



3 April, 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

As Chair of the Association of Human Rights Institutions, AHRI, I am writing to express solidarity with Central European University (CEU) and to express our deep concern over the proposed legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. These changes would endanger the academic freedom which is vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and they would strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

In twenty-five years, Central European University has established itself as a university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. In international rankings, some of CEU's departments are rated among the top 50 in the world. CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants.

Central European University is a highly valued member of the international academic community and is a long-term member of the AHRI Association. The outstanding researchers of the CEU have contributed significantly to AHRI with their excellent research. We strongly believe that CEU's presence in Hungary has added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage.

As a global network of academic human rights institutes, AHRI strongly believes that academic freedom constitutes a fundamental element of vibrant democracies and is essential to advance societal development. Please see the AHRI Utrecht Declaration of Academic Freedom (link here: <http://ahri-network.org/ahri-declarations>). The Hungarian government's proposed legislation to alter CEU's statute of operation in Hungary would compromise its academic freedom and, in addition, set a dangerous precedent for academic life in other countries.

That is why we respectfully but strongly appeal to the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter consultation with CEU.

Yours sincerely,

Jonas Christoffersen

Chair of Association of Human Rights Institutes, AHRI  
Email: JCH@Humanrights.dk

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