



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN

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Questionnaire on Federal Issues of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Equality

1. In a majority of states, no explicit laws protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Americans from discrimination, like the federal laws that exist on race, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability. If elected, would you support and sign into law the *Equality Act* (S. 1858/H.R. 3185), which would prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity?

Support

We reached one of our proudest moments as a nation this past June, when the Supreme Court recognized that LGBT couples have a constitutional right to marry. However, much work remains to be done to reach the promise of full equality for LGBT Americans. Without full federal equality, LGBT people will continue to face discrimination in many facets of life. It's past time to provide comprehensive non-discrimination protections. I have declared my support for the Equality Act as a presidential candidate, and I would be honored to sign it into law as President.

2. The U.S. Constitution provides strong protections for individuals and organizations to exercise religion and to freely speak about beliefs. But some federal and state lawmakers are seeking to pass legislation, like the *First Amendment Defense Act*, that would create loopholes that could be used to deny equal treatment to LGBT people based on so-called "religious freedom" claims. Would you oppose efforts that allow individuals to use their religious beliefs as a justification to discriminate against LGBT people in the public sphere?

Yes

I would oppose efforts to allow individuals to use their religious beliefs as a justification to discriminate against LGBT individuals in the public sphere. Religious freedom is elemental to America—it is enshrined in our Constitution and fundamental to who we are as a nation. But this isn't an either/or question. We can promote equal rights and dignity, and at the same time, protect religious liberty. The Equality Act, for example, advances LGBT equality while maintaining the religious exemptions that have been part of our civil rights laws for decades.

3. Would you oppose any attempt to amend the U.S. Constitution to deny rights to same-sex couples or allow discrimination against LGBT persons?

Yes

I would oppose efforts to amend the U.S. Constitution to discriminate against LGBT people.

4. Do you believe the civil institution of marriage (with absolutely no requirements imposed on houses of worship) should be legally available to two committed adults of the same sex?

Support

Along with millions of Americans across the country, I celebrated this year's landmark victory for marriage equality and the generations of advocates and activists who fought to make it possible. Marriage equality is the law of the land and I will fight to ensure that it remains so.

5. New treatments have improved the quality of life for those living with HIV and new prevention strategies can help reduce the risk of contracting HIV, but these medications are often too expensive and too difficult to access for those who need them. Do you support increased funding for HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and research?

Support

It is an abomination that a pharmaceutical company can raise the price of medicine for HIV and AIDS patients by more than 5,000%. The recent controversy surrounding Turing Pharmaceuticals is just one example—there are other drug companies gouging Americans with higher prices than they charge other people around the world. That's why I've announced a plan to hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable and to achieve lower drug costs for Americans, including medications that help to treat HIV and reduce the risk of contraction. As President, I would stop direct-to-consumer advertising subsidies, require drug companies to invest in research, cap monthly and annual out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs, ensure American consumers are getting value for their drugs, and allow Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices.

This isn't a new fight for me. I have long advocated for bolstering resources for HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment, and research. As a Senator, I sponsored the PEPFAR Accountability and Transparency Act, which would have created a mechanism to evaluate and improve U.S.-financed HIV/AIDS programs around the world. I also cosponsored legislation—including the Medicare Prescription Drug Gap Reduction Act and the Meeting Our Responsibility to Medicare Beneficiaries Act—which would have finally allowed Medicare to negotiate fair prices. As Secretary of State, I began an ambitious campaign to usher in an AIDS-free generation. I advocated for a comprehensive approach incorporating both prevention and treatment—focusing on ending mother-to-child transmission, expanding voluntary medical male circumcision, and scaling up treatment for people living with HIV/AIDS. I have also emphasized the fight against HIV/AIDS in my philanthropic work. Almost 8 million people with HIV/AIDS around the world have benefited from more affordable medicine because of the Clinton Foundation. And since 2002, the Clinton Health Access Initiative has reduced the cost of HIV/AIDS medicines in many countries from over \$10,000 per person per year to just \$100 to \$200 per person per year.

6. Even as we experience increased transgender visibility, the levels of violence and harassment transgender people face – particularly transgender women of color – constitute a national crisis. The federal government has a critical role to play in preventing and addressing violence, including: expanding access to critical safety net programs to address issues like homelessness and job placement; implementing and enforcing rules that prohibit discrimination against transgender people by federally funded service providers; ensuring medically necessary transition-related care under the *Affordable Care Act*; ensuring the safety of those in jails, prisons, and immigration detention centers and robust enforcement of the federal hate crimes law. If elected President, will you prioritize a comprehensive federal response to address anti-transgender violence?

Yes

In America, no one should be discriminated against or suffer violence because of who they are. That's why, as a Senator, I co-sponsored legislation to expand federal hate crime law to cover sexual orientation and gender identity. Already this year, at least 20 transgender people have been murdered in the United States—many of whom are women of color. We must do more to end this scourge of violence. As President, I would work to develop a comprehensive federal approach to address and prevent violence against transgender Americans.

7. While all states allow LGBT people to adopt children, some legislators are pushing to prohibit capable, committed adults from adopting because of their sexual orientation. Do you support giving appropriate judicial authorities the full authority to make decisions on adoption based on the best interest of the child, without bans based on sexual orientation or gender identity?

Support

Throughout my career, I have been an advocate for children and families. I believe there is nothing more important to a child's success than growing up in a loving home. As President, I would work to ensure that nothing stands in the way of capable and caring individuals who want to adopt children in need, and that includes making sure the appropriate judicial authorities have the full authority to make decisions on adoption based on the best interest of the child, without bans based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

8. LGBT students are subject to pervasive discrimination, including harassment, intimidation, and violence. Would you support and sign into law the *Student Non-Discrimination Act* (H.R. 846/S. 439), a federal bill that would prohibit public schools from discriminating against students based on sexual orientation or gender identity?

Support

Every child deserves to learn and grow in a supportive environment that celebrates who they are. Yet, discrimination against LGBT students is heartbreakingly widespread, and with the advent of social media, many children find this mistreatment follows them home at night. The Student Non-Discrimination Act is an important step toward safeguarding our students from discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. I would sign this legislation into law as President.

9. Bullying and harassment of LGBT students, as well as students perceived to be LGBT, is widespread. Would you support and sign into law the *Safe Schools Improvement Act* (S. 311), which would require school districts receiving federal funding to adopt codes of conduct specifically prohibiting bullying and harassment, including on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as race, color, national origin, sex, disability, and religion?

Support

Too many LGBT students still experience bullying and harassment at school. A 2009 study by GLSEN of LGBT middle and high school students across the country found that nine out of ten students reported experiencing harassment at their school within the past year based on their sexual orientation or gender identity, and two-thirds said they felt unsafe at school because of who they are. We need to create a more safe, inclusive, and welcoming environment in our schools. I support the Safe Schools Improvement Act to help us work toward achieving that goal.

10. At least 75 countries criminalize consensual same-sex sexual relationships, with as many as 10 punishing consensual same-sex conduct with the death penalty. Transgender individuals also face laws that criminalize their identities and create significant barriers to their health and safety. Do you believe that LGBT rights are human rights and that U.S. national security is strengthened by protecting, supporting, and defending the human rights of LGBT people abroad?

Yes

LGBT rights are human rights—plain and simple. No matter what we look like, where we come from, or who we are, we are all equally entitled to our human rights and dignity. That is why, as Secretary of State, I made the advancement of LGBT equality an integral part of our foreign policy. I stood before the UN Human Rights Council in 2011 and said that “gay rights are human rights,” and led the effort to pass the first-ever UN Resolution on LGBT Human Rights. In our embassies, we tasked our diplomats with raising concerns about specific cases and laws, and worked with a range of partners to strengthen human rights protections for all. In Washington, we created a task force at the State Department to support and coordinate this work and we created a program that offers emergency support to defenders of human rights for LGBT people. We also launched a Global Equality Fund to support the work of civil society organizations working on these issues around the world. Likewise, as President, LGBT rights would be a key component of my foreign policy framework and agenda.

11. If elected President, will you only put forth nominees for appointment to the Supreme Court that are committed to due process under the law and upholding the Equal Protection Clause for all Americans, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity?

Support

Appointment of U.S. Supreme Court justices is one of the most important duties of the president, and the next president is likely to shape the composition of the Court for a generation to come. As President, I would only nominate individuals who understand that constitutional protections extend to all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

12. If elected President, will you commit to making diverse appointments of qualified, openly LGBT individuals in key positions of your Administration, to include your Cabinet and the White House?

Support

As President, I would appoint qualified, openly LGBT individuals to key positions within my administration—just as I have done in the Senate, at the State Department, and in my presidential campaign.

13. There are approximately 15,500 actively serving transgender members of the U.S. military, making the Department of Defense the largest employer of transgender people in America. The Pentagon is currently reviewing its regulations to permit open service. If elected President, will you support new regulations allowing open service by all qualified transgender people?

Support

Everyone who is able to meet our military's high standards of performance and desires to serve should have the full and equal opportunity to do so. That is why as First Lady, I spoke out against

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and as president, I would support allowing open service by all qualified transgender people.

