

# The Situation of the LGBTQ Community in Hungary

Studies on Legal Equality and Social Acceptance

AN ANALYSIS BY REPUBLIKON INSTITUTE

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## PRIDE MONTH, A LITTLE DIFFERENTLY

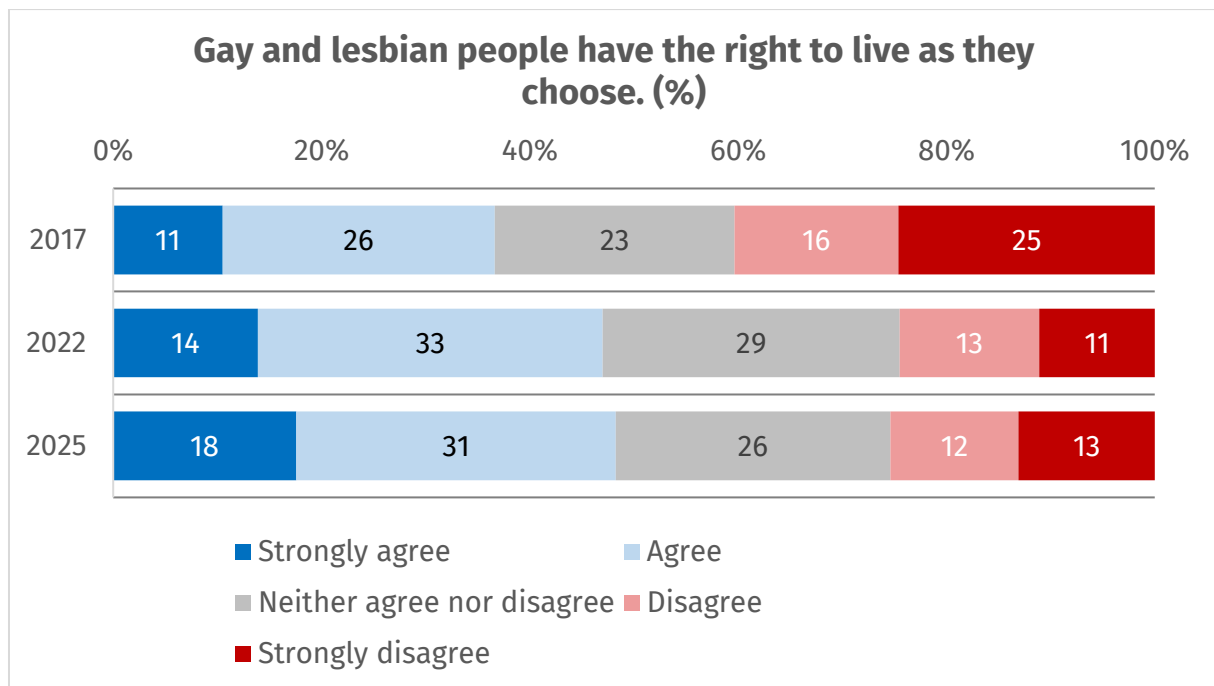
On June 27, 2026, the 31st Budapest Pride March will take place. The 30th anniversary event was overshadowed by the Orbán regime's decision to restrict the right to peaceful assembly. However, the ban ultimately backfired, resulting in an unprecedented turnout despite the restrictions.

This June, however, the atmosphere is markedly different following the formation of the Magyar administration. In his victory speech, Péter Magyar addressed the LGBTQ community directly: "Our country once again [...] seeks to be a place where no one is stigmatized for loving someone different, or for loving differently than the majority." More recently, he made a memorable statement in Parliament, telling Máté Kocsis and the politicians of Fidesz–KDNP to "stay out of the bedrooms of the Hungarian people."

Péter Magyar and his government appear to adopt a more LGBTQ-friendly approach than their predecessors. Nevertheless, changing societal attitudes takes longer than changing a government. In its latest analysis, Republikon draws on leading international research to examine where Hungary currently stands on LGBTQ rights and public attitudes toward the LGBTQ community.

