

Hungary – contextual human rights issues



The purpose of this summary is to provide a high-level overview of documented human rights issues in a particular country and how they could intersect with TV production. It aims to prompt further consideration and planning by production teams where appropriate. Not all issues will be relevant for all TV productions and, conversely, there may be aspects not yet covered that are relevant.

Human rights issue	Description of context	How this could intersect with TV production	Suggested mitigations	Resources
Discrimination – women and LGBTQI+	The government has led attacks on the rights of LGBTQI+ people, adopting a homophobic and transphobic law in June 2021. Women continue to experience widespread gender-based discrimination and many government communications actively reinforce gender stereotyping. (HRW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew and talent may experience or witness homophobia or gender discrimination • Local LGBTQI crew may be hiding their identities or living in fear • Local crew may exhibit homophobia • Local crew may have had to overcome significant hurdles and may still be facing them 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive security practices • Establish culture where everyone can raise concerns • Wellbeing and support resources • Invest in local crew to encourage them to return to future productions and to support shifts in mindsets • Provide training that reinforces culture messages 	<p>Aide Memoire for Inclusive Personal Safety on Location</p> <p>Inclusive security risk management</p> <p>Toolkit: Getting the culture right</p>
Discrimination – race and ethnicity, xenophobia, antisemitism	EU report found rampant racism and xenophobia. Roma people particularly face discrimination, particularly in educational institutions, state care homes, and workplaces. The government uses antisemitic tropes to further his political goals.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crew and talent may experience or witness racism, xenophobia or antisemitism • Sporting events may be particularly impacted, e.g. Hungary ordered to play game without fans for racist abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat ancillary workers as part of crew, regardless of who employs them • Support victims of harassment or discriminatory behaviour, e.g. mental health support 	
Freedom of the media (including local media and local producers supporting international teams)	Most media outlets remain directly or indirectly controlled by the government, creating a hostile climate for independent journalism. Journalists and media outlets critical of the government continued to be harassed and smeared in government-aligned media and by government officials. (HRW)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State surveillance or harassment of journalists / documentary teams • Covert or overt smear campaigns against journalists or media organisations • Legal action against journalists or media organisations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal agreement for duty of care towards local media support workers • Enhanced training, risk assessment and resources for teams covering controversial or politically sensitive issues • Social media monitoring • Adequate legal support including for local media workers 	<p>ACOS Alliance resources and training</p> <p>Committee to Protect Journalists: Safety Kit</p>

<p>Vulnerability of groups to exploitation</p>	<p>Vulnerable groups include Hungarians in extreme poverty, undereducated young adults, single mothers, asylum-seekers, people with disabilities, members of the LGBTQI+ community, children living in state-run institutions, homeless men, and Roma. Roma, the country's largest ethnic minority, make up a significant proportion of those identified as trafficking victims. Traffickers subject Hungarians to labor trafficking in agriculture, construction, hospitality, and factories. (US TiP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providers of ancillary services (e.g. hospitality, cleaning, security) could be employing trafficked workers • Productions may also encounter such workers in hotels and venues • Productions near the southern border may encounter Hungarian security forces or witness mistreatment of refugees 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with a production company that ensures subcontractors engage and pay workers properly • Due diligence on suppliers of ancillary services • Direct engagement with and checks on ancillary workers during production • Treat ancillary workers as part of crew, regardless of who employs them 	<p>Production pack: protecting the most vulnerable workers</p> <p>Toolkit: Vetting suppliers appropriately</p> <p>Toolkit: Supporting ancillary workers directly</p> <p>Toolkit: Category Management Due Diligence</p> <p>HRDD Displaced Workers Guidance</p>
<p>Refugees</p>	<p>Hungary has conducted pushbacks of refugees and migrants at its southern border. Large number of Ukrainian refugees have entered Hungary and are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.</p>			
<p>State of emergency that undermines rules of law; Limits to freedom of expression, association and assembly</p>	<p>The government has used the war in Ukraine to give itself extraordinary powers to rule by decree and sidestep parliamentary process. The European Commission has expressed concerns about the independence of the judiciary and the government's targeting of civil society organisations (HRW). Hungary is the most corrupt Member State of the European Union according to Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index (TI).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Productions may find their operations impacted by political activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay up-to-date with political developments • Strong local partner to help navigate the context 	<p>Amnesty International information on Hungary</p>

Have further insights? Please share suggested issues, intersections with TV, mitigations and resources with amelia.knott@tvhumanrights.org