

FOR A DIVERSE HUNGARY PROGRAMME



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LOVE IS COLOURFUL.

THE PROGRAMME FOR A DIVERSE HUNGARY



PROGRAMME FOR A DIVERSE HUNGARY



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in Spotlight

For a Diverse Hungary - Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup

THE “FOR A DIVERSE HUNGARY” – HUNGARIAN PARLIAMENTARY LGBTQ INTERGROUP IS AN INTER-FRACTIONAL GROUP THAT ADVOCATES EXPLICITLY FOR HUNGARIAN LGBTQ PEOPLE AND FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS.²

The “For a Diverse Hungary”—Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup was founded in 2022 by five opposition parties: the Democratic Coalition (DK), the LMP—Hungarian Green Party, the Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP), the Momentum Movement, and the Dialogue—GREENS. Its purpose is to provide representation for members of the Hungarian LGBTQ community both inside and outside the Parliament.

A total of twenty - now twenty-one - members of Parliament from five parties have joined the group, which aims to create a Hungary where LGBTQ people do not face systemic discrimination and can live freely without fear, violence and harassment.

We believe that to promote LGBTQ rights in Hungary, accurate knowledge of the situation and informed collective representation of their interests must be an essential part of the work of the MPs who are advocating for and involved in human and LGBTQ rights.

[1] Honlap és további információk: <https://lmbtq.hu/>.

[2] Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer people (LGBTQ).

The Programme's

Description

The aim of the "For a Diverse Hungary" - Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup was to put together a package of proposals that will provide real solutions to all the life situations that affect the everyday lives of LGBTQ people living in Hungary. The aim of this package is not to offer special rights or positive discrimination for LGBTQ people but to ensure that all Hungarian citizens have equal opportunities and rights in Hungary without depriving anyone of opportunities just because they are a member of the LGBTQ community. We are calling for a just Hungary.

The Programme's

Reasoning

The Programme Package was created by the "For a Diverse Hungary" - Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup. It aims to ensure equal rights for LGBTQ people in Hungary. Members of the LGBTQ community face discrimination in many areas of everyday life, which prevents them from exercising their fundamental rights.

This policy package does not demand special rights for the LGBTQ community. Still, it aims to ensure that all Hungarian citizens have equal opportunities and rights regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation. The proposals align with the European human rights standards and the principles of the rule of law and aim to ensure that all citizens of Hungary can live in security and dignity.

The package contains a number of legislative and policy proposals, covering a wide range of areas from amendments to the Fundamental Law (the Hungarian Constitution) to action against hate speech, from family law reforms to gender recognition. The Programme stresses that equality for LGBTQ people is not only in the interest of the community concerned but is a fundamental value for society as a whole, enhancing social justice, the stability of democratic institutions and shared prosperity.

The political parties that adopted the Programme package have adopted and ratified it, is a step towards an open and inclusive Hungary, where everyone can live freely and safely and which can be an example of human rights protection at the international level.

1. EQUAL RIGHTS



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1. Amend the Fundamental Law (Article L(1)):

Abolish discriminatory articles on the concept of family.

Open the institution of marriage to same-sex couples.

Currently, Hungary's Fundamental Law does not treat Hungarian and Hungarian equally. It excludes LGBTQ people from the institution of marriage, which is not only a symbol of this oppressive system but also creates legal disadvantages for same-sex people who wish to marry. Indeed, LGBTQ couples are severely discriminated against by not being able to adopt, being disadvantaged in the areas of joint property ownership and health decision-making, in addition to being denied family support benefits.

The amendment will allow same-sex couples to live as full-fledged families in Hungary.

2. Same-sex couples shall be allowed to bear each other's family names.

Currently, in Hungary, same-sex couples in registered partnerships are not allowed to bear each other's family names, which is considered a discriminatory practice. This restriction makes everyday life difficult for LGBTQ couples, for example, when dealing with official formalities or when they want to be seen and accepted as a family in society.

3. Recognise same-sex marriages made in other countries than Hungary.

Same-sex couples living in Hungary can currently only marry abroad, so recognising marriages made abroad is a key step towards LGBTQ equality. This change will ensure legal certainty and equal treatment, respect the right to family life and reduce administrative burdens for the couples concerned. The non-recognition of such marriages is a discriminatory practice, contrary to the constitutional principle of equal human dignity.

