

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Emeli Sandé
c/o Motivate Management

Dear Emeli Sandé,

I hope this letter finds you well.

As a much-loved LGBT+ icon and fierce advocate for equality, your voice carries not just beauty but power. You've long stood with our community—through your music, your words and your visibility. That's why I'm writing to you now, with a heartfelt and urgent appeal.

Hungary has taken yet another dangerous step backwards against LGBT+ human rights. Its government has outlawed Budapest Pride on 28 June and will use face recognition surveillance technology to arrest and fine anyone who marches.

This is just the latest in a wave of deeply regressive anti-LGBT+ measures. Over the past few years, the Hungarian government has systematically dismantled protections, censored education, banned legal gender recognition, prohibited the so-called 'promotion' of homosexuality and vilified LGBT+ people in the media as a 'threat to children.' The silencing of Pride sends a chilling message—not just to Hungary's LGBT+ citizens, but to the world and risks emboldening other countries to follow suit.

Your planned performance in Budapest—though no doubt born from love and inclusion and agreed many months ago—risks being used by the authoritarian homophobic regime to project normalcy and acceptance. Your performance will be twisted and used to legitimise a country that is actively persecuting the LGBT+ community you've always stood alongside.

We know this isn't easy. We know your heart is in the right place.

We ask you to stand with Hungary's LGBT+ people by cancelling your performance.

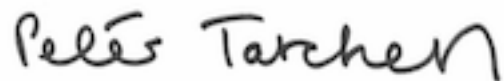
If this is not possible, when you are in Hungary, we ask you to hold a press conference where you condemn the Pride ban and express support for the LGBT+ community - and do the same on stage when you perform.

Could you please do this in solidarity with Hungarian LGBTs?

Such actions by you would shine a powerful spotlight on injustice—and show solidarity where it's needed most.

Thank you for your continued support. We stand with you, and we hope you will stand with us.

With deep respect and admiration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Tatchell". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Peter Tatchell, Director of Peter Tatchell Foundation

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