



Permanent Representative of Hungary  
to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva

No. 2716-33/2023.

**Ms. Irene Khan**

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression

**Ms. Mary Lawlor**

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

12 December 2023

Dear Special Rapporteur Khan,  
Dear Special Rapporteur Lawlor,

With reference to your Joint Communication Ref. OL HUN 1/2023 dated 8 December 2023 we would like to express our astonishment regarding some of the unsubstantiated claims in your joint letter referring to the Government's actions allegedly aiming to narrow civic space. Such statements, presented without any proof, could lead to questioning the neutrality and unpoliticized nature of the Joint Communication and the issues raised therein.

The draft bill on protecting national sovereignty has been submitted and is currently being duly considered by lawmakers. Ultimately it will be the Hungarian Parliament that will decide on the adoption of the legislation. We encourage you to study the final version of the bill, which will hopefully provide answers to the questions raised in your Communication.

Let us reassure you that the Hungarian Parliament, comprised of members democratically elected by the Hungarian people, discusses and adopts legislations that contain safeguards necessary for the independent and impartial functioning of the institutions in Hungary.

Sincerely yours,

Margit Szűcs

Ambassador, Permanent Representative



**Office of the High Commissioner  
for Human Rights  
Geneva**