



14 January 2021

Ms Sam Klintworth  
Locked Bag 23  
BROADWAY NSW 2007

27 JAN 2021

Dear Ms Klintworth

Thank you for your letter of 08 December 2020 regarding LGBTI rights in Hungary. I am replying on behalf of the Foreign Minister.

The Australian Government believes that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, and that all people are entitled to respect, dignity and legal protection regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Australia conveys its concerns and advocates strongly for the rights of LGBTI persons at the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and the UN General Assembly. Australia supported the renewal of the mandate of the HRC Independent Expert on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) at the 41st session of the HRC in June/July 2019. Australia is also a member of the UN LGBTI core group, which regularly raises concerns at the UN General Assembly regarding discrimination against LGBTI persons, most recently in a joint statement on 5 October 2020.

Australia does not support any actions which serve to discriminate against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We will continue to use bilateral and multilateral avenues to encourage countries to ensure that human rights are upheld.

The Australian Government is concerned about the rights of LGBTI children and their parents in Hungary.

As you will be aware, the Hungarian Parliament approved the constitutional amendment on 15 December with 134 yes votes, 45 no votes and five abstentions. The amendment effectively bans adoption by same-sex couples by declaring that families are "based on marriage and the parent-child relation. The mother is a woman, the father is a man." The amendment also stipulates that children must be educated in accordance with the values based on Hungary's constitutional identity and Christian culture.

The constitutional amendment follows a series of legislative measures in Hungary in recent years about which Australia has raised its concerns about the impact on human rights and democratic freedoms.

We will continue to use opportunities in Canberra and through our Embassy in Vienna (accredited to Hungary) to encourage Hungary to ensure that human rights are upheld.

Yours sincerely

Dougal McInnes  
Assistant Secretary EU Political and Strategy Branch  
Europe and Latin America Division