



coalition  
2030

# Better for All

General Election asks for an Ireland that meets the needs of present and future people

**Coalition 2030's General Election Asks**

**Coalition 2030 is a group of Irish civil society organisations, trade unions, academics and artists united to create a better world by 2030.**

We believe in human rights, shared humanity, and respecting the dignity of every person. We seek to achieve this vision through The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Our vision is a world where efforts to combat climate change lead to healthier societies, affordable housing for all, and stronger communities. We want a world where caring for nature means caring for all living beings, ensuring sustainable food systems now and for future generations. We envision safe and healthy workplaces for everyone in Ireland and globally. We aim to ensure access to essential services like healthcare, clean water, nutritious food, and education while eliminating poverty and creating equal opportunities.

We face multiple crises: climate change, species extinction, environmental degradation, rising conflicts and humanitarian needs, increasing poverty, growing inequality, and divisive politics. Together, these challenges threaten our vision of a better world.

Although Ireland is wealthy, the felt reality for many is different. Thousands of children are homeless, lacking basic necessities. Access to safe and affordable child-

care remains out of reach for many, even though we know it drives progress across many essential areas. Healthcare is becoming a luxury, and soaring housing costs make homeownership out of reach for many. Asylum seekers in need of safety are left in poor conditions, while poverty affects children, single parents, older people, and those with disabilities.

Ireland has the resources, but we must reach those most in need, helping the furthest behind first. As Ireland imminently approaches a General Election, the stakes are high.

**Yet, in this crisis, there is hope for real change.**

Ireland has the potential to continue to make a global impact, as demonstrated by our past efforts in sustainable development and overseas development aid. The SDGs allow Ireland to stand for integrity and solidarity.

Imagine a world where the richest contribute more, no child goes hungry, no family is without shelter, and healthcare is accessible to all. Imagine a world where we take meaningful action to protect our planet and build healthier communities.

The upcoming election is critical. We ask that your party commit to achieving the SDGs and leave no one behind as part of your election manifesto and the Programme for Government negotiations.

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### **Overall ask:**

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Coalition 2030 calls on all parties to commit to the following three policies as they are required to achieve the 17 Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Create the role of a Future Generations Commissioner/Ombudsman, who would be independent of government, outlast government, and whose job would be to make sure policies made today meet the needs of the present while also taking future generations into account and of Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD), and commit to setting up a permanent Oireachtas Committee for the Future.
2. Move overall responsibility for reaching the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) from the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications to the Taoiseach's Department so that this crosscutting programme of 17 goals is given the leadership, resources and buy-in required. We also call for parties to ensure any future government presents an annual progress report on the SDGs to the Dáil and Seanad every year.
3. Develop a new National Index of Progress integrating social and environmental issues into our national accounts. Ensure that every national budget line actively contributes to one or more of the Sustainable Development Goals without undermining other Goals. Ensure the annual budget is a tool for sustainable development by increasing funding for resilient, thriving communities, prioritising those most in need, and raising our climate finance commitments and Official Development Assistance (ODA) to meet our fair share.

We also ask that parties give serious consideration to the following policy positions in the Programme for Government to achieve each of the Sustainable Development Goals domestically and internationally:

### **On Poverty and Inequality (SDGs 1 and 10)**

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1. Benchmark core social welfare rates to allow for a Minimum Essential Standard of Living (MESL).
2. Benchmark and index the pension against inflation and average earnings.
3. Roll out a permanent and targeted cost of disability payment.

### **On Health and Wellbeing (SDG 3)**

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1. Increase funding for youth and community mental health support.
2. Create a statutory entitlement to Home Care Services.
3. Fully implement and resource Sláintecare whilst fully addressing health inequality.

### **On Housing (SDG 11)**

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1. Ensure 20% of housing stock is social housing by 2030.
2. Introduce Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) in the private rental sector.
3. Introduce an Energy Guarantee Scheme based on income and household BER to guarantee a minimum amount of energy for all households to ensure everyone can meet their basic heat & energy needs.

## On Lifelong Quality Education (SDG 4)

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1. Address the recruitment and retention crisis in teaching.
2. Fully resource 'Adult Literacy for Life' by increasing the adult literacy budget to €100 million by 2030.
3. Prioritise investment in Global Citizenship Education and Education for Sustainable Development through a cross-departmental approach.

