

# URGENT ACTION

## DROP CHARGES AGAINST PÉCS PRIDE ORGANIZER

Géza Buzás-Hábel, a human rights defender and organizer of the 2025 Pécs Pride, is facing criminal charges filed on February 9, 2026, for planning a peaceful LGBTI+ rights march, which took place on October 4, 2025, despite the ban issued by authorities under Hungary's anti-Pride law. If convicted, he could face up to one year of imprisonment. Amnesty International calls on the Prosecutor's Office to immediately drop the criminal charges and discontinue the proceedings, which constitute an undue interference in the exercise of the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination under European and international human rights law. This case marks a troubling escalation in the criminalization of LGBTI expression and peaceful assembly in Hungary.

### 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 **Second UA 99.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

### District Prosecution Office of Pécs

**Dr. István Takács**

Chief Prosecutor

7621 Pécs, Jókai utca 26., Hungary

Fax: + 36 72-518-946

Email: [pecs@mku.hu](mailto:pecs@mku.hu)

X: @ProsecutionHu

*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: [info.was@mfa.gov.hu](mailto:info.was@mfa.gov.hu)

Dear Chief Prosecutor,

I am concerned about the criminal charges formally filed against human rights defender **Géza Buzás-Hábel** for organizing the Pécs Pride march that took place on October 4, 2025.

The police decision on the Pécs Pride, effectively declaring it 'a banned assembly' in September 2025, was arbitrary and discriminatory, based solely on the 'anti-Pride' law which became effective in April 2025. This ban and the legislation itself have been widely criticized by regional and international organizations as regressive, discriminatory, and to be in violation of human rights standards. The organization of a peaceful assembly advocating for equality, human rights, and remembrance, such as Pécs Pride, is protected conduct under the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression, and non-discrimination, as enshrined in regional and international standards to which Hungary is bound.

The international community is closely following Géza Buzás-Hábel's situation and the recent criminal charges brought against him, which represents an alarming escalation in the criminalization of LGBTI expression and peaceful assembly in Hungary.

Prosecuting Géza Buzás-Hábel constitutes a violation of his rights, including to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. I urge you to immediately drop the charges and terminate the proceedings against Géza Buzás-Hábel as he should not be prosecuted simply for exercising his human rights.

Yours sincerely,

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Géza Buzás-Hábel** is a Roma, gay man from Pécs. He worked as a teacher and human rights defender. He taught Romani language and culture, trained future educators, and has long organized Pécs Pride, the country's only Pride outside of Budapest, ensuring it remains inclusive, peaceful, and community driven.

On September 4, 2025, Géza Buzás-Hábel, submitted notification to local police regarding the fifth edition of Pécs Pride scheduled for October 4, 2025. The Pécs Police Department immediately issued a pre-emptive ban on September 5, 2025, claiming that the assembly, which aimed to support same-sex marriage rights, transgender legal gender recognition, and commemorate LGBTI+ Holocaust victims, would expose children to prohibited content. Géza Buzás-Hábel appealed the ban, but the Kúria, Hungary's Supreme Court, rejected the appeal. Despite the ban, Pécs Pride proceeded on October 4, 2025, without police intervention. On October 10, 2025, Géza Buzás-Hábel received an official police summons.

On February 9, 2026, Géza Buzás-Hábel was notified that formal criminal charges were brought against him by the prosecutor's office and the file has been forwarded to the court. The prosecutorial authorities proposed that the court imposes a fine on him by a penal order without holding a trial. The court has 1 month to decide on the next steps and can issue a penal order without a hearing. A penal order constitutes a case-deciding judicial decision, similar to a judgement. However, instead of filing an appeal, the defendant, the prosecutor, and any other interested party can, within eight days from the serving of the penal order request a hearing to be held. When a hearing is requested, the court follows the normal criminal procedure rules and holds a preparatory hearing. If decided for the case to proceed with a trial, the crime Geza is charged with carries a penalty of up to one year imprisonment.

In 2025, Hungary escalated its decade-long crackdown on LGBTI rights. Act III of 2025, known as the 'anti-Pride' legislation, building on the 2021 anti-LGBTI+ "Propaganda Law", was rushed through Parliament in March, and entered into force in April that same year. The new legislation prohibits the holding of assemblies deemed to violate the 2021 "Propaganda Law", which falsely portrays LGBTI visibility as 'harmful' to children and bans the 'depiction and promotion' of sexuality and diverse gender identities to people under 18. Authorities used this law to issue pre-emptive bans on both Budapest and Pécs Pride. Nevertheless, Budapest Pride in June attracted over 300,000 participants and Pécs Pride in October drew approximately 5,000 participants. Hungary is bound by the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights. These instruments require authorities to uphold the right to freedom of peaceful assembly, including assemblies promoting minority rights, to avoid discriminatory bans, and to impose restrictions only when strictly necessary and proportionate.

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

**PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL:** August 13, 2026

**NAME AND PRONOUN:** Géza Buzás-Hábel (he/him)

**LINK TO PREVIOUS UA:** <https://www.amnestyusa.org/urgent-actions/hungary-pecs-pride-organizer-at-risk-of-prosecution/>