

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## HUNGARY - Submission to the UN Universal Periodic Review

September 2015



## Contributed by

The **Mental Disability Advocacy Centre** (MDAC) is a Hungary-based international human rights organization that works to secure equality, inclusion and justice for adults and children with intellectual, developmental, cognitive and/or psychosocial disabilities through strategic litigation, advocacy activities, monitoring, research, and capacity building worldwide.

The members of **The City is for All** (est. in 2009) are people who are affected by housing poverty (currently or formerly living in homelessness, housed in structures constructed by themselves, living in deprived, unsecure, overcrowded or unhealthy housing, threatened by eviction) and their allies (activists with secure housing), who all work together for housing rights and for an egalitarian and just society. Our group is based on voluntary work and provides an opportunity for people experiencing homelessness and housing poverty to stand up for their dignity and fight for the right to housing.

People experiencing homelessness and housing poverty play a leading role at all levels of our organization. The City is for All organizes campaigns and actions to defend housing rights, to advocate for the interests of people living in housing poverty and to change the negative social perception of homelessness and poverty. We use a wide array of modes of intervention from internal trainings to radical direct actions. As we fight against all forms of stigmatization and discrimination, it is very important for us to actively cooperate with other marginalized groups.

The **Hungarian Civil Liberties Union** (HCLU) is a non-profit human rights watchdog NGO established in Budapest, Hungary in 1994. The HCLU's aim is to promote the case of fundamental rights and principles laid down by the Constitution of Hungary and by international conventions. Generally, it has the goal of building and strengthening civil society and the rule of law in Hungary and in the CEE region.

The **Hungarian Helsinki Committee** (HHC) is a human rights NGO founded in 1989 in Hungary. The HHC monitors the enforcement in Hungary of human rights enshrined in international human rights instruments, provides legal defence to victims of human rights abuses by state authorities and informs the public about rights violations. The HHC's main areas of activities are centred on protecting the rights of asylum seekers and foreigners in need of international protection, as well as monitoring the human rights performance of law enforcement agencies and the judicial system. It particularly focuses on the conditions of detention, the effective enforcement of the right to defence and equality before the law.

The **NGO Coalition on the Rights of the Child** was founded in February 2015 on the initiative of the UNICEF National Committee for Hungary. One of the aims was to create a common forum with the participation of experts, not only in order to communicate but to help the reports to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and to other relevant UN Committees for Human Rights represent a more harmonised civilian position; furthermore, to make the national and international advocacy for children's rights more efficient. Besides 25 NGOs and 12 individual experts, observers, as the Deputy Commissioner for the Rights of National Minorities, the Office of the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights and UNHCR Hungary have supported our work.

The **Chances for Children Association** (Gyerekesély Egyesület - GYERE) has been established in 2010 with the main aim of improving children's life opportunities and to hinder the reproduction of child poverty. The founders of the association are previous staff members of the Program Office to Combat Child Poverty in the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The **European Roma Rights Centre** (ERRC) is an international public interest law organisation working to combat anti-Romani racism and human rights abuse of Roma through strategic litigation, research and policy development, advocacy and human rights education. Since its establishment in 1996, the ERRC has endeavoured to provide Roma with the tools necessary to combat discrimination and achieve equal access to justice, education, housing, health care and public services. The ERRC has consultative status with the Council of Europe, as well as with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

The **Chance for Children Foundation** ("CFCF") is a Budapest-based Roma NGO founded with the express purpose of fighting structural discrimination against Roma and impoverished children in education through collective legal action coupled with community organising and local action.

**The Hungarian Association of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (SINOSZ):** is a 107-year-old, non-profit, public benefit organisation supporting the deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals by helping their social inclusion, contributing to their personal development and promoting opportunities for them to succeed and prosper. We provide help for the deaf and hard-of-hearing persons in order to allow them unhindered access to information, as well as facilitate their employment and foster their ability to meet their own, individual goals and ambitions.

**SOS Children's Villages Hungary** is an independent non-governmental organization providing support and care for children who have lost, or at risk of losing parental care. We also work with families in precarious situation. We operate our services through foster care networks, youth facilities and a temporary home for children. We provide care for app. 400 children in Hungary. SOS Children's Villages Hungary is a member association of SOS Children's Villages International.

The **Kék Vonal Child Crisis Foundation** was founded in 1993, therefore it has a more than twenty years past experience. The primary task of the Kék Vonal Child Crisis Foundation is to listen to the children and young people and help those of them who are in need. We work on implementing the rights of children as defined by the United Nations. Our mission is to reach that adults, as well as professional and governmental bodies working with children serve the interests of children above all other interests.

**UNICEF National Committee in Hungary** represents UNICEF in Hungary, as an independent NGO, which raise donations for the UNICEF's humanitarian and development programmes, and fight for the realization of children's rights in Hungary through child rights education programmes and advocacy work.

**The Association of European Parents in Hungary (ESZME)** was established in 2011 to support successful parenting with special focus on sharing good practices and experiences on special issues and problems of children of different ages within the family and institutions, supporting relationship building between the family and institutions, with special focus on schools, support the successful operating of institute/school level parents' representation, supporting parents facing the challenges of the 21st century, with special focus on the integration of different generations into information society, raising the voice of parents as stakeholders on national level as well as in the media, supporting the mutual support of parents. ESZME is a full member of the European Parents' Association (EPA)

In January 2012, five Hungarian NGOs established the **Working Group Against Hate Crimes** to join forces for a more effective approach against hate crimes. Besides the representatives of the founding organizations, individual experts also take part in the work of the working group. The principal objective of the working group is to fight hate crimes. To achieve this, we work for the following goals: establishing a more effective legal and institutional framework for state responses to hate crimes; encouraging victims to initiate legal proceedings; creating a social environment rejecting hate crimes.

The **Hungarian Women's Lobby (HWL)**, established in 2003, is an umbrella organisation advocating for the women's human rights agenda as laid down by international norms. The HWL unites and represents the interests of Hungarian women's organisations with a gender equality and human rights-based agenda. HWL is the Hungarian national coordinator organisation of the European Women's Lobby, the largest umbrella of women's associations in the EU. [www.noierdek.hu](http://www.noierdek.hu)

**NANE Women's Rights Association**, established in 1994, is a grassroots NGO following a human rights approach, providing continuous services for victims of gender based violence, and running short and medium term public education, training and advocacy projects. NANE's mission is to contribute to a world free of any form of gender based violence stemming from, reinforced by, and serving patriarchal notions and goals. [www.nane.hu](http://www.nane.hu)

**PATENT (People Opposing Patriarchy)**, founded in 2006, is an NGO with a vision to contribute to a society where the equality of women and LGBT people is a reality. PATENT provides legal and psychological counselling and, in certain cases, legal representation to women and children victims of male violence and to victims of violence and discrimination against LGBT people. The organisation also conducts awareness raising, training activities, as well as lobbying for legal reforms. [www.patent.org.hu](http://www.patent.org.hu)