

act:onaid

The future of Europe is in your hands: make your vote count




FINE GAEL

 **PEOPLE BEFORE PROFIT**


Labour


FIANNA FAÍL
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

 **Sinn Féin**

Social Democrats


green party
comhaontas glas

Introduction

ActionAid’s mission to empower women living in poverty and exclusion to achieve their human rights and seek transformative change from Ireland and global institutions. Between 6th and 9th June 2024, people all over Europe will vote in elections set to decide the future of the European Union (EU). The Irish public will vote on the 7th of June.

The European Parliament adopts laws and policies that affect more than 400 million people in Europe. The EU is also a major global economic and political actor, along with being one of the largest donors for overseas aid globally. What the EU does globally matters.

This briefing analyses the manifestoes of the five main European political parties on women’s rights, climate justice, global inequalities, migration, and the Gaza crisis, it assesses what progress the EU has made on these issues and suggests some questions for you to raise with your Irish MEP affiliated with these political grouping.

These are the issues that matter to the women and communities we work with. These are the issues that matter to ActionAid’s work globally. We hope that these issues matter to you when you have your say in determining the future of Europe. While Irish MEPs individually and within their Irish political parties, may be strong on some or all of these issues in comparison to their European parties, we believe it is important to know where the European parties stand and what Irish MEPs can do to ensure Europe delivers more to tackle poverty and champion human rights and climate action.

Irish Political Party	European Party Affiliation
Fine Gael	European People's Party (EPP)
Fianna Fáil	Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)
Sinn Féin, Independents ¹	European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)
Labour Party ² , Social Democrats ³	Socialists & Democrats (S&D)
Green Party	European Green Party (EGP)

¹ Current Irish Independents MEPs, Mick Wallace, Clare Daly and Luke ‘Ming’ Flangan are all affiliated to European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)

² The Labour party do not currently have an MEP in Europe, but they are a paying member of the Party of European Socialists (PES). The Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats (S&D) is the political group in the European Parliament of the Party of European Socialists (PES).

³ The Social Democrats are not a member of any European political group currently but if any of their MEP candidates were elected, they would likely apply for membership of Socialists & Democrats (S&D).

The challenges the world faces today

The world is facing multiple and complex challenges, from climate chaos, conflict, widening economic and social inequality, the growth of right-wing governments, states undermining international law with impunity, widespread exploitation and an unfair division of labour, reduced access to public services globally, and a global economic and political system that is failing to deliver gender equality. **These issues deeply and profoundly deny women their human rights and increase the poverty and inequality they face.** At the heart of these challenges is an economic model that is significantly contributing to the destruction of our planet and that is deeply failing women.

At the forefront of all our minds is the horror we are seeing in occupied Palestinian territory. Since commencing its bombardment in October 2023, **Israel has launched a military attack of unprecedented scale and brutality in modern times throughout the length and breadth of Gaza, a plausible genocide and famine.** A staggering number of Palestinians have been killed, 72 percent of whom are women and children, damaged or destroyed a reported 70 percent of Palestinian homes in the enclave, and inflicted serious damage on essential civil infrastructure, including medical facilities, and water, electricity, transport and communication networks. The international community has failed to stop this, and the attacks come in the context of decades long and violent occupation by Israel.

People in the Global South, and particularly women, continue to suffer the worst effects of climate chaos - more extreme weather events, more frequently. This compounds poverty and inequality, undermines attempts to alleviate hunger, exacerbates conflict and increases the prospect of mass migration. It is a crisis not of their making, but it is estimated that 75% of the costs of the global crisis will be borne by countries of the Global South, despite the poorest half of the world's population causing just 10% of carbon dioxide emissions.ⁱ Women are 14 times more likely to die from climate disasters as men, and the greater the gender and economic inequality, the greater the disparity between men and women's chances of survival. 80% of people displaced by climate disasters are womenⁱⁱ.

Gender based violence is a central (not peripheral) feature across all global crises, including the climate crisis, and continues to be a largely ignored. One in every three women, or approximately 736 million women, have been subjected to intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence or both at least once in their lifetime.ⁱⁱⁱ This does not account for the one woman every 11 minutes who is killed by her partner.^{iv}

Another worrying trend is a pushback on climate action, human rights based migration policy and women rights. Elections in both the US and Europe are seeing political figures committing to rolling back progressive green policies and downplaying climate change.