## HUNGARIAN PUBLIC OPINION AND LGBTQ RIGHTS

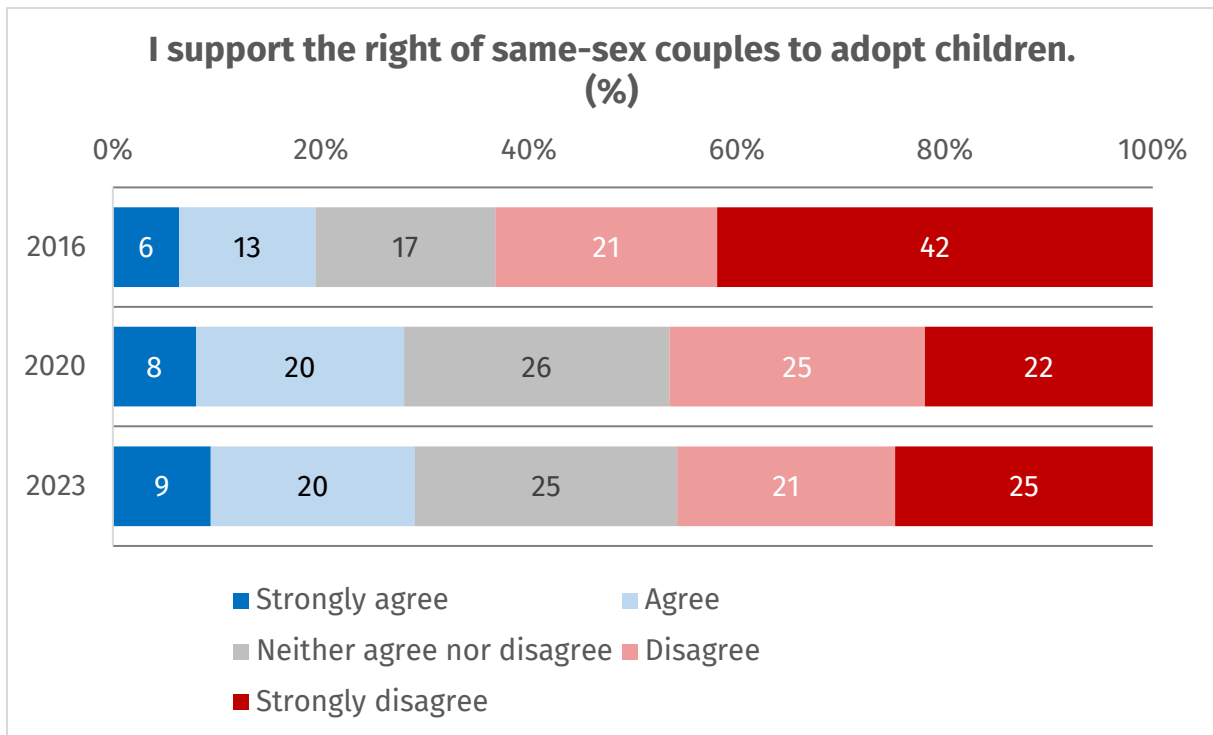
To assess the situation of LGBTQ people, we need to focus on two key dimensions: (1) legal equality and (2) social acceptance. While the legal environment can improve or deteriorate very quickly, social attitudes tend to change much more gradually. For that reason, it makes sense to begin with social acceptance.



Opinions on general LGBTQ rights. Source: European Social Survey (ESS).

<https://ess.sikt.no/en/datafile/ffc43f48-e15a-4a1c-8813-47eda377c355?tab=1&elems=50e86470-06b2-4069-99e1-319ad726afd0>

Acceptance of the LGBTQ community in Hungary has been improving, although it cannot yet be described as a clear majority view, partly because of the large share of respondents who remain undecided or reluctant to express an opinion. According to data from the ESS, nearly a decade ago only 37% of Hungarians agreed with the principle of "live and let live," while 41% held anti-gay views. By 2022, attitudes had shifted significantly, and they continued to improve by 2025. Last year, 49% of Hungarians expressed accepting attitudes toward LGBTQ people, while "only" 25% disagreed that members of this community should be free to live as they choose.

