

Hungary

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

In December, the Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) found that a hotel discriminated when refusing to host an event of a local NGO that organised Pécs Pride.

ASYLUM

On 16 July, the European Court of Human Rights ruled in the Rana v. Hungary case that an Iranian trans refugee had the right to legal gender recognition. The government paid the compensation, but the man's documents have still not been changed.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH AND VIOLENCE

In August, PM Viktor Orbán called on neighbouring governments to stand up for Christian values, warning against Western efforts to “experiment with a godless cosmos, rainbow families, migration and open societies”.

Several local governments raised the rainbow flag during the Pride Festival, some of which were forcibly removed or burned by far right activists. Budapest mayor Gergely Karácsony, of green left Párbeszéd Magyarország [Dialogue for Hungary], and other mayors in local municipalities condemned the attacks. State Secretary Miklós Soltész said “...we don't need this rainbow flag, take that back to the West, we need the values that God has written into the souls of men for more than 2,000 years”.

In September, Our Homeland Movement MP Dóra Dúró's made hateful remarks about 'Wonderland is for Everyone', a children's book published by Labrisz Lesbian Association, and destroyed a copy in a paper shredder. The book depicts diverse families and characters. PM Viktor Orbán commented that homosexuals should “leave our kids alone.” The book soon ranked #1 in online stores.

BODILY INTEGRITY

There is fear that the ban on modifying “birth sex” (see under **Legal gender recognition**) might push parents of intersex children to approve normalising surgeries.

DIVERSITY AND INTERSECTIONALITY

An informal LGBT deaf group “Silent Rainbow” was formed. The group held a very popular movie screening as part of the Pride Festival, and is preparing informational videos on safer sex, LGBT rights, and mental health in sign language.

EDUCATION

On 15 December, parliament amended the Fundamental Law to further entrench the anti-trans framework by establishing children's “right” to identify with their birth sex, to be ‘protected’ from interventions to change it, and to be educated according to Christian values.

Gergely Gulyás, Minister of the Prime Minister said educators who use ‘Wonderland is for Everyone’ (see **Bias-motivated speech and violence**) may face criminal charges. Two local governments banned the book in kindergartens, and a third one banned LGBTQ propaganda in all institutions.

EMPLOYMENT

Háttér Society prepared a detailed practical guide to help employers navigate difficulties arising from the ban of legal gender recognition in an employment context.

A coalition of NGOs issued a guide for employers on the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on vulnerable employees, including LGBTQI people.

EQUALITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

On 1 December, parliament voted to abolish the Equal Treatment Authority (ETA), Hungary's most important equality body. From 1 January 2021, tasks of the ETA will be performed by the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights, currently Ákos Kozma, a loyal government supporter, who has been silent on LGBTI issues.


FAMILY

In at least two cases the government county office denied lesbian couples of childcare benefits. In the first case, the denial was revoked when a court case was launched. In the second case, the denial was revoked in the internal appeals procedure.

The court agreed with the Equal Treatment Authority that not listing the Foundation for Rainbow Families on the government's family website is discriminatory.

In November, Háttér Society and Rainbow Families launched a campaign #familyisfamily to counter growing political attacks against same-sex couples raising children. Thousands of people and many celebrities joined, and the campaign reached over 600.000 people online and was aired on multiple TV channels.

On December 15, parliament adopted amendments to the Fundamental Law, adding the phrase “The mother is a woman,



the father is a man.” A concurrent change to the [Civil Code](#) and [Child Protection Act](#) restricts adoption to only married couples in the country, and only the minister responsible for family policy could personally grant exemptions.

FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

The European Court of Justice [found](#) that the foreign agents law is contrary to EU law.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

In September, a [petition](#) was launched by CitizenGO against ‘Wonderland is for Everyone’ (see **Bias-motivated speech and violence**). Bookshops selling the book were labeled as promoters of homosexuality, and their staff threatened. The consumer protection authority is conducting an investigation against the book.

HEALTH

In January, Hungary [abolished](#) its discriminatory regulations banning men who have sex with men (MSM) from donating blood, introducing a new focus on ‘risky behaviour’.

HOUSING

After years of legal battle, an elderly lesbian couple can now lawfully [reside](#) in a municipality apartment together. The couple [faced](#) discrimination because they lived in a registered partnership, despite the law granting them the same rights as married couples.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

On 19 May, parliament [banned](#) legal gender recognition. The amendments under Article 33 set out that ‘sex’ on civil registry documents, such as birth certificates, will be replaced by the term “birth sex”, and that this information cannot be modified. The move makes it impossible for trans and intersex people to change their gender markers or name in any documents.

The international response was significant, with thousands of posts using the hashtag #drop33 referring to the specific article of the bill, [petitions](#), and statements by the [Council of Europe](#), the [European Parliament](#), the [United Nations](#), and [many more](#).

Several trans people [spoke out](#) publicly about the impact of the ban, echoed by concerns of NGOs, who reported an increase in trans people reaching helplines and contemplating suicide.

On 24 November, the Miskolc Court of Appeals [found](#) that some

provisions of Article 33 are unconstitutional, and requested a Constitutional Court review. Five other cases are pending at the Court, and dozens at lower courts.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

The court [found](#) police inactivity against far right activists disrupting an LGBT education event to be unlawful.

In October, the police [failed to protect](#) a public reading of ‘Wonderland is for Everyone’ from homophobic protesters. The event was moved online.

PUBLIC OPINION AND ATTITUDES

After MEP József Szájer’s resignation, Medián found that 79% of respondents thought “homosexual” politicians should not be discriminated against.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

On 5 May, parliament adopted a resolution refusing to ratify the Istanbul Convention, [attacking](#) its inclusion of ‘gender’ and stating that recognising gender-based violence as persecution in asylum cases endangers Hungarian traditions and values.

Hungary joined the [Geneva Consensus Declaration](#) against abortion.



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