The world we want

We want a Europe that:

1. Puts the wellbeing of people and the planet first, not the profit of multinationals.
2. Ensures the EU promotes human rights and international law in its internal and foreign policy on migration management and crises around the world such as the ongoing Gaza one.
3. Aligns the international financial system with Sustainable Development Goals and supporting a fair international tax system.
4. Makes climate action a top priority. Ensure that EU and its Member States do their fair share in the fight against the climate crisis.
5. Commits fully to intersectional gender equality, including women, youth and minorities in decision-making processes especially in light of rising reactionary movements and backlash against women and minority rights.
6. Opposes austerity policies which usually shift the cost of care for the most vulnerable onto women. Ensure the EU secures or even increases funding for gender-responsive public services, particularly in healthcare, childcare, and education.
7. Guarantee international corporate social and environmental responsibility through legislation. Implementing accountability mechanisms for companies that violate human rights and cause environmental damage.
8. Puts a stop to the financing of large-scale industrial agriculture and fossil fuel projects and scaling up investment in agroecology and renewable energy. Invest in a circular economy to preserve biodiversity and food security.
9. Supports developing countries in their transition towards agroecology and clean energy.
10. Provides safe pathways for migration and respect migrants' human rights at the border and within Europe.



The EU's track record

Women's rights

Gender based violence is pervasive across the EU and continues to deny women their human rights. Despite the 2014 'Istanbul Convention,' that has yet to come into force across the whole EU, the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the EU Gender Equality Strategy 2022-2025, and national legislation by member states, levels of GBV in Europe remain worryingly high. As of 2023, the EU's score on gender equality stands at 70.2 (out of 100 points), which marks the largest increase (+1.6 points) since the Index began in 2013.⁴ Improvements were primarily in the redistribution of time spent on care, domestic work and social activities between men and women. There was also improvement in women's access to employment and good working conditions. Internationally, the EU launched their Gender Action Plan (GAP III) in 2020 aiming to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in the EU's international relations. According to an evaluation of this, this Gender Action Plan has seen some good results in supporting women's economic empowerment and supporting efforts on women peace and security.⁵ However, the level of ambition and impact of this varies from country to country. It has been a challenge for the EU to meaningfully engage, fund local civil society organisations and support gender equality widely.

Climate Justice

Climate justice means that those that did the least to cause the problem, yet experience its worst impacts, should be supported. While the EU has sought to phase out unabated fossil fuels, its actions and commitments are weak given its capability and historical responsibility. As the world's second largest historical polluter, the European Union cannot shift the cost of the transition onto the most vulnerable, who are disproportionately affected yet least responsible for climate change. These risks endanger the very objectives of the Paris Agreement. Moreover, Europe's role in enabling financial flows through banks and financial institutions to the fossil fuel industry in the Global South is sharply contradicting commitments in the Paris Agreement.

Grant based climate finance is essential for families, communities and countries that are being pushed deeper into debt as a result of losses, damages and the cost of adapting to and repeatedly rebuilding in the aftermath of climate change impacts. Although the EU and its Member States are not the biggest laggards (a dubious honour that goes to the United States), only 3 of the 14 Member States required to make contributions have made notable contributions to the US\$100 billion target - but even these numbers are disappointingly padded out with loans. The EU's efforts to regulate the financial industry have stopped a long way short of a requirement for banks and other institutions to stop funding fossil fuel and other high-emitting sectors. In the 7

⁴ [European Union | 2023 | Gender Equality Index | European Institute for Gender Equality \(europa.eu\)](https://eige.europa.eu/gender-equality-index/2023)

⁵ [mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the european-MN0923193ENN.pdf](#)

years since the Paris Agreement was signed, European banks have provided US\$327 billion (€281 billion) of financing to fossil fuel and industrial agriculture activities in the Global South.^v

The “Green wave” at the 2019 elections pushed the Commission to set an unprecedented framework for the green transition in Europe. The Green Deal was adopted in 2019 and anchored the EU on a firm path to decarbonization, aiming to have zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The EU has also adopted a number of initiatives to support agroecology including Farm to Fork Strategy within the Green Deal and Organic Action Plan (2021-2027). The EU has also established a Just Transition Mechanism to support those most affected by the move to renewable energy sources. However, these policies and initiatives are mostly focused on internal measures and not addressing climate justice on a global scale.

