

Hungary

Women in decision-making: **0.14/5**
Socio-economic position of women: **1.5/5**
Violence against women: **2.5/5**



UNDERSTANDING HUNGARY

According to opinion surveys, Hungarians are the most negative of all Europeans with regards to gender equality. Together with Malta, Hungary has the lowest proportion of women in parliament of all the EU Member States. Not a single major political party is headed by a woman and there is only 1 woman senior minister. There are no measures in place for the promotion of women in decision-making in the private sector, and the results are equally bad.

Less than half of women are employed full-time, although the number of men in full-time employment is also quite low at 59.9%. Women without young children in Hungary have a higher than EU average employment rate. However, this drops significantly (by 28.8%) when they have children under 12. Maternity leave is only remunerated at 70% of the last salary, one of the lowest levels in the EU. Fathers are only entitled to leave after the child reaches 1 year. Mothers are 90% of the claimants of parental leave, and usually take a minimum of 2 years out of the labour market.

Hungary does not have a National Action Plan on violence against women. The previous government elaborated a Gender Strategy in 2010, including a section on violence against women, but it was not implemented. 20% of Hungarians know a woman victim of domestic violence in their immediate neighbourhood,¹ and, according to police statistics, every year some 70 women die in domestic violence cases. However, there are no shelters in Hungary dedicated to the protection of women victims of violence. There are “family shelters”, but women have access only when accompanied by children. Indeed, the only data available for shelter places concerns those for children. In 2011, 717 requests for shelter were refused.

TRENDS:



In December 2012, the Hungarian Constitutional Court declared the definition of “family” used in a new law on family protection unconstitutional. The Court ruled too narrow in scope the definition which limited “families” to households based on marriage or filiation as families, excluding same-sex registered partners, but also unmarried heterosexual couples living together.



Following May 2012 elections, State gender equality machinery was dismantled. The National Strategy for the Promotion of Gender Equality remains unimplemented. Changes in the law on civil society organisation have threatened the existence of women’s associations.

Gender equality policies have been replaced by ideologically biased family policies that focus on demographic growth. In the national discourse, gender equality and family friendliness are seen as contradictory, and “family mainstreaming” has replaced gender mainstreaming.

In April 2011, the government adopted a new Constitution, which states that ‘life deserves protection from conception’. Later in the year, the Hungarian government ran an advertising campaign aiming at reducing the number of abortions and promoting adoption. The campaign pictured a foetus well beyond the legal cut-off point for abortion.

Dismissing pregnant women workers is easier thanks to new labour laws adopted in 2011, and the right of fathers to paternity leave is compromised as it has now become unpaid.

Highlights

9% women in parliament and 1 woman minister

17.6% gender pay gap

4.8% of women over 65 are at risk of poverty

9% of infants under 3 in formal care

16% of dependent elderly receive formal care

36.3% gender employment gap for parents of children under 12

0% no shelters for women victims of violence

¹ Special Eurobarometer 344 - 2010