



ADVOCATING LGBT RIGHTS. LESSONS FROM HUNGARY

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Háttér Support Society for LGBT People

Context

Advocay dilemma

Favorable
environment

Hostile environment

Conclusion

POLITICAL CONTEXT

- 2002-2008
 - socialist-liberal coalition
 - comprehensive equal treatment act covering SOGI
 - hate crime legislation (implicitly) covering SOGI
 - introduction of registered partnership
 - (limited) second parent adoption
 - serious discussion on gender recognition legislation
- 2010-
 - conservative government w/ qualified majority, fascist party in Parliament
 - new Constitution w/ definition of marriage as union between woman and man
 - media law: duty to promote institution of marriage and family for PSBs
 - police banning pride march on extended route

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ADVOCACY DILEMMA

cooperation



contestation

- collaboration and helping
 - proposals, working groups, training
 - pro:
 - real influence on content of laws, policies
 - con:
 - criticism from more radical groups
- criticism and shaming
 - pressure (international, media)
 - pro:
 - not dependent on government attitudes
 - con:
 - stopping things: yes, making things happen: no

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STRATEGIES FOR FAVORABLE ENVIRONMENT

- radical and realistic
 - demand all, be prepared to compromise
- use of consultation processes
 - presence, even if not taken into consideration
- gathering expert knowledge
 - out-skilling
 - data-collection
- political lobbying
 - targeting small liberal party
 - LGBT politician: personal voice to convince others
- media: make issue accessible
 - filmfestival, concrete examples & stories
 - no hostility towards government

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STRATEGIES FOR HOSTILE ENVIRONEMNT

- one-step ahead
 - ask a bit more than they are willing to give
- coalition-building
 - LGBT groups
 - mainstream human rights NGOs
 - NGOs of other groups (feminist, Roma)
- international pressure
 - international NGOs (ILGA, Amnesty, Human Rights Watch, Human Rights First)
 - European Parliament, European Commission (failed), OSCE, CoE Commissioner for Human Rights, CoE Venice Commission, UN (UPR)
- litigation
 - local courts, equality body/ombudsperson
 - ECtHR
- media: strong messages
 - homophobia, fundamentalism

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CONCLUSION

- no universal solution, have to be built on local context
- assessing if favorable or hostile not always easy
- key: ability to change strategy (both directions)
- success not always direct, very often only in longer run