4. Eliminate and prohibit of reparative practices³ (re-education methods).

Scientific research clearly⁴ demonstrates that these methods are not only ineffective in changing sexual orientation or gender identity, but also cause serious mental health problems.

According to the Council of Europe's Commissioner for Human Rights,⁵ these practices are incompatible with human rights, particularly with the European Convention on Human Rights binding on our country. Conversion therapies are degrading, diminish human dignity and can cause significant physical and mental suffering, which may even amount to torture.

Banning reparative practices not only serves to protect the LGBTQ community but also sends a signal to society that the diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities is accepted and respected.



[3] Reparative therapy (less often called conversion therapy) is a pseudo-scientific intervention in psychological and psychiatric work that aims to change the client's/patient's sexual behaviour, desires, sexual identity, sexual orientation, gender identity, mostly to change homosexual orientation to heterosexual or transgender orientation to cisgender. [Source: https://www.wikiwand.com/hu/articles/Reparat%C3%A4dv_t%C3%A9r]

[4] Conger, Krista (2024.09.30), Conversion practices linked to depression, PTSD and suicide thoughts in LGBTQIA+ adults. Available: <https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2024/09/conversion-practices-lgbt.html>

[5] Council of Europe (2023), Nothing to cure: putting an end to so-called „conversion therapies“ for LGBTI people. Available: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/commissioner/-/nothing-to-cure-putting-an-end-to-so-called-conversion-therapies-for-lgbti-people>

2. REPRODUCTIVE AND FAMILY FOUNDATION RIGHTS



5. LGBTQ couples shall also be able to adopt and share the care of each other's children.

Currently, adoption opportunities for LGBTQ couples are severely restricted, which is discriminatory. An amendment to the Fundamental Law in 2020 has made it virtually impossible for LGBTQ people to adopt, as only married couples can adopt a child, and single people need a special “ministerial permit” to do so. This imposes unnecessary political influence and bureaucratic hurdles on adopters.

The restriction not only violates the rights of LGBTQ couples but also potentially deprives children under challenging circumstances of a loving family environment. Scientific research⁶ clearly shows that LGBTQ parents are just as effective as heterosexual couples in raising their children.

6. Make the adoption process subject to professional and expert judgment, excluding politics from the professional process.

In the current system, the adoption process is often politically influenced, which adversely affects both LGBTQ couples and children. Reintroducing a peer-based system, where trained adoption counsellors and professionals make decisions, will significantly improve the quality and fairness of the process.

As in the pre-2020 system, expert decision-making will ensure that all potential adopting parents are assessed equally and objectively, considering only the child's best interests and excluding political ideologies and influence. The adoption system shall operate independently.

7. Women in same-sex relationships should be allowed to access reproductive procedures without discrimination (IVF).⁷

Allowing women in same-sex relationships to have access to reproductive procedures, in particular in vitro fertilisation (IVF), without discrimination, will help to meet the requirement of equal treatment, allowing lesbian couples to have autonomy over their bodies and allow them to start a family.

It is important to note that this proposal focuses primarily on lesbian cis female couples, respecting the principle of the autonomy of the body, recognising that the extension of reproductive rights must take into account various ethical and social aspects, especially on complex issues where a broader social dialogue is needed in the future.

[6] What We Know Project, Cornell University (2015). “What Does the Scholarly Research Say about the Well-Being of Children with Gay or Lesbian Parents?” (online literature review). Available: <https://whatweknow.inequality.cornell.edu/topics/lgbt-equality/what-does-the-scholarly-research-say-about-the-wellbeing-of-children-with-gay-or-lesbian-parents/>

[7] IVF (Semmelweis Egyetem, Szülészeti és Nőgyógyászati Klinika, Baross utcai részleg (n.d.). In vitro fertilizáció (IVF). Available: <https://semmelweis.hu/asszisztaltreprodukcio/pacienseknek/asszisztalt-reprodukcios-eljarasok-2/in-vitro-fertilizacio-ivf/#:~:text=Szervezetem%20k%C3%A9r%20megterm%C3%A9s%20in%20vitro,eredet%C5%B1%20medd%C5%B1s%C3%A9g%20vagy%20III%20IV>

3. FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION



8. Abolish the Propaganda Law⁸ targeting the LGBTQ community and create a framework of laws that comprehensively protect children instead.

