



GEORGINA BEYER

Born: November 1967, in Wellington, New Zealand

Georgina Beyer was the world's first openly transgender Mayor and the world's first openly trans member of parliament.

Beyer is of European and Maori descent. Before politics, she was an actor, a drag queen, and a sex worker, making her one of very few people in the world who have both held office and been a sex worker.

"At my moments when I might want to say, well, why should I put myself through this? And it's because of people who have gone before me, who trod the path. And each inch that they gained for us helped to provide a person like me with the status and position I enjoy now. And so my debt goes to those who have either passed on already, or whose own struggles in their lives were inspirational to me." ([PBS](#), June 2003)

In 1995, she was elected mayor of Carterton, where she remained in office until 2000. In 1999, she was selected as the Labour party candidate for Wairarapa electorate, whereupon she won her initial bid and then was re-elected in 2002.

She publicly supported the Prostitution Reform Act in 2003, and in 2004, a bill in her name was introduced to Parliament, intending to add gender identity to the Human Rights Act in order to prohibit discrimination against someone for their gender identity.

In 2007, Beyer retired from Parliament, but continued to speak for LGBTQ+ rights worldwide, first as a keynote speaker for the First and Second International Conferences on LGBT Human Rights in Montreal (2006) and Copenhagen (2009).

In 2020, she was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her work in LGBTQ+ rights.

"It is important to allow people who want to be positive contributors of our society regardless of sex, race, creed and gender to reach their human potential. We need all human potential to make our communities thrive, to make them more vital, the very centre of our reason for being and living. The most important thing at the end of the day is about people, people and people!" ([SpeakersNZ.com](#))

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Georgina Beyer, after her investiture as MNZM, for services to LGBTIQ+ rights, at Government House, Wellington, on 19 October 2020 (New Zealand Government, Office of the Governor-General)

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