14. President Obama issued a historic Executive Order prohibiting discrimination against transgender employees of the federal government and prohibiting federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. If elected President, will you leave that order in place?

Support

When I was First Lady of the United States, my team pushed for such an order. It was a great day when President Obama issued his Executive Order, and I am committed to keeping it in place.

15. This questionnaire addresses most of the key federal issues impacting the LGBT community, but there are many others, including youth homelessness, the ban on gay and bisexual men donating blood, significant gaps in data collection, inability to access to medically-necessary health care, and critically important cultural competency training. If elected President, will you work to address the full range of LGBT concerns across the federal government?

Yes

Due to the courage and hard work of so many LGBT individuals and allies, we have made important strides in extending equal rights and opportunities to LGBT Americans. However, even as we celebrate this progress, we know our work is far from done. As President, I would work to address LGBT concerns across the federal government and fight for full LGBT equality in every aspect of our society.

16. Please share policy positions not mentioned above that you have publicly taken on ballot measures, legislation or non-policy related matters that affect the LGBT community, including in legislatures, businesses, the legal realm or the media.

I have spent my life fighting for equality for all, and have been a vocal advocate for LGBT rights. As First Lady of the United States, I spoke out against “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” and advocated for an executive order to ban federal contractors from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation. In the Senate, I championed hate crimes legislation, fought for federal nondiscrimination legislation to protect LGBT Americans in the workplace, and advocated lifting restrictions blocking LGBT couples from adopting children.

I was the first Secretary of State to prioritize confronting the human rights violations that LGBT people face in countries all over the world. I fought for LGBT rights in both my words and my actions. In 2011, I declared on the global stage, “Gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights.” I led the effort to pass the first-ever UN Resolution on LGBT Human Rights and launched the Global Equality Fund to assist civil society organizations that promote LGBT rights. I advocated for equal treatment of LGBT persons under the law, emphasizing my long-held belief that “it is often the case that laws must change before fears about change dissipate.” And knowing that the U.S. is strongest when leading by example, I ended State Department policies denying same-sex couples and families equal rights, implemented LGBT-friendly workplace policies, and updated the Department’s policy for transgender persons’ passports to reflect their true gender.

HRC works in coalition with many organizations to achieve equality and justice. Please indicate your positions on these key issues:

17. Do you support the *Voting Rights Advancement Act* (H.R. 2867/S. 1659), a bill that protects access to the polls for all Americans by addressing the modern day challenges of voting discrimination and restoring the full protections of the Voting Rights Act?

Support

I support the Voting Rights Advancement Act. The assault on voting rights threatens to block millions of Americans from fully participating in our democracy. We should be clearing the way for more people to vote, not putting up every roadblock anyone can imagine. Congress should move quickly to pass legislation to repair the damage done to the Voting Rights Act and restore the full protections that American voters need and deserve. And we should also implement the recommendations of the bipartisan presidential commission to improve voting. I have called for setting a standard across the country of at least 20 days of early in-person voting, including opportunities for weekend and evening voting. And I believe we should go even further to strengthen voting rights by establishing universal, automatic voter registration so that everyone is automatically registered to vote when they turn 18—unless they actively choose to opt out.

18. Do you support a woman's right to make decisions about her own reproductive health, including a right to safe and accessible abortion?

Support

I believe that our commitment to reproductive choice is rooted in our fundamental values. Roe v. Wade is a landmark decision, which must be upheld. My own views of family planning and reproductive rights are heavily influenced by my travels as Secretary of State and as First Lady where I have witnessed the suffering of women around the world who do not have access to reproductive rights. As a result of these experiences, I remain steadfast in my belief that it is the fundamental right of every woman to make her own health care decisions consistent with her faith and her family, in consultation with her doctor or health care provider.

19. Do you support comprehensive immigration reform with a path to legal citizenship for law-abiding residents currently in the United States?

Support

I support comprehensive immigration reform (CIR) and a path to full and equal citizenship, not just because it's the right thing to do (which it is), but because it strengthens families, strengthens our economy, and strengthens our country. I was a strong supporter of CIR as a Senator, cosponsoring Senator Ted Kennedy's 2004 bill and supporting Comprehensive Immigration Reform bills in 2006 and 2007. In 2003, 2005 and 2007, I cosponsored the Dream Act in the Senate. I will fight for comprehensive immigration reform and a path to full and equal citizenship for families across our country. I also support President Obama's DACA/DAPA executive actions. And if Congress continues its refusal to act, as President I would do everything possible under the law to go even further.

Hillary Clinton
CANDIDATE NAME

