

To:

Mr. Zoltán Balog , [info@emmi.gov.hu](mailto:info@emmi.gov.hu)  
Minister of Human Capacities

Cc: Mr. Linas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Mr. Petras Auštrevičius, Member of European Parliament

The President and Rector of Central European University

## **THE OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY (CEU) ALUMNI IN LITHUANIA EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH CEU**

In response to proposed legislation introduced in Hungary's National Assembly to halt the operations of the CEU in Hungary (proposed amendments to Act CCIV of 2011 on National Higher Education), spurred by the ongoing campaign of Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government against liberal values in Hungary, and immediately opposed as **"discriminatory and unacceptable"** by Central European University President and Rector Michael Ignatieff on March 28, the undersigned foundation in Lithuania express solidarity with and unconditional support for the protesting students and staff of the CEU.

Together with CEU Alumni in Lithuania, we – the Open Lithuania Foundation, urge the Lithuanian government, as well as diplomats and members of the European Parliament, to unite for immediate action and stand up for the protection of free academic life and in defense of democratic order, human rights and freedoms in Hungary; to foster a dialogue with Hungarian politicians for alternative solutions; and to fight this proposed discriminatory legislation.


For more than 25 years the CEU has been a source of quality education and critical thinking and has provided a rich contribution to the development of democratic values and human rights, not only in Hungary, but also internationally. We strongly support the CEU's right to maintain its academic freedoms and welcome this institution's desire to continue operating in Budapest. We demand a stop to the proposed legislation, which not only threatens the functioning of the CEU in Budapest, but also contradicts democratic principles and dims the prospects for independent academic activities in Hungary.

We appeal to the Hungarian government and Parliament to reject any initiatives that might negatively affect the further functioning of Central European University in Budapest. We call upon the government of Hungary to open a dialogue with the CEU in order to guarantee that this internationally acclaimed academic institution may continue its work and further enjoy academic freedom and autonomy in Hungary.

On behalf of

Open Lithuania  
Foundation and

CEU Alumni in Lithuania



Dr. Milda Ališauskienė,  
Chair of the Board



Sandra Adomavičiūtė,  
Director

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