

My Vote
My Voice

Easy Read Guide to Northern Ireland's Smaller Political Parties





People have different ideas about how the country should be run.



A **political party** is a group of people who share similar ideas about how the country should be run.



Political parties want to be in **government** so they can turn their ideas into law.

The government is a group of people who have the power make laws and set rules for the country.



Northern Ireland has **five main political parties**.

It also has **several smaller parties** which this guide will cover.



They are:

- **Aontú**
- the **Green Party**
- **People Before Profit**
- the **Traditional Unionist Voice**



Some political parties are described as being either **left-wing** or **right-wing**.



Some political parties are also described as being in the **centre**.



Left-wing political parties believe in **equality**.

This means that they want all people to be given equal chances and have more support from the government.



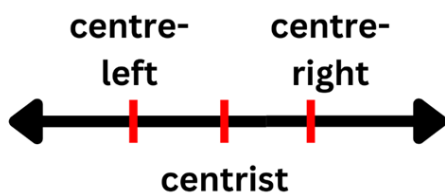
Right-wing political parties believe in **tradition**.

This means that they want people to make their own decisions about their own lives and for the government to be smaller.



Political parties in the centre support a **balance** between left-wing and right-wing ideas.

This means they want equality and also want people to make their own decisions about their own lives.



Most of Northern Ireland's **political parties are based in the centre**, but each lean in different directions.

These positions are called **centre-left, centre-right, and centrist**.



Aontú have members with **left-wing, right-wing, and centrist** views.

Their name means “Unite” in Irish Gaelic.



They **oppose abortion** and want to make the rules stricter for people to get one.

Abortion is when a pregnancy is stopped on purpose before giving birth. It is usually done by a doctor.



The Green Party is **left-wing**.

They are also called “**the Greens**” for short.



They believe **protecting the environment** should be the government’s top priority.

This means they want to preserve and protect nature from damage.



People Before Profit is **left-wing**.

They want to spend more money on **public services**, like schools, transport, and the NHS.



To pay for this, they want to **raise taxes on people who earn more money**.

Taxes are the money people pay to the government. The government spends this money on public services.



The Traditional Unionist Voice is **right-wing**.

They are also called “**the TUV**” for short.



They want to **reform power-sharing** so that politicians work better and more efficiently.



Power-sharing means all of the political parties in Northern Ireland working together to make laws for everyone in Northern Ireland.



Political parties in Northern Ireland are often described as either **nationalist**, **unionist**, or **neutral**.

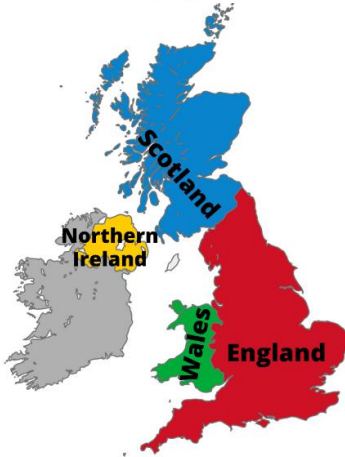


Aontú are **nationalists** and support a **united Ireland**.

This means **Northern Ireland would leave the United Kingdom and join the Republic of Ireland** as one independent country.



People Before Profit do not describe themselves as nationalists, but **they support a united Ireland.**



The TUV are **unionists.**

This means they **support Northern Ireland staying as part of the United Kingdom** and do not support a united Ireland.



The Green Party is **neutral** on whether Northern Ireland should leave or stay in the United Kingdom.

This means **they do not campaign for either position.**



People elect **Members of Parliament** from all over the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland.

A Member of Parliament is also called an **MP**. An MP is elected to speak for people living in their area in **Parliament.**

Parliament is where the United Kingdom's laws are made.



A **general election** is when the people of the country vote for the next government.

General elections usually happen every 5 years.

Every part of the United Kingdom, including Northern Ireland, votes in a general election.



The party with the most MPs after a general election forms the government.



The **Conservative Party** have the most MPs and are the party in government.

Their leader is **Rishi Sunak** and he is the **Prime Minister**.

The Prime Minister is in charge of the government.



The **Labour Party** has the second-most MPs and is the **Official Opposition**.

This means they challenge the government and make it explain its decisions. At the next general election, **they want to replace the government**.

Their leader is **Sir Keir Starmer** and he is the **Leader of the Opposition**.



None of Northern Ireland's smaller parties have MPs elected yet.

My Vote My Voice is on a mission to register more autistic people and people with learning disabilities to vote at the next general election.

Visit www.myvotemyvoice.org.uk to find out more!



Get in touch

 info@myvotemyvoice.org.uk

 [#MyVoteMyVoice](https://twitter.com/MyVoteMyVoice)

With thanks to Photosymbols and the Electoral Commission



**Ambitious
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