

Hungary's strong movement to conservatism is demonstrated in these excerpts of their newly adopted Constitution

THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF HUNGARY

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(25 April 2011)

God bless the Hungarians

NATIONAL AVOWAL

WE, THE MEMBERS OF THE HUNGARIAN NATION, at the beginning of the new millennium, with a sense of responsibility for every Hungarian, hereby proclaim the following:

We are proud that our king Saint Stephen built the Hungarian State on solid ground and made our country a part of Christian Europe one thousand years ago.

We are proud of our forbearers who fought for the survival, freedom and independence of our country.

We are proud that our people has over the centuries defended Europe in a series of struggles and enriched Europe's common values with its talent and diligence.

We recognize the role of Christianity in preserving nationhood. **We value the various religious traditions of our country.**

We respect the freedom and culture of other nations, and shall strive to cooperate with every nation of the world.

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We hold that the family and the nation constitute the principal framework of our coexistence, and that our fundamental cohesive values are fidelity, faith and love.

We hold that **democracy is only possible where the State serves its citizens** and administers their affairs in an equitable manner, without prejudice or abuse.

We do not recognize the suspension of our historical constitution due to foreign occupations. **We deny any statute of limitations for the inhuman crimes committed against the Hungarian nation and its citizens under the national socialist and communist dictatorships.**

We do not recognize the communist constitution of 1949, since it was the basis for tyrannical rule; therefore we proclaim it to be invalid.

We agree with the members of the first free Parliament, which proclaimed as its first decision that our current liberty was born of our 1956 Revolution. We date the restoration of our country's self-determination, lost on the nineteenth day of March 1944, to **the second day of May 1990**, when the first freely elected body of popular representation was formed. We shall consider **this date to be the beginning of our country's new democracy and constitutional order.**

FOUNDATION

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Article A

The name of OUR COUNTRY shall be Hungary.

Article B

- (1) Hungary shall be an independent, democratic state governed by the rule of law.
- (2) **Hungary's form of government shall be that of a republic.**
- (3) **The source of public power shall be the people.**
- (4) The people shall exercise its power through its elected representatives or, in exceptional cases, in a direct manner.

Article C

- (1) The functioning of the Hungarian State shall be based on the principle of **separation of powers.**
- (2) No person's activity shall be aimed at the forcible acquisition, exercise or exclusive possession of power. Every person shall be entitled and obliged to act against such attempts in a lawful way.

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Article G

- (1) **The child of a Hungarian citizen shall be a Hungarian citizen by birth.** A cardinal Act may define other cases of the origin or acquisition of Hungarian citizenship.
- (3) No person may be deprived of Hungarian citizenship established by birth or acquired in a lawful manner.
- (4) The detailed rules for citizenship shall be defined by a cardinal Act.

Article H

- (1) In Hungary the official language shall be Hungarian.
 - (2) Hungary shall protect the Hungarian language.
 - (3) Hungary shall protect Hungarian Sign Language as a part of Hungarian culture.
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Article L

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- (1) Hungary shall **protect the institution of marriage as the union of a man and a woman established by voluntary decision, and the family as the basis of the nation's survival.**
 - (2) Hungary shall encourage the commitment to have children.
 - (3) The protection of families shall be regulated by a cardinal Act.
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Article II

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Human dignity shall be inviolable. Every human being shall have the right to life and human dignity; **embryonic and foetal life shall be subject to protection from the moment of conception.**

Article III

- (3) All practices aimed at eugenics, **any use of the human body or any of its parts for financial gain, and human cloning shall be prohibited.**

Article V

Every person shall have the right to repel any unlawful attack against his or her person or property, or one that poses a direct threat to the same.

Article VII

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- (1) **Every person shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. This right shall include the freedom to choose or change religion or any other persuasion, and the freedom for every person to proclaim, refrain from proclaiming, profess or teach his or her religion or any other persuasion by performing religious acts, ceremonies or in any other way, whether individually or jointly with others, in the public domain or in his or her private life.**
- (3) **The detailed rules for Churches shall be regulated by a cardinal Act.**
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Cardinal Act - Act C of 2011

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PREAMBLE

- **the constitutional requirement to separate the operation of the State and the church.**

1 The Act was adopted by Parliament at its sitting of 11 July 2011.

Chapter IV – THE OPERATION OF CURCHES

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(4) The activities for the public good of **churches** and of their institutions shall be **entitled to budgetary funds to the same extent as state and local government institutions** performing similar activities. In these church institutions the content of the employment relationship shall be conform to a public employee legal relationship **in respect of salary, working time and rest periods.**

(5) Churches may be granted **tax benefits** and other similar benefits.

Annex to Act C of 20 11

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The churches, religious denominations and religious communities recognized by Parliament

- 1 The Catholic Church in Hungary
- 2 The Hungarian Reformed Church
- 3 The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary

- 4-6 Jewish religious denominations:
 - The Alliance of Hungarian Jewish Communities of Faith
 - The United Hungarian Jewish Community of Faith - Statusquo Ante)
 - The Hungarian Autonomous Orthodox Jewish Community of Faith
- 7-11 Orthodox Church:
 - The Buda Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church
 - The Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople - the Orthodox Exarchate in Hungary
 - The Bulgarian Orthodox Church in Hungary
 - The Romanian Orthodox Diocese in Hungary
 - The Hungarian Diocese of the Russian Orthodox Church - Moscow Patriarchate

- 12 The Hungarian Diocese of the Unitarian Church in Hungary
- 13 The Baptist Union of Hungary
- 14 The Faith Church

Chapter III - RULES ON THE REGISTRATION OF CHURCHES

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Section 14

- c) it has been **operating for at least twenty years** in an organized way as an association in Hungary. The operation as a church before the entry into force of this Act shall also be taken into account for the calculation of the time period.

Section 15

- c) a sheet containing the names, Hungarian domiciles and signatures of **at least a thousand members** who are natural persons.
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