

**1. Name of organization:** Háttér Support Society for LGBT People

**2. Country of origin:** Hungary

**3. Brief summary:** On March 18, 2009 our NGO submitted a letter to three ministries in Hungary (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice and Law Enforcement, Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs) to raise awareness about the Yogyakarta principles in the Hungarian state administration. The letter summarized the history of the principles and referred to countries that have already recognized officially the principles. The letter also contained three questions and suggested four tasks for the government. Questions: Q1: Does the Government agree that by signing the relevant international documents Hungary must conform with the principles set out in the Yogyakarta document? Q2: According to the Government does current Hungarian legislation and practice conform with the principles set out in the Yogyakarta document? Q3: Would the Government support the adoption of a new international convention with content similar to what can be found in the Yogyakarta principles? We have suggested the following steps to be taken: S1: Prepare an official Hungarian translation. S2: Publish the Hungarian version of the principles in print. S3: Publish a press release on May 17 (Int'l Day against Homophobia) that the Hungarian Government recognizes the principles as legally binding. S4: Prepare a report in collaboration with NGOs on how current legislation and practice conforms with the principles set out in the Yogyakarta document.

**4. Any responses:** Unfortunately our timing was very bad, the Government resigned unexpectedly five days later, and our letter arrived at a time of power-vacuum without any chance of being seriously considered. Only the Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided an official answer claiming that the Government is committed to the protection of human rights and non-discrimination, but refrained from making a concrete commitment to the Yogyakarta principles. They also noted that preparing a new binding international convention needs a lot of time and effort. From informal sources we know that the Ministry of Social and Labor Affairs asked an expert to give a preliminary assessment whether an official recognition of the principles would necessitate any legislative changes, and the issue of adoption and artificial insemination were cited as problematic areas where legislative change would be needed, but the Government has no plan on implementing these changes.

**5. Key outcomes:** From the discussions it became clear that most of the high ranking state officials learnt about the existence of the Yogyakarta principles only from our letter. No direct change to legislation/practice have taken place as a result, but awareness about the principles grew significantly. As a next step we are considering preparing a Hungarian version of the principles ourselves and further lobby for the preparation of an official (state authored or sponsored) report analyzing how current Hungarian legislation/practice conforms to the principles.