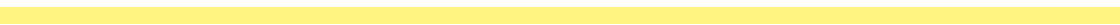


20  
OUT FOR INDEPENDENCE  
**CONFERENCE**  
23







## **Itinerary**

11:30 Arrival and Check-in

12:00 Keynote Speech – Humza Yousaf

13:00 Break

13:15 Resolutions Session 1

14:00 Break

14:30 Resolutions Session 2

15:15 Break

15:30 Resolutions Session 3

16:15 Discussion about direction of OFI

16:30 Close

***Tweeting about this event?  
Please use #OFI2023 so we can share!***



## Speaking At Conference

The proposer and seconder of each Resolution or Amendment will have the right to speak. The proposer of a resolution will have 5 minutes and the seconder, and all further speakers will have 3 minutes. Where there are speeches against a resolution, the first speaker will have 5 minutes, and all others will have 3 minutes.

To speak on a resolution, you will need to submit a speaking card, you can fill this in online by following the QR code below.

If you have any issues filling out this card, paper copies are available and should be handed to the National Secretary.

If you would like to speak on more than one resolution, please submit a card for each.

Please note that submitting a card does not guarantee that you will be able to speak on a given resolution. If more cards are submitted than we have time to call, we will not be able to take everyone. Speakers who have specific insight into a given topic will be given priority in such cases.



*Scan to  
Speak*



## Voting At Conference


A vote will be taken on a resolution where there have been speakers both for and against, or if conference makes clear to the Chair that they are not happy to pass a resolution by acclaim.

Votes can be cast digitally by scanning the QR code below. All responses will be cleared prior to each vote so please do not cast your vote until the Chair indicates voting is open.

If you would prefer not to vote digitally, you may request a paper ballot. These will be counted by the National Secretary and added to the totals.

Please remember that while all SNP members are entitled to attend OFI Conference, only those who identify as LGBTQ+ are entitled to vote. If you are attending as an ally, please do not cast a vote.

*Scan to  
Vote*





## Resolution 1

## Expansion of HIV Testing in Scotland

*Proposer: Steven Campbell*

*Seconder: Stuart Smith*

Conference welcomes the Scottish Government's aim to eliminate Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) transmission in Scotland by 2030.


Conference recognises that eliminating HIV transmission in Scotland will require a multi-faceted, whole-society approach, and notes the expansion of HIV testing is vital to meeting this goal.

Conference urges anyone who may need a HIV test to get one as soon as possible; recognises that there should be no shame or stigma in taking a HIV test nor in living with the virus, and that those who have HIV can live normal, healthy lives if on effective treatment.

Conference commends HIV Prevention England for its annual National HIV Testing Week campaign and welcomes recent commitments by the Welsh Government to implement its own testing week for Wales.

Conference also notes the success of emergency department opt-out HIV testing in England and its successes in teaching communities most impacted by health inequalities.

Conference calls on the Scottish Government to commit to the expansion of HIV testing in Scotland as a matter of urgency, including committing to the introduction of a funded National HIV Testing Week for Scotland, and to piloting opt-out HIV testing in Scotland's emergency departments in areas where HIV is most prevalent.





## Resolution 2

## Surrogacy Reform

*Proposer: Kilian Riley      Seconder: Cameron Tasker*

Conference recognises that families are formed in diverse ways; that surrogacy is a valid route to parenthood for couples and individuals who are unable to, or do not wish to, become parents through other routes; and that the current law on surrogacy is out of date, inadequate, and leaves both intended parents and surrogates in a legal grey area with very little protection.

Conference believes that everyone has the fundamental right to start a family and those who require assistance to do so should have fair, well-regulated access to alternative routes to parenthood such as surrogacy.

Conference welcomes the joint publication of a report and draft bill on Surrogacy Reform by the Law Commission for Scotland and the Law Commission of England and Wales; and commends the fair and balanced approach that seeks to provide maximum protection for women volunteering as surrogates, as well as simplifying the process for all involved and increasing legal protections for both the intended parents and the surrogate.

