

**District Prosecution Office of Pécs**

Dr. István Takács

Chief Prosecutor

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Dear Chief Prosecutor,

I am writing to express deep concern regarding the criminal charges formally filed against human rights defender **Géza Buzás-Hábel** for organising the Pécs Pride march that took place on 4 October 2025. Instead of concluding that organising a Pride event should not constitute a criminal offence and closing the case against Géza Buzás-Hábel, your office turned to the Pécs District Court seeking criminal proceedings against him. If the case goes to trial and Géza Buzás-Hábel is found guilty and convicted, he could face up to one year in prison.

The police decision on the Pécs Pride, effectively declaring it 'a banned assembly' in September 2025, was arbitrary and discriminatory, based solely on the 'anti-Pride' law which became effective in April 2025. This ban and the legislation itself have been widely criticized by regional and international organisations as regressive, discriminatory and to be in violation of human rights standards. The organisation of a peaceful assembly advocating for equality, human rights, and remembrance, such as Pécs Pride, is protected conduct under the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly, freedom of expression and non-discrimination, as enshrined in regional and international standards to which Hungary is bound.

The international community is closely following Géza Buzás-Hábel's situation and the recent criminal charges brought against him, which represents an alarming escalation in the criminalization of LGBTI expression and peaceful assembly in Hungary.

Organising a Pride march is an act of courage, solidarity, and hope. You have the authority to reaffirm that peaceful assembly must be protected.

**Prosecuting Géza Buzás-Hábel constitutes a violation of his rights, including to freedom of peaceful assembly and expression. I urge you to immediately drop the charges and terminate the proceedings against Géza Buzás-Hábel as he should not be prosecuted simply for exercising his human rights.**

Yours sincerely,