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This statement is delivered on behalf of Háttér Society, Hungary's biggest and oldest LGBTQI organization providing key services to members of the LGBTQI community, and Labrisz Lesbian Association working on exposing and eliminating discrimination against sexual minority women. This intervention draws on our joint shadow report submitted in April 2026.

The draft national UPR report was circulated to the Human Rights Roundtable with only 1.5 working days for feedback. Civil society input yielded no substantive revisions; the brief section on LGBTQI rights was updated with a single court reference. At the consultation on August 14, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs requested inputs from CSOs to incorporate into the government's revised UPR intervention in November. Furthermore, the Ministry committed that the official statement will critically evaluate the national report prepared under the previous administration.

Today, I highlight three critical issues: (i) censorship and restrictions on public visibility, (ii) the absence of legal gender recognition, and (iii) the lack of strategic approach to LGBTQI equality.

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In June 2021, under the guise of anti-paedophilia legislation, Parliament enacted provisions prohibiting minors from accessing content on homosexuality and gender diversity – this is the so-called "child protection" law. In March 2025, the Assembly Act was amended with a reference to the so-called "child protection" law banning LGBTQI-themed assemblies. In 2021, Hungary rejected all 9 recommendations calling for the repeal of the so-called "child protection" law, while accepting 3 on freedom of assembly.

Censoring LGBTQI contents has since escalated: Media Council procedures against service providers, fines on bookstores, and the complete disappearance of LGBTQI-inclusive, comprehensive sex education from schools. While police banned the 2025 Budapest and Pécs Pride marches and criminal procedures were brought against the organizers, in 2026, following the change in government, both marches were acknowledged and the criminal charges were dropped.

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We urge Hungary to repeal the anti-LGBTQI provisions of the so-called "child protection" law and the Assembly Act, and to cease using child protection as a pretext to restrict fundamental rights of LGBTQI people.

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Legal gender recognition (LGR) was banned in May 2021 by Section 33; trans and intersex people cannot change their gender marker and name in line with their lived gender identity. Hungary rejected all 4 UPR recommendations to reinstate LGR.

In 2023, the Constitutional Court upheld Section 33, leaving the trans community with no domestic remedy. Conversely, the European Court of Human Rights ruled that the suspension of LGR prior to 2021 was in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, and the Court of Justice of the EU affirmed that the absence of LGR breaches EU law. Nevertheless,

a 2025 constitutional amendment further entrenched a strict binary definition of sex. The absence of LGR severely restricts access to trans-specific healthcare in practice.

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We urge Hungary to establish a quick, transparent, and accessible LGR procedure based on self-determination, developed through structured, meaningful consultations with CSOs representing transgender and intersex persons.

[Slide 7]

Hungary entirely lacks a strategic approach to LGBTQI equality. In 2021, 4 recommendations addressed this void; 3 were noted and 1 was rejected.

State-sponsored anti-LGBTQI rhetoric has intensified, deepening marginalization and stigmatization. Although LGBTQI people were initially listed as an 'affected group' in the draft Action Plan against Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination, the text conflated sexual and gender minorities with paedophilia. Neither this action plan, nor an LGBTQI strategy was adopted.

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We urge Hungary to adopt a comprehensive national strategy and action plan to combat discrimination, violence, and stigmatization based on sexual orientation and gender identity across all public spheres. This must include a systematic legislative review to repeal all discriminatory provisions.

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Thank you for your attention.