



Genocide Watch
The Alliance Against Genocide

Country Report: Hungary

June 2021

Genocide Watch is issuing a Genocide Watch for Hungary. Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister, and his party, Fidesz, have implemented laws and policies that limit civil rights and discriminate against Roma, Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQI+ Hungarians. The COVID-19 pandemic lock-down has [expanded government power](#) and eroded the rights of free assembly and freedom of public protest.

Hungary has a long history of discrimination against Roma. Roma people face [systemic racism](#), popular prejudice, open harassment, and violent assault by ethnic Hungarians. [61% of Hungarians](#) have unfavorable views of Roma. Many think that [criminality is in Roma blood](#). The Hungarian government has been [stoking ethnic tensions](#), further stigmatizing the Roma minority.

Roma families disproportionately live-in poverty. Despite their acute need, the government [has not made any special provisions](#) to aid Roma communities. School segregation remains a problem for Roma children, who often receive sub-par education and are [23% more likely](#) to drop out of school than their non-Roma peers. The Hungarian government has been resistant to efforts that would increase parity between Roma and ethnic Hungarians. Prime Minister Orban criticized a [recent court decision](#) that granted damages to Roma children who had been unlawfully segregated into an inferior school system.

Hungarian Jews are targets of antisemitism. A survey of attitudes towards Jews found that [71% of Hungarians](#) believe it is true that “Jews have too much power in the business world.” [Another 59%](#) believe that Jews dwell too much on the Holocaust. Orban and his party frequently allude to the antisemitic and white supremacist [Great Replacement Theory](#). Orban accuses Jewish [philanthropist George Soros and his Open Society Foundations](#) of undermining Hungarian society. Jewish Hungarians report [antisemitic harassment](#) and feeling unsafe practicing Judaism in Hungary.

Fidesz, which holds a majority in the parliament, promotes Islamophobia. The party's xenophobic [rhetoric](#) includes describing Muslim immigration as an “[invasion](#).” [Among Hungarians, 47%](#) hold unfavorable opinions of Muslims. Hungarian Muslims report frequent [verbal harassment and assault](#).

Orban's government has enacted laws limiting the rights of LGBTQI+ Hungarians. A 2020 [constitutional amendment](#) bans same-sex couples from adopting children. It also prohibits transgender and intersex citizens from changing the gender listed on their identification documents. Many LGBTQI+ Hungarians [describe feeling unsafe](#) about expressing their gender identity for fear of harassment, discrimination, or assault. The Hungarian government recently passed a law prohibiting LGBTQI+ content in schools, further criminalizing and stigmatizing the country's LGBTQI+ population.

Genocide Watch considers Hungary to be at **Stage 3: Discrimination**. The Orban government threatens the civil rights of marginalized groups, such as the Roma, Jewish, Muslim, and LGBTQI+ populations, curtails press freedom to prevent scrutiny of the government, and fosters a climate of hatred.

Genocide Watch recommends:

- Hungary should broaden its National Social Inclusion Strategy to combat the poverty and systemic discrimination faced by Roma communities.
- Hungary should respect its own Fundamental Law protections for freedom of religion.
- Hungary should repeal the constitutional amendment forbidding legal recognition of LGBTQI+ rights, which violates Article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).
- The EU should start proceedings against Hungary in the European Court of Human Rights for Hungary's many violations of the ECHR.