



**Kofi Annan**  
FOUNDATION

Michael Ignatieff  
The Office of the President and Rector  
Central European University  
Nador u. 9, Monument Building  
1051 Budapest  
Hungary

6 April 2017

Dear Professor Ignatieff, *dear Michael,*

It is with great sadness that I learned of deliberations in the Hungarian parliament around a new law putting CEU's future in the country at great peril.

The Central European University's contribution to a progressive democratic order is essential, especially in a part of the world that has historically been so plagued by harmful ideologies, be it at societal or at governmental level.

At the heart of a rights based order, of free speech and of intellectual freedom are centres of higher learning that promote these values to its future leaders. The CEU is a case in point and its importance to present and future generations can hardly be overstated.

I hope that you will overcome these challenges promptly and that the CEU will continue to thrive and carry out its important mission to the benefit of all.

With my warm personal regards,

Kofi A. Annan

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