



06 April 2017

### **Letter of support for the Central European University**

The Graduate Centre for Europe at the University of Birmingham, uniting students and faculty from the Colleges of Social Sciences, Arts and Law as well as Life and Environmental Sciences, strongly condemns the legislation passed on 4 April 2017 by the Hungarian Parliament that jeopardises the activity of several higher education institutions, among them the Central European University in Budapest. We recognise CEU as an esteemed member of the international academic community, which produces state-of-the-art research, highly relevant for the University of Birmingham and other institutions in the United Kingdom. We have many colleagues and friends who are studying and have studied at CEU, and whose work has greatly enhanced our own research. The Graduate Centre for Europe specifically values CEU as a crucial contributor in the field of European Studies.

CEU is an open and independent university whose work is recognised not just by the scholarly communities in Hungary and the United States, but throughout the world. We firmly condemn the interference of politics in its activity and the attempts to use the image of CEU as an international university for political goals. Therefore, we urge HE János Áder, the president of Hungary, not to sign the proposed Bill and to send it to the Constitutional Court, where it can be appropriately reviewed to protect the academic freedom and the reputation of academic life in Hungary. We equally urge the Prime Minister of Hungary, Viktor Orbán, and the Parliament in Budapest to withdraw its support for the proposed Bill which gravely limits the values of the freedom of expression and democracy in Hungary.

We, the staff and students in the Graduate Centre for Europe at the University of Birmingham are deeply troubled by the recent events jeopardising the future of the Central European University in Budapest. We stand in solidarity with CEU and with the hundreds of academic institutions around the world who have already voiced their concerns.

How you can make a difference:

Show your solidarity by signing this petition in support of CEU and help spread the word in support of educational freedom:

[www.change.org/p/hungarian-national-assembly-save-the-central-european-university](http://www.change.org/p/hungarian-national-assembly-save-the-central-european-university)

If you would like to find out more about the recent events and how you can lend support to CEU, visit:

[www.ceu.edu/category/istandwithceu](http://www.ceu.edu/category/istandwithceu)

[www.ceu.edu/node/17842](http://www.ceu.edu/node/17842)