



New Zealand legalised same sex marriage in 2014, but the Rainbow (or LGBTQIA+) community still face many challenges that other New Zealanders don't, including significantly higher rates of mental illness and suicide. In previous elections, some political parties have not had specific policies to address the Rainbow community. Will this election be different? In this activity, you will explore and discuss different policies to assist the Rainbow community.

→ Go to [policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/community-and-inclusion](https://policy.nz/2023/party-vote/policies/community-and-inclusion)

→ Find the 'Rainbow community' section

→ Explore answers to these questions and share your ideas and reasoning with others

1. Government policies towards the Rainbow community have changed a lot over the past 35 years. Read this article on [Homosexual Law reform](#). Research and find two other pieces of legislation since 1987 designed to reduce discrimination against the Rainbow community. How have people's perspectives on the Rainbow community's rights shifted since 1987?
2. Watch the "[Big, Gay, Rainbow Speech](#)". This speech made in New Zealand Parliament was shared widely around the world. What was the Marriage Amendment Bill? Who is this politician, and what is his perspective on the bill he is speaking about? Why do you think his speech received global attention?
3. What challenges do the Rainbow community currently face in New Zealand? [This report](#), released by the New Zealand Commission of Human Rights, identified six human rights issues related to improving the lives of people in the Rainbow community. What are these six issues?

→ Go back to [Policy.nz](https://policy.nz) and browse the policies. Click on policies to read more detail

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

4. From the NZCHR report in question 3, select one issue of particular interest to you. Do any parties have policies on this issue? Do you think their policies would make a difference?
5. What are the main differences between the parties' approaches to address the challenges faced by the Rainbow community? Are there any parties that do not have policy on this issue at all? Does this surprise you? Why or why not?
6. What policy ideas do you think could make a positive difference to the lives of people in the Rainbow community? Share and discuss with a friend.