

49th Human Rights Council Session

Item 6 –UPR Outcome of Hungary

Statement by International Lesbian and Gay Association

This statement is drafted in consultation with a coalition of Hungarian LGBTQI organizations, including the Hungarian LGBT Alliance, Háttér Society, Labrisz Lesbian Association and Transvanilla Transgender Association.

In the previous UPR cycle, Hungary received 6 recommendations directly and 29 indirectly relevant for LGBTQI persons. None of the recommendations specifically addressing sexual orientation or gender identity have been implemented, not even partially.

In fact, the human rights situation of LGBTQI people has significantly deteriorated in recent years with a series of legislation curtailing the rights of trans and intersex people, same-sex couples wishing to raise children, and LGBTQI youth. The government is currently running a referendum campaign that portrays LGBTQI people and CSOs defending rights as harming children.

This has been duly noted by Member States during the review. While in the second cycle Hungary received 6 recommendations explicitly addressing LGBTQI concerns, in the current cycle it received 36. Unfortunately, the Hungarian government communicated that it does not accept most of these recommendations.

Regarding legal gender recognition, the Government claims that introducing ‘sex at birth’ into Hungarian law, the legislator merely ended a legal uncertainty. But there was no legal uncertainty: for nearly two decades trans and intersex people could change their name and gender marker in official documents based on medical diagnosis. Since May 2020, they cannot do that.

Regarding the so-called anti-paedophilia law, the Government claims it merely protects the rights of parents to ensure that the education of their children is in conformity with their convictions. However, the law does exactly the opposite: it strips away the right of parents to choose an education for their children that values social acceptance and equality for all, and bars LGBTQI minors from accessing vital information that would help them accept themselves and tackle widespread bullying and discrimination.

We urge the Hungarian Government to refrain from demonizing LGBTQI people and duly protect their human rights.

Thank you.