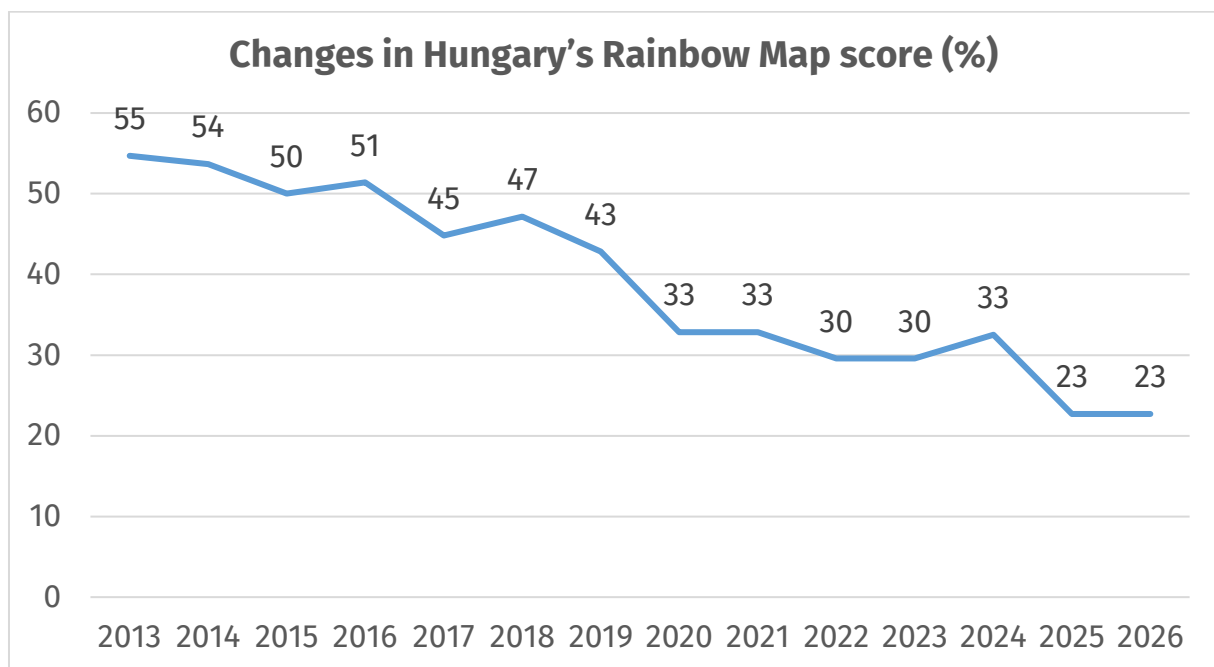


Opinions on the right of same-sex couples to adopt children. Source: European Social Survey (ESS). <https://ess.sikt.no/en/datafile/ffc43f48-e15a-4a1c-8813-47eda377c355?tab=1&elems=80ab05b3-2197-44ea-ac9e-d3e6603ce164>

Hungarian society remains more reluctant to support same-sex adoption, although respondents have become increasingly accepting in this area as well. In 2016, only 19% supported the right of LGBTQ people to adopt children, while 63% opposed it. By 2023, support had increased to 29% (including 9% who expressed strong support), whereas opposition had declined to 46%. Public attitudes toward same-sex adoption have been changing only gradually. Over the seven-year period, the proportion of respondents expressing strong support increased by just 3 percentage points. However, new survey data are expected in the autumn of 2026, and if the current trend continues, the results may prove somewhat more favorable for the LGBTQ community. Overall, these findings indicate a gradual increase in social acceptance of sexual minorities in Hungary. Nevertheless, Hungarian society cannot yet be regarded as broadly accepting, and in international comparison it remains less inclusive than many other European countries.

