

Queer World's Political Platform

A queer society

Competency and acknowledgement

Trans rights

Family and relationship diversity

Refugees and asylum seekers

BDSM and fetish

An anti-racist society

Anti-racism

Anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism

Combatting the practical consequences of racism

Indigenous peoples

Disabilities

Sex workers

Climate crisis

Reference list

When Queer World was established two decades ago, in 2004, it was out of necessity - the need for safe spaces to exist for racialized, queer minorities. Our existence alone is a political statement, as we suffer persecution for our selfhoods. We vehemently reject the ideas behind that persecution. Our ancestral cultures are not intolerant, but their perspectives were influenced by colonialist ideology. We also repudiate the cis and heteronormative norms of the majority society we live in. While Queer World is a party politically unaffiliated organisation in relation to parties, we do not believe in neutrality in political issues. This document serves as our political platform - it states our positions on select issues and how we seek to address them, while we continue to protect and promote queer racialized minorities' interests both inside and outside Norway. The platform is divided into two chapters: the first addresses queer rights, and the second one addresses anti-racism and other forms of discrimination. It is important to note that Queer World is an intersectional organisation, and intersectionality is at the base of all our values and work.

This political platform does in theory not have an expiry date. The committee that has written the platform advises that the platform is wholly revised every fourth year by a team consisting of the central board, local boards, regular members and potentially the employees. In cases of emergencies or rapidly changing political climates, local boards and central boards do have the option to pass policies and statements addressing urgent issues at hand.

A queer society

Competency and acknowledgement

Queer World believes in a society where people are free to express their sexuality, gender identities and gender expressions based on the principles of equality and consent. Queer rights are unfortunately under high pressure in the current political climate. We also observe that different minorities are often pitted against each other, something Queer World wishes to highlight and actively work against. Misinformation and the lack of both dialogue and culturally sensitive dissemination of knowledge about eg. trans rights and norms that hinder diversity and equality are contributing factors. Queer World works in many ways to increase competency about queer issues but realises that political action is also needed.

Queer World believes that:

- national curricula in primary and secondary school, high school, and the adult education introduction program must be strengthened with clear competence goals related to queer rights, gender equality, and exclusionary norms in society.
- organizations and projects that increase knowledge and skills should play an important role in the work to increase knowledge and understanding of queer rights and needs, and must be secured long-term funding.
- cultural sensitivity, multicultural competence, and knowledge of gender and sexual diversity must be a mandatory part of education for frontline service workers and others working closely with people.
- queer and multicultural competence must be a mandatory topic in training for employees at asylum centers, public services, and humanitarian work - including refugee services, NAV, healthcare services, youth programs, the police, interpreting services, adult education, UDI, and IMDi - to ensure equitable support and safety for all.
- dialogue work and competence exchange with ethnic and religious minority communities are seen as crucial for building safety, understanding, and respect for queer lives.
- greater visibility of queer minority voices in public debate is important. These voices must be allowed to speak for themselves, without being overlooked or replaced by others speaking on their behalf.
- the stigma around HIV and AIDS must be combated through knowledge dissemination, particularly within and around queer communities.
- everyone who wishes should have easy and equal access to PrEP as part of the preventive health service.
- We want a holistic and inclusive approach to LGBTQ+ work that emphasizes responsibility, realism, and broad representation - including for older queer individuals and those with diverse life experiences. There should be room for open and honest conversations on topics that are still marked by taboo, such as HIV and mental health, without reducing queer people to a one-dimensional story of vulnerability. Pride and other LGBTQ+ initiatives should accommodate celebration, community, and realistic perspectives - making space for both joy and seriousness.

Trans rights

Trans rights are human rights. Queer World believes in a society where people are free to define their own gender identity (including the right not to have a gender, to identify as *agender*), and where people are able to express their gender identities and gender expressions without fearing harassment and discrimination – both from the state and members of the public. Many societies in the global south once experienced a high degree of acceptance for sex and gender diversity, which was unfortunately replaced by socially conservative views on sex and gender under the colonial era. Many countries in the global south have since improved legislation to provide legal recognition and protection for gender minorities. Many western societies have also taken big strides when it comes to trans rights, but there are still many issues to be addressed in Norway - many of whom are related to trans health.

