



**OUT** is dedicated to building healthy empowered lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities in Tshwane, Gauteng and South Africa. **OUT** aims to reduce heterosexism and homophobia in society at large.

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## OUT 2009 Elections Survey

Response matrix: 2009-03-23

### **The responses were provided by the following party representatives:**






African Christian Democratic Party:	Libby Norton, ACDP Media Liaison Officer
African National Congress:	Jessie Duarte, ANC Spokesperson
Democratic Alliance:	Helen Zille, DA Leader
Independent Democrats	Steven Otto, National Media Officer
Inkatha Freedom Party	Liezl van der Merwe, Media Liaison Officer

### **Please note:**

Africa Muslim Party were invited to take part, but declined to respond.  
COPE were invited, but OUT has not received any official response, despite verbal promises to take part.  
Freedom Front Plus were invited, but OUT has not received any official response, despite verbal promises to take part.  
Parties are listed in alphabetical order.






**Question:**

**The journalist, Jon Qwelane, has repeatedly called for an amendment to the Constitution effectively diminishing if not eradicating rights for South Africans on the basis of sexuality. How does your party respond to such suggestions?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>We do not believe that the Lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender group should have special rights not given to other South Africans. Currently our constitution does afford this group special rights so we probably agree with Jon Qwelane.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>The ANC has no intention of diminishing any of the fundamental rights of any citizen of our country. The ANC would oppose any move to change the equality clause with respect to sexual orientation.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>We reject them and we defend everyone's constitutional rights. The DA comprises people from diverse backgrounds who defend each other's constitutional rights.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>We in the Independent Democrats steadfastly reject any such call as it runs contrary to the rights contained in our Constitution. The challenge now is to advance our Constitutional rights by ensuring that violations are firmly dealt with. In effect, our goal is to breathe life into the Constitution to turn it into a living document. We in the ID do this by fighting for the rights of marginalised people in our society, while offering Solutions to the challenges they face.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>The IFP has three key values namely – solidarity, freedom and unity in diversity. With regard to unity in diversity, we embrace our differences and reject the notion that we are all the same. We are equal under the law but South Africa is made up of many different races, cultures, groups, religions, communities and peoples. We therefore do not subscribe to the view of the diminishing or eradication of rights based on sexuality</p>






**Question:**

**Many studies have shown that there is still a strong bias against lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) people that is endemic in South Africa. What measures would your party introduce to begin combating this intolerance?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>For the ACDP this depends on what you mean by bias. The party is based on a biblical worldview so we believe that sexual practises outside this worldview are sinful. Would we condone people being criminally abused? Absolutely not. Every South African is equal before the law and entitled to the protection that law provides. However churches and religious institutions have a duty to point out sinful behaviour.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>The ANC is opposed to all forms of intolerance. The struggle against racial and gender discrimination cannot be separated from other forms of unfair discrimination. The struggle to rid our society of such bias is something to which we need to continue to dedicate ourselves.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>We promote and defend the Constitution in everything we do. Rights are indivisible. As far as rights are concerned, an injury to one is indeed an injury to all. We live this philosophy in relation to everyone's rights. In this way we counter prejudice and bias.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>There is certainly a mismatch between the values of our society and those contained in our Constitution. This is probably at least partly due to our tragic past, where authoritarianism, intolerance and conservative values were encouraged in all South Africans. There can be no doubt that it will take a long time for all South Africans to take on the values of tolerance and truly embrace the diversity of all our people.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>We, in South Africa and within the IFP, pride ourselves on the diversity of our people and even call ourselves "the rainbow nation" in celebration of this. The recent xenophobic attacks, however, highlighted the strong intolerance that many South Africans still harbour against people who do not conform to their norms or ideals. Besides xenophobia, there is intolerance with regard to religion, gender as well as on sexuality. Intolerance in any form or guise is unacceptable and biases toward a person, group or community just because they are different to you is unacceptable and must be stamped out. A change of mindset is needed. Education is the key in this regard. Many people believe stereotypes and judge others according to these even if they are not true. A major step toward promoting tolerance and acceptance is through learning and the sharing of information as well as the conviction of influential leaders to stand up and condemn such behaviour.</p>