## HUNGARY IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

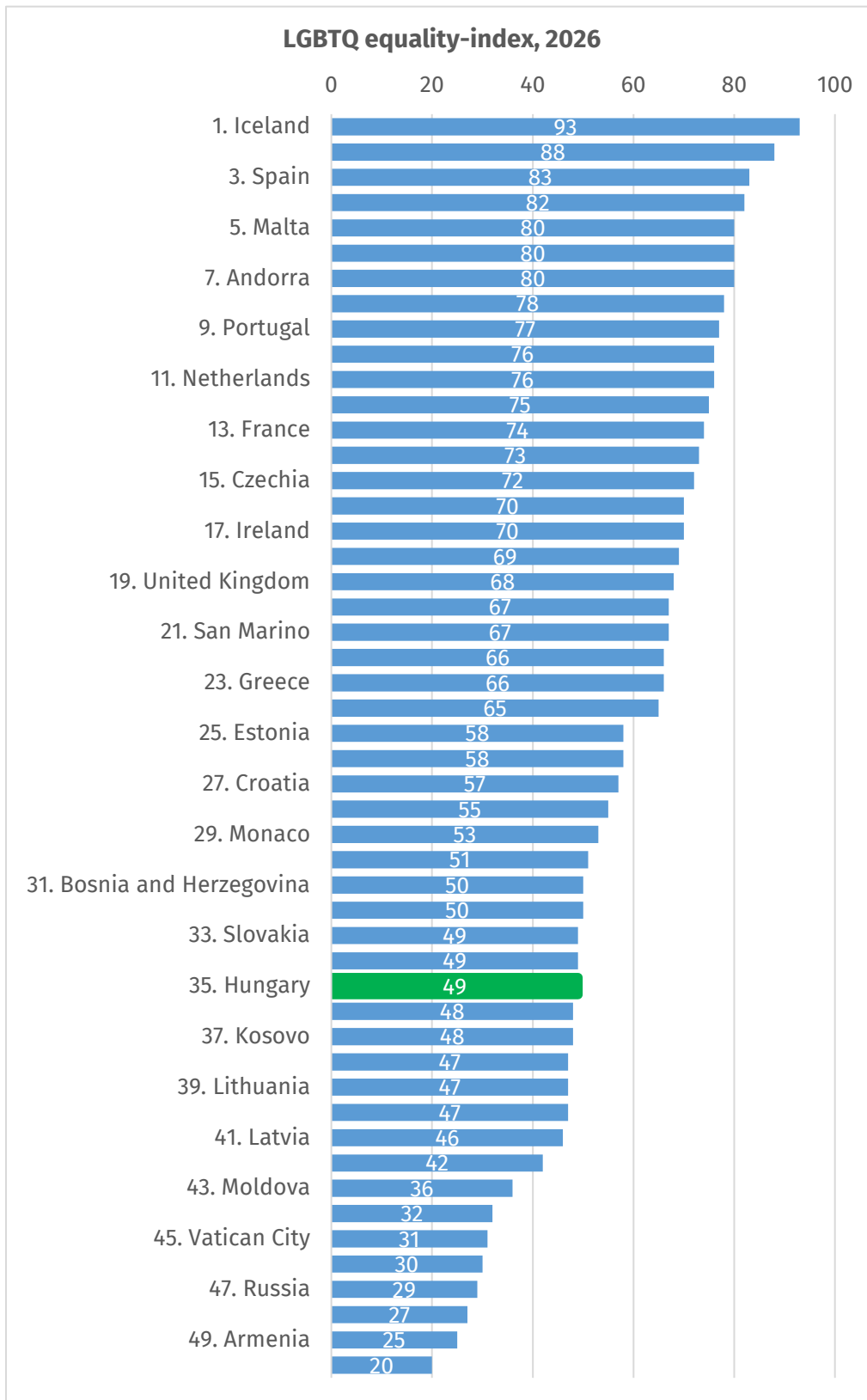
One of the most comprehensive studies on the situation of LGBTQ people is the Rainbow Map, an annual assessment that examines the status of this minority across nearly fifty countries in seven different dimensions, with a particular emphasis on legal equality. The results are expressed on a scale ranging from 0% to 100%, reflecting the overall situation of the LGBTQ community in each country, with a score of 100% representing full legal equality.



Changes in Hungary's "Rainbow Map" score between 2013 and 2026. The score is a composite index of variables reflecting the situation, opportunities, quality of life, and safety of LGBTQ people living in or residing in a given country. Source: <https://rainbowmap.ilga-europe.org/countries/hungary/>

A drastic deterioration in the situation of LGBTQ people has characterised Hungary over the past ten years, with the country's score decreasing to less than half of its previous level during this period. Some of the key influencing factors include the so-called "wrapping law", stricter regulations concerning official documents, the amendment of the Constitution with exclusionary language, and, of course, measures aimed at banning Pride and restricting freedom of assembly in general. As a result, Hungary currently ranks 38th out of the 49 countries examined in terms of LGBTQ rights and discrimination. Ten years ago, Hungary ranked 16th, meaning

that the loss of rights has been dramatic.



Equaldex LGBTQ equality-index. Source: <https://www.equaldex.com/equality-index?continent=Europe>

The Equaldex Equality Index examines two dimensions: public opinion and the legal dimension, which are the focus of this analysis, and combines them into a composite index. In this regard, Hungary ranks 35th out of 50 countries; when considering only EU member states, it is ahead of only a handful of countries. Based on public opinion, Hungary ranks 28th, while in legal terms it ranks 41st out of 50, demonstrating a significant gap between the social acceptance of the LGBTQ community and their legal rights and opportunities. It can be argued that the Orbán regime has been considerably more hostile towards LGBTQ people than Hungarian society itself. Furthermore, while Hungarian society has become increasingly accepting of the LGBTQ community year by year, the government has moved in the opposite direction, becoming progressively more hostile and, in an effort to maintain political power, turning this minority into a scapegoat, including for problems in the child protection system, an area that has been severely neglected by the government. But did it succeed? This is a legitimate question, and the answer is probably no. Although Hungarians are far from being among the most accepting nations, and measurements of LGBTQ acceptance using different methodologies have produced varying results and fluctuations over the years, Hungarian society has clearly not followed the government's drastic anti-LGBTQ shift.