LGBTQ contents are not propaganda but part of the cultural and social diversity that is essential for an open and tolerant society. The abolition of the law will promote non-discriminatory public discourse and ensure that all citizens have equal rights and opportunities to inform themselves and to express their identity freely.

Child protection is an important social task, but it must be provided by comprehensive and professionally based legislation, not by stigmatising and excluding a minority. Appropriate child protection laws should protect young people from real dangers such as violence, exploitation and abuse while ensuring that they are informed about the diversity of the world in an age-appropriate way.

9. Increase the protection of artistic freedom and expression.

Art is a significant generator and expressive tool of social dialogue, and any form of censorship on artists works against this. Such drastic interventions not only violate the rights of artists but also deprive society of a fuller picture of the functioning of the minority groups concerned.

The narrowing of cultural space leads to an increase in prejudice so that art cannot fulfil its important tasks of breaking taboos or creating empathy for other excluded minorities. Instead of political and ideological restrictions, the focus should be on promoting diversity in the arts sector.

10. Amend the Media Act⁹ to allow human rights organisations to delegate members to the Public Service Board of the National Media and Infocommunications Authority (NMHH)¹⁰.

The fundamental task of public service media is to provide balanced, detailed information that takes into account the interests, needs, and rights of broad sections of society. The broader involvement of human rights organisations will help ensure that the protection of human rights, non-discrimination, and social responsibility are also given greater prominence in public service media.

The amendment of the Media Act in this direction will increase the independence and credibility of public media by ensuring that the media monitoring body includes actors who do not represent political or economic interests but are concerned with social justice and fundamental human rights.

[8] Law LXXX. of 2021

[9] Law CLXXXV. of 2010

[10] Information available in Hungarian: <https://nmhh.hu/tart/kereses?>

HNDTYPE=SEARCH&name=doc&fid_keyword=%22K%C3%B6zszolg%C3%A1lati%20Test%C3%BCllet%22&clearfacets=1&clearfilters=1&fid_compound_target=allfields&fid_compound=&page=1

2. HATE SPEECH



11. Amend and modify the Civil Code¹¹ to allow any member of the community to take action based on gender identity and sexual orientation to protect the rights of the individual in the event of a violation of the community's rights in the public domain.

Protecting individual rights is a fundamental pillar of the legal system, ensuring that the dignity and identity of every individual is respected. Violations based on gender identity and sexual orientation can affect not only the individuals concerned but the whole community, as they can create discrimination, exclusion and fear at a societal level.

Adding the Civil Code allows any community member, not only the individuals concerned, to act against public violations of personality rights, thus strengthening social solidarity and collective responsibility.

This amendment is significant in cases where the victim of a violation is unable or afraid to take legal action on their own, for reasons such as fear, social pressure or vulnerability. Action by community members not only strengthens the protection of rights but also helps to send a clear message in the public discourse that discrimination and hate speech are unacceptable.

12. Amend the Sports Law¹² to ban homophobic and transphobic chants.

Homophobic and transphobic chants not only go against the core values of sport but also violate the dignity of the communities concerned, promote social exclusion and create tension in the stands. The community-building power of sports lies in building bridges between people and making the experience accessible to all, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation.

Homophobic and transphobic chants constitute hate speech, so banning them is a way not only to protect the minorities concerned but also to improve the cheering culture.

[11] Law V. of 2013 2:54. § (5) paragraph
[12] Law on Sport of 2004 I.

5. TRANSGENDER RIGHTS



13. Restore the possibility of gender reassignment based on self-determination for all Hungarian citizens of legal age. Revocation of the so-called "Section 33".¹³

The law makes it impossible for transgender people to get proper gender and name recognition of their gender identity, causing severe psychological and health damage to those affected. The current legislation violates personal autonomy and the right to self-determination, which are fundamental conditions for free expression; physical and mental integrity.¹⁴

The Hungarian Constitutional Court and the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights have previously stressed in several decisions and reports in 2001 and 2018 that non-legal recognition and the related name change is a right derived from the right to human dignity. The European Court of Human Rights ruled¹⁶ in June 2023 that the Hungarian trans law violates the European Convention on Human Rights, which protects the gender identity of individuals.¹⁵

The repeal of "Section 33" will not only improve the quality of life of the individuals concerned but also align with international and European human rights standards, reinforcing Hungary's commitment to equality and human rights.

