

Stand Up for Fundamental Rights - Freedom of Assembly is at risk in Hungary!

The Council of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe (ALDE) Party, convening in Helsinki, Finland on June 27–28, 2025:

Considering that:

- The Hungarian Parliament passed the “Lex-PRIDE”, restricting assembly rights by limiting public gatherings that ‘threaten children’ through ‘divergence from self-identity corresponding to sex at birth, sex change or homosexuality’.
- 6 Members of the Parliament protested with smoke candles and flyers during the vote. The Speaker imposed a record fine and banned them from the House.
- This new legislation bans the Budapest Pride march and similar events, undermining a fundamental human right. Organisers and participants face fines up to 500 euros, with unpaid fines collected as tax.
- The law allows police to use Chinese facial-recognition software to identify participants in illegal assemblies through CCTV footage.

Noting that:

- The last two demonstrations organised in late April and May were respectively banned and stopped by the police.
- This marks a significant step for Hungary towards Russian-style oppression, an attempt to influence the 2026 domestic elections.
- The EU Commission and the EU Parliament condemned ‘anti-LGBTQI+ propaganda laws’.
- The Pride march poses no threat to children and respects their rights. Everyone has the right to assemble peacefully.
- The AI Act prohibits AI-based facial recognition systems on civil targets. Europe should seek Strategic Autonomy, as using Chinese facial-recognition tools to identify peaceful protestors encourages authoritarianism.

Calls for the ALDE Party and its member parties to:

- Participate in large numbers in Pride activities all across Europe to clearly stand up against Russian-style oppression.
- Advocate for implementing Article 7 of the European treaties and suspend the governing party’s voting rights at the Council.
- Urge the European Commission to initiate an infringement procedure against Hungary for restricting freedom of assembly under the “Lex-PRIDE”.
- Strengthen minority rights and liberal values through enhanced monitoring and ongoing support for the LGBTQI+ community via statements.
- Advocate for Assembly freedom in Hungary by pressuring the government to repeal restrictive laws undermining free speech and democracy.
- Ensure for the 2026 Budapest Pride a strong liberal presence which could be in the form of a Council, Congress or statutory event.