

**The Association for the Training of Social Professionals in Hungary - School Association - issues the following statement in relation to Act LXXIX of 2021, passed by the Hungarian Parliament on 15.06.2021.**

The School Association, as an organisation contributing to the implementation of high quality social education, based on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the European Guidelines on Sex Education issued by the WHO Regional Office for Europe, considers holistic sexual education to be of particular importance. In this context, and based on the WHO recommendations, it stresses the following:

- Sexual education is adapted to the real life of young people, taking into account the age, developmental and intellectual level of the child/young person and responding to his/her cultural and social context and gender and sexual orientation.
- Sexual education places gender equality, gender and sexual self-determination and acceptance of differences at the heart of sexual education.
- Sexual education contributes to the development of a just and inclusive society through the development of individuals and communities.
- Sexual education is based on scientifically sound knowledge.

Against this background, we consider the prohibition, recurring in several passages of the legislation referred to, to be a cause for concern and a source of fear: "it is prohibited to make available to children under the age of eighteen ... content ... promoting or presenting a difference of identity from the sex of birth, gender reassignment or homosexuality."

The prohibition implies that homosexuality can be promoted and is a matter of personal choice. The inclusion of this scientifically refuted statement in a piece of legislation is an obstacle to social inclusion and solidarity with people who are different. It also hinders the high quality training of social and other human service professionals in line with international standards. A further, and perhaps the most painful harmful consequence of the legal ban for the profession is that children and young people are not allowed to talk freely in school about their inner struggles and their search for a way forward. This leaves them on their own, limiting their right to ask for help.

Furthermore, the quoted legislation mentions sexual orientation other than heterosexual together with paedophilia in several places in the same sentence, which creates serious misunderstandings. The conflation of paedophilia with sexual minorities is harmful to society, it excludes sexual minorities from the community, it criminalises them, it criminalises non-heterosexual behaviour, it portrays it as different from the social norm. In this way, it makes difference unacceptable and capable of causing irreversible harm.

We, the educators and researchers working for the training of social professionals, stand up for the protection of human and children's rights, the international conventions ratified by the Government of Hungary and the principles and values of social work.

30 June 2021 The Association for the Training of Social Professionals in Hungary

The **Hungarian Association of Social Workers** has already supported the Statement above.

Anybody, who would like to sign it, please write to: [info@iskolaszovetseg.hu](mailto:info@iskolaszovetseg.hu)

The list with the new names will be published from time to time on the home page of the Association: [www.iskolaszovetseg.hu](http://www.iskolaszovetseg.hu), under the link „Állásfoglalások“.