We are also deeply concerned about the global anti-trans movement that actively works against trans recognition and trans rights. This threatens the safety and freedom of trans people both in Norway and internationally, requiring increased awareness and targeted work to counter its negative impacts on the lives of trans people.

Queer World will work for/to:

- legal recognition and protection of agender people, in line with our view that all people have the right not to choose a gender.
- implementation of a third legal gender in Norway, a law that has already been unjustly delayed and is not projected to be active for years to come.
- more research on discrimination and harassment of trans people, and what barriers lead to a lower workplace and educational participation than in the cis population. This is especially vital for trans people who belong to multiple minorities, e.g disability, ethnic and/or religious minorities, or people with refugee background.
- replace today's system of gender affirming health care - from the gatekeeping monopoly of Rikshospitalet to a decentralised system where health care professionals meet all patients with respect and understanding. This also involves strengthening multicultural competence among personnel within the specialist health services for gender and sexual diversity, and ensuring that the decentralized system is adapted to meet the needs of trans people belonging to multiple minority groups. Expanding multicultural competence is essential in order to understand and accommodate their needs effectively.
- abolish the demand that trans migrants who have started gender affirming health care need to go through new tests and inquiries to continue the gender affirming care in Norway – this is particularly true for trans people living in asylum and refugee centers, where access to healthcare services is extremely limited.
- more funding for gender affirming health care, and that public funding will cover procedures that are not covered today, such as laser hair removal, and surgery by health care professionals abroad (who may be more competent than professionals in Norway).
- secure puberty delaying medication for minors and soften the age requirements for hormonal treatment - within the framework of competency and consent.

Family and relationship diversity

Heteronormativity may be defined in many ways, but a lot of definitions will touch upon how it benefits heterosexual people - how adoption rights, marital rights etc. traditionally have been reserved for heterosexual couples. Some definitions will also include that heteronormativity is the societal expectation that all people are heterosexual, unless proved otherwise. *Cisnormativity* is likewise the norms in society that have traditionally favoured cis people, eg. rights to safe and decent health care, or having a passport that actually states your actual gender. Cisnormativity can also refer to the societal expectations that sex and gender identities are static, or that all people are cisgender (and have the gender we are socialised to read others as), until proven otherwise.

Heteronormativity and cisnormativity are unfortunately not the only norms in society that erase and discriminate against queer people and queer relations (especially poly people and relations). Norms related to coupling and the nuclear family have also traditionally enforced the image of a modern family as consisting of a man, woman, and their children. Most queer families do not reflect this image, and Queer World believes it's important to broaden the definitions of family to reflect a more diverse society.

Although formal legal equality exists between queer and heterosexual individuals, the law still discriminates against same-sex couples in practice - including through family reunification regulations. Queer World therefore highlights that the requirements for same-sex couples are often stricter, or in practice impossible to meet, particularly for couples from countries where homosexuality is criminalized.

Queer world will work for/to:

- a legal change that ensures real equality between heterosexual and queer couples in terms of family reunification. This will strengthen the legal rights of queer individuals and ensure that same-sex couples have the same opportunities for reunification in Norway.
- adjust the requirements so that same-sex couples can apply for and achieve family reunification without facing additional barriers or provisions that, in practice, become impossible to meet for couples from countries where homosexuality is prohibited.
- legal recognition of poly relations in relation to partnership/cohabitation, marriage, taxes, adoption rights, surrogacy and so forth.
- Legal recognition and inclusion of gender identity, polyamorous relationships and asexual and aromantic identities as explicit grounds for discrimination under Section 185 of the Penal Code, which prohibits discriminatory or hateful speech in the current hate crime legislation – Queer World acknowledges the asexual and aromantic spectrums and supports non-normative relationship diversity, including the right to choose not to be in a relationship.
- a governmental investigation into ways to ease the process for same-sex couples to start a family (with children), including surrogacy.
- the possibility for children to have more than two parents legally registered with relevant authority, and an easier process to apply for and grant custodianship to parents other than the birth parents.

