

## **Whoopi Goldberg Statement in Support of Budapest Gay Pride August 31, 2009**

Hello Hungary. Your country has always had a special place in my heart, as you know, and I hope to be there with you again soon, one day.

But you should know that as much as I love Hungary, I believe strongly in human rights. I believe we all have differences, but all human beings want the same thing: freedom, respect, love and peace.

Throughout your long and proud history, I know that you have always fought for freedom and desired democracy, and through that, it has not been easy. Now twenty years after the fall of the Soviet bloc, the struggle for freedom continues.

The people in Hungary who are participating in Gay Pride are expressing those freedoms, just like they do in so many other cities in the European Union. Not everyone celebrates Gay Pride, not everyone agrees with Gay Pride, but all citizens of Hungary who support democracy need to say to themselves: "You know, people can disagree, but violence against other human beings, that's not good. It's wrong."

Now if I were in Budapest, you know I would be marching with you, celebrating Gay Pride. I have marched in a lot of these events before, and I am proud of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people for being open and honest about who they are.

I salute you -all of who are marching and organizing and participating in Gay Pride. You've earned the right to march in peace, you've earned equal rights and protections, and you deserve the respect and the support from your government and your police force. I'm going to be watching. Happy Gay Pride Hungary! Keep doing it the right way.