

How have European political groups

voted on LGBTI rights

in 2014-2019?



During the European Parliament's 8th legislature (2014-2019), MEPs voted on LGBTI issues over 300 times. In this briefing we analyse key votes on LGBTI rights, providing a broad & non-exhaustive overview of how political groups stand on LGBTI issues.

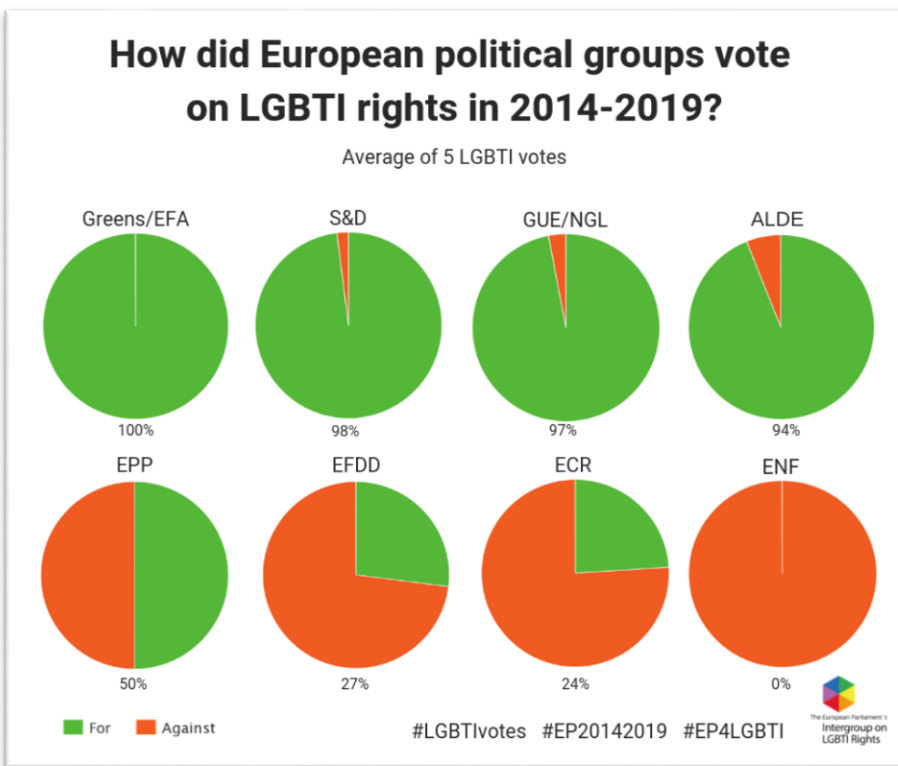
Between 2014 and 2019, the European Parliament constantly promoted the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people. Among the 300 votes on LGBTI rights across 5 years, a few roll-call votes give a broad idea of how political groups stand on LGBTI issues.

In 2014-2019, [S&D](#), [ALDE](#), [Greens/EFA](#) and [GUE/NGL](#) groups led the way.

The Greens/EFA was the only group to fully support LGBTI rights in every vote analysed.

The S&D (98%), GUE/NGL (97%) and ALDE (94%) came in as close second supporters.

The [EPP](#) had on average 50% MEPs voting in favour of LGBTI rights. A stable minority in the [EFDD](#) and [ECR](#) supported these LGBTI votes, a little under a third of the time (27% and 24% respectively). Meanwhile, no MEP from [ENF](#) supported LGBTI rights.

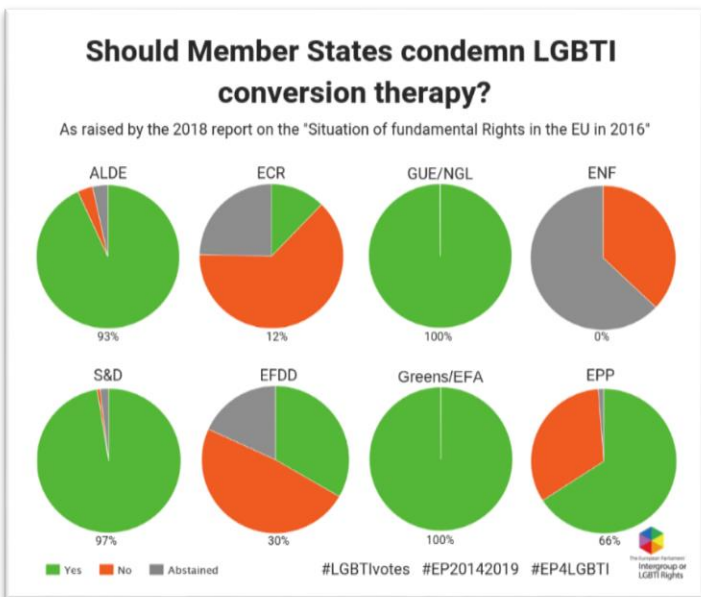


The percentages above were obtained by adding up the results of the 5 votes analysed in this briefing. They are only snapshots and are by no means exhaustive. The percentage in the infographics do not take into account vote corrections. Vote corrections can be checked on the plenary minutes.