Global Inequalities

The goal of the EU’s development policy is ‘to reduce poverty, ensure sustainable development, and promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law across the world’. In recent years, the EU has used it as an instrument of influence and power, centred explicitly around the EU’s short-sighted interests like immigration, security, and relative economic gains. Global Gateway is the latest manifestation of this instrumentalization – an investment initiative of up to 300 billion euro over six years in partner countries through infrastructure projects, energy, transport and digitalization. It is not clear yet how the EU will mobilise the target funds and could risk diverting funds from development aid and prioritising strategic geopolitical interests over development need. This trend is particularly worrying as it undermines the rules-based multilateral system while jeopardizing the EU’s own long-term influence and interests.

Despite a longstanding commitment to disburse 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) in development aid, the EU and its Member States have still not met this target. The EU has shown poor leadership in restructuring the international financial architecture and economic governance institutions. The EU did not support a UN multilateral tax convention, led by the African Group of Negotiators at the UN, to promote a progressive tax system that protects human rights and the environment. The EU has not been supportive of the cancellation of illegitimate debts and the establishment of a UN mechanism to free the most vulnerable countries from debt traps and protect the rights of the most vulnerable.

On business and human rights, the EU took an important step forward in May 2024 with the adoption of the Corporate Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD). This is the first piece of legislation of its kind in the EU to hold corporations accountable for environment or human rights abuses. The CSDDD only applies to large companies (1000+ staff with €450million profit) and intentionally ignored demands to include the financial sector. It also does not apply to companies’ entire supply chain leaving often the smaller traders vulnerable to continued abuse and exploitation.

Migration

The EU adopted the [PACT](#) on Migration and Asylum after years of negotiations aiming to make the asylum processes fairer and more efficient. This was borne out of heavy criticism on how the EU was treating refugees and migrants in detention, on its borders, in its seas. However, the PACT is in fact resulting in a worsening position for migrants with poorer asylum procedures and potential for increased detention and externalize responsibility to third countries.⁶ Despite the EU promoting the PACT as an achievement, it will not keep migrants safe- they will experience more [protection risks](#).

The EU is committing to [funding](#) third countries to provide border security and procedures. The EU has concluded various agreements with Libya, Tunisia and Egypt, supported the Albania-Italy deal and further deals are soon to come with countries bordering the EU. This has created a worrying trend of securitisation and militarisation of border control, increasing risks of human rights violations and inhuman treatment of migrants at EU borders. The EU is now supporting the removal of migrants back to third states, and/or having individuals go through administrative procedures asking for EU protection from a third state country outside the EU. These policies have created a vacuum on protection and human rights, giving license to third states, and some EU Member States, to commit human rights violations.

Gaza

Since the beginning of the crisis in Gaza, the EU has failed as a whole to respond to the slaughter of civilians in Gaza. The EU has rightly condemned the horrendous attacks by Hamas in Israel but throughout the last eight months, the EU has not acted as a united political bloc in calling for a ceasefire or condemning Israel for its unconscionable violence, destruction and the risk of genocide to the Palestinian people. The EU's response also highlights its double standards when it comes to the implementation of international law. In 2022, the EU activated all means possible in using legal remedies and political leverage to show outrage against Russia's occupation of Ukraine. However, on Palestine the EU is very divided, and the situation today is the result of decades of inaction to stop the colonisation and oppression of the Palestinian people.

The EU and its Member States, as signatories of international human rights treaties, have a clear duty of action. Over the decades, the EU has been one of the biggest institutional donors to respond to the humanitarian and human rights crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory. But that support to the humanitarian response is pointless without addressing the core of the issue leading to this humanitarian and human rights crisis in the occupied Palestinian territory. The UN has passed numerous resolutions regarding the self-determination, freedom, and protection of the Palestinian people, without a full acknowledgement of legal and political actions from the EU.

