

Time for Inclusive Education

SNP 
YOUTH

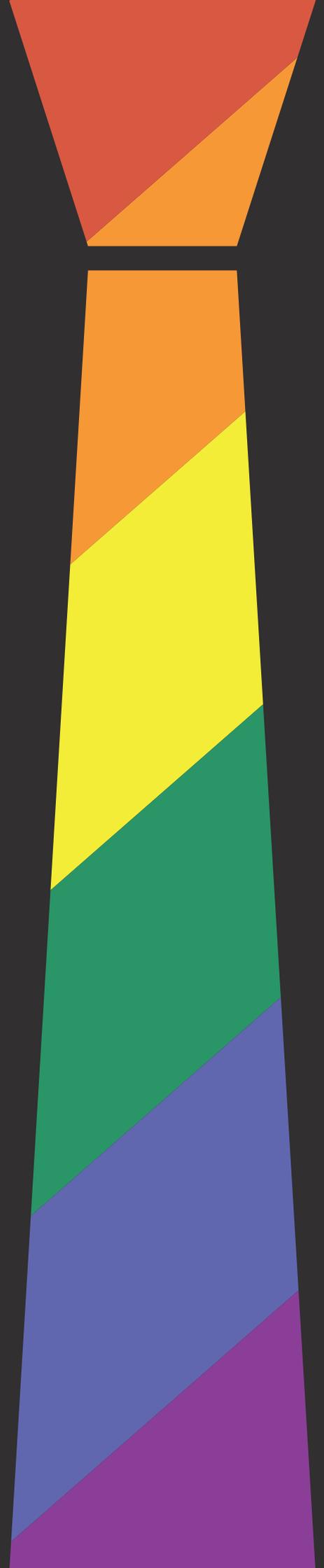
SNP STUDENTS



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Introduction

Scotland is considered one of the most progressive countries in terms of LGBT+ equality within Europe - and this is something that we should be proud of. However, whilst this is indeed the case from a legislative level; we know that this is not reflected within our education system.

With 26% of LGBT+ youth attempting suicide as a result of homophobic bullying, and 54% regularly self harming - we are facing an issue of endemic proportions. As the party that oversaw marriage equality, and with the election of several openly LGBT+ politicians - the SNP, as a party, is building a stable record in the ongoing push for LGBT+ rights.

The next domino to topple is education. Following from the passing of **Motion 12** - moved by **SNP Youth** and **SNP Students** - at the party's Spring Conference, we are proposing various manifesto commitments that would allow the SNP to achieve the membership's new aims of creating an education system that is inclusive of LGBT+ identities, in order to promote a "safe, equal and accepting environment for all of Scotland's young people."

Education is an absolutely vital tool to tackle LGBT+ phobia and discrimination, and it must be utilised.



We are calling on the SNP to:

- Commit to tackling the issues that remain within Scottish schools in relation to the treatment and inclusion of LGBT+ pupils.
- Re-evaluate the current governmental strategy to tackle LGBT+ phobia within schools. A new strategy, that goes further than before, is urgently required.
- Prioritise accessibility to teacher training within the next parliament. Teachers can play a key role in eradicating LGBT+ phobia within schools and creating an inclusive learning environment for their pupils. This can be achieved by:
 - Ensuring that all local authorities, thus schools, have the financial means to send teachers to the LGBT+ specific training courses that are currently available. We believe that it is vital that teachers receive LGBT+ specific training, to enable them to tackle LGBT-phobia within their schools, and to give them the confidence to discuss LGBT+ issues within the classroom.
 - Devising a training course that is LGBT+ specific within the Scottish Government's anti-bullying organisation - respectme - that all schools have access to.
 - Targeting teachers who deliver PSHE, Guidance staff, Named Persons or those with a specific pastoral care remit for LGBT+ specific training.
 - Monitoring and/or auditing any approach taken in this regard, to ensure that schools are following governmental guidance and direction in this area, in order to assess whether conditions are improving for LGBT+ youth.



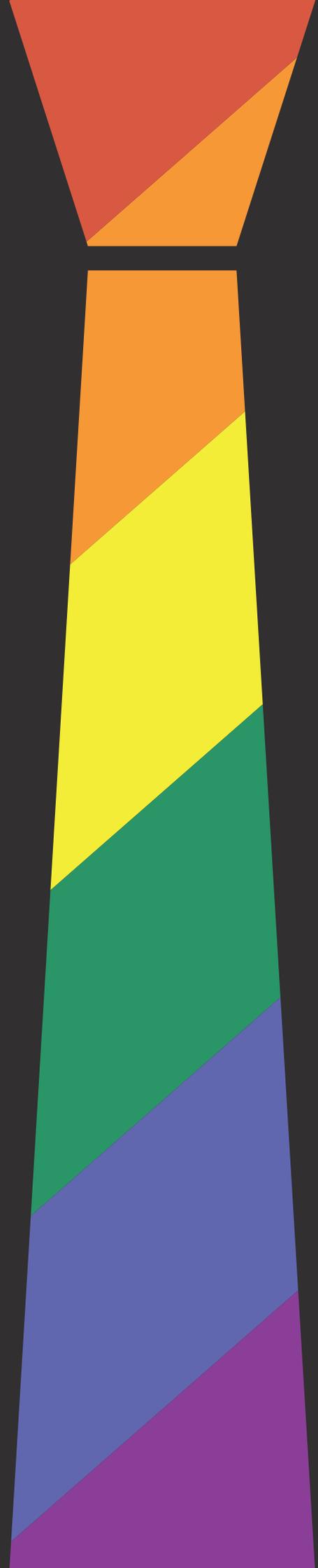
It is important to note here that simply allocating more funding to external organisations without governmental contribution and leadership will not solve the issues that face LGBT+ youth in our schools. We need a move that commits to a fresh strategic approach led by the government.

- Following from this, we believe that all trainee teachers should receive LGBT+ specific training, both during undergraduate years and as part of their required PGDE (primary and secondary) qualifications. We are fully prepared to co-operate and work alongside the SNP within the next parliament to encourage universities to make these changes.
- Further, we are asking for a commitment to create more progressive sex and relationships education guidance that speaks openly and honestly about consent, gender relations, LGBT+ issues and positive body image.

TIE, SNP Youth and **SNP Students** are fully prepared to work with the SNP within the next parliament and/or government in order to effectively tackle the issues facing LGBT+ youth in our nation's schools. Whilst we do appreciate that steps are being taken, the current Scottish Government's strategy in this area is not effective enough in solving the problems that persist and real, innovative leadership is required.

There are young LGBT+ people within this country who feel voiceless, hopeless and miserable at school. Many are attempting (or committing) suicide, many are self harming. The SNP has put it's ambition to build a better, fairer Scotland that gets it right for every child at the heart of it's programme for government - clearly, for LGBT+ young people, further progress has to be made.





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