

380/2020/TP/B



**BUDAPEST**

**MAYOR OF BUDAPEST**

**Mr. Jacek Majchrowski**  
**Mayor of Kraków**

*Budapest, "07" September 2020*

**Dear Mr. Jacek Majchrowski,**

Thank you for your letter and your strong words of support towards the LGBTQ+ community worldwide. I am deeply concerned to hear about the events in Poland regarding the establishment of "LGBT free zones" by a number of local municipalities and regions. Regrettably, we are also witnessing such actions in Hungary at the national level, aimed at curtailing solidarity, tolerance and respect for human rights, especially in terms of the LGBTQ+ community.

A recently adopted law by the Hungarian Parliament bans transgender people from having their gender identity recognised before the law. This new legislation, unparalleled in Europe, is a heavy blow to our common goal to keep our cities and our countries open and tolerant to diverse identities, cultures, and beliefs. Our core values are being threatened when a cohesive and accepting community like the LGBTQ+ is excluded and demonized. This goes against all international and national human rights standards: right to privacy, right to self-determination, and right to human dignity.

Even though the pandemic prevented many cities and regions to march together proudly with their LGBTQ+ community, it does not mean we should not celebrate diversity. It is vital that our cities stand united and support LGBTQ+ communities both within our borders and outside. To show our support, displayed the rainbow flag on the building of the Mayoral Office, followed by several districts' City Halls, also expressing their solidarity. We believe that the strength of Budapest, just like in Kraków, lies in its diversity and openness.

Let me affirm my unwavering support to you and the people of Kraków and express my hope that we can meet in person soon!

Kind regards,



*Gergely Karácsony*  
**Gergely Karácsony**