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NEWS REPORT

Country:	Hungary
Title:	A new wave of misogynist and anti-gender-policy: a political statement
Date:	4 September 2017
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<u>Context</u>	
Issue at stake:	The hostility against gender politics endangers the needed ratification of the Istanbul Convention in the near future
Ground of discrimination:	Sex
Source:	Policy development
Field:	Violence against women

Content

Policy development: On 21 May 2017, two statements from right-wing political leaders made it clear that the ruling right wing FIDESZ-KDNP alliance (*Fiatal Demokraták Szövetsége – Kereszténydemokrata Néppárt*: Alliance of Young Democrats – Christian Democratic People's Party) has no intention to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence. The leader of the youth wing of KDNP stated that numerous laws protected women in Hungary, therefore there was no need for the ratification of the Convention. He also stated that the ratification would be a "very precarious" measure politically. The 'precarious' nature was explained by Szilard Nemeth, the vice president of the FIDESZ who stated: "*The Istanbul Convention is not about the equality of women, nor is it about the rights of women, rather it is 'very sneaky' gender politics.*" This statement is a clear departure from, and contradicts the declaration of the vice president of the parliamentary justice committee who said in February 2017 that the Hungarian legislation is working on establishing the legislative background for the ratification of the Istanbul Convention.

A few days later, on 24 May, Szilard Nemeth, vice president of FIDESZ, repeated the position of FIDESZ on the primary role of women in society, saying: "*The world belongs to those who fill it by giving birth.*" ("Aze a világ, aki teleszuli.") This statement triggered equally harsh criticism from the opposition as the Prime Minister had received a few weeks earlier. In April 2017, Prime Minister Victor Orbán equivocated on his recall of Ms. Reka Szemerkenyi, the Ambassador of Hungary in Washington DC, by stating: "I do not deal with women's affairs". The Prime Minister's creative use of sarcasm in a pun was especially insensitive knowing that the recalled Ambassador is one of the very few women achieving a hard-won senior position under the apparent glass ceiling of FIDESZ.

Key points of analysis: That Hungary must be populated by Hungarians and not immigrants, seems to be a core element of FIDESZ's politics. As evidenced by the above comments, the current Hungarian political establishment opposes any policy measure encouraging women away from being a wife and mother. Until recently FIDESZ, at least in rhetoric, did not openly refuse the ratification of the Convention. Labelling the Istanbul

Convention as a measure of "sneaky gender politics" reveals, however, that the political leadership has no intention to ratify the Istanbul Convention.

Internet link source: <https://444.hu/2017/04/04/nougyekkel-nem-foglalkozom-mondta-orban-a-washingtoni-nagykovet-kirugasarol>;
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