**Question:**

**How would your party increase protection from persecution and hate crimes for the LGBT community?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>The biblical worldview encompasses love and acceptance of the person whilst not agreeing with the sin. This is a view that must be taught to all South Africans.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>We need to give practical meaning to the principle that all are equal before the law. The entire criminal justice system needs to be transformed to ensure that personal views are not placed above the constitutional rights of the individual. Therefore, constant vigilance is required and an effective working relationship between the institutions of state and civil society.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>We believe we must protect everyone from persecution and hate crimes, not just one sector of society. The only way to do this is by building a functional criminal justice system which plays its envisaged role in defending everyone's rights and freedoms.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>The ID believes that the LGBT community is entitled to the same protection from persecution and hate crimes as any other community in our country. In an instance where an actual crime is committed, the ID will ensure that the justice system responds in the appropriate manner. We will also ensure that the Human Rights Commission is adequately resourced to respond to any instances where the LGBT community's rights are being infringed. We believe that the Human Rights Commission needs to act in a proactive manner and hold meetings in communities where such persecution is prevalent. Within the ranks of the ID we will continue to promote tolerance and respect and take action against any member that discriminates against another member for whatever reason.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>The pre-eminent responsibility of any government is to ensure the safety and security of all of its citizens. Without it none of the other policy goals have much significance. One could therefore argue with conviction that the creation of a law-abiding country is the most important single policy priority. What many perceive to be a kid glove approach to crime has not worked. We believe that it is time for a new, tougher, approach to crime, including hate crimes against any group within our society.</p>






**Question:**

**Many state service providers including the South African Police Service maintain that heterosexuality is the acceptable norm of behaviour (i.e. a viewpoint that sex between a man and a woman is the only normal sexual behaviour). What difficulties do you foresee arising from such a viewpoint and if so what would you feel the best corrective action should be?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>The ACDP agrees with the viewpoint that heterosexuality is the acceptable norm of behaviour. We do not see how this viewpoint would hinder compassion or service delivery. Police must attend on any criminal act regardless of who the complainant is.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>We are concerned that such a statement is made to begin with. Once again, the transformation of the state services to accept that the individual rights enshrined in the constitution take precedence over the views of an individual official. Where such incidences occur, they need to be challenged through whatever official or legal means are available.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>Consenting adult South Africans have the right to form family groupings of their choice, and not to face prejudice or discrimination because of the choices that they, provided their choices do not contravene the constitution and comply with our laws. The role of the state, including the SAPS, is to uphold and protect these rights.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>The ID believes that although people are entitled to their own beliefs and viewpoints on whichever issues, these beliefs cannot interfere with another person's human rights. It is completely unacceptable for an organ of the State to propagate a view that is in direct conflict with the values of our Constitution. The ID will ensure that all civil servants, particularly those that interact directly with the public, undergo extensive human rights training and are educated on all Constitutional rights.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>Again, education and information are key. These service providers should be alerted to the various freedoms and rights that all South Africans are entitled to and that their behaviour is discriminatory and harmful.</p>






**Question:**

**Does your party believe homo-prejudice (or discrimination against LGBT people on the basis of their sexuality) should be curbed in schools and if so, how?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>Schools should curb any abusive behaviour. However our worldview does not preclude identifying sexual practises as sinful.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>All forms of discrimination should be discouraged at schools and learners must be taught to respect and uphold the fundamental rights enshrined in the constitution.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>"Civics" is an important component of life orientation, which should include a strong focus on the Constitution and the rights and freedoms it guarantees.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>An ID Government will work towards creating an environment of tolerance and respect for diversity in our schools by including human rights and Constitutional studies in the school syllabus.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>Yes, the IFP believes that discriminatory behaviour of any sort should be strictly dealt with in schools. Schools are places of learning where learners form opinions and acquire the skills and knowledge that they will use later in life to contribute to our society. They should therefore not accept this type of behaviour from learners or teachers and should deal with it as they would any breach of their rules or code of conduct. School years are formative years for many and if they are not taught that discrimination is unacceptable, then this attitude will shape their opinions in future and lead to prejudices.</p>