14. Ensure that sensitive personal data includes data on gender identity and data relating to gender reassignment.

Treating gender identity and gender reassignment as sensitive data protects the privacy rights of transgender people by preventing this sensitive information from falling into unauthorised hands and helps prevent discrimination, as more stringent rules apply to the handling of sensitive data.

Under the GDPR,¹⁷ sensitive data includes data concerning racial or ethnic origin, health, sexual life, or sexual orientation. However, gender identity and gender reassignment are not explicitly included in this category, which creates legal uncertainty. For example, the health data of a transgender person or the fact of gender reassignment is sensitive information whose protection is essential to ensure a life of dignity and equal treatment.

[13] Law XXX of 2020 Section 33.

[14] Dr. Szajbely, Katalin (2020.07.13.). A nemi identitás alapjogi védelme a magyar és nemzetközi emberi jogi standardok fényében. Available: https://orac.hu/Szajbely_Katalin_A_nemi_identitas_alapjogi_vedelme_a_magyar_es_nemzetkozi_emberi_jogi_standardok_fenyeben

[15] Háttér Társaság (2023). Transz Jogok. Available: <https://hatter.hu/jogsegely/reszletes-jogi-informaciok/transz-jogok>

[16] R.K. v. Magyarország (54006/20); <https://hudoc.echr.coe.int/eng#%7B%22itemid%22:%7B%22001-225330%22%5D%7D>

[17] Resolution 2016/679 of 2016 by the European Council and the European Parliament

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15. Establish trans-specific health protocols and incorporate the pillars of affirmative care in non-trans-specific care.

Incorporating the principles of affirmative care¹⁸ into the healthcare system ensures that transgender people can receive care in a respectful and inclusive environment. Trans-specific protocols ensure that health professionals are adequately trained in hormone therapy, surgical interventions and mental health support. This not only improves the quality of life for transgender people but also reduces health inequalities that currently severely affect this community.

Lack of adequate healthcare can lead to serious mental and physical health problems among transgender people. A study published in JAMA Network Open¹⁹ found that access to appropriate hormone therapy reduced depression by 60% and suicidal ideation by 73% among transgender young adults.

16. Extend the Women40²⁰ programme to transgender women.

Extending the Women40 programme to transgender women is essential to achieving LGBTQ equality in Hungary. The Veszprém Court of Justice ruled in 2023²¹ that trans women are entitled to a preferential pension. Still, the Parliament eventually modified the law to exclude trans women from this benefit. The Court of Justice of the European Union already ruled in 2006 that transgender people are subject to the retirement age of their new sex so that this amendment would bring the Hungarian practice in line with international legal standards.

[18] National LGBT Health Education Center (2020). Affirmative services for transgender and gender-diverse people: Best practices for frontline health care staff. Available: https://www.lgbtqiahealtheducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/TFIE-40_Best-Practices-for-Frontline-Health-Care-Staff-Publication_web_v101.pdf

[19] Stringer, Kate (2023). The benefits of gender-affirming care. Available: <https://sph.washington.edu/news-events/2023-10/blog/benefits-gender-affirming-care>

[20] Beneficial pension for women. (Source in Hungarian: <https://www.allamkinstar.gov.hu/nyugdij-sajat-130-ellatasok-progredi-mu-gd/mokel-dvezményes-nyugdij-sajat>)

[21] Háttér Társaság (2023). Transz nőknek is jár a kedvezményes nyugdíj. Available: <https://hatter-tarsasag.hu/transz-noknek-is-jar-a-kezdemenyes-nyugdij/>

6. ASYLUM RIGHTS



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17. Protect and let LGBTQ families reunite during asylum procedures.

Providing opportunities for family reunification is crucial for LGBTQ refugees, as persecution often affects not only them but also their partners and families. In many countries, LGBTQ relationships or identities are not legally recognised, which creates barriers to family reunification in asylum procedures. An equitable and inclusive asylum system must ensure that LGBTQ refugees enjoy the same rights as other asylum seekers, including the right to start a new life with their loved ones in safety.