Refugees and asylum seekers

Queer Verden acknowledges that queer refugees and asylum seekers face distinct challenges in Norway. Many have experienced persecution, discrimination, and violence in their home countries, and their need for safety and support must be addressed in the asylum process. Access to healthcare, secure housing, and legal assistance is often limited, and there is a need for more targeted measures to ensure their rights and well-being.

Queer World will work for/to:

- **ensure that queer individuals should be able to apply for asylum**, even if they live in countries considered safe, if they face discrimination or persecution because it is illegal or dangerous to be queer there.
- **strengthened information initiatives for queer asylum seekers**, to ensure they receive adequate information about their rights and healthcare services in relevant languages.
- **safer interpreting services**, so that confidential information does not get compromised, and that interpreters have the necessary competency on queer issues.
- **increased funding to organizations supporting queer refugees**, to ensure they have better access to healthcare services, legal assistance, and social networks.
- **better access to safe housing for queer asylum seekers**, including the option of moving to asylum centers with a stronger queer support network.
- **secure the rights of queer asylum seekers throughout the asylum process**, including protection against discrimination, harassment, and negative social control in asylum centers.
- **better access to healthcare for trans individuals, intersex people, and non-binary individuals in asylum centers**, including access to ongoing hormone treatments regardless of the waiting time at the National Treatment Service for Gender Incongruence (NBTK).
- **competence-building measures for staff at the NBTK (National Treatment Service for Gender Incongruence)**, focusing on culturally sensitive understanding of gender roles and gender identity across cultures.

We recognize the responsibility of Norwegian authorities to ensure that queer refugees and asylum seekers receive the support and protection they are entitled to. To fulfill this responsibility in the best possible way, close and constructive cooperation between the authorities, asylum centers, and relevant professional environments is necessary. It is crucial that the needs and challenges of queer refugees are seen, understood, and addressed in an effective, dignified, and inclusive manner.

Furthermore, we believe that Norway should follow up on its international obligations and stated intentions to prioritize queer refugees – not only on paper, but also in practice. This includes strengthening efforts for queer individuals fleeing persecution, including in transit countries, through close collaboration with local organizations in areas like Turkey and West Africa, where many queer migrants currently reside. At the same time, asylum systems and support structures in Norway should be strengthened, ensuring they have the necessary competence and capacity to meet the needs of queer refugees in a safe, respectful, and knowledge-based manner.

BDSM and fetish

Queer people may be subject to discrimination or harassment on the grounds of sexual practices. It is oftentimes linked to the gender identities of the people who have sex, but it may also be linked with

the sexual practices themselves, especially if they are non-normative. BDSM (Bondage, Dominance, Sadism/Masochism) and fetish falls under this category - sexual practices that are often associated with the queer community, and that have traditionally been seen as unwanted or taboo. Queer World believes in a society where all are free to express themselves sexually as they please, within the framework of equality and consent. This would also include the right to express one's interest in BDSM as an identity marker, and not solely a sexual preference or practice.

Queer World will work for/to:

- increased knowledge and competency about BDSM, fetish and related themes for all professionals who work closely with other people, such as nurses, doctors, teachers and child protection services.
- including discrimination and harassment against BDSMers and fetishists in current hate crime legislation, as it oftentimes unproportionately affects already marginalised groups of society.

An anti-racist society

Anti-racism

Racism refers to the systematic discrimination and oppression of ethnic, cultural and/or religious minorities. Modern racism, as we understand it today - a structured ideology tied to colonialism, scientific racism, and global power structures - has largely European origins, but has since been globalized through imperialism and colonial frameworks. Right wing extremism and populism may be understood as a phenomenon that moves in waves, and since the 1980's, people of Asian and African descent, especially with background from Muslim countries, have faced increasing levels of hate crimes and discrimination related to their ethnicity, culture and religion. Studies in Norway show that racist attitudes against indigenous people (Sami), Muslims (Islamophobia) and Romani people (antiziganism) are especially common, but at the same time that all BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People Of Colour) are at risk of experiencing harassment, discrimination or violence based on their ethnic, cultural and/or religious identity markers.

