



The University of
Nottingham

UNITED KINGDOM • CHINA • MALAYSIA

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3 April 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

We, the undersigned, are three historians from the University of Nottingham (United Kingdom) who have worked with fellow-historians in the Department of History and the Department of Gender Studies at CEU to create and run the Joint European Master degree in Women's and Gender History. Nottingham participated in this programme between 2006 and 2013, and during that time we visited CEU twice to discuss the development of the curriculum and the teaching of the programme. We are shocked and dismayed that there is a threat to the status of CEU in Hungary. For us it was a privilege to work with such outstanding colleagues who, in working at CEU, are dedicated to the highest standards of research and teaching. We have also seen the extraordinary quality of work produced by CEU students, some of whom we have taught in Nottingham as exchange students on the Joint European Master degree and on joint summer schools. We are profoundly shocked and dismayed at the prospect of changes that 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.

We have witnessed at first hand the way in which Central European University has attracted outstanding faculty and students from all over the world, creating a unique environment for teaching and research. We are also aware of the vital role it plays within Hungarian academic life and the way in which its programmes are certified by the appropriate Hungarian authorities. As an institution, CEU has complied in full with all Hungarian laws. 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,

Dr Karen Adler, Dr Ross Balzarette, Professor Elizabeth Harvey
(Department of History, University of Nottingham)

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



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