

Campaigner Calendar

2026

Visit our
campaign
page:



Social Media
Toolkit:



How you can get
involved in the
campaign:



Learning Disabilities, Autism and Neurodivergence Bill (LDAN Bill)

The importance of the LDAN Bill in tackling the inequalities faced by autistic people and their families cannot be underestimated. Despite many good laws and strategies in Scotland, there remains a gap between the support people should receive and what they actually receive. This means that autistic people and their families are continually driven into crisis.

Autistic people have waited too long for change, and they shouldn't have to wait any longer. We must act now for autistic people's rights, to ensure that autistic people across Scotland receive the support that they need.

With your support, we can urge all political parties to Act Now for Autistic Rights ahead of the election in May.

Our campaigners have already been on an incredible journey for autistic rights in Scotland.

They've stepped in front of the camera to film powerful stories for Act Now for Autistic Rights, sharing honest experiences of diagnosis, school support, healthcare and life in their communities. Many have taken part in interviews and even appeared on BBC.

They've shown up at party conferences, speaking directly with MSPs about what needs to change and they've written to party leaders through our call to action. Thank you! Let's keep campaigning and building a society that truly works for autistic people!

Sign up to campaigner updates

Stay in touch with us to find out about our latest campaigns and how you can play your part in them. We'll update you by email on the key issues that affect autistic people and their families, and how you can help to create real change.



Campaign Activities

This calendar outlines key dates in the run-up to the election, helping you play an important role in our Act Now for Autistic Rights campaign. We've included suggestions for how you can get involved, and there's also space for you to plan your own activities. Each month highlights important dates to look out for. Below are some ideas for actions you can take around those dates to help campaign for change.

March

Political parties will start to publish their manifestos throughout March to promise what they would do if elected. This is your chance to see whether parties will take the action you want to see and to make your voice heard.

Our campaigner toolkit will be available from Monday 23 March, ahead of the pre-election period beginning from Monday 26 March. This gives tips and advice about how to contact candidates, whether by email or in person. Keep an eye on our campaign webpage and social media to learn more!

April

Election candidates are confirmed on Thursday 2 April. Once you know who your local candidates are, get in touch with them either by email or on social media using our campaigner toolkit. Mentioning our campaign and the need for the LDAN Bill will really help our chances of highlighting the urgent need for change.

World Autism Acceptance Day/Month is a good opportunity to share your perspectives on autism, the barriers that you face, and what needs to change to make a real difference in your life.

May

Following the election on Thursday 7 May, you could write to the new First Minister on the need to introduce the LDAN Bill and what you would like them to do for you. This will help show that improving outcomes for autistic people has to be treated as a priority.

June

NAS Scotland will be hosting Autism Awareness Sessions in June so that MSPs can ensure both the Parliament and MSP surgeries are as accessible as possible. You can help by writing to your new local MSP to share our MSP guide once it has been published and to urge them to attend our session.

 Important dates leading up to the election

 Voting deadlines

 National Autistic Society Events

Did you know?

The number of ASN teachers in Scotland has decreased by 19.5% since 2010.

Since 2010, the number of ASN pupils has increased by more than 768%.

Children with ASN are 5 times more likely to be excluded from school than children without ASN.

What is our call to action?

We have drafted a letter which you can edit and send to party leaders to share your story and encourage them to introduce the LDAN Bill to parliament as soon as possible.


What the LDAN Bill could do

An LDAN Bill could make sure all teachers and support staff in Scotland are trained in autism. This would help them support autistic children better in schools.

An LDAN Bill could also make sure the Scottish Government and local councils get into trouble if they do not meet autistic children's ASN needs in school.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|---|-----|-----|----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 SNP National Conference | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 Help us share our call to action! | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 Pre-election period begins | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

Top Tip for Campaigning Using statistics will grab people's attention. Feel free to use the ones included in your calendar!



Visit our campaign page:



Did you know?

Only 29% of autistic people in Scotland are in employment.

Autistic people face many barriers when trying to get a job. Many can also feel stuck in low-paid jobs because their employers don't notice their skills, strengths.

60% of employers are unsure where to get advice on employing autistic people.

Children with ASN spend much more time out of school than children without ASN. As a result, parents often have to leave their job so they can fight for the right support for their child. Many of these parents will be autistic too.

What the LDAN Bill could do

An LDAN Bill could make employment support available for autistic people in all areas of Scotland.

An LDAN Bill would make sure the Scottish Government creates an autism employment plan.

This could include autism training for their staff. It would mean employers could better recognise the abilities of autistic employees and autistic people applying for jobs. Private companies might then want to copy this plan.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|---|-----|-----|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 Election candidates confirmed | 2 World Autism Acceptance Month (WAAM) | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 7 Help us share our call to action! | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 NAS Scotland-Scottish Autism Hustings | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 19 | 20 Deadline to register to vote | 21 Deadline for postal vote applications | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 Deadline for proxy vote applications | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |

Top Tip for Campaigning

Use and search for the hashtag **#ActNowForAutisticRights**



Visit our campaign page:



💡 Did you know?

Autistic people have a lower life expectancy than the general population. There is a 5-year difference for women and a 7 year difference for men.

56% of autistic adults report not being understood at their GP appointment.

80% of autistic adults report having difficulty visiting a GP

Suicide is the second most common cause of early death for autistic people.

One study reported that 66% of autistic people have considered suicide. Autistic children are also 28 times more likely to think about or try suicide than their peers.

📄 What the LDAN Bill could do

An LDAN Bill could make sure all healthcare staff in Scotland are trained in autism. This would help them better support autistic patients.

An LDAN Bill could also create patient passports and an annual health check for autistic people (both done on an 'opt-in' basis). The passport could include information on that individual's preferred means of communication or adjustments.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------------------------|-----|----------|
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Holyrood Election Results Day | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 31 |

Top Tip for Campaigning

If this is something you are comfortable with, feel free to share the impact that a particular policy or issue has had on your life and explain what you would like a future Scottish Government to change.



Visit our campaign page:



💡 Did you know?

Many autistic children and young people in Scotland wait months or even years for an assessment.

As of March 2025, over 42,000 children were waiting for a neurodevelopmental assessment

Some NHS Boards do not offer adult autism assessments unless the person also has a learning disability or a mental health condition.

After receiving a diagnosis, many autistic people are left without any post diagnostic support at all.

📄 What the LDAN Bill could do

An LDAN Bill could improve waiting times for autism assessments through a new national autism strategy and local strategies.

An LDAN Bill could make waiting times publicly available so people can see the national picture.

An LDAN Bill could guarantee at least one year of post diagnostic support for every autistic person.

An LDAN Bill could ensure that autistic adults have equal access to assessment across Scotland.

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |

📌 Top Tip for Campaigning

Thank you for all your hard work during our campaign! Your dedication and voices are helping drive real change for autistic people and their families.



Visit our campaign page:

