

Statement of the Synod Council of the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia

The Synod Council of the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia, as the governing body of the church, makes the following statement on the amendment to Act 63/1993 regarding the restriction of the use of national anthems, which was adopted by the National Council of Slovakia on 27 March 2019:

The majority of the members, congregations and institutional bodies of the Reformed Christian Church in Slovakia are Hungarian. Pursuant to the freedom of conscience and of religion, it is an inalienable right of our church to sing the Hungarian national anthem with faith, which is our national prayer and an integral part of our liturgy.

If and when the state restricts this conscience-related element of the freedom of religion guaranteed to the church, such an act constitutes a severe invasion into our Church's fundamental religious tenets and into the public exercise of religion, which is a serious and deeply concerning breach of a fundamental freedom within democratic constitutionality.

Such a flagrant breach of our freedom of conscience and religion is unacceptable to our Church.

We encourage our congregations, our church bodies and our institutions to continue singing our national prayer the same way as they have been doing so far.

Lay President Vince Fekete

Bishop László Fazekas

Rimaszombat (Rimavská Sobota), 6 April 2019

Translated by Erzsébet Bölcskei