18. Take the fact of persecution based on sexual orientation and gender identity into account in asylum procedures.

In asylum procedures, it is paramount that the legal basis for persecution is recognised correctly. For LGBTQ refugees, safe reception means not only escaping persecution but also being placed in a legal and social framework where their dignity and identity are respected. To this end, asylum procedures must consider the specific situation of those concerned so they do not fall victim to exclusion again.

19. Non-Hungarian nationals with a registered place of residence in Hungary shall benefit from the possibility of non-legal recognition.

Currently, non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary - even if they have a registered residence - cannot benefit from the possibility of non-legal recognition, which creates serious disadvantages and legal uncertainty for them. This exclusion mainly affects transgender and non-binary people living in the country as refugees or otherwise who may have already faced persecution or disenfranchisement in their home country.

The change would allow them to have official Hungarian State-issued documents in line with their gender identity, making it easier for them to manage their daily lives, work and access healthcare.

7. ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORGANISATIONS



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20. Restore the Equal Treatment Authority as an autonomous body, ensure effective legal protection for the LGBTQ community.

The restoration of the Equal Treatment Authority (ETA) as an autonomous public administration is a key step to ensure adequate legal protection for the LGBTQ community and other discriminated groups.

As an independent body, the ETA has provided swift and professional redress to victims of discrimination, ensuring that the principle of equal treatment enshrined in law is applied in practice. The institution's abolition and the transfer of its tasks to other bodies have significantly reduced transparency, efficiency, and access to redress for those affected.

21. Speed up the processing and merits adjudication of LGBTQ specific claims before the Directorate General for Equal Treatment²² (Equal Treatment DG) under the Office of the Fundamental Rights Commissioner.

Delays in redress procedures can be a significant disadvantage for those affected, as delays can perpetuate or aggravate violations and have long-term negative consequences - for example, in the case of a dismissed worker, the loss of their livelihood. Faster processing of cases protects the rights of those concerned more effectively and strengthens public confidence in the institution and the social impact of action against discrimination.



[22] Did Ákos Kozma reply? Available in Hungarian: <https://www.valaszoltekozmaakos.hu/>.

8. EDUCATION, STRATEGY AND SENSITISATION



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22. Create a national strategy and action plan against discrimination and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Effective action to combat discrimination and harassment in educational institutions is essential. It can only be effective if it explicitly considers the challenges posed by sexual orientation and gender identity. To this end, a directive is needed to provide clear guidance on dealing with discrimination and harassment. Integrating the issue of homophobic and transphobic harassment into programmes aimed at combating aggression in schools and providing a safe environment for pupils and students will help to ensure that all students are treated equally and that no one feels excluded or at risk.

In teacher training, teachers must receive adequate information about the social situation of LGBTQ people and the specific problems and needs of LGBTQ youth. Without this, teachers are not prepared to support the students concerned effectively. In this context, it is important to introduce sensitisation programmes and accredited training for teachers, special needs trainers, and school psychologists to provide them with a deeper understanding and an adequate professional toolkit to support young LGBTQ people.

In addition, moral and financial support for school awareness-raising programmes carried out by LGBTQ rights NGOs is also key, as these organisations have the professional expertise to help educational institutions create a more inclusive and safer climate. Encouraging school administrators to provide space for these programmes can help create an accepting and supportive educational environment that allows all students to develop and express their identities.

23. Highlight LGBTQ aspects of culture and history and organise awareness-raising programmes in educational and public service institutions.

From the beginning, the defining events and works of history and culture have contained much LGBTQ content. To conceal these is to falsify history and deliberately distort the reception of culture. Therefore, the general principle present in teaching history and culture, namely, to strive for an unbiased, multi-perspective presentation, must be mainly enforced in this area to make up for the omissions of the past decades and centuries.