A large part of Queer World's target group consists of racialized individuals, who often experience double discrimination - both due to their ethnic and/or religious background and due to their gender identity or sexuality. Furthermore, Queer World has members from a variety of religious backgrounds, and it is important for us to highlight their challenges and acknowledge their lived experiences - including by actively working against both antisemitism and Islamophobia.

Queer World also believes it's important to recognize the millennia long history of oppression Jews have faced, and that antisemitism constitutes a distinct form of racism. Holocaust denial is unfortunately a rising phenomenon, and so are negative attitudes to Jews - Queer World recognizes that it is possible to hold antisemitic views without the intention to do so, also in our organisation. Antisemitism and Islamophobia both have roots in medieval religious discrimination and share similar structures of stigmatization, demonization, and exclusion throughout European history. It is therefore important for us to recognize how antisemitism served as a model for various other forms of discrimination - while also acknowledging that antisemitism remains a persistent problem in today's society.

Queer World will work for/to:

- an increase in funding for research related to discrimination against racially marginalised people in Norway, including (but not limited to) national minorities, indigenous people (Sami) and Muslims.
- increase funding for educational activities related to antisemitism and Holocaust (as HL-senteret and Jødiske Veivisere), and strengthening this focus through a mandatory curriculum in Norwegian elementary and secondary schools.
- develop local and regional plans in Norwegian municipalities and counties on combatting Islamophobia, in line with the governmental "Handlingsplan mot diskriminering av og hat mot muslimer".
- Increase funding for security purposes at places of worship for other minority religions in Norway, such as mosques, temples, gurdwaras etc.
- increase awareness within BIPOC communities about minority stress, microaggressions and internalised forms of racism within the communities, such as colourism and religious/cultural chauvinism.
- political action based on the findings of the UN Working Group of experts on people of

African Descent, who in March of 2024 released a statement pointing towards systematic discrimination of people of African descent in Norway.

Anti-colonialism and anti-imperialism

Systematic oppression and racism against BIPOC people reached a height during the early modern age with the advent of colonialism and imperialism. From the 1500s on, European superpowers such as Spain, France and the UK colonised vast areas of the Americas, Asia and Africa - robbing the regions of their resources and forcefully displacing millions as slaves in their newly established colonies. Norway is also a colonial state: we held colonies in Europe, North America, Asia and Africa (periodically in union with Denmark), and the territory of Norway is founded partially on colonised Sami land. Western colonialism had far-reaching consequences for a majority of countries in the global south. Some include political destabilisation, poverty, environmental changes and eradication of cultural, religious, sexual and gender diversity that had previously been flourishing. While the historic colonial era officially ended in the decades succeeding WWII, colonialism and imperialism did not end - it just changed how it appears. Queer World still believes colonial and imperialist structures are barriers to democracy, equality and self-determination for large groups of people across the globe - for example through the western exploitation and looting of resources from countries in the developing world.

Queer World will work for/to:

- the right of all people to self-determination and freedom from oppression through colonialism, imperialism and modern slavery and exploitation.
- increased awareness around how the colonial experience has led to generational trauma and the eradication of societies marked by a diversity of norm breaking gender identities, gender expressions and sexualities.

Combatting the practical consequences of racism

While the risk of racially motivated violence is always present for racialized minorities, most of us will experience other forms of racism more common, such as microaggressions or the so called "hverdagsrasisme". "Hverdagsrasisme" refers to the microaggressions, comments and sometimes subtle or implicit racist actions minorities experience on a daily basis - such as intrusive questions about family background, demeaning looks and comments, and experiencing that non-racialized people will receive a more preferential treatment at eg. restaurants and other businesses. The phenomenon of "hverdagsrasisme" often represents the most visible and practical consequence of racism when being an ethnic minority, but is also often largely ignored and go unpunished.

