REDUCE ANTI-LGBT HATE CRIME

Over the past few years we've seen a notable rise in hate crime against all LGBTQIA+ people, but particularly trans people, across the UK and in Ireland. We urgently need an up-to-date and comprehensive legislative framework to address this rising hate.

Alongside a hate crime bill, we need to see progress on robust processes for the rehabilitation of those who have committed violent acts against LGBTQIA+ people, as well as a significant investment in supporting victims of hate crime within and outside LGBTQIA+ communities.

The legislation is only one piece of the puzzle. Recognising and addressing hate crimes after they have taken place does not undo the harm experienced by victims, nor does it ensure that others will be deterred from targeting trans and LGBTQIA+ people. Indeed, hate crime perpetrated against particularly trans people will continue to rise if the current moral panic against trans lives and identities in the media and the political sphere is maintained.

As a society, we need to begin to address the root causes of transphobic and homophobic violence, through education, anti-bias work, and transforming our communities in a manner which values and respects all LGBTQIA+ people.

To reduce hate crime levels the Executive and Assembly must:

- Deliver new hate crime legislation which includes transphobic and interphobic hate crime, while ensuring that this legislation is capable of recognising intersectional motives for these crimes.
- Address the increasingly prevalent hate speech and incitement to hatred against LGBTQIA+ communities, particularly in public spaces.
- Proactively address anti-LGBTQIA+ hate crime through education and public awareness raising measures to promote inclusion and tackle anti-LGBTQIA+ attitudes.