



INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF CIVIL LIBERTIES ORGANIZATIONS

INCLIO welcomes EU court ruling, calling on governments to revoke hostile NGO legislation and refrain from adopting such laws

24 June 2020

All fifteen (15) member organizations of the **International Network of Civil Liberties Organizations (INCLIO)** join the Hungarian community of civil society organizations to welcome the decision of the [European Court of Justice \(CJEU\)](#), which ruled last week that Hungary’s anti-NGO law violated European Union law.

The European ruling on the Hungarian legislation bears great significance to local and national organizations who, through their work, hold their governments to account for obligations concerning anti-corruption, fundamental rights, democracy and the rule of law, and to protect the rights of people in most need, the environment and their access to information and justice.

The 2017 Hungarian **Law on the Transparency of Foreign Funded Organizations**, required non-governmental organizations (NGOs) who receive funding from abroad above the threshold of 7,2 million HUF annually (approximately 21 000 EUR) to register as “foreign-supported” organizations, report their donors’ names and publish that they are “foreign-funded” on websites, press products and publications. **CJEU** found that the law is discriminatory and imposes unjustified restrictions contrary to EU rules on free movement of capital, the right to respect for private and family life, personal data protection and freedom of association. The Hungarian government is yet to repeal the law.

Stefania Kapronczay, the head of the [Hungarian Civil Liberties Union \(HCLU\)](#) who was publicly attacked during the stigmatization campaign conducted by the Hungarian government, said:

“The NGO law is about the thousands of citizens we represent and whose voices can only be heard through us. It is about the citizens that criticize those exercising power, which explains why those in power have recently been replying with personal attacks instead of substantial answers.”

HCLU is an INCLO member and part of Hungary’s national community of NGOs (Civilization) who took a firm national and international stand against the Hungarian law and the hostile environment it created in the country.

INCLO expresses concern about the NGOs and other civil society actors in countries across the world who often become the target of public vilification, hostile legislation, arbitrary enforcement, surveillance, and in more extreme cases, freedom of movement restrictions, intimidation and arrest.

INCLO calls on governments to revoke hostile legislation against NGOs and refrain from adopting laws adversely affecting their legitimate activities, having a chilling effect on freedom of expression and association.

Agora International Human Rights Group (Agora) Russia

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) USA

The Association of Civil Rights in Israel (ACRI) Israel

Canadian Civil Liberties Association (CCLA) Canada

Centro de Estudios Legales y Sociales (CELS) Argentina,

Dejusticia Colombia

Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (EIPR)

Human Rights Law Centre (HRLC) Australia

Human Rights Law Network (HRLN) India

Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU) Hungary

Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) Ireland

Kenya Human Rights Commission (KHRC) Kenya

Kontras Indonesia

Legal Resources Centre (LRC) South Africa

Liberty United Kingdom

INCLO is a network of 15 independent, national human rights organizations from different countries around the globe that work together to promote fundamental rights and freedoms.