



Dr. Chandana Mathur
Chair
World Council of
Anthropological Associations

4 April 2017

Mr. Zoltán Balog
Minister of Human Capacities
1054 Budapest, Akadémia utca 3.
Hungary

Dear Minister Balog,

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), a network of over fifty national, regional and international anthropological associations from all continents.

We are extremely concerned to learn about the proposed legislative changes to the status of the Central European University that will endanger the CEU's continued operation in Budapest.

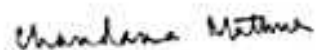
In twenty-five years, the Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40 countries. The CEU is certified by appropriate Hungarian and US authorities, and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

In international rankings, some of the CEU's departments are among the top 50 in the world. The CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as diverse as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

The CEU is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage. The government's proposed legislation to alter its statute of operation in Hungary will severely compromise the academic freedom of our CEU colleagues.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter into consultation with the CEU, bearing in mind the potential damage to Hungary's international academic reputation and to the life of the mind in Hungary.

Yours sincerely,



Chandana Mathur

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University