



2 April 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

As Trustees of the British Society of Aesthetics, we are writing to express solidarity with Central European University and concern at proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

The British Society of Aesthetics is an active charitable organisation with over 200 members, which promotes aesthetics and the philosophy of art. Although our focus is the UK, we sponsor and organise conferences that attract participants from all over the world, and our members have worked with faculty and students at Central European University. CEU philosophers are highly respected in our intellectual community.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as an international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. 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 would compromise its academic freedom and set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation might do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation, to its relationships with its European partners and with the United States.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Berys Gaut, President
Dr Stacie Friend, Vice President
Dr Dan Cavedon-Taylor, Treasurer
Dr Emily Caddick-Bourne
Professor David Davies
Dr James Grant

Dr Louise Hanson
Professor Bence Nanay
Dr Hans Maes
Dr Katherine Thomson-Jones
Dr Lee Walters
Professor Catherine Wilson

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CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;
Office of the Prime Minister;
Central European University

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