

NO COUNTRY FOR THE POOR

1 x 60 HD



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In Hungary, now called Europe's "illiberal democracy", a significant but silent social transformation is taking place. More than 30 percent of the population is now living below the poverty line and the society is becoming extremely divided while xenophobia, marginalization and commonplace injustice are a daily experience for the poor and weak. The government has slashed social benefits and criminalized homelessness. Now, AVM—a group whose name translates to The City is For All—is bringing together homeless and middle class activists to confront the authorities to defend their citizenship, social justice and human dignity. *No Country for the Poor* follows AVM on the group's mission to rise against the ongoing transformation of Hungary from a welfare state into a workfare society.

The story opens in a forest on the outskirts of Budapest, where the government forces a small community of homeless to destroy a shack-settlement—their only home. Through a tiresome fight with the authorities, AVM helps two of these homeless families to obtain social housing, but one of the couples does not survive the move, passing away from illness and despair before settling in their new home.

The AVM faces more trouble as numerous evictions leave the working poor on the streets, and mothers are separated from their children who are forced into state care. Jutka, a 60-year-old homeless activist, and an orphan herself, fiercely fights to defend the cause of homeless mothers in both the streets and in the Parliament. She survives by selling garbage and volunteers for AVM alongside dozens of homeless and middle-class Budapest activists.

AVM calls on the government to assist the three-million poor citizens but their calls are met with silence. Increasingly feeling their country doesn't care for them, activists take more radical measures at the risk of their participants' safety and health. But, the AVM community inspires resistance in moments of despair and sustaining this mini-society based on solidarity becomes an important goal in itself. The group's members see the organization as a non-violent direct movement working to provide a sense of belonging to those who have no place in the Hungarian society. This gives them the power and courage to keep fighting.

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CREDITS

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