the Global LGBTI Human Rights Conference in Montevideo, Uruguay and it brings together like-minded governments with the aim of strengthening and enhancing the protection of the international LGBTI+ community. Ireland was proud to join the coalition in July 2019.



2017



Leo Varadkar becomes Ireland's first openly gay Taoiseach (Prime Minister).

2018



On the 25th anniversary of the decriminalisation of sexual activity between men in Ireland, the Government issued an apology to the individuals convicted and acknowledged the wider "chilling effect" of the original legislation on LGBTI+ equality.

2019



Launch of Ireland's **National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy 2019-2021**, containing over 100 actions aimed at promoting inclusion, protecting rights and improving the quality of life and wellbeing of LGBTI+ people.

2019



Ireland joins the **Equal Rights Coalition**, an inter-governmental coalition of 42 countries dedicated to advancing the human rights of LGBTI+ people and promoting inclusive development.

Ireland has also strongly supported efforts at the UN Human Rights Council to address LGBTI+ issues, including the landmark resolution on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in 2011. In 2021, Ireland joined the UN LGBTI Core Group, an informal cross regional group of UN Member States to work within the United Nations framework on ensuring universal respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, specifically LGBTI+ persons, with a particular focus on protection from violence and discrimination.

In November 2019, Ireland launched its first National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy, which contains over 100 actions across government aimed at promoting inclusion, protecting rights and improving the quality of life and wellbeing of LGBTI+ people. The Strategy reflects Ireland's commitment to create an equal, fair and inclusive society for all, target discrimination and enable LGBTI+ people to overcome the barriers they face. It consists of four Thematic Pillars ensuring LGBTI+ people are Visible and Included, Treated Equally, Healthy and Safe, and Supported.



**IRELAND -  
SUPPORTING  
LGBTI+  
RIGHTS  
INTERNATIONALLY**