

Input for Scottish Green Party Manifesto Development (2026 Scottish Election)

June 2025



Corra Foundation is a Scottish grant-making charity that amplifies people's voices and their power to make change. We fund organisations that progress equity, challenge poverty and support children and young people in Scotland. We believe that listening, and supporting communities in ways that work for them, leads to positive change.

Our input draws on evidence from our grant making and [People in Place](#) programme. It focuses on ways of working that centre people and equity. There are four key opportunities for the Scottish Greens to create positive change for people across Scotland in their manifesto.

1. Support and resource communities in ways that work for them.
2. Mainstream anti-racist approaches in services and support provision.
3. Expand participatory approaches and shift power in decision making.
4. Deliver rights-based support for people affected by substance use.

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Four opportunities to create positive change in Scotland.

Support and resource communities in ways that work for them.

This means providing flexible financial support to organisations including unrestricted funding, multi-year funding, and small grants.

In 2023-2024, we distributed £36.6m of funding to organisations across Scotland. We distribute funding on behalf of partners, such as the Scottish Government and Comic Relief, alongside our own funds. There is an opportunity to take a progressive and trusting approach to providing fair funding for third sector organisations. Multi-year funds that are unrestricted, or flexible, allow third sector organisations to plan and deliver more effectively. Writing funding applications takes a lot of time and

applicants rightly weigh up whether the time they spend will be valuable in terms of the funding secured. Writing one application to secure multiple years funding is more efficient. At Corra, applicants conservatively spent over 3100 hours completing 822 application forms in 2023.

A commitment to fair funding for the third sector should be central to the manifesto.

Mainstream anti-racist approaches in public services and support.

This means taking a proactive, equity focused approach to ensure that services and support is truly accessible for everyone.

At Corra we acknowledge that racism is a systemic issue and as funders, we are part of ‘the system.’ This means that we are also part of the problem, and along with society, we need to help dismantle systemic racism and work towards a fairer world. We believe that embedding anti-racist approaches in the design and delivery of services and support is central to creating positive change for all people in Scotland.

One way to do this is providing ring-fenced funding to organisations led by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities. Through this approach in our ‘Henry Duncan Grants’ programme we have provided close to £1.5m since 2021 to organisations led by Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities delivering vital work supporting children and young people, women, mental health, and improving living standards. Through these funded organisations, we know there are opportunities for policy intervention to deliver for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic people across Scotland. Specific action in the manifesto should include:

- [Taking an anti-racist approach to delivering the Promise.](#)
- [Strengthening drugs and alcohol support services for people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic Communities.](#)
- Ring-fencing funding within existing programmes for Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic-led organisations.

Expand participatory approaches and shift power in decision making.

This means putting people and communities at the heart of decision making. It means creating meaningful opportunities for people to have their voices heard, and listening to them.

Positive change happens when we listen to communities. We put listening and participation at the centre of our work, from participation in funding panels through to our place-based working alongside communities. Through these approaches, those with lived and learnt experience have made funding decisions on millions of pounds of funding.

This includes The Promise Partnership Funds, funded through the Scottish Government and other partners. These funds were developed by an advisory group which included people with a range of professional skills and expertise along with lived experience of Scotland's 'care system.' The Decision Makers Panel (all of whom had lived experience of Scotland's 'care system') made final decisions on which organisations to fund. This approach offers an exemplar for how we can truly shift power to communities. A commitment to advancing participatory approaches in decision-making should be central to the manifesto.

Deliver rights-based support for people affected by substance use.

This means providing funding for services that take a preventative approach alongside those delivering rights-based support to people affected by substance use.

People in Scotland's most deprived communities are eighteen times more likely to experience problem substance use, than those living in the least deprived (Poverty Alliance, 2022). Reducing poverty and inequality is a highly effective way to prevent problem substance use. For people affected by substance use, we must take a rights-based approach ensuring that everyone has access to the support they need.

Preventative approaches should consider the whole family by providing early intervention that provides practical, long-term, and relational support for families who are struggling. Our research [Connections are Key](#) outlines the positive impact of relational approaches and what these approaches should look like. Our [briefing on the impact of the Supporting Birth Parents Fund](#) identifies opportunities to support people often overlooked in policy and practice.

To support people affected by substance use we must fund services properly including vital third sector services. A connected and joined up landscape of support and services across sectors in a place is vital. This is about providing good services, harm reduction and community-based support that meets people where they are. Everyone's journey to recovery is unique to them and support and services must take rights-based approaches to reflect this.

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness, and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity, and partner, as well as in our influencing activity.

We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust, and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting, and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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