

Josh Aaron-Mennie, Convener and Finlay McFarlane, Vice Convener

It has been an incredibly busy year since the relaunch of Out for Independence in July 2019. From working with the Party and engaging our membership we are proud of the work we have undertaken to rebuild the SNP's LGBTQ+ wing.

The past 18 months has not been without challenges. In 2019, OFI were able to physically attend Pride Marches from Perthshire to West Lothian.. Dundee to Glasgow, raising the SNP banner high and spreading the positive achievements our Party has secured for LGBT+ equality. We brought local elected representatives onto the main stage in front of huge crowds and we would love to thank everyone from Government Ministers to local councillors who got involved. These events proved very successful in breaking new ground reaching members of the public and signing up new members to the SNP.

Our second Pride Season, we like others, had to find new innovative ways to continue OFI's work. COVID-19 saw us move our activities online, with viral social media campaigns involving SNP supporting drag queens and platforming prominent elected LGBT+ members.

Regarding Party policy, we have engaged with third sector organisations and grassroots branches to support the Scottish Governments work in reforming the Gender Recognition Act. We are proud to have attended dozens of local Party meetings up and down Scotland to hold constructive talks, which has been driven by our Trans members. Members overwhelmingly positively engaged and appreciated the efforts we were making in advertising the consultations on GRA reform. Sadly, the toxicity of this 'debate' online has had a negative effect on the Party's standing with the LGBT+ community. OFI has tirelessly worked to counteract this with positive campaigning and working constructively with external organisations and members of the public.

An incredible amount of work has gone into rebuilding the SNP's LGBT+ wing. Organisationally, we have worked the Party on securing structural access to LGBT+ members (previous data policy has been amended to allow SNP members to self-identify when joining, and enabled opt-ins for an OFI mailing list) which should in the future make us far more representative as an affiliate. We will work continuously to make sure that this is always the case.

We are also grateful to have secured core funding (over £1500) from the National Treasurer to compliment the fundraising efforts of our Executive Committee. We would like to extend a massive thank you to Nicola Sturgeon for the donation of signed Pride Flags which helped raise over £700 for our organisation at our Conference Raffle.

Overall, this work undertaken will enable us to continue our fantastic work representing our community within the Party and beyond.

Finally, we would love to say a huge thank you to the executive committee whom have worked incredibly hard and here is to another year of making sure LGBT+ voices are heard at the core of our Party

Full Annual Report can be found here: [Out for Indy Annual Report 2020](#)

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Scottish National
Party
Gordon Lamb
House
3 Jackson's Entry
Edinburgh,
Scotland
EH8 8PJ

tel: **0800 633**

5432

email:

info@snp.org

Promoted by Peter Murrell on behalf of the Scottish National Party, both at Gordon Lamb House, 3 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh, Scotland, EH8 8PJ

