



HUNGARY

ACCESS TO GOODS AND SERVICES

On 11 July, the Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) ruled that a company in Hollokő discriminated on the basis of gender identity when it refused to rent out pieces of traditional Hungarian clothing to a trans customer.

BIAS-MOTIVATED SPEECH

On 15 May, Speaker of the Parliament and former President László Kövér (Fidesz) stated that “morally there is no difference between the behaviour of a paedophile and the behaviour of someone who demands” same-sex marriage and adoption sparking outrage. On 19 May, Budapest Pride organised a demonstration and launched the #leveletlacinak (“letter to Laci”) campaign.

On 14 June, Fidesz deputy leader István Boldog asked Parliament to ban Budapest Pride. On 26 June, extremist party Mi Hazánk/Our Homeland called for the same.

BIAS-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

In March, Mi Hazánk live-streamed the disruption of a discussion on LGBTQI Roma people in Szeged. The attackers performed a Nazi salute, put up a huge banner saying “Stop homosexual propaganda!”, tore out projector cables and verbally harassed the attendees with homophobic and racist slurs.

A day after Budapest Pride Festival opened, extremists posted “Stop the Fag Propaganda” stickers outside the Auróra community space, Budapest Pride’s headquarters. Later in June, they disrupted a screening and discussion about education in June and a pansexual dating event at TámPONT. Police intervention was delayed and ineffective.

On 24 June, extremists returned to Auróra, but the participants kept clapping and chanting for 20 minutes, and the police eventually ordered the outsiders to leave. In July, they disrupted an event on school activism and one on religion, and told the organiser to commit suicide. In September, they occupied Auróra for three hours. Similar attacks were carried out in September and October.

A participant of this year’s Budapest Pride March was spat on and kicked in the stomach after the event.

In August, a girl was beaten up in Bénye for carrying a rainbow bag.

Háttér launched the “Louder than Hate” campaign to encourage victims to report hate crimes to the police.

BODILY INTEGRITY

On 16 January, the ‘That’s The Question’ TV show on channel M5 sparked outrage from civil society with a discussion on the usefulness of conversion therapies regarding sexual orientation.

The first openly intersex person gave a public speech in November.

EDUCATION

In June, Dóra Dúró’s (Mi Hazánk) motion to ban sensitising trainings on LGBTI issues in schools was rejected by the Parliament’s Committee on Culture. NGOs Labrisz and Szimpozion, who run such programmes, issued a statement.

EMPLOYMENT

On 29 March, a case at ETA ended in settlement. Alíz Medgyesi reported her employer for forbidding her to change in the women’s changing room, following her legal and medical transition in 2018. The employer apologised and promised access to the facilities.

FAMILY

In April, the Ombudsman found that the Government Office of Somogy Country discriminated against a gay couple. The Office failed to grant an exception, provided for by the law, to one of the men, who comes from a country where same-sex relations are criminalised. Asking for an approval form from his home country could have put him in serious danger.

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY

This year’s Budapest Pride Festival was run over the course of a month, with events in several cities. The Budapest Pride March on 6 July, attended by roughly 15,000 people, took place without cordons. A counter-demonstration was held nearby, but its participants were held back by the police.

Activists in Pécs announced that they will hold the first Pride March outside the capital next summer.



The first ever Trans March took place in Budapest in November, urging authorities to allow access to legal gender recognition.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

On 29 May, the ETA imposed a €3,000 fine on the Budapest Mayor's Office for blocking LGBTI websites on its local network earlier this year. The authority said this harmed the respective organisations and the whole LGBTI community.

A few days ahead of the Sziget Fesztival in August, Coca Cola launched a poster campaign featuring same-sex couples. A petition gathered over 41,000 signatures requesting that the campaign be shut down. A few days later Coca Cola announced it would change the posters and instead of couples, they would only feature rainbows, but not because of the reactions. On 11 August, seven organisations, including Budapest Pride, held a solidarity march. On 14 October, the Pest County Consumer Protection Department fined Coca-Cola 500,000HUF for "harming the physical, mental, emotional and moral development of children and minors".

HEALTH

In February, the private dental clinic that refused to treat a patient because of HIV positive status in 2017, settled at the ETA and offered to treat the patient.

As part of Hättér's community building project for people living with HIV, a peer support group was set up. Hättér's research found that 53 per cent of interviewees experienced discrimination and 45 per cent hostile social attitudes because of their HIV status, most commonly in non-HIV-specific healthcare.

LEGAL GENDER RECOGNITION

Although the new government decree 429/2017 on legal gender recognition came into effect in 2018, procedures continue to be suspended since last May. Some applicants turned to the European Court of Human Rights.

PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC, CULTURAL AND POLITICAL LIFE

Trans NGO Transvanilla held the second Trans Cultural and Community Festival in Budapest in March.

On 25 April, Péter Ungár MP (Lehet Más a Politika/Politics Can Be Different) came out in an interview. His transphobic comments a few weeks later sparked outrage within the community. László Sebián-Petrovski became the second openly gay MP.

POLICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

In July, the police adopted a protocol on investigating hate crimes, mandating each police headquarters to appoint a designated officer, and train police officers.

PUBLIC OPINION

The Eurobarometer 2019 found that Hungary was one of a handful of EU countries where the social acceptance of LGB people has decreased since 2015. Following Bulgaria, Hungarians were also the least supportive of legal gender recognition or third option gender markers.

A new study found that for the first time, those supporting same-sex marriage outnumber those against.

Hättér's research found that only 17 per cent of Hungarians believed that "normalising surgeries" should be performed in all cases, while one-third thought medically unnecessary surgeries must be postponed until the child can make decisions about their own body.