



BeLoNG To's General Election 2016 Candidate Questions



Ireland changed what it means to grow up LGBT last May. Unfortunately the referendum win will not wipe out homophobia and transphobia overnight.

LGBT young people need your continued support.

We still have lots of work to do to address the isolation and exclusion that young LGBT people experience which are root causes of the many challenges they face including greater risk to mental health problems.

General Election 2016 offers us a real opportunity to shape a better Ireland for LGBT young people.

You need to make your voice heard. Over the coming weeks you'll be asked for your vote by candidates of all parties and independents. They'll have their pitch to make, but as we learnt last May with the marriage equality referendum your voice and your vote matters.

2015 was a momentous year with the passage of the Marriage Equality Referendum. As a result of the campaign, more and more young people and parents are reaching out to BeLonG To for our support. The number of calls and emails from parents and young people has increased by 100%. The number of people attending our support services has also more than doubled. This is really positive news but we are under enormous pressure to provide these extra services. We need Government to provide increased funding so we don't ever have to turn an LGBT young person or their parents away.

BeLonG To is asking that when you're canvassed for your vote, make it clear that you want services and support for young LGBT people and their parents and you want to end homophobic and transphobic bullying in our schools.

At this election, ask your candidates:

- 1. Will you work to wipe out homophobic and transphobic bullying in our schools?**
- 2. Will you support nationwide services and support for young LGBT people and their parents?**
- 3. Will you change the law to give everyone under 18 equal access to gender recognition?**

Play your part in shaping the kind of Ireland we want for this and future generations of young LGBT people. Keep this leaflet at your door – just to remind you to make your voice heard. If you haven't been canvassed directly then email your candidates. You'll find a list of candidates & their contact information on irish-elections.storyful.com

Drop us a line at election@belongto.org so we can track the responses of each candidate.

Let's finish the job we started with the referendum win and make sure LGBT young people feel safe, valued and equal in Ireland.