

**DECLARATION of the Child Rights NGO Coalition on
No. T/16365. law amendment of the bill on stricter action against pedophile offenders and
amending certain laws to protect children**

We would like to recall that the Child Rights NGO Coalition has already expressed its opinion on the bill, welcoming it in addition to urging a number of measures, as well as drawing attention to the erroneous and misleading wording of the title of the legislation. The government 's intention announced last year can now be seen in the form of a bill, which is an important step in raising the profile of children' s protection, vulnerability, victimization and substantive steps in political, professional and public discourse, and in various activities.

In addition to stricter penalties, we welcomed the changing rules on permanent bans on employment, which could help combat child sexual abuse, but we also consider it important to raise public awareness of prevention and victim assistance and to launch a social dialogue on tolerance, on the possibilities for raising awareness of issues related to abuse as widely as possible.

In prevention of all forms of abuse, including sexual abuse, information and children's awareness play an important role, and in our diverse world, it is important to receive all the knowledge and information about the functioning of one's own body and soul in one's diverse world. **Education of high quality and appropriate methodology, among others on sexual and reproductive health, is of paramount importance in prevention.**

There are many children and adults in the world, such as people with disabilities, members of national, ethnic or religious minorities, adopted children or LGBTQI children and young people live in a variety of life situations. Therefore, every effort must be made to develop the child's abilities to be an open, sensitive and solidary member of our society, and at the same time to be able to count on inclusion, solidarity and respect, but the bill No. T / 16365. submitted is complete opposite of this. **With that in mind nor do we support the inclusion of these amendments in the "anti-pedophile law"**.

In view of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which has become part of the Hungarian legal order, we consider any change in the law that may give rise to exclusion and stigma and limit the right to health education, to free self-expression, to identity and to adequate information against the child's rights and best interests.

The Child Rights NGO Coalition therefore requests the President of the Republic not to sign the amendment to the law adopted by the Parliament in this form, which raises constitutional and/or international human rights concerns, but to send it to the Constitutional Court to review the bill.

The Child Rights NGO Coalition also calls on the Government to meet the following recommendations to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child towards Hungary:

1. **Comply with laws prohibiting discrimination against children who are marginalized and disadvantaged in various ways**, such as girls, children with disabilities, Roma children, migrant and unaccompanied children, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and take measures to inform the public about equality and non-discrimination and to expand relevant school curricula.
2. **Develop a national strategy to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against children, including sexual violence**, with a special focus on disadvantaged girls and children, including children with disabilities, children in alternative care, Roma children, lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children; and asylum-seeking, refugee and migrant children; and ensure that the strategy clearly informs children about the mechanisms available for reporting acts of violence.
3. **Ensure access to confidential and child-sensitive medical counseling and services for the healthy development of adolescent youth**. Enable adolescents to have independent access to sexual and reproductive health services and psychological care.
4. **Provide sexual and reproductive health education for children as part of the compulsory school curriculum**, with a special focus on the prevention of early pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases and equal relationships, and offer unbiased and comprehensive science-based sexual and reproductive health knowledge and services. Education should also cover the fight against stereotypes and prejudices, demonstrating the diversity of the world around us.
5. **Increase efforts to prevent and address bullying in schools**, including online bullying, and provide support to child victims, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children.

We, the members of the Child Rights NGO Coalition, therefore call on all public figures, politicians and Members of Parliament to ensure equal treatment for all children, the prohibition of discrimination as fundamental values of the rule of law.

15 June 2021, Budapest.

On behalf of the Coalition

Család, Gyermek, Ifjúság Közhasznú Egyesület (CSAGYI) Gyerekesély Egyesület (GYERE)
Esélyt a Hátrányos Helyzetű Gyerekeknek (CFCF) Európai Szülők Magyarországi Egyesülete
(ESZME) Főnix Mozgalom Hintalovon Gyermekjogi Alapítvány Igazgyöngy Alapítvány
Jogismeret Alapítvány
Kék Vonal Gyermekkrízis Alapítvány Magyar LMBT Szövetség Magyar Pedagógiai Társaság
Gyermekérdekek Szakosztálya- Korczak Munkabizottság Magyarországi Terre des hommes
Alapítvány
Mozgáskorlátozottak Egyesületeinek Országos Szövetsége
Nők a Nőkért Együtt az Erőszak Ellen (NANE) Patent Egyesület
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Társaság a Szabadságjogokért
UNICEF Magyarország
Validity Alapítvány
Világ szép Alapítvány

and individual experts as

Bíró Dalma
dr. Hegedüs Judit
dr. Katonáné dr. Pehr Erika
dr. Lux Ágnes
dr. Nagy-Nádasdi Anita Rozália dr. Rác Andrea
dr. Szotyori-Nagy Viktória Tománé Mészáros Andrea
dr. Tóth Zsófia