

*Dr Neeraj Patil*

Reply to Labour Party LGBT Network questions:

1. Do you accept that trans women are women, trans men are men, and non-binary people are non-binary - and will you commit to respecting trans people as their self-declared gender – if so, how will you integrate this approach to tackle the culture of entrenched transphobia, from the grassroots membership up to the leadership?
2. Will you defend the current Labour Party policy and principle of inclusion of Transgender women on All Women Shortlists?

"With regard to LGBTQ+, my Hindu understanding which is based upon ancient principles is that there are two types of person, the first is where spirit and body are aligned in gender identity and the second where they are not. As Spirit in body, they are deemed to be equally divine and to be treated as such.

On the basis of the above and having studied your questions, I am aware that my command and grasp of pertinent vocabulary in this regard is inadequate and I do need to understand the terms with greater precision before I engage with the issues. To do otherwise would be to run the very real risk of meaning one thing and inadvertently expressing something else.

In principle I support any democratic exercise which improves equality in the dignity and opportunities of all of us and I hope that you will be able to apply my explanation of my principles to your specific questions."

Reply to Labour Women's Declaration Working Group questions:

1. We would like to ask, firstly, whether you agree that women should have the right to expect female-only facilities to be available in places such as changing rooms, public toilets, hospital wards, care homes, refuges, hostels and prisons, as provided for through the single-sex exemptions in the Equality Act 2010?
2. Secondly, do you agree that women should have the right to organise themselves, as a sex, across a range of cultural, leisure, educational and political activities and have the right to discuss policies which affect them, without being abused, harassed or intimidated?
3. Lastly, we would like to ask how you think that the Labour Party should go about fulfilling the promise it made to women in the Manifesto within the Labour Party itself?

1. "I agree."
2. "I agree."
3. "In the spirit of democracy and equality, whilst bearing in mind my own mother's wisdom and superiority in these matters, I fully support your group in its ability to define the process and strategy and leading the way in its execution of this goal."