⁶ [NGO-Statement-Pact-Oct-2020-FINAL.pdf \(amnesty.eu\)](#)

How do parties score on their commitments

TOPIC	SUBTOPICS	Greens	EPP	S&D	GUE/ NGL	ALDE
WOMEN'S RIGHTS	Intersectionality	2	0	2	2	1
	Internationally	2	0	1	0	0
	Cross-cutting	2	1	1	2	1
	GBV	2	2	2	2	2
Maximum score: 8	Total score:	8	3	6	6	4
CLIMATE JUSTICE	Climate plans	2	1	1	2	1
	Agroecology	2	0	2	2	1
	Fossil fuels & industrial culture	2	0	0	2	1
	Just transition	2	0	1	2	0
Maximum score: 8	Total score:	8	1	4	8	3
GLOBAL INEQUALITIES	International cooperation	2	0	1	1	0
	Tax justice	2	0	2	2	0
	Global Debt crisis	2	0	0	2	0
	Corporate responsibility	2	0	1	0	0
	Feminist foreign policy	2	0	1	2	0
Maximum score: 10	Total score:	10	0	5	7	0
MIGRATION	Safe pathways	2	0	2	2	2
	Border control & externalisation	1	0	2	2	1
	Migrants' rights within the EU	2	0	2	2	1
Maximum score: 6	Total score:	5	0	6	6	4
GAZA CRISIS	Humanitarian situation	0	0	1	2	0
	War crimes and accountability	2	0	0	2	0
	Root causes	1	0	0	2	0
	Way forward	2	0	1	1	0
Maximum score: 8	Total score:	5	0	2	7	0

Methodology

ActionAid has put together a list of 20 questions divided over five themes: women's rights, climate justice, global inequalities, migration, and the Gaza crisis. Party manifestoes were then given one of three ratings: good, moderate, or bad.

- Good recognition of the problem, with measures to tackle it (2 points)
- Limited recognition of the problem (1 point)
- Bad or No recognition of the problem (0 points)

The themes and set of questions against which the manifestoes were graded:

Each category has a number of subtopics that party manifestos were analysed against; each subtopic was rated 0, 1, 2. Under women's rights, there were four sub-topics: intersectionality, internationally, crosscutting and GBV; Under climate justice there were 4 sub-topics: climate plans, agroecology, fossil fuels and industrial agriculture, just energy transition; Under global inequalities, there were five subtopics: international cooperation, tax justice, global debt crisis, corporate responsibility, intersectional feminist foreign policy; Under migration there were three sub-topics: safe pathways, border control and externalization, migrants' rights within the EU; and under Gaza there were four topics: humanitarian situation, war crimes and accountability, root causes and way forward.



Displaced Palestinians who left with their belongings from Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip following an evacuation order from the Israeli army, arriving in Khan Younis on May 7.

The parties in more detail



Irish MEP candidates

Regina Doherty (Dublin)

Maria Walsh, Nina Carberry
(Midlands-North West)

Seán Kelly, John Mullins
(South)

The European People's Party (EPP)

Women's rights: manifesto scored quite low in relation to women's rights. Although it shows an understanding of the impact of GBV and trafficking on women it does not take into consideration the intersectional forms of discrimination that women or other groups face. It fails to look at the structural causes of inequality or outline solutions to eradicating GBV.

Climate justice: The EPP is focused on achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 through the European Green Deal. It highlights the importance of transitioning away from fossil fuel towards clean energy through approaches such as emission trading, circular economy and renewable energy expansion. However, it fails to mention agroecology as an alternative agricultural model that promotes biodiversity and sustainability.

Global inequalities: no information found.

Migration: The EPP views irregular migration as a 'threat to national and European security'. The manifesto focuses on increasing border security to prevent illegal migrants from entering. It unequivocally supports the EU PACT on migration. It also shows clear double standards taking needed measures to ensure the protection of people from Ukraine but not applying the same to other migrants. They are promoting an externalisation mechanism for people to stay in their country of origin, with the idea of "safe countries" so people can stay there and not reach Europe. Migration is primarily seen as a security issue and EPP is promoting increased securitization of EU borders.

Gaza: no information found.

Where does your Fine Gael candidate stand on commitment to ODA? Gaza? Sustainable agriculture? How will they push these issues in Brussels?