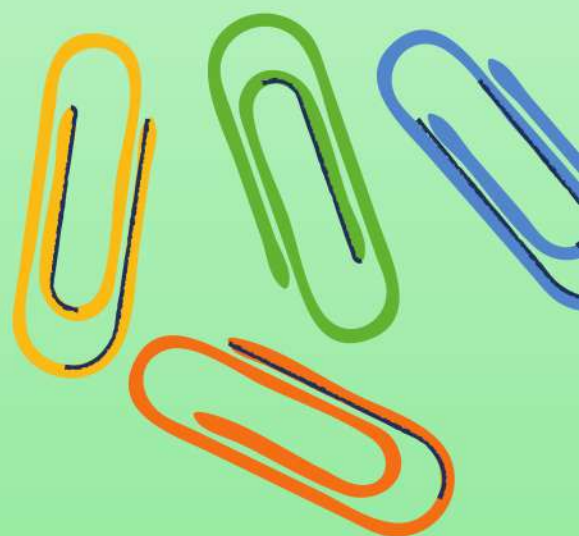
With the involvement of NGOs and support for their work, those institutions can also receive help in dealing with difficulties that arise at school (e.g. peer bullying) and in sensitisation, who do not necessarily see the root of the problems and cannot always provide professional education and information transfer for children.

24. Incorporate age-appropriate, inclusive, sex education into education.

The regulation of the core curriculum and framework curricula essentially allows for abandoning the current subject structure and creating new ones. The currently compulsory subject of morals, currently called moral education, when integrated into the curriculum and renamed, provides an excellent opportunity for children to discuss age-appropriate topics that are essential parts of life and can be sensitising: body awareness, body changes,²³ good and bad secrets, children's rights, menstruation, sexuality, sexual health, gender identity, LGBTQ concepts, specific issues of sexuality for LGBTQ people, contraception, online harassment, sexual violence, founding a family and adoption.

25. Include LGBTQ people as a target group in the local equality agenda and other local strategies; expand the range of related activities and strengthen their implementation where already included.

In addition to the profession's mandatory involvement, decisions must be based on a broad and genuine social dialogue, involving actors that all stakeholders feel are legitimate. The principle of "nothing about them without them" is not only true for people with disabilities; the continued involvement of members of the LGBTQ community in decision-making is an equally crucial national minimum, independent of party politics.



[23] The "underwear rule" is a child protection policy that helps children understand that their underwear-covered body parts can only be touched by others with their consent. This helps them to feel in control of their own bodies and to recognise inappropriate touching. (Udvarnok, Zsófia (2024.06.06.). Available: <https://www.koraifejleszto.hu/bugyiszabaly/>)

9. STI/STD AND HIV/AIDS PREVENTION



26. School health prevention with LGBTQ sensitivity.

School-based health prevention plays a key role in the physical and mental well-being of young people, and it is, therefore, essential that LGBTQ sensitivity is included in this programme. LGBTQ youth are often at increased risk for mental health issues, such as higher rates of bullying, anxiety and depression at school, which negatively affect their performance and overall well-being. An inclusive, accepting approach to health prevention helps reduce discrimination and prejudice and contributes to a safe and supportive school environment.

27. Develop a new and effective National HIV Strategy (expired 2010).²⁴

The development and renewal of the National HIV Strategy is key to preventing the spread of HIV, providing adequate health care and reducing social stigma. As the previous strategy expired in 2010 and the government has not adopted the 2011-2015 strategy,²⁶ there is an urgent need for a new, modern, science-based action plan that considers the latest epidemiological data, international good practices and community-based approaches. A well-developed strategy will help screen people early, provide effective treatment, reduce public costs, and strengthen prevention and education programmes, essential to contain the disease.

28. Promote regular HIV and STI screening in local clinics and improve access to condoms.²⁵

The promotion of regular HIV and STI screenings is a key public health measure that contributes to the early detection of infections and the prevention of their spread. The availability of rapid and discreet screening in local clinics encourages people to get their health checked regularly, reducing the long-term health risks of untreated infections. HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) can often be asymptomatic, which is why both heterosexual and homosexual individuals who are sexually active are passing them on without knowing they are infected. Making free or reduced-cost screening programmes available and actively promoting them would help to reduce the number of cases and strengthen the culture of prevention in society.

Improving access to condoms is also an essential tool to prevent the spread of infections. Making condoms more widely available, at lower prices or free of charge - for example in public institutions, health centres or university campuses - will contribute significantly to the spread of safe sexual practices.

[24] Magyar Elektronikus Könyvtár - MEK (2010). Nemzeti AIDS Stratégia, 2004-2010. Available: <https://mek.oszk.hu/08200/08252/>.