Conference notes with concern that the Law Commission recommendations do not address access to fertility treatment for couples and individuals having a child through surrogacy, and that parents requiring a surrogate do not have the same access to NHS funded fertility treatments as parents who are able to carry their own child.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish Government to ensure equal access to NHS funded fertility treatments for parents who are unable to carry a child for themselves once legal reform has taken place.



## Resolution 3

# A Strategy for Ending Intimate and Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys

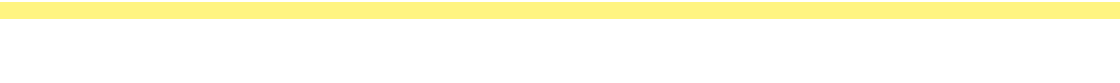
*Proposer: Erin Lux*

Conference notes the recent publication of a report from Glasgow Caledonian University showing that one in four gay and bisexual men in Scotland have experienced intimate partner violence, and that research by Survivors UK and Galop have found that over half of gay, bisexual, or trans men have experienced some form of sexual assault.

Conference recognises that the 2021 SNP manifesto promised the introduction of a national strategy for ending intimate and sexual violence against men and boys to sit in parallel with and complement the work of Equally Safe, but that further action has not been taken and does not appear in the 2022-23 Programme for Government.

Conference also notes that, at present, the Scottish Government does not have a national strategy for dealing with intimate and sexual violence against men and boys, leaving survivors without support and feeling as though police and public services are unprepared to take their cases seriously. Conference acknowledges that this lack of services, support, and recognition for men and boys who survive intimate and sexual violence creates a culture of silence, driving high rates of isolation, shame, and unacknowledged trauma.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish National Party:

1. to fulfil its manifesto promise and move quickly and decisively to create a comprehensive, robust, and appropriate strategy for male survivors of intimate and sexual violence;
  2. to commit to an education strategy for public services, the police, and the court system about supporting male survivors of intimate and sexual violence; and
  3. to develop outreach services to ensure that all survivors can access the help and support they need.
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## Resolution 4

## Sex Work Decriminalisation

*Proposer: Bridget Maloney*

Conference notes that the formal legal situation for sex workers in Scotland has not been reviewed since devolution, despite numerous changes to law in other areas. Conference recognises that the creation of Police Scotland in 2013 removed local discretion from policing of sex work and has created a more difficult environment with little flexibility.

Conference recognises that sex workers are disproportionately LGBTQ+, and that criminalisation of sex work therefore disproportionately affects our community.

Conference further notes that the 2021 SNP manifesto and the Scottish Government strategy on violence against women and girls, *Equally Safe*, refer to the act of purchasing the services of a sex worker as inherently violence against women, and that this definition ignores the 20% of Scottish sex workers who are men, removes agency from women who engage in sex work, and devalues the high levels of sexual assault and violence that sex workers do experience.

Conference acknowledges that the 2021 SNP manifesto commitment to 'consider how aspects of international approaches which seek to challenge men's demand for prostitution would best be applied in Scotland' biases policy approaches toward the 'Nordic Model', which criminalises the purchase of sex.

Conference recognises that the 'Nordic Model' has been associated internationally with higher rates of violence, with sex workers in Ireland reporting at 92% increase in violent crimes against them since the 'Nordic Model' came into force in 2017, and that most sex worker-led organisations, such as *Umbrella Lane*, *UglyMugs*, and *Scot-Pep*, view decriminalisation as the best way to reduce violence against sex workers.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish National Party to:

1. Decriminalise sex work as the first step in reducing health risks and violence;
2. Consult with sex worker self-advocacy organisations to determine how to best serve their needs; and
3. Develop and fund services to support sex workers' health and wellbeing without stigma, with recognition of the needs of LGBTQ+ sex workers, and acknowledgement of male sex workers.



## Resolution 5

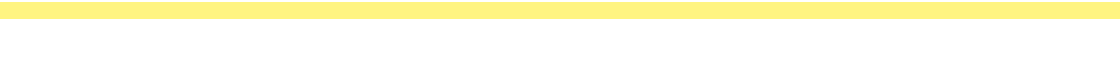
# Rights & Recognition of Scots who are Intersex and Scots with Variations in Sex Characteristics

*Proposer: Erin Lux on behalf of Callum Cox*

Conference believes that Scotland should continue to be a world leader in equality, human rights and progressive values. As such, Conference must ensure that no Scot gets left behind as we move toward becoming an egalitarian Independent Nation.

