# Zack Polanski: a gay politician we can get behind?



Zack Polanski’s recent election as leader of the Green Party of England and Wales marks a significant moment for the party. Not only is he gay and Jewish but he's a bit of a firebrand, particularly when it comes to gay and LGBTQ+ rights in general.

Polanski secured the leadership with an overwhelming 85% of the vote, decisively beating co-leaders Adrian Ramsay and Ellie Chowns. His campaign emphasised a fresh, bold approach that directly addresses economic inequality, environmental justice, and social inclusion, positioning the party as a formidable alternative to both Labour and Conservative governments, which he criticised for disappointing the public.

Polanski’s track record and public statements indicate a clear and firm support for trans rights, setting him apart from some of his party predecessors and contemporaries. In response to the UK Supreme Court’s recent ruling on the legal definitions of 'woman' and 'sex', Polanski voiced his opposition to what he described as 'thinly veiled transphobia'. This ruling by the Supreme Court, which determined that the term 'woman' under the Equality Act 2010 is defined biologically and excludes transgender women from this legal category, had caused significant division within the Green Party. While Adrian Ramsay appeared hesitant and non-committal on the issue, controversially suggesting that members holding anti-trans views should not be expelled, Polanski and former co-leader Carla Denyer have shown solidarity with the trans community and advocated for trans rights as human rights.

Polanski’s leadership pledge goes beyond social issues to a broader political strategy. He promises to challenge Labour from the left, aiming to transform the Greens into a mass movement rather than a marginal party. In interviews and campaign materials, he has highlighted the party’s focus on socialism, wealth redistribution, and international justice, including condemnation of the war in Gaza. This is part of an effort to capitalise on disillusionment with the traditional two-party system and the growing appeal of right-wing populism under figures like Nigel Farage. Still, Polanski remains open to cooperation with other progressive forces, although he declined to commit to a formal alliance with Jeremy Corbyn’s far-left party, signalling a nuanced approach to building alliances.

Polanski’s vision includes making the Green Party more visible and influential, targeting a significant increase in parliamentary representation to as many as 30 seats in the next general election. His background in drama and community theatre informs his advocacy style, promoting both evidence-based policies and compelling storytelling to engage the public. Alongside his leadership, his deputies Rachel Millward and Mothin Ali will play key roles in shaping the party’s future direction.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.thepinknews.com/2025/09/02/zack-polanski-trans-green-party/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/c72370ab-f30e-456c-a444-e49be40d5256> - Zack Polanski has been elected leader of the Green Party of England and Wales with 85% of the vote, pledging to challenge the Labour Party from the left. Known for his outspoken activism, Polanski emphasized his party’s commitment to economic and environmental justice, openly criticizing oil companies and the super-rich. He aims to expand the Green Party’s presence in Parliament—especially targeting disillusioned Labour voters—with a goal of reaching 30 seats by the next general election. Polanski, formerly a deputy leader and London Assembly member, defeated Green co-leader Adrian Ramsay and MP Ellie Chowns. Under his leadership, the party plans to focus on socialism, wealth redistribution, and international justice, including condemning the war in Gaza. While declining to commit to an alliance with Jeremy Corbyn’s new far-left party, Polanski expressed openness to collaborations against a “failing Labour government.” However, he was critical of Labour under Prime Minister Keir Starmer. The Greens, currently polling at 10%, see growing potential in the fragmented political landscape. Polanski’s deputies will be Rachel Millward and Mothin Ali. His background includes training in drama and community theatre before entering politics.
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/society/2025/apr/16/uk-supreme-court-legal-definition-woman> - The UK Supreme Court has ruled that the legal definition of a woman under the Equality Act 2010 refers to biological sex, excluding transgender women from this designation. The case stemmed from a legal challenge by For Women Scotland, opposing Scottish government guidance that classified trans women with gender recognition certificates (GRCs) as women. The Court's decision clarifies that single-sex services, such as hospital wards, shelters, and sports, can lawfully exclude trans women. While the judgment was welcomed by women's rights advocates and the UK government for providing legal clarity, it raised strong concerns among transgender campaigners and LGBT+ groups about the potential for increased discrimination. The Supreme Court emphasized that the ruling should not be seen as a victory for some at the expense of others, noting that trans individuals remain protected from discrimination. However, critics, including legal experts, argue that the Equality Act may require urgent updates to address emerging legal and societal challenges. Prominent voices such as author J.K. Rowling supported the decision, while activists warned of its broader implications for transgender rights and societal inclusion.