

Support 4 the Family

Policy Survey for UKIP Leadership Candidates: September 2017

Answers from John Rees-Evans

Support 4 the Family is an organisation of UKIP members who recognise that the bedrock institution of marriage and family is fundamental to a free and healthy society and, overall, is the best place for the nurture and flourishing of the next generation.



We invite leadership contenders to answer the following questions:

1. For the sake of our children and the healthy nurture of future generations, should UKIP in due course campaign to re-establish the natural definition of marriage as the life-long union of one man with one woman?

We first need to make the argument to our membership and seek their consent for this stance. I would press for this personally, but S4TF need to assist in the work of presenting compelling evidence to our members.

2. As pledged in UKIP's May 2015 manifesto, should the party extend the legal concept of 'reasonable accommodation' to give protection in law to those expressing traditional views about marriage in the workplace?

I believe it is disingenuous to argue for free-speech and liberty of conscience if a person can still suffer in real terms from having their livelihoods threatened for holding traditional views and manifesting their faith and speaking about their faith. I would support this extension.

3. Do you agree that parents and guardians should have the fundamental right to raise their children in their own way?

Yes.

4. Should children at school be taught about the health risks of sexual promiscuity?

Sex education should be limited to the biology involved in reproduction. Sexual health should be taught in the context of lessons about human health and disease. Further, that chastity, fidelity in relationships and marriage are all as a matter of undisputed fact, preservatives against the spread of STD's and unwanted pregnancies. This, at least, should be an aspect in guidelines to teachers.

5. Should children at school be taught about the benefits of not having sex outside of marriage, and staying with the same partner for life?

Yes. See above my answer to question 4. I am very keen for the Party to develop a policy of greater parental power in this area and for parents to have the right to withdraw their children if they are dissatisfied. Further, the Schools Inspectorate should have an ethos of respect for Christian, Jewish and Muslim Faith Schools if they have a traditional sexual ethics syllabus.

Note: Questions 6 to 10 are about the Government's plans for Relationships Education.

6. Is our sexual orientation (gay or straight) fixed at birth or not?

I reject the notion sexual orientation is fixed at birth. LGBT campaigns ought to be cautious about professing 'gender-fluidity' while at the same time professing sexuality is absolutely fixed, as this is clearly a contradiction in terms.

However, I don't think this is an important consideration in determining how we treat individuals. As an old fashioned Anglican I believe the whole Bible and that God hates all sins, including those that I commit. Gay people ought therefore to be treated with the same courtesy as everyone else without any sense of approbation of a lifestyle which I may consider contrary to my understanding of God's perfect standards.

7. At what stage in their education should children be taught about sexual orientation?

- a) pre-school
- b) primary school
- c) secondary school
- d) further education
- e) not at all

Not at all.

8. Is our gender fixed at birth or not?

Yes, however we must give fair consideration to the tiny number born intersex (hermaphrodite), or with similar conditions.

9. At what stage should children be taught about gender re-assignment?
(choices are the same as in question 7)

Not at all.

10. Should parents have the right to withdraw their children from lessons at school which are about lifestyle, ethics, morals and relationships, and arrange for these subjects to be taught in a different social context (for example at church), or teach the children themselves in their own way?

Ideally, I do not believe these things should be taught in state schools at all but as already stated, parents should have the opportunity to influence the syllabus and if they so choose, to opt out of their children participating in lessons. Faith, independent and free schools, where the parent has pre-agreed what value system will be taught, should have the right to teach these things. Parents should ultimately make the decision about what and how their children are taught these subjects, according to their consciences.

11. Do you support abortion, and if so, in what circumstances should it be allowed?

- a) when the mother's life is at risk
- b) when the baby is expected to be born with a disability
- c) when the baby has been conceived under conditions of rape
- d) in the early stages of pregnancy, before a specified time limit
- e) when the baby is the wrong gender
- f) any other cause.

I am as pro-life as they come, and support the limiting of the procurement of abortions in the UK with a view of full protection given to the unborn in all usual circumstances. In the tiny number of cases where the mother's life is in danger, every effort should be made to protect mother and child equally.

I believe we should, at the very, very least, campaign for time limits for abortion to be linked to modern medical science and ability (the upper time limit should be linked to the earliest time during a pregnancy that a baby can survive with medical intervention outside the mother's womb). I also believe we should campaign immediately for a complete ban on gender-selective abortions and prosecutions for those that seek to procure them or assist in their procurement in any way.

I would expect these things to be discussed fully and frankly by members via the Direct Democracy platform.

12. Should health professionals have the absolute right as a matter of conscience to refuse to participate in abortion, without penalty to career prospects or other adverse consequences?

Yes.

13. Would you be in favour of bringing independent observers into the Family Courts so that they are no longer allowed to operate in secret?

Yes, although I would go further and abolish secret courts completely.

14. Radical Islam is a threat to the safety and security of society. The causes may be one or more of the following. Please comment on all that you think might apply.

- a) A small minority of people have been radicalised into an extremist ideology called "Islamism" which has got nothing to do with conventional Islam.
- b) People are angry about the war in Iraq and other military interventions.
- c) The Qur'an tells them to kill people.
- d) Any other cause (please specify).

With regards to (c), that is dependent on the exegetical method employed to interpret the Koran. However it is clear from even a cursory glance of history that a violent understanding appears to be the norm. I am in favour of outlawing external funding of Mosques, Islamic charities and schools from other countries such as Saudi Arabia, which is presently allowed for mere financial interests. What is so critical is that we should foster freedom of speech and freedom to critique and criticise Islam in the same way that we are free to critique and criticise other belief systems, so long as doing so does not transgress the principles of decency and peaceableness.

(b) cannot be argued truthfully because of the amount of violence in non-interventionist countries. However, intervention has only served to destabilise that region, and is arguably responsible for the migrant crisis and the emergence of ISIS. Generally I am against military intervention in other countries.

15. Everybody should be expected to identify themselves in public places, and if they want to cover their faces for religious or other reasons they should do it at home or at other private venues. Do you agree?

We must be careful when writing or proposing legislation to think carefully of each possible scenario. The 'Integration Agenda' was worded in such a way that could make life difficult for those in costume, bee-keepers, motorcyclists, and the like.

Generally I believe people should be allowed to wear what they like in public. However, there should be one rule for all, with Islamic face coverings receiving the same treatment as other face coverings (for example, in banks, at airport security, etc). I believe in the right of people receiving a service, be it medical, educational, or otherwise, to be able to communicate effectively by seeing the service provider's face. I also believe in the right of employers to contractually demand of their employees that they show their face. I also believe all persons involved in a case in any court of law should be required to show their faces.

Support 4 the Family is an independent voluntary organisation of UKIP members campaigning for traditional family values. If you would like to get involved, see our website: support4thefamily.org