



## **Fighting stigmatisation of LGBTIQ people, protecting the rights of all EU citizens**

**Adopted by the PES Presidency of 25 June 2021**

The Party of European Socialists (PES) strongly condemns the recent Bill adopted by the Hungarian parliament on 15 June 2021, banning the references to homosexuality, sex change and gender identity from being discussed or featured in school education materials and TV shows for minors. The law stigmatises and discriminates against the entire LGBTIQ community, and divides society as a whole. This is part of a wider anti-democratic and anti-feminist agenda that is systematically attacking LGBTI and women's rights.

The new law is not only a new form of censorship but also a clear violation of European and international law that could stoke up hostility and discrimination against LGBTIQ people. It severely violates human rights and the fundamental rights of the EU, most notably Article 2 of the Treaty of the European Union and Article 21 of the Charter of Fundamental Rights, which proclaim that the Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, and non-discrimination. The law also deprives young people of the right to a comprehensive education on sexuality.

As socialists and democrats, we have always fought against discrimination and bigotry. We will never give up this fight. The PES expressed its full support to the LGBTI community in Hungary, and wherever they are discriminated. As socialists and democrats we stand as allies to all victims of discrimination, wherever they may be.

We call upon all EU Member States to take a firm stand against such discriminatory behaviour and the European Commission to use all the legal instruments at their disposal to act against regressive governments that constantly undermine our common values and breach the rule of law.

The rule of law and fundamental rights are the ground on which the European Union is built. We must be united in their defence. Every European, no matter their nationality, gender, or sexual orientation deserve to live in a Union of equality, tolerance, and respect. All European citizens can count on the PES to be at the forefront of this fight.