**Question:**

**What priority does your party assign to issues surrounding discrimination on the grounds of sexuality?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>A low priority.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>The ANC was the main mover behind the inclusion of the clause on sexual orientation in the Constitution. We regard it as important as the need to prevent discrimination on the grounds of race, gender or religion.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>It is a component of our overall struggle to uphold everyone's rights and freedoms. This struggle to protect constitutional rights is a central priority for us.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>The Independent Democrats has a powerful track record when it comes to fighting for social justice. We have consistently condemned any discrimination on any grounds and have taken on many people who have violated the rights contained in our Constitution. We will take on discrimination on the grounds of sexuality just as we do any other form of discrimination.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>Our party believes that discrimination in any form is unacceptable. We are a party that preaches and practices tolerance and therefore any form of discrimination will not be tolerated. We feel strong about this issue and therefore it is at the top of our priority list.</p>






**Question:**

**Towards the end of 2008, South Africa failed to sign on to a statement read at the United Nations General Assembly recommitting the Assembly to the protection of the rights of LGBT people. Would your party sign onto statements like these?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>No.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>The United Nations deals with governments and states. As they ANC, we would need to see any document in its entirety before we would commit to signing any declaration.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>It is bizarre that the South African representative to the UN would fail to abide by the values of our own constitution. We would uphold these values both inside and outside South Africa and we publicly condemned this failure.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>It remains unclear whether the statement was an official nation statement, or one that individual organisations and individuals signed. However, we would certainly never hesitate to stand up for the protection of the rights of LGBT people.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>We believe the statement in question is an elaboration on the rights and freedoms that are enshrined in the South African constitution. Since we subscribe to these values at home, we do not see any reason why we should not champion them in international forums as the United Nations.</p>






**Question:**

**Do you agree with the inclusion of LGBT related targets within South Africa’s new National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS? What would your party do to promote the translation of these targets to services reaching LGBT people?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>Every South African including the LGTB community will be reached by the services outlined in the HIV/aids program.</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>All persons suffering with HIV and AIDS have an equal right to access the services offered by the state. Instead of setting such targets, the ANC would want to make sure that there are no impediments to LGBT people accessing such treatment.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>Any effective plan to combat HIV/AIDS must reach everyone. At the same time, different HIV risk groups face different threats and may need different services. Therefore a DA government would begin by ensuring that our prevention and treatment programmes are properly focused, and based on a detailed and scientific analysis of the situation facing different sectors of our population.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>The ID supports the inclusion of LGBT related targets in the new National Strategic Plan but like so many aspects of the plan its implementation requires sufficient capacity and political will. We have seen neither from the current government and we would work hard to ensure this was remedied.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>The Party supports the achievement targets of the ANC. That said, our approach is to treat all people with the same respect and dignity, disallowing discrimination on any basis whatever. The health system currently does not foster compassion and many acts of negligence, aggression or callousness go unpunished. To change this we advocate a health system in which policy, funding, management, promotion, discipline and dismissal are as close to the point of delivery as possible, within the scope of national frameworks and minimum standards. Professional bodies are responsible for ethical and performance standards, but for these bodies to carry out their function properly, they should be independent and democratically elected. Neither is currently the case. We should have health ombudspersons and standards compliance bodies that have teeth and do not merely serve as a release mechanism for patients. If discrimination is experienced by LGBT people we would appreciate these individuals providing some form of evidence to members of the IFP so that the matter can be raised with the Human Rights Commission, or so that the persons responsible for discrimination can be appropriately disciplined.</p>

**Question:**

**What advice would you personally give to a gay or lesbian son or daughter?**

	<p><b>African Christian Democratic Party</b></p>	<p>I would tell my child that I love them no matter what but I would advise them to seek spiritual counselling and prayer. I would also advise them to remain celibate. (I have advised my heterosexual children to remain celibate until marriage.)</p>
	<p><b>African National Congress</b></p>	<p>I am only in a position to reflect the positions of the ANC, and cannot respond to questions that would be put to an individual.</p>
	<p><b>Democratic Alliance</b></p>	<p>To thine own self be true.</p>
	<p><b>Independent Democrats</b></p>	<p>I would tell them that they have every right to live their life as they choose and that they should stand up for who they are. I would encourage them to join the struggle against all forms of discrimination by claiming their rights in the Constitution and thereby improving the lives of others too.</p>
	<p><b>Inkatha Freedom Party</b></p>	<p>No answer provided.</p>