[25] STD, a sexually transmitted disease. STI, a sexually transmitted infection. (Semmelweis Egyetem, Bőr-, Nemikórtani és Bőronkológiai Klinika, STD Centrum (2019). Mi az az STD? És az STI?. Available: <https://semmelweis.hu/biztonsagosszev/2019/02/04/mi-az-az-std-es-az-sti/>)

[26] Civil AIDS Fórum (2015). Nemzeti AIDS Stratégia 2011-2015. Available: <https://www.civilaidsforum.hu/tevekenysegunk/erdekervenyesites/nemzeti-aids-strategia-2011-2015-egeszseguyi-kormanyzat-mai-napig>.

29. Support for HIV and STI awareness and prevention programmes, PreP,²⁷ PeP²⁸ and access to HIV self-testing kits in pharmacies, fully or partially subsidised by the National Healthcare System.

Supporting HIV and STI awareness and prevention programmes is key to reducing infections and protecting the health of society. Access to appropriate information and strengthening preventive attitudes would significantly reduce new infections and help to dispel misconceptions and prejudices about diseases. Education and information programmes will help to raise people's awareness of how infections are transmitted, the options for protection and the importance of screenings, thus increasing health-conscious behaviour. Such programmes can target high-risk groups such as young people, LGBTQ community members or sex workers who are at increased risk of infection.

The availability of PreP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), PeP (post-exposure prophylaxis) and HIV self-testing kits in pharmacies, fully or partially subsidised by the National Healthcare System, significantly increases the effectiveness of prevention and reduces new HIV infections. PreP & PeP have proven to be an effective method of HIV prevention, especially for vulnerable groups, but their current availability is limited and costly in Hungary.



[27] Háttér Társaság (2022). Kérdések és Válaszok a PreP-ről. Available: <https://hatter.hu/sites/default/files/dokumentum/kiadvany/prepster-hu-2022-web.pdf>

[28] HIV.gov (2025). Post-Exposure Prophylaxis. Available: <https://www.hiv.gov/hiv-basics/hiv-prevention/using-hiv-medication-to-reduce-risk/post-exposure-prophylaxis>

10. INVOLVING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS IN GOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING



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30. Regular consultation with LGBTQ organisations in the Government's and Parliament's workflows in the preparation and implementation of relevant legislation.

Regular consultation ensures that the views and needs of the LGBTQ community are appropriately represented in the legislative process. It also allows LGBTQ organisations to contribute their expertise to the preparation and implementation of legislation, thus contributing to a more inclusive and equal society.

As the example of LGBT Health and Wellbeing Scotland²⁹ shows, community participation reduces feelings of isolation and allows the experiences of LGBTQ people to shape policy and vice versa. This helps avoid situations like the one in our country in 2021 with the passing of the Propaganda Law.

31. Where necessary, use NGO knowledge and programmes to support government functions.

CSOs often have specific expertise and experience in the needs and challenges of the LGBTQ community, which is essential for effective policy development. In developing a set of programmes, Norway,³⁰ for example, has worked closely with LGBTQ rights NGOs to develop a national action plan, significantly increasing the level of activities to promote LGBTQ rights.

There are already positive examples of such cooperation: the “For a Diverse Hungary”—Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup has a close relationship with civil society and aims to build a bridge between the political sphere and civil society on LGBTQ policies. This kind of cooperation allows policy decisions and programmes to better reflect the real needs of the LGBTQ community and to address discrimination and inequality more effectively.



[29] LGBT Health and Wellbeing (UK): <https://www.lgbthealth.org.uk/>.

[30] Council of Europe (2016). *National Action Plans As Effective Tools to Promote and Protect the Human Rights of LGBTI People*. Available: <https://rm.coe.int/168066d620>

11. REMEMBRANCE AND CULTURAL LIFE



PROGRAMME FOR A DIVERSE HUNGARY

32. Support scientific research and launch a scholarship scheme in higher education.

These types of initiatives increase the visibility and legitimacy of LGBTQ issues in academia, which will, in the long run, have a positive impact on public opinion and policies. Supporting research and students helps to promote a better understanding of LGBTQ issues and the development of evidence-based policies, which is key to promoting equality and acceptance.