## On Gender Equality (SDG 5)

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1. Address the inequitable distribution of unpaid care work through the delivery of a fully universal childcare model; economic injustice for women through reforming the social protection system to ensure an adequate income for all women, closing the gender and pensions pay gap and ensuring full access for all women in employment and adopt policies that recognise, redistribute and support this essential and valuable work.
2. Request that the Central Statistics Office conduct an annual survey to discover the value of all unpaid work in the country.
3. Establish a domestic violence refuge in every county, increase the number of refuge beds available to victims of domestic abuse, and ensure access to long-term secure housing.

## On Climate and Nature (SDGs 7, 13, and 15)

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1. Roll out a street-by-street comprehensive, all-of-society clean energy retrofitting programme focusing on the worst performing and social homes first.
2. Implement and ring-fence a windfall tax on the excessive profits made by energy companies and energy suppliers and put this directly into supporting those suffering from energy poverty.
3. Design and implement an ambitious National Restoration Plan, which will set nature on the pathway to recovery.

## On Active and sustainable transport (SDGs 11 and 13)

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1. Implement a Sports Utility Vehicle tax based on the weight of the car.
2. Make public transport more affordable, lower-carbon, more accessible and safer, especially in rural Ireland.
3. Reform the National Transport Authority to ensure all changes to public transport are disability-inclusive.

## On Water quality and ocean health (SDGs 6 and 14)

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1. Ensure 30% of Ireland's maritime area is designated as a Marine Protected Area by 2030, with 10% being 'strictly' protected in line with the EU's 2030 Biodiversity Strategy, enacting robust Marine Protected Areas legislation to copperfasten this protection in law and protecting our ocean for generations to come.
2. Ensure full and effective implementation of the Common Fisheries Policy, including the progression of Joint Recommendations at the EU level to manage Ireland's offshore Marine Protected Areas properly.
3. Continue to provide support and advice to farmers to improve water quality under the Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advice Programme.

## On Food and Agriculture (SDG 2)

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1. Ensure all workers in agriculture and food systems are covered by social protection, have decent working conditions (including living wages), and that the sector is exploitation and child labour free.
2. Reward nature-friendly farming by cultivating healthy, affordable, locally produced food by rolling out generous results-based agri-environment schemes to restore threatened wildlife and work towards increasing the number of horticulture farmers in Ireland.
3. Act at international levels for a transition to sustainable food systems throughout the world, which protect people and the planet by regulating prices, breaking monopolies, reducing debt and supporting just transitions.

## On Circular Economy (SDG 12)

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1. Incentivise a repair and sharing culture by supporting repair cafés, tool and toy sharing/ swap centres and other services nationally.
2. Effectively transpose the EU directive on the right to repair.
3. Create an enabling environment for social, small, green, community and micro enterprises.

## On Decent work and industry (SDGs 8 and 9)

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1. Increase collective bargaining coverage by transposing the Directive on Adequate Minimum Wages, targeting 80% coverage (currently at 34%), and the Directive on Pay Transparency.
2. Ensure the respect of the rights to freedom of association and the right to strike (International Labour Organisation Conventions 87 and 98).
3. Introduce a living wage based on the cost of living as per recommendations from the Living Wage Technical Group.

## On Peace and Strong Communities (SDGs 11 and 16)

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1. End direct provision and replace it with a not-for-profit system centred on human rights and reverse Ireland's prison expansion policy.
2. Pass the Occupied Territories Bill and the Illegal Israeli Settlements Divestment Bill.
3. Champion International Humanitarian Law (IHL) across all contexts, including the protection of civilians, civilian infrastructure, humanitarian workers and the reduction of new and devastating weapons

## On Partnership for the goals (SDG 17)

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1. Reach 0.7% of Gross National Income as official development assistance (ODA) by 2030.
2. Increase our climate finance and loss and damage commitments in line with our fair share, ensuring climate finance is new and additional to official development assistance (ODA).
3. Conduct new, comprehensive and independent 'spillover analyses' of the environmental and human rights impacts of Ireland's tax and agrifood policies overseas and introduce robust cross-government and Oireachtas mechanisms to implement Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD).

**As Ireland stands on the cusp of a general election, we urge all political parties to seize this pivotal moment and commit to building a fairer, more sustainable future.**

The next government has the power to guide the nation towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, addressing the urgent crises of our time while laying the foundation for future generations.

By adopting bold policies prioritising social justice, environmental protection, and economic fairness, we can ensure that no one is left behind. The decisions made now will shape the Ireland of tomorrow - an Ireland where equality, sustainability, and human dignity are not just aspirations but realities.

This election can be a turning point. Coalition 2030 calls on you to act with the courage and vision to create a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable Ireland for all. If we fail in this mission, Ireland will fail to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals it took so much pride in helping to deliver.

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