The parties in more detail



Irish MEP candidates

Barry Andrews (Dublin);

Barry Cowen, Niall Blaney, Lisa Chambers (Midlands-North West);

Billy Kelleher, Cynthia Ní Mhurchú (South)

Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE)

Women's rights:

ALDE is committed to improving LGBTBI+ rights by fast-tracking the Horizontal Equal Treatment Directive that combats discrimination in the EU, among other measures. Women's rights are mentioned in relation to reproductive and sexual health, supporting women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, and ensuring sufficient parental leave. It also highlights the need to combat gender-based violence. It does not fully consider the influence that the EU has on minorities, or how structural ways of gender inequality are reflected in other economic and climate topics.

Climate justice:

ALDE's climate plans emphasise a transition to a sustainable and digital economy. They propose investing in all types of renewable energy with private and public funding; incentivising individuals to optimise their energy use and renovating their homes towards a sustainable goal. They also support expanding the scope of emissions trading systems that makes polluters pay for their emissions. ALDE does not recognise the impact of large-scale industrial agriculture on the climate crisis. They propose making advancements in agriculture and fisheries by fostering innovation and investments in technology and adopting a sustainable production. The manifesto is aware of the need to protect biodiversity but is also focused on production and profit. It doesn't mention corporate responsibility and local, small-scale sustainable agriculture - and it does not mention the Green Deal.

Global inequalities

ALDE does not dedicate any budget for development cooperation. Regarding relations with the Global South, ALDE is interested in fostering investment agreements and strengthening Europe's economy. However, it does mention providing European social funds for municipalities, cities and civil society organisations. They do not commit to debt relief in the Global South and do not pay any attention to establishing fair and democratic tax agreements with the Global South. Additionally, there is no mention of corporate responsibility or pursuing an intersectional feminist foreign policy.

Migration:

ALDE has a contradictory approach to migration. On the one hand, they want to provide safe pathways for labour migrants and ensure human rights are respected at the borders. On the other hand, they do not want illegal migration. They want to strengthen Frontex - the European Border and Coast Guard Agency, to externalize border control, to have more agreement with third countries and migrant detention centers outside EU borders.

Gaza:

ALDE does not discuss the Israeli occupation and humanitarian crisis.

ALDE does not recognize the role that industrial agriculture is having on the climate crises, what is your position on this? What is the position of your Fianna Fáil candidate?

The parties in more detail



Independents: Mick Wallace, Clare Daly and Luke 'Ming' Flanagan

Irish MEP candidates

Lynn Boylan, Daithí Doolan, Clare Daly (Dublin);

Chris MacManus, Michelle Gildernew, Luke Ming Flanagan (Midlands-North West),

Kathleen Funchion, Paul Gavan, Mick Wallace (South)

European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL)

Women's rights

The Left advocates for gender equality plans that take into account intersectional forms of privilege and oppression. It promotes targeted policies to ensure equal opportunities between men and women and the right to universally accessible contraceptives and safe abortion. The European Left highlights the importance of gender equality and feminist approaches in different social topics such as economic, environmental and social policies; and the structural ways in which gender inequality is reflected in them. They call for the recognition and redistribution of care work. Lastly, they demand a legal and political framework to tackle GBV and the recognition of the term 'femicide' in EU legislation.

Climate justice

Climate plans are in line with the Paris Agreement, but do not mention providing funds for developing countries to help in their transition away from fossil fuels. They support the establishment of an agro-ecological model for the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) that integrates biodiversity. The Left wants to assign funds according to area and allocate them towards environmentally friendly, sustainable agriculture; incentivize banks to reduce carbon emissions; and restructure the financial market to transition away from fossil fuel and industrial

agriculture. Additionally, they advocate for the public control of common goods as a means to eradicating social inequality and achieving climate justice.

Global inequalities

The Left aims to break Europe's neocolonial domination. It demands the replacement of foreign trade agreements with new international agreements that promote the consumption of locally produced goods and short distribution channels. The Left calls for social protection policies and funds for all people in the EU; for a European Basic Income Directive; and for the abolition of tax havens to reduce inequalities and poverty. The EU should cancel the COVID-19 debt owed by Global South countries. Additionally, the EU should approve a debt restructuring programme that monetises debt held by the ECB. The manifesto advocates for feminist economics and gender equality as a core component of the economy. Lastly, it addresses the root causes of inequalities and unequal power structures, both within the EU and globally.