33. Strengthen and support cultural institutions—public support for LGBTQ-themed events and festivals.

LGBTQ-themed events, such as Pride festivals, LGBT History Month events, or queer film festivals, not only celebrate the culture and history of the community but also provide an important platform to increase visibility and promote social dialogue. Public support legitimises these events, improves their social acceptance and allows them to reach a wider audience, thus helping to reduce discrimination and promote equality.

34. Designate a National Day of Remembrance: 11 October, International Day of Coming Out.

11 October, International Coming Out Day, is an opportunity to raise the visibility of the LGBTQ community, raise awareness, and promote dialogue with the wider society. The day also provides an opportunity to organise larger-scale events that help dispel stereotypes and fears, as Robert Eichberg, one of the day's founders, has stressed. In the long term, this will help to reduce homophobia and create a more inclusive society.

35. Establish a national memorial: the "Homomonument in Budapest".

Like the memorial in Amsterdam (The Netherlands), it not only recalls the suffering of the LGBTQ community in the past, such as the Holocaust, the Arrow Cross Movement, or the oppression of the communist regime in our country's history, all of which negatively affected the LGBTQ community, but also symbolises the current struggles and achievements. Like the Budapest Pride Community Festival, the region's most historic LGBTQ event, such a memorial plays a vital role in promoting equality and social acceptance.

The Programme's

Summary

The programme package developed by For a Diverse Hungary - Hungarian Parliamentary LGBTQ Intergroup aims to ensure equal rights for LGBTQ people in Hungary. We set out detailed policy proposals to eliminate discrimination and ensure equal rights, in line with European human rights standards and democratic principles.

It contains 35 proposals in eleven categories, focusing on the most important areas affecting the daily lives of LGBTQ people.

The aim of the programme is to ensure that everyone in Hungary, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation, has equal rights and opportunities and can live freely, in dignity without discrimination or fear.



1. **Equal rights:** amending the Constitution, extending marriage and adoption rights to same-sex couples and banning reparative therapies.
2. **Reproductive and family foundation rights:** the possibility of adoption and IVF for lesbian couples.
3. **Freedom of expression:** abolishing the "propaganda law", protecting artistic freedom and strengthening the independence of the media.
4. **Fight against hate speech:** legal guarantees to curb incitement and discrimination against the LGBTQ community.
5. **Transgender rights:** restore legal recognition of gender and ensure affirmative health care.
6. **Asylum rights:** protecting LGBTQ refugees and ensuring their family reunification.
7. **Anti-discrimination organisations:** restoring the Equal Treatment Authority and making equal rights protection mechanisms more effective institutionally.
8. **Education and sensitisation:** age-appropriate sex education, training of teachers and measures against bullying in schools.
9. **Health prevention:** promotion of HIV/AIDS and STI prevention & screening and healthcare support for PrEP and PEP.
10. **NGO involvement:** regular consultation in legislation and the use of expertise in government decision-making.
11. **Remembrance and culture:** support for LGBTQ-themed events and research in the academia, and the creation of a "Homomonument" in Budapest.

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2. **Háttér Society** (<https://hatter.hu/>)
3. **Intersex Hungary** (<https://www.facebook.com/interszexhu>)
4. **Labrisz Lesbian Association** (<https://www.labrisz.hu/>)
5. **Hungarian Asexual Association** (<https://aszex.hu/>)
6. **Hungarian LGBT Alliance** (<https://lmbtszovetseg.hu/>)
7. **Hungarian Psychological Association LGBTQ section** (<https://mpt.hu/a-tarsasagrol/szervezet/szekciok/lmbtg-szekcio/>)
8. **We Are Open** (<https://www.nyitottakvagyunk.hu/>)
9. **Prizma Transgender Association** (<https://prizma.lgbt/>)
10. **Szimpozion Association** (<https://www.melegvagyok.hu/>)
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12. **UCCU Roma Informal Educational Foundation** (<https://www.uccualapitvany.hu/>)

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 lmbtq.hu/irj-nekunk

 sokszinu@parlament.hu

Events

Let's meet in person! We organise many professional workshops, we are there during Budapest Pride month and LGBT History Month with public programmes each year!

For more info, follow our website and social media platforms! (lmbtq.hu)



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