

**AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL**



DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

18 June 2021

Senator the Hon. Marise Payne
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Parliament House
Canberra, ACT 2600

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

Street address:

79 Myrtle Street

Chippendale

NSW 2008

T: (02) 83967618

E: exec.admin@amnesty.org.au

ABN 64 002 806 233

Postal address:

Locked bag 23

Broadway

NSW 2007

F: (02) 83967677

W: www.amnesty.org.au

Dear Minister Payne

RE: HOMOPHOBIC AND TRANSPHOBIC LAW ADOPTED IN HUNGARY

The rights of the LGBTQIA+ community have once again been placed under dire threat in Hungary after the authorities passed a deeply problematic law last week. This new legislation outlaws education or advertising deemed to “popularise,” or even depict, consensual same-sex conduct or the affirming of one’s gender to children.

On Monday, more than 10,000 people demonstrated in front of Hungarian Parliament in protest of this new law. **We ask you to join this groundswell in support of Hungary’s LGBTQIA+ community.**

Prime Minister Viktor Orbán has directly banned any advertisements for minors by large groups or companies standing in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community. Education on LGBTQIA+ concerns has similarly been prohibited, unless conducted by organisations handpicked by the government.

These restrictions threaten freedom of expression and children’s right to education. The mental health of LGBTQIA+ young people is also jeopardised under this law, as they are denied access to vital information and support systems.

The ruling Fidesz party added these new restrictions on the “promotion” of homosexuality or diverse gender identities as last-minute legal amendments to a bill cracking down on child abuse. This seemingly deliberate conflation of paedophilia and the LGBTQIA+ community feeds into a damaging and grotesque stereotype, tacitly encouraging and sanctioning homophobic and transphobic violence. As such, it further endangers a group already vulnerable to discrimination and hostility.

We urge you to raise this issue with the Hungarian Ambassador, and your European counterparts, in anticipation of the EU General Affairs Meeting later this month.

Please note these laws are just the most recent of many. Other homophobic and/or transphobic laws passed since December 2020 include:

- Enshrining a heterosexual family structure in the Constitution,

- Blocking adoption rights for same-sex couples,
- And making it impossible for citizens to change how their gender is registered in official documents.

The Australian government has the opportunity to help protect the global LGBTQIA+ community and defend human rights, and we urge you to take up this call.

For further information, or to discuss and organise a meeting, please contact Joel MacKay at joel.mackay@amnesty.org.au or 0424 242 112.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sam Klintworth', written in a cursive style.

Sam Klintworth
National Director
Amnesty International Australia