Migration

The Left supports the creation of safe, legal and regular migration channels to stop human loss and combat human trafficking. They call to stop the externalisation of borders and claim the abrogation of agreements that violate the fundamental rights of migrants and refugees. The manifesto expresses the need to welcome migrant workers on equal conditions and to abolish the New Pact on Migration and Asylum.

Gaza

The manifesto calls for an immediate ceasefire and stresses the urgent need to send humanitarian aid to the people of Gaza. They urge a sanction of the US military-industrial complex for supporting the invasion and the implementation of Israel's judgement by the ICJ. They include a recognition of the systematic oppression of the Palestinian people and their right to self-determination.

The European United Left–Nordic Green Left (GUE/NGL) climate policies are in line with the Paris Agreement but do not mention support for Just Transition for countries in the Global South – what is your MEPs position on this?

The parties in more detail



Irish MEP candidates

Aodhán Ó Riordáin Labour, Sinead Gibney Social Democrats (Dublin),

Fergal Landy Labour, Rory Hearne Social Democrats (Midlands-North West),

Niamh Hourigan Labour, Susan Doyle Social Democrats (South)

The Social Democrats are not a member of any European political group currently but if any of their MEP candidates were elected, they would likely apply for membership of Socialists & Democrats (S&D).

Socialists & Democrats (S&D)

Women's rights

S&D's plans for gender equality focus on the reinforcement of the EU's strategies for Gender Equality and for LGBTIQ Equality. They mention obvious problems such as the gender pay gap. They will push for the adoption of a directive on GBV and continue to support the 'yes means yes' principle – recognition that consent can only happen when a person actively says yes - and commits to fully support the Istanbul Convention.

Climate justice

S&D promotes the adoption of a Green Social Deal and aims to achieve climate neutrality by 2050 by continuing to invest in renewable energy. They want to strengthen the EU's agricultural policy to support farmers so that they can provide healthy and affordable food for all. They do not position themselves on the issue of the negative impact of raw material extraction on human rights.

Global inequalities

S&D's manifesto does not mention a budget for development cooperation; but it does compromise to building a strong partnership of equals with the Global South. S&D advocates for a fair tax system to commit with equal societies within Europe. They demand big polluters

and large corporations to pay their fair share and promote a tax system that is free from gender discrimination. Furthermore, they do not mention any debt relief for developing countries. They promote a feminist foreign policy.

Migration

S&D encourages the creation of safe and legal pathways and respectful procedures for migrants. They promote accountable and transparent partnerships with countries of origin and stand against border externalization; committing to carry out return decisions in a safe and dignified manner. The manifesto highlights the importance of providing legal assistance and the creation of a common and coordinated system for migration and asylum based on solidarity and shared responsibility. They are in favour of the EU PACT on migration without questioning the detrimental effects that the PACT will induce. They also speak about strengthening the borders but give little. Similarly, with partnership with countries of origin and transit, they do not give additional details on what it entails.

Gaza:

Regarding the Gaza crisis, the manifesto vaguely states that S&D will work to end conflict in the Middle East and support initiatives leading towards a ceasefire. S&D encourages an international peace conference that achieves a two-state solution that respects the rights of the two peoples. However, the manifesto does not address the ongoing 75 years of military occupation, nor the support to an international accountability mechanism.

The S&D manifesto language with respect to migration that could be considered ambiguous. There seems to be support for the PACT but also for human rights to be upheld for migrants. It references strengthened borders but with little detail. Are you clear on your MEPs position with regards to migration in Europe?

The parties in more detail



Irish MEP candidates

Ciarán Cuffe, (Dublin)

Pauline O'Reilly (Midlands-North
West)

Grace O'Sullivan (South)

The European Green Party

Women's rights: The Greens pay special attention to intersectional forms of oppression within gender equality and women's rights policy. They are aware of how different pieces of EU legislation affect women and propose improvements, such as the revision of the Work Life Balance Directive and the Maternity Leave Directive to advance towards fully paid maternity and paternity leaves of equal length. They also have an intersectional, anti-racist and decolonial approach to internal and external affairs. The Greens highlight the cross-cutting nature of gender inequality. For instance, they mention the inequalities that the energy crisis renders. Lastly, gender-based violence is recognized as a major priority, which they also look at from a structural and intersectional perspective. The Greens advocate for feminist foreign policy at EU level that implements intersectional strategies.

