



## Welsh Party Manifestos 2021: Commitments which relate to ending VAWDASV in Wales

The majority of Welsh political parties standing in the 2021 Senedd elections have published their manifestos. Welsh Women's Aid has compiled key points from each party which has made commitments in their manifesto, in their own words, relating to ending violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in Wales.

### Welsh Labour

- To tackle domestic abuse and sexual violence, the Welsh Labour Government established the Live Fear Free and the Dyn helplines for women and men who are victims of violence and domestic abuse.
- Gender inequality is still an entrenched unfairness and violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence remains all too common. We want to make Wales the safest place in Europe to be a woman. We also know that people are disabled by barriers created by societal inequality and not by their impairment or specific needs.
- Strengthen the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Strategy to include a focus on violence against women in the street and workplace as well as the home. Expand the 'Ask and Act' and 'Don't be a Bystander' training and awareness campaigns.
- Welsh Labour embedded Relationships and Sexuality Education in the new curriculum ensuring LGBTQ+ inclusive education for our children and young people. We also established a ground-breaking Gender Identity Service to support Trans people and commissioned a comprehensive LGBTQ+ action plan in partnership with Stonewall Cymru.

Welsh Labour manifesto: [https://labourlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Moving-Wales-Forward\\_-Eng.pdf](https://labourlist.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Moving-Wales-Forward_-Eng.pdf)

### Plaid Cymru

- Our society will protect women, children and the vulnerable.
- We will work with the police to ensure that in situations of domestic abuse, the default position will be that it is the victims who have the right to remain in their accommodation, unless there are significant safety issues.
- Make the reporting process of sexual violence and abuse as straightforward as possible, ensuring that all incidents are investigated and that all survivors are offered the support of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor.
- Ensure that all victims and survivors have access to well-funded counselling services.
- We will take forward the gender and equality pilot project that has been undertaken in Uganda and Lesotho, aimed at reducing domestic abuse, increase business and skills, and develop peer to peer learning.

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- We will re-iterate that planning departments are bound to foreground the Equality Act, the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, and also have duties for the safeguarding of children.
- We will build on programmes, such as Flying Start, to tackle Adverse Childhood Experiences and make early intervention and childhood adversity a priority. We will set out a clear national strategy to empower and encourage key public services to deliver effective, sustainable and evidence-based early intervention.
- We will repeal section 74 of the Housing Act Wales (2014) which allows local authorities to end their duty of help to people who are still known to be homeless. We will bring a permanent end to the implementation of No Recourse to Public Funds conditions in Wales, so that everyone in Wales who needs to, is able to access housing and homelessness services.
- We will ensure that relationships and experiences of the LGBT+ community – including the trans, nonbinary, and asexual communities are included in the statutory element of Relationships and Sex Education of the new curriculum, in all school settings, and that teacher training is available.

Full Plaid Cymru manifesto: [http://www.manifesto.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Plaid\\_Cymru\\_Manifesto\\_2021\\_ENGLISH.pdf](http://www.manifesto.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Plaid_Cymru_Manifesto_2021_ENGLISH.pdf)

## Welsh Conservatives

- Expand services and ensure increased sustainable funding for prevention, protection and support for women who have experienced domestic abuse and sexual violence
- Enshrine the United Nations’ Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) into Welsh law
- Support communities to challenge violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence in all its forms, especially through utilising education

Welsh Conservatives manifesto:

[https://www.conservatives.wales/sites/www.conservatives.wales/files/2021-04/2021%20Senedd%20Manifesto\\_Wales%20ENGLISH.pdf](https://www.conservatives.wales/sites/www.conservatives.wales/files/2021-04/2021%20Senedd%20Manifesto_Wales%20ENGLISH.pdf)

## Welsh Liberal Democrats

- We will: Establish a Commission to investigate what services in Wales can do to prevent violence against women and girls and to support victims of abuse.
- Establish a Commission into violence against women and girls to understand what services can do in Wales.
- Make use of Independent Sexual Violence Advisors to acts as intermediaries where sex workers have been victims of crime.
- We need to adopt a public health approach to crime: identifying risk factors and treating them, rather than just focusing on the symptoms. This means police, teachers, health

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professionals, youth workers and social services all working closely together to prevent crime and violence.

- Extend the duty to Ask and Act beyond the public sector in relation to Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales).
- Deliver a whole school approach to mental health, as set out in the new curriculum, and roll out trauma-informed practice in all schools so that staff are able to act as first responders.
- Introduce a requirement for health and education services to commission advocacy services for children and young people so all children and young people have support to access their rights.

### Violence against women and girls

In March this year, the reality of the violence faced by women and girls came to the fore. The events of early March have highlighted the fear that so many women feel when they are using public spaces. We heard so many stories of street harassment. We have also seen a significant rise in domestic abuse during the pandemic. We need to look at what government at all levels can do to prevent violence against women. Services for women and girls facing violence and domestic abuse are under increasing pressure due to funding cuts, which have had a disproportionate impact on specialist services for Black, Asian and minority ethnic women and girls. We will:

- Establish a commission to determine what education, justice, and council services can do to create a safer, fairer society for women and girls.
- Safeguard funding for specialist services for victims of violence to adequately meet anticipated demand during and after the pandemic.
- Deliver the full recommendations in the Gender Equality review to achieve a fundamental shift in policy, budgeting, procurement and commissioning.
- Ensure the regular reporting of sexual harassment and hate crimes motivated by misogyny and ensure that Police and Crime Commissioners act upon them.
- Ensure that the duty on public services to Ask and Act in relation to violence against women and girls is used and embedded across our communities, including the private sector such as hotels and night clubs.

*Welsh Liberal Democrat manifesto:*

[https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/ldwales/pages/4049/attachments/original/1618503084/Welsh\\_Liberal\\_Democrat\\_2021\\_Manifesto.pdf?1618503084](https://d3n8a8pro7vbm.cloudfront.net/ldwales/pages/4049/attachments/original/1618503084/Welsh_Liberal_Democrat_2021_Manifesto.pdf?1618503084)

### Welsh Green Party

- Working to deliver UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.7 in Wales including education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship, and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

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- Recognising and responding to the needs of disadvantaged or marginalised groups (e.g., women, travellers, people of colour, disabled people, poor people, young people, LGBTIQ people, older people, asylum seekers and refugees), that have received insufficient consideration in economic and social policy-making and in shaping places for mobility, caring roles, public health and safe lives.
- Develop and implement a Wales-wide strategy to tackle gender-based violence, including domestic violence, rape and sexual abuse, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and trafficking. This will include providing education across Wales on violence against women and girls to increase awareness.
- Ensure the effective delivery of the Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015.
- Provide sustainable funding for domestic violence support centres, refuges and rape crisis centres, including funding to provide more safe and secure accommodation for women and their children.
- Train school staff in spotting and stopping sexual harassment and bullying, to ensure that schools are safe places for all to learn in with specific training on identifying racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and attacks on disabled people.
- Gaining more support for the Welsh Government’s strategy on Violence Against Women, Domestic Violence and Sexual Violence (VAWDVSV). Welsh control of justice and policing could more comprehensively support this strategy. Reclassifying misogyny as a hate-crime to help women feel safer in our communities.

Welsh Green Party Manifesto:

<https://greenparty.click/Wales%20Green%20Party%202021%20Senedd%20Election%20Manifesto%20English.pdf>

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