



20 March 2025

Andrzej Duda

President of the Republic of Poland

Re: Pride ban In Hungary is full-frontal attack on LGBTI people and threatens the right to freedom of peaceful assembly

Dear Mr. President

On behalf of Amnesty International, we write to you today to urge you to take a stand for respecting the right to assembly and use your upcoming visit to Hungary to call upon President Tamás Sulyok to speak up for the right to peaceful assembly for all, including LGBTQI people in Hungary and the recently adopted legislation that restricts the right to peaceful assembly.

The new law that was submitted in the Hungarian Parliament on 17 March and rushed through in an expedited procedure without consultation opens up the legal avenue to ban Pride marches in Hungary and allow authorities to impose fines on organizers and participants as well as use facial recognition software to identify attendees. The bill modifies the Act on the Right of Assembly criminalizing holding and attending events that violate Hungary's [Propaganda Law](#) legislation, which prohibits the "depiction or promotion" of homosexuality to under-18s. Passing of this law is based on a spurious justification that LGBTI events and assemblies would be 'harmful to children' which is rooted in harmful stereotypes and deeply entrenched discrimination, homophobia and transphobia. This is another step taken by the Hungarian authorities in a continuous line of discriminatory measures targeting LGBTI community, which is incorporating detrimental Russian legislation into European Union.

The right to freedom of peaceful assembly is enshrined in Article 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, Article 12 of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights and Article 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is a fundamental right in a democratic society and, like the right to freedom of expression, is one of the foundations of such a society. It is universally recognized across borders, political differences and

times. The law introduced in Hungary on the eve of the 30th anniversary of Budapest Pride in June is a full-frontal attack on the LGBTI community and a blatant violation of Hungary's obligations to prohibit discrimination and guarantee freedom of expression and peaceful assembly. This harmful ban turns the clock back three decades, further undermining the hard-won rights of LGBTI people in Hungary. Adoption of this law has been condemned by The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner as well as the European Commission's Commissioners on Equality and Democracy, Justice and Rule of Law.

Peaceful assemblies played a substantial role in both Polish and Hungarian democratic transformation. On the Polish-Hungarian Friendship Day our countries should join forces in protecting this fundamental freedom rooted so deeply in our historical legacy. It is especially important when the right to freedom of peaceful assembly has increasingly come under attack across Europe, with state authorities stigmatizing, impeding, deterring, punishing and cracking down on people organizing and participating in peaceful protests. In a recent report, Amnesty International documented restrictions to the right to protest in 21 countries, including Hungary. Hungary is among the countries flouting its international and regional human rights obligations to respect, protect and facilitate peaceful assemblies, to remove obstacles and to avoid unwarranted interferences with the right to exercise the right of peaceful assembly.

As you meet with your Hungarian counterpart, we call on you to prioritize the right to freedom of peaceful assembly in your dialogue and urge President Sulyok to recognize the threat that this law poses on the right of LGBTI people to peacefully organize and participate in public events as well as freely express their identities.

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