

April 4, 2017

Dr. Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Budapest, Hungary
via e-mail

Dear Dr. Ignatieff,

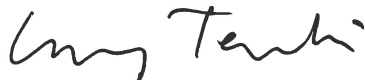
In light of recent legislation, rammed through the Hungarian Parliament in unseemly haste; legislation that, if enacted, would jeopardize the continuing operation of your institution or at the very least endanger its independence, we – the members of the Philosophy Departments of Rutgers University, New Brunswick and Newark – write to express our joint support for the Central European University, and our deep concern about the Hungarian government's attack on academic freedom and excellence. It is one of the few remaining independent cultural institutions in Hungary, and the most prominent and prestigious university in all of East-Central Europe – a gem.

A number of our faculty – as well as faculty in other departments all over the country – have worked with colleagues at CEU, participated in its conferences and highly-regarded summer schools, and were visitors at the CEU Institute for Advanced Study.

Members of our departments stand ready to lend any support in the cause of defending academic freedom, higher education, and civil society. As the demonstrators in Budapest pointed out so poignantly on Sunday, in today's world we don't know "who is next". Our only defense is to stand together.

We hope the Hungarian government will reconsider this ominous legislation.

With best wishes,



Larry Temkin
Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University,
New Brunswick



Kenneth Aizawa
Professor, Chair, Department of Philosophy, Rutgers University, Newark