

# URGENT ACTION

## LET PRIDE MARCH FREELY

On March 18, Hungary's Parliament swiftly passed a law that effectively bans Pride marches. The law prohibits assemblies deemed to violate the anti-LGBTI "Propaganda Law", which falsely portrays LGBTI visibility as 'harmful to children'. Under this law, authorities can ban Pride or other LGBTI events, fine participants, and sentence organizers for up to one year in prison. It also allows the use of facial recognition technology to track and identify participants, posing a serious threat to privacy and spreading fear. This law represents an urgent and severe violation of human rights, including the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, expression, privacy, and non-discrimination. Hungarian authorities must uphold the right to peaceful protest and ensure the June 28 Budapest Pride march can go ahead without unjust restrictions, intimidation, or violence. They must also repeal this discriminatory legislation and protect the rights of LGBTI individuals and communities.

### TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 39.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

**Budapest Police Headquarters, DR. TERDIK TAMÁS**  
**Chief of Police**

Address: 1139 Budapest, Teve utca 4-6.  
1557 Budapest, Pf.: 1  
Hungary  
Phone: +36(1)443-5000  
Fax: +36(1)443-5260  
E-mail: [budapest@budapest.police.hu](mailto:budapest@budapest.police.hu)

*Send a copy of your letter to the address below*

**CC: Hungarian Embassy in the United States**  
**Ambassador Mr. Szabolcs Takács**  
1500 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Email: [informacio.was@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:informacio.was@mfa.gov.hu)

Dear Chief of Police,

I am writing to urgently address Hungary's recently adopted legislation - Act III of 2025 - which not only can be used to ban Pride marches but also imposes fines on participants and criminal charges on organizers. It also empowers authorities to use invasive facial recognition surveillance to track participants. This legislation is a clear violation of Hungary's international and regional human rights obligations, including the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, expression, the right to privacy, and the right to be free from discrimination.

For three decades, Pride organizers in Hungary and the police have worked to ensure the safety and dignity of all those involved. Pride is a peaceful demonstration of equality and justice. Yet, this recently adopted law is built on falsehoods, mischaracterizing LGBTI visibility as "harmful to children," and creates fear, not safety. This law not only undermines the rights of LGBTI people but sets a dangerous precedent that impacts the rights of all.

I call on you to reject this unjust law, uphold Hungary's human rights commitments, and ensure that the June 28 Budapest Pride march proceeds unhindered and peacefully, free from discrimination, harassment, fear, or violence.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Over the last decade, the Hungarian government has conducted a campaign against LGBTI rights using stigmatizing rhetoric and targeting those in civil society who stand up for equality. On March 11, MPs of the Fidesz party that holds governing majority submitted a set of amendments to the Fundamental Law (Hungary's Constitution) to establish a constitutional basis for banning the annual Pride marches. On March 17, another bill was introduced by the same MPs, to amend the existing legislation on assemblies. The bill was fast-tracked through Parliament the next day, without consultation, and promulgated as Act III of 2025, and has entered into force on April 15, 2025.

The new law (Act III of 2025) contains vague language which permits authorities to ban any assemblies advocating for LGBTI rights and depicting LGBTI themes. It makes it a crime to hold or organize and a petty offense to attend events that violate Hungary's 'Propaganda Law' legislation, which prohibits the 'depiction or promotion' of homosexuality and diverse gender identities to under-18s. Specifically, it introduced harsh penalties, including fines of up to 200,000 HUF (approximately 500 EUR) for individuals who participate in a banned Pride event. Those who hold or organize a banned assembly face, according to the Criminal Code already in effect, criminal charges and risk up to one year of imprisonment. The new law also widens the scope where the police may disperse a notified assembly.

The new legislation also widens the scope for the possible use of facial recognition technology (FRT) to any petty offenses, including petty offenses related to assemblies. This is of particular concern in relation to a potential use to identify individuals suspected of attending assemblies which might be banned by authorities, such as the Prides.

These changes, especially when considered collectively, undermine the fundamental rights of LGBTI individuals and their allies, including their right to freedom of peaceful assembly. They effectively seek to push LGBTI people out of the public eye by labelling the "promotion" and "display" of homosexuality and transgender identities as prohibited "content" during demonstrations. This discriminatory law also represents a grave infringement on the privacy rights of every citizen in Hungary. It seeks to create an atmosphere of fear and silence for those who dare to express dissent. Such measures threaten not only personal privacy but also the very essence of freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly and must be repealed.

Any restriction on assemblies must be prescribed by law, but also, cumulatively, aimed at protecting a legitimate public interest, be necessary and proportionate, meaning that the same result cannot be achieved through other less restrictive means. The prohibition of a specific public assembly in advance therefore must always be a measure of last resort, based on a case-by-case assessment taking into account the specific circumstances of each assembly. Any decision to disperse an assembly should also be taken only as a last resort and carefully in line with the principles of necessity and proportionality, that is only when there are no other means available to protect a legitimate aim which outweighs the right of people to assemble peacefully.

**PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET:** Hungarian, English, or your own language.

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** July 15, 2025

**NAME AND PREFERRED PRONOUN:** Hungarian LGBTI community (ALL)