

Joint Statement on the Occasion of the 26th Budapest Pride Festival

July 19, 2021

On the occasion of the 26th Budapest Pride Festival, we, the undersigned embassies and cultural institutes, express our full support for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI+) community and their rights to equality and non-discrimination, freedom of expression and peaceful assembly, and freedom from violence. We note the important advocacy of LGBTQI+ civil society organizations which are working to ensure that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, receive equal treatment and the full protection of the law. Respect for the rule of law and universal human rights are the foundations upon which democratic states are built.

International human rights law is grounded on the broad premise that all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are equal, and have the same rights and freedoms without discrimination. We reject and condemn all acts of violence, harassment, stigmatization and discrimination in all regions of the world committed against individuals on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We support the fight against hate speech, violence, and discrimination targeting LGBTQI+ individuals and communities at the international, regional, and national levels. Concerned by recent developments that threaten the principle of non-discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, we encourage steps in every country to ensure the equality and dignity of all human beings irrespective of their sexual orientation or gender identity, and stress the need for elected leaders and governments to show respect for and protect the rights of LGBTQI+ persons.

Celebrating diversity is an important way to promote respect for human rights for all. Budapest Pride has the longest history of such events in the region, and we highlight its role in promoting equality of treatment and social acceptance for all LGBTQI+ persons, and contributing to the creation of a more open, just, inclusive and equal society.

Signed by the Following Embassies and Cultural Institutes:

Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, General Delegation of Flanders, Austrian Cultural Forum Budapest, British Council, Czech Center, Estonian Institute, FinnAgora, Goethe-Institut, Institut Français, Instituto Camões, Instituto Cervantes, Italian Cultural Institute, Wallonie-Bruxelles International