



## British Philosophical Association

admin@bpa.ac.uk  
www.bpa.ac.uk

Thursday, 6 April 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

I am writing on behalf of the British Philosophical Association to express our strong support for Central European University and to voice our concern at the legislative changes to CEU's status in Hungary. The BPA believe that these changes are not in Hungary's interests, will endanger the academic freedom vital for CEU's continued operation in Budapest and will strike a blow against the academic freedom that enables all universities, including those in Hungary, to flourish.

The government's proposed legislation to alter CEU's statute of operation will be disastrous to Hungary's international academic stature. The philosophy department is home to world class scholars, attracts visiting philosophers from all over the world to spend time in Hungary, and has produced PhD students who have gone on to work at leading universities in Hungary, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, the US and the UK. CEU's philosophy department is a valued member of the international academic community and its presence in Hungary has certainly added to the reputation of Hungarian academic life on the international stage.

We respectfully urge the government to revise the legislation and enter consultation with CEU, bearing in mind the damage such legislation will do to Hungary's well-founded international academic reputation.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Robert Stern

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

**President:**  
**Prof. Robert Stern**  
Philosophy  
University of Sheffield  
Sheffield  
S3 7QB  
r.stern@shef.ac.uk

**Director:**  
**Dr Joe Morrison**  
Philosophy  
Queen's University Belfast  
Belfast  
BT7 1PN  
j.morrison@qub.ac.uk

**Treasurer:**  
**Prof. Stella Sandford**  
Humanities  
Kingston University  
Kingston upon Thames  
Surrey KT1 2EE  
S.Sandford@kingston.ac.uk