Conference recognises the existence of people with a variation in sex characteristics or who are intersex (I/VSC), and that their exclusion from legal recognition, definition and access to protections has resulted in: social & medical misinformation; the non-essential genital mutilation of infants with an I/VSC for cosmetic and social purposes - causing chronic pain and serious conditions from dysphoria to infertility; and that lack of understanding of what it means to be Intersex or a person with a VSC leads to stigma, discrimination or exclusion.

Conference therefore proposes that Scotland should establish:

1. An "I/VSC Working Group" within the Scottish Government for Intersex Scots and Scots with Variations in Sex Characteristics - providing a platform for people with an I/VSC and respective community Stakeholders.
  2. Recognition of Scots with an I/VSC with their inclusion in antidiscrimination laws - with inspiration from already existing laws such as those in Jersey, as well as advancing upon the work of previous I/VSC campaign stakeholders which have worked productively with the Scottish Government on matters such as Hate Crime legislation. Acknowledging the said stakeholders must be a part of the conversation on healthcare policies.
  3. A campaign of social awareness, normalisation, anti-bullying and rectifying the spread of misinformation within both education & healthcare, as well as preventing the unintentional/intentional exclusion or even 'outing' of adults & children with an I/VSC. This process must allow for contributions from Scots with an I/VSC which respects individual privacy; provides anonymity if requested; and guarantees that social policy has both the individual needs of people with an I/VSC, as well as respective stakeholders' inputs, central to any decision making.
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4. An immediate and complete ban on all future 'non-essential non-consensual' medical procedures performed on Scots with an I/VSC, including, but not limited to, the banning of genital mutilation on infants with an I/VSC through non-essential 'sexing' or cosmetic procedures, whilst guaranteeing that personalised medical support is expanded and is increasingly accessible, given how vitally important it is.

## Resolution 6


## Internal Governance Review

*Proposer: Michael Gibbons*

Conference notes the importance of a modern social democratic party being open and transparent with its membership and governing bodies. Further notes the importance of maintaining trust with the mass membership and elected members of the party by standing by our commitments to our progressive values and agenda.

Conference therefore welcomes the latest governance and transparency review requested and commissioned by our party leader and National Executive Committee. An affiliate organisation's duty is to contribute to the future governance and rules of the SNP. In line with this duty, conference mandates the executive committee of Out For Independence to write to the members of the governance review and party National Executive Committee to request consideration of the following:

- Radically reform of the party constitution to include definitions and bar actions of homophobia, biphobia, transphobia, antisemitism, islamophobia, and disinformation. Conference notes and welcomes the work done on several of these issues to date by our affiliate and others\*.
- Publish pay scales of members of staff employed by the party to NEC.
- Reform in a progressive manner parliamentarian's financial contributions to party central funds. Notes this has not been updated since 2003.
- Develop a new, fairer funding model for affiliate organisations that supports their campaigning.
- Establish an annual events calendar with national events clearly marked for planning.
- Restore function to National Council as a policy making body for members in regional settings.
- Recommend a review of party financing with the goal of establishing paid party organisers.

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- Require each elected member regardless of position, history or rank, be re-vetted through a process of scrutiny, prior to reselection.

Conference notes that NEC must propose constitutional changes to party conference and supports any move to do so. With strong, radical change, conference supports future proofing party structures to ensure we are always match fit to fight elections, referendums and win the support of LGBTQ+ people of Scotland.

## **Resolution 7**

## **A Racial Justice Officer for Out For Independence**

*Proposer: Sarah Cheung*

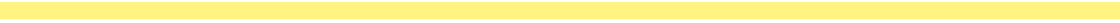
*Seconder: Ruth Ann McCalla*

Conference notes the growing importance of intersectionality in our community and wider society, both in terms of inclusiveness and for building political and social support across communities. Conference also notes that the risk to LGBTQ+ people, especially to Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) and refugee and asylum-seeking LGBTQ+ people, is growing rapidly due to the increasingly far right and draconian actions of Westminster and the Home Office.