For each vote analysed in this briefing, we provide a link to vote statistics on Vote Watch and to the vote records on the plenary minutes, where you can also check individual MEPs' voting records.

1. Condemnation of LGBTI conversion therapies

The European Parliament adopted in 2018 its annual report on the situation of fundamental rights in the EU for 2016.



Through a [plenary amendment](#) tabled by the Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL, MEPs were asked whether the report should urge Member States to adopt measures prohibiting LGBTI conversion therapies.

The amendment was adopted with a large majority (435 +, 109 -, 70 o).

With this provision, the European Parliament condemned LGBTI conversion therapies for the very first time.

Individual vote records are available on [VoteWatch](#) & in the [plenary minutes](#) of 1 March 2018 (pp. 127-128).

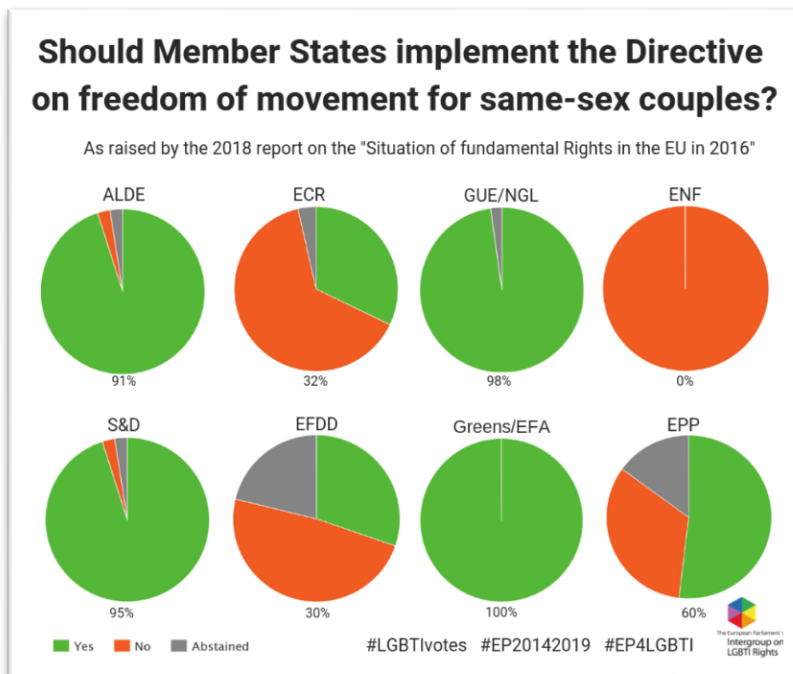
2. Freedom of movement for Rainbow Families

Through another amendment to the same report as above, MEPs were asked if Member States should implement the Directive on freedom of movement for same-sex couples.

The [amendment](#), tabled by Greens/EFA and GUE/NGL, was adopted by a 422 to 159 majority (45 abstentions), and calls on Members States:

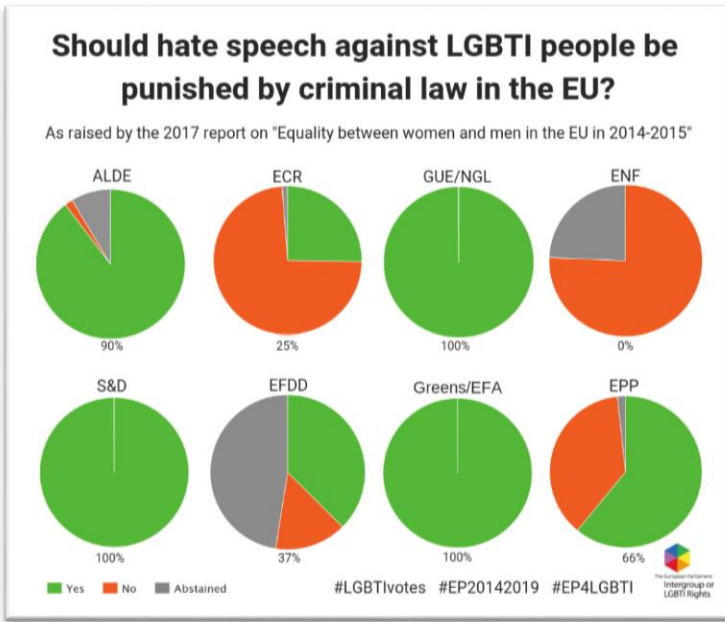
- when they allow same-sex marriage or partnership, to recognise those contracted in other Member states;
- when they don't, to adopt laws on cohabitation, civil partnership or marriage for same-sex couples;
- to fully implement the Freedom of Movement Directive (2004/38/EC)

and on the Commission to bring forward a proposal for the full mutual recognition of the effects of all civil status documents across the EU, including legal gender recognition, marriages and registered partnerships.