Queer World will work for/to:

- a stricter approach to hate crime legislation in Norway, where the police and courts will receive the means needed to investigate racially motivated hate crimes, and people who are found guilty of such will receive a punishment that deters further discrimination.
- affirmative action and a stricter approach to workplace discrimination in Norway.
- more investigation into cases of abuses at refugee and asylum centers, in public housing and adult education.
- a nationwide ban on organisations that promote hate rhetoric and hate speech, such as Den Nordiske Motstandsbevegelsen (DNM) and Stopp Islamiseringen Av Norge. (SIAN)

- a liberal asylum and refugee policy in Norway that values refugees and asylum seekers as valuable individuals in society, with the same rights to education, health care and housing as Norwegian citizens.
- a permanent increase in the annual quota of queer refugees accepted by Norway, to ensure that individuals facing persecution based on their sexual orientation or gender identity receive the protection they need.

Indigenous peoples

Many indigenous cultures have practised a greater diversity related to sexuality and gender, than has been the norm in Western societies since the Middle Ages. Suppression of sexual and gender diversity is one of many issues contemporary indigenous communities face in the aftermath of colonialism and imperialism. Other issues include political and cultural marginalisation and economic exploitation - many indigenous peoples have been forced to give access to their traditional lands (with the natural resources they are gifted with) to central governments or international companies.

Queer Work will work for/to:

- more systematic cooperation with indigenous people's organisations, especially those catering to queer/two-spirit indigenous people, such as Garmeres.
- lift indigenous voices in our organisation - indigenous people in our member base face a multitude of barriers that marginalise them.

Disabilities

The World Health Organization (WHO) conservatively estimates that around one-sixth of the global population - approximately 1.3 billion individuals - are disabled. Disability encompasses a broad spectrum of variations in functioning, including physical, sensory, psychosocial, and cognitive differences, including neurodivergence. Disability arises in the encounter with societal barriers and the lack of adequate accommodations. Disabled people continue to be one of the largest minority groups excluded from participation, political representation, and control over their own lives. Discrimination and harassment against disabled people are unfortunately widespread, and Queer World is particularly concerned about the lack of knowledge and research on harassment targeting queer disabled people, as well as the lack of support and follow-up for queer disabled asylum seekers.

Queer World will work for/to:

- strengthen legal protections against discrimination and hate targeting disabled people, including neurodivergent people.
- ensure universally accessible activities across all our local chapters.
- increase public funding for studies on the living conditions of queer people with multiple minority identities, including queer disabled people.

Sex workers

Queer World recognizes sex work as legitimate work, contingent on consent. Sex work has historically been an important part of our community - many queer people have relied on sex work for their income in societies where discrimination and hate crimes have hindered participation in

other forms of labour, while sex workers stood at the frontline of the Stonewall riot in 1969. While the history of sex work stretches thousands of years back, it has also been historically suppressed. Already marginalised people who are sex workers often lack fundamental protection - there are examples of migrant sex workers in Norway who are too afraid to report violence and sexual abuse they have experienced, because the police is often more interested in deporting the migrants.

Queer World will work for/to:

- repeal "sexkjøpsloven".
- legal protection and regulation of sex work in line with legislation for other forms of labour.
- more funding and competency in the police and first line services about human trafficking and the people who have fallen victims to it.

Climate crisis

Queer World is deeply concerned over the climate crisis and politicians' failure to act on ecological collapse, deforestation, warming oceans and more extreme weather. It may seem strange that an organisation for queer minorities has a political platform that includes a section on climate change and climate crisis, but Queer World believes that the current climate crisis and ecological collapse is the greatest threat to life and freedom in our time - it would be strange for us not to comment on it. The climate crisis also unfairly punishes people in the global south for the hyper-capitalism and climate gas emissions of the West, and as an intersectional organisation it is our duty to address this.

Queer World will work for/to:

- a greater awareness within the community on climate crisis and climate change, and how it affects our community.
- raising awareness about how climate change and ecological collapse, caused primarily by climate gas emissions from the West, are unfairly punishing the global south.
- increased research and funding for measures that combat the negative social consequences of climate change, such as poverty, political instability and conflicts.
- sustainable solutions and choices in our organisation - Queer World recommends public transport for employees and board members, and emphasis on sustainable and environmentally friendly choices for things such as food during events and merchandise.

Reference list

[FRAMSNACK - oppsummering av konferansen 2021.pdf \(helsedirektoratet.no\)](#)

[Menn som har sex med menn og smittevern - FHI](#)