Conference recognises the fantastic achievements and hard work affiliate groups such as Out For Independence (OFI) have made to the LGBTQ+ community in Scotland.

Conference notes with interest the growing challenges, as intersectionality plays a central part. Intersectionality acknowledges that every individual has their own experiences and if we exist as a sole single community, it can be harmful. It is crucial to recognize diversity within the community because LGBTQ+ ethnic minorities, refugees, and asylum seekers face higher risks to their lives including partner violence, and have lesser access to services.

Conference resolves that by creating a Racial Justice Officer position within OFI it will help address these issues by allowing BAME LGBTQ+ people to more easily access support and express their needs, building stronger bonds and alliances with other affiliate groups in the party. It will also allow OFI to keep up with and address the threats from Westminster and the Home Office.





## Resolution 8

## LGBTQ+ Asylum Seekers

*Proposer: Erin Lux*

*Seconder: Kilian Riley*

Conference notes the current lack of safe routes to seeking asylum in the UK from abroad, forcing asylum seekers to endanger their lives to reach these shores. Conference further notes that, under the new Illegal Migration Bill, the UK risks breaching its international human rights responsibilities. Conference affirms that it is not illegal to seek asylum and that seeking asylum is a basic human right.

Conference acknowledges that the global rise in anti-LGBTQ+ sentiment has placed the lives of queer people across the world in danger, and that many LGBTQ+ people will be forced to seek asylum. Conference specifically notes the passage of the extreme anti-LGBTQ+ legislation in Uganda, which has become the first country in the world to criminalise merely identifying as LGBTQ+.

Conference recognises that LGBTQ+ people who arrive in the UK and are able to claim asylum often face humiliating assessments, hostile Home Office staff who disbelieve their sexual orientation, and unsuitable accommodation that places them at greater risk of violence and exploitation than their straight counterparts.

Conference acknowledges that LGBTQ+ asylum seekers placed in detention are at high risk of abuse and are not protected, and that trans women in particular are at risk of being placed in male detention centres. Conference notes that having to hide their gender identity or sexual orientation in detention makes pursuing an asylum claim on the basis of LGBTQ+ identity difficult.

Conference therefore condemns the Illegal Migration Bill, and calls on the Scottish National Party to pressure the UK government to:

1. End detention of asylum seekers;
2. Create a framework providing appropriate services to LGBTQ+ asylum seekers; and
3. Urgently improve the process of decision-making for LGBTQ+ asylum claims with an emphasis on rights, dignity and respect.



## Resolution 9

## Bi+ Inclusion, Health & Wellbeing


*Proposer: Erin Lux*

Conference notes that the recent census data from England & Wales suggests that nearly half of the LGBTQ+ population identifies as falling under the Bi+ umbrella. Conference acknowledges that, despite this, Bi+ people often feel they are part of the LGBTQ+ community, and one study found that 42% felt they needed to pass as gay or lesbian to access LGBTQ+ services, and that 27% had experienced biphobia in these settings.

Conference further acknowledges that the Bi+ community faces considerable stigma from both the straight and larger LGBTQ+ communities, resulting in feelings of isolation, vulnerability, and poor health outcomes. Conference notes that Bi+ people are less likely to be open with their GPs than gay men and lesbians, are three times less likely to be out to their families, and less likely to be out at work, in educational settings, and to friends, fuelling isolation.

Conference recognises that there has been progress in government services and recognition for LGBTQ+ people, but that few of these have explicitly targeted the bi+ community. Conference notes that Bi+ people report being targeted by negative stereotypes when engaging with medical professionals, the police, and other public services.

Conference therefore calls on the Scottish National Party to:

1. Fund research into the needs of the Bi+ community;
  2. Ensure that Bi+ inclusion is considered when formulating LGBTQ+ policy;
  3. Develop materials to address negative stereotypes of Bi+ people held by medical professionals and other people delivering public services; and
  4. Ensure that LGBTQ+ health policy addresses the specific negative health outcomes in the Bi+ community.
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**SNP** 

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