



Dr. Chandana Mathur  
Chair  
World Council of  
Anthropological Associations

4 April 2017

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

Dear Minister Balog,

I am writing in my capacity as the Chair of the World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA), a network of over fifty national, regional and international anthropological associations from all continents.

We are extremely concerned to learn about the proposed legislative changes to the status of the Central European University that will endanger the CEU's continued operation in Budapest.

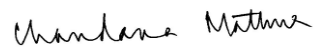
In twenty-five years, the Central European University has established itself as a private international university with a global reputation for teaching and research in the social sciences and humanities. It attracts students from 117 countries and faculty from 40 countries. The CEU is certified by appropriate Hungarian and US authorities, and it has complied in full with all Hungarian laws.

In international rankings, some of the CEU's departments are among the top 50 in the world. The CEU also makes Hungary a regional leader in winning highly competitive European Research Council grants. Several of its faculty, in fields as diverse as medieval studies, network and cognitive science, have won the most prestigious awards in their disciplines.

The 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 will severely compromise the academic freedom of our CEU colleagues.

We respectfully urge the government to withdraw the proposed legislation and enter into consultation with the CEU, bearing in mind the potential damage to Hungary's international academic reputation and to the life of the mind in Hungary.

Yours sincerely,



Chandana Mathur

CC: Viktor Orban, Prime Minister of Hungary;

Office of the Prime Minister;

Central European University

## **Member Associations of the WCAA**

### **Africa**

Anthropology Southern Africa (ASnA)

Pan African Anthropology Association (PAAA)

Tunisian Association of Anthropology / L'Association Tunisienne d'Anthropologie - TAA

### **Asia**

Anthropological Association of the Philippines / Ugnayang Pang-Aghamtao, Inc. - UGAT

The Chinese Anthropological Society – CAS

Hong Kong Anthropological Society - HKAS

Indian Anthropological Association - IAA

Indian Anthropological Society - Calcutta

Indonesian Anthropological Association – IAA

Israeli Anthropological Association - IAA

Japanese Society of Cultural Anthropology – JASCA

Korean Society for Cultural Anthropology - KOSCA

Taiwan Society for Anthropology and Ethnology – TSAE

### **Australasia**

Association of Social Anthropologists of New Zealand/Aoteroa - ASA-NZ

Australian Anthropological Society – AAS

### **Europe**

Anthropological Association of Ireland – AAI

Anthropological Association of Sweden - SANT

Asociación de Antropología de Castilla y León - AAC-LMK

Associação Portuguesa de Antropologia – APA

Association Française des Anthropologues – AFA

Association Française d'Ethnologie et d'Anthropologie - AFEA

Association of Anthropologists and Ethnologists of Russia - AAER

Association of Social Anthropologists UK & Commonwealth - ASA

Associazione Nazionale Universitaria degli Antropologi Culturali – ANUAC

Croatian Anthropological Association - HAD

Czech Association for Social Anthropology - CASA

Česká Národopisná Společnost - ČNS

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Völkerkunde - DGV

European Association of Social Anthropologists - EASA

Finnish Anthropological Society – SAS

Institut Català d'Antropologia – ICA

Instituto Madrileño de Antropología – IMA

International Association for Southeast European Anthropology (InASEA)  
Istituto Italiano di Antropologia - ISItA  
Latvijas Antropologu Biedriba – LAB  
Nordic Association of Film Anthropology - NAFA  
Norsk Antropologisk Forening - NAF  
Polskie Towarzystwo Ludoznawcze / Polish Ethnological Society – PTL  
Royal Anthropological Institute - RAI  
Serbian Ethnological and Anthropological Society (SEAS)

### **Latin America**

Associação Brasileira de Antropologia – ABA  
Asociación Latinoamericana de Antropología - ALA  
Colegio de Antropólogos de Chile – CAC  
Colegio de Etnólogos y Antropólogos Sociales - CEAS  
Colegio de Graduados en Antropología de la República Argentina – CGA  
Uruguayan Association of Social and Cultural Anthropology – AUAS

### **North America**

American Anthropological Association – AAA  
Canadian Anthropology Society / La Société Canadienne d'Anthropologie – CASCA  
Society for Applied Anthropology - SfAA

### **International**

International Society for Ethnology and Folklore / Société Internationale d'Ethnologie et de Folklore (SIEF)  
International Union of Anthropological and Ethnological Sciences (IUAES)  
Wenner-Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research