Climate justice:

The Greens emphasise the urgent need to face the climate crisis by phasing out fossil fuel financing and reducing emissions as soon as possible. Which can be achieved by expanding the EU Solidarity Fund and extending the carbon border tax. They pay attention to how large-scale agriculture contributes to the climate crisis and encourages new agricultural models with agroecology at the center. They aim at shifting the billions of euros that fund fossil fuels into renewables, nature and biodiversity. Lastly, they recognize the harm that raw material extraction causes on the environment and encourages community ownership of renewable energy and small ecological farming. In all their initiatives and proposals, they keep in mind vulnerable communities and tackle climate change through an intersectional lens.

Global inequalities

The Greens are the only European party that mention the budget target of 0.7% of GNI for development cooperation. They want new development policies that are guided by decolonial and anti-racist principles. They advocate for a just tax system that makes polluters, multinationals, and the ultra-rich pay their fair share. The OECD will be fixed so it is implemented at a higher level, and it leaves no room for tax avoidance. The Greens want to work for debt relief for burdened countries and correct disadvantageous trade agreements. They would like to widen the scope of the CSDDD to include the banking sector so that they also become accountable for the human rights, environmental and climate impact of their investments. Lastly, they promote an intersectional foreign feminist policy and pay attention to structural causes of inequality

Migration: The Greens recognise the need to establish legal and accessible channels for migration to create a fair asylum system that defends human rights and dignity. They do not position themselves on externalisation of borders but do oppose "migration deals" such as the that with Tunisia. Regarding migrants' rights within the EU, they want to fight against exploitation of migrant workers and develop a Migration Code that provides visa opportunities for family reunification and work opportunities at different skills levels. The Greens propose giving visas to Human Rights and Environmental defenders and aim to provide legal protection for people forcibly displaced due to the climate crisis.

Gaza

The Greens call for the decriminalisation of humanitarian aid. They encourage the international community to uphold international law and achieve accountability for Israel's crimes. Lastly, they push the EU to relaunch political negotiations towards a two-state solution, based on secure and agreed borders.

It is unclear from the European Green Party manifesto whether they support the externalisation of migrants ie. agreements with third countries and migrant detention centers outside EU borders. What is your MEPs position on this?

Questions for your MEP candidate to deliver a Europe for justice and human rights

In this last week of canvassing, these are some things to raise with MEP candidates.

Women's Rights

- What is your party doing to reduce the levels of GBV across Europe and globally so that women and other marginalized groups are free from violence?
- How will your party support women's organisations and feminist movements working globally to address poverty, GBV and realise women's rights?

Climate Justice

- What is your party doing to address the financial flows going through Ireland and Europe's enabled by its financial system to fossil fuel companies and industrial agribusiness operating in the Global South?
- What is your party doing to ensure a just transition away from fossil fuels for countries and communities, especially in the Global South who are most impacted by climate change?

Global Inequalities

- What is your party doing to plan for Ireland and EU to reach its commitments of 0.7% of the gross national income to go to development aid?
- What is your party doing in Ireland and the EU to push Members States to go beyond the current directive in their domestic legislation to widen the criteria for companies and their supply chains to be held accountable for human rights and environmental abuses?

Migration

- What is your party doing to raise concerns about the EU PACT on migration to ensure that new systems and procedures do not violate human rights and put migrants at increased protection risks?
- What is your party doing to combat the removal of migrants to Third States outside the EU where there is potential for human rights violations?

Gaza

- What is your party doing to ensure there is a ceasefire in Gaza?
- What is your party doing to uphold international law and support efforts to hold Israel accountable for the military occupation and current assault on Gaza?

Footnotes

ⁱ [UN expert condemns failure to address impact of climate change on poverty | OHCHR](#)

ⁱⁱ <https://www.unicef.org/rosa/blog/climate-changes-greatest-victims-are-women-and-girls#:~:text=The%20UN%20estimates%20that%2080,birth%20under%20the%20open%20sky>

ⁱⁱⁱ [Gender-based violence \(unfpa.org\)](#)

^{iv} [UNODC Research: 2020 saw a woman or girl being killed by someone in their family every 11 minutes](#)

^v [european_finance_flows.pdf \(actionaid.org\)](#)