Individual vote records are available on [VoteWatch](#) & in the [plenary minutes](#) of 1 March 2018 (pp. 125-126).

3. Hate speech against LGBTI people



The European Parliament adopted in 2017 a [report](#) on equality between women and men in the EU in 2014-2015, containing several propositions specific to LGBTI rights.

Paragraph 38 of the report calls on the Commission and the Member States take action and protect women and LGBTI people against harassment in the workplace.

It also calls on the Commission to revise the current [EU Framework Decision](#) on combating certain forms and expressions of racism and xenophobia by means of criminal law, in order to incitement to hatred on grounds of sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

A split vote requested by EPP asked MEPs if the second demand should be included in the text.

Individual vote records are available on [VoteWatch](#) & in the [plenary minutes](#) of 14 March 2017 (pp. 73-74).

4. Trans and intersex people in the workplace

In a [report](#) adopted in 2015 on “equal opportunities and equal treatment of men and women in matters of employment and occupation”, the European Parliament took a stand on inclusion of LGBTI people - especially trans and intersex people (para. 17).

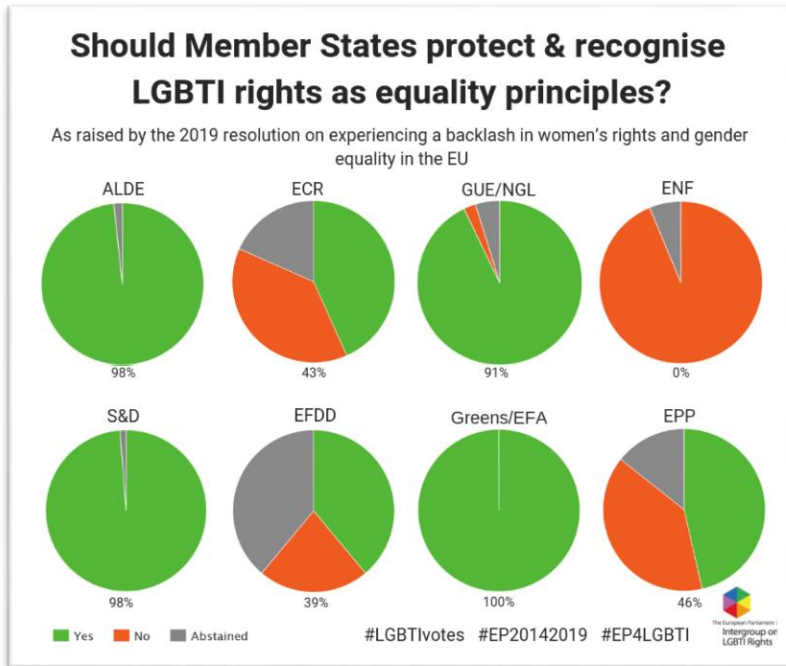
A split vote requested by ECR & EPP asked MEPs whether the call on the Commission to support Member States in including trans and intersex people in diversity training should be included in the text.

Individual vote records are available on [VoteWatch](#) & in the [plenary minutes](#) of 8 October 2015 (p. 114-115).



5. Affirming LGBTI rights as a matter of equality

In a [resolution](#) adopted in 2019 on the backlash against women’s rights and gender equality in the EU, the European Parliament took a stand against the backlash targeting women and LGBTI people.



Paragraph 7 of the final resolution (but paragraph 6 of the [tabled text](#)) calls on Member States “to ensure that women’s rights and LGBTI+ rights are protected and recognised as equality principles in the framework of democracy and the rule of law”.

A split vote requested by S&D asked MEPs whether LGBTI rights should be included in the paragraph.

Individual vote records are available in the [plenary minutes](#) of 13 February 2019 (pp. 266-267).

The LGBTI Intergroup is the European Parliament’s largest intergroup with 150+ MEPs from 24 Member States and 6 political groups. We have consistently defended the rights of LGBT people in the work of the European Parliament over 5 years, and will continue to defend them in 2019-2024.