

Theresa May's Voting Record on LGBT Rights

Issue	Date of Vote	Bill - Clause	Description of Provisions	Party Line/ Whip	Conservatives who voted against the majority of their party	Theresa May's Vote	How advocates of LGBT rights voted	Notes
Equalising the Age of Consent	22 nd June 1998	Crime and Disorder Bill, Vote to insert new clause: – Reducing Age of Consent for Homosexual Acts to 16	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Substitute the word '16' for '18' in the Sexual offences acts of 1956 and 1967 and the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act. 2) Substitute the '17' for '18' in Homosexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 1982 	No	18 + 1 tell	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The second provision was to equalise the age of consent between homosexual and heterosexual acts which at the time was 17 in Northern Ireland • Although passing this vote, the clause did not survive into the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, but eventually appeared in the Sexual Offences(Amendment) Act 2000
	28 th Feb 2000	Sexual Offences (Amendment) Bill	The Bill sought to reduce the age at which buggery was legal from 18 to 16. It also sought to reduce the age at which other homosexual acts were permitted from 18 to 16.	Free Vote	12	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act received royal ascent 20th Nov. 2000 and finally equalised the age of consent.
Equal rights in fertility treatment	20 th May 2008	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill – fertility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A woman shall not be provided with treatment services unless account has been taken of the 	Aye	12	Aye	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill read 'including the need of that child for a father'. The new

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		treatment requires a father and a mother.	welfare of any child who may be born as a result of the treatment (including the need of that child for a <i>father and a mother</i>)					Embryology Bill replaced 'father' with 'supportive parenting'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This clause, in specifying 'father and a mother' would have prevented homosexual couples from receiving fertility treatment.
20 th May 2008	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill – fertility treatment requires a male role model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A woman shall not be provided with treatment services unless account has been taken of the welfare of any child who may be born as a result of the treatment (including the need of that child for a <i>father or male role model</i>) 	Aye	13	Aye	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 1990 Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill read 'including the need of that child for a father'. The new Embryology Bill replaced 'father' with 'supportive parenting'. This clause, in specifying 'male role model' would have prevented lesbian couples from receiving fertility treatment. 	
22 nd Oct. 2008	Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill	Allowed same sex couples, either in a civil partnership or long term relationship, to receive fertility treatment with equal rights to heterosexual couples of the same status.	Free vote	48	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Bill received royal ascent on the 13th Nov. 2008 	

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Equal Adoption Rights	16 th May 2002	Adoption and Children Bill – applications for adoption	This amendment was to allow unmarried couples (both heterosexual and homosexual) to adopt children.	No	4	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since same-sex marriages are not allowed, requiring adoptive parents to be married necessarily prevents same-sex partners from adopting
	20 th May 2002	Adoption and Children Bill – Clause 131 – General interpretation	This amendment was to allow unmarried heterosexual couples to adopt children with homosexual couples specifically excluded.	Aye	0	Aye	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was a specific attempt to block the rights of same-sex couples to adopt.
	4 th Nov. 2002	Adoption and Children Bill – Suitability of Adopters	Sought to reject the modification in the Lords and allow unmarried heterosexual <i>and</i> homosexual couples to adopt.	No	8	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When first in the commons, the Adoption and Children Bill was amended to allow unmarried heterosexual and homosexual couples to adopt children (see above). When the bill went to the Lords, they rejected the amendment and reinstated the original "married couples only" rule, which would not have allowed homosexual couples to adopt. • This vote rejected the Lords' modification. • This Bill as a whole received royal ascent on the 7th Nov. 2002.
Transsexual rights	23 rd Feb. 2004	Gender Recognition Bill	Allows transsexuals to change their legal gender.	Aye	20 + 2 tells	Absent	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was the first of four votes on the Bill, the other three all being

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								<p>on the 25th May 2004, none of which were attended by Theresa May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Bill received royal ascent on 1st July 2004
	19 th March 2007	Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations	This Act allows the Secretary of State to make regulations defining discrimination and harassment on grounds of sexual orientation, create criminal offences, and provide for exceptions	No	29	Absent	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of these regulations falls specifically within Theresa May's portfolio. • They were approved by the Commons and were made under the Equality Act 2006
Free discussion of homosexuality	5 th July 2000	Local Government Bill [Lords] – Prohibition on promotion of homosexuality by teaching or publishing material: bullying	<p>Sought to reject Lords' amendment to keep section 28:</p> <p>(1) A local authority shall not</p> <p>(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality</p> <p>(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship</p>	Aye	0	Aye	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Government Bill had been through the Lords and the Lords rejected the abolition of Section 28, decided instead to add the clause listed here a '(2)'. The vote held was on whether to accept the Lords' amendment and allow the continuation of section 28. • After continued opposition from the Lords to repealing Section 28, the government decided to accept the amendment so as not to lose the entire Bill. • The Local Government Bill received royal ascent 28th July 2000

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			<p>and add:</p> <p>(2) This shall not prevent the headteacher or governing body of a maintained school, or a teacher employed by a maintained school, from taking steps to prevent any form of bullying</p>					
	23 rd March 1999	Local Government Bill	<p>Included the abolition of section 28:</p> <p>(1) A local authority shall not:</p> <p>(a) intentionally promote homosexuality or publish material with the intention of promoting homosexuality</p> <p>(b) promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship</p>	No	0	No	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This was the first reading of the Local Government Bill mentioned above.
	10 th March 2003	Local Government Bill – Repeal of Prohibition on	Sought to reject a clause in the Local Government Bill designed to repeal Section 28 in the Local Government	Free Vote	23	Absent	No	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Bill finally saw the abolition of Section 28 and received royal ascent 18th September 2003.

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		Promotion of Homosexuality	Act (1986) [see above of Section 28]					
Civil Partnerships	12 th Oct. 2004	Civil Partnership Bill	Create a new legal relationship for same-sex couples with many of the same rights and heterosexual married couples.	Aye	36 + 2 tells	Aye	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This vote was to allow the Bill a second reading and thus allow it to proceed to the next stage. • 63% of Conservative MPs present voted for this Bill, including the entire Conservative front bench following pressure from David Cameron.
	9 th Nov. 2004	Civil Partnership Bill – Third Reading	Create a new legal relationship for same-sex couples with many of the same rights and heterosexual married couples.	Aye	37 + 2 tells	Absent	Aye	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just over half of Conservative MPs present voted 'aye'. • This vote completed the passage of this Bill in the Commons. • The Bill received royal ascent 18th November 2004

Summary:

In general Theresa May has voted with the Conservative Party line meaning, with the exception of the Civil Partnerships Bill, she has voted against the furtherance of LGBT rights. Similarly, whenever there has been a free vote (Sexual Offences [Amendment] Bill – equalising the age of consent; Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill – equal fertility rights; Local Government Bill – repeal of section 28) she has voted consistently against LGBT rights. Therefore, she has voted directly against:

- Equalising the age of consent for homosexual acts in line with that for heterosexuals.
- Allowing same-sex couples to receive fertility treatment.
- Allowing same-sex couples to adopt children.
- The abolition of section 18.

Theresa May has also been absent on certain key votes, such as:

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- The Equality Act (Sexual Orientation) Regulations
- The Gender Recognition Bill [giving transsexuals the right legally to change their gender and hence take on the appropriate rights and responsibilities associated therewith].

Sources:

<http://www.publicwhip.org.uk/>

<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/>