



AHRI Statement of Support for CEU

The global Association of Human Rights Institutes expresses its great concern about the forced relocation of large parts of Central European University (CEU) outside Hungary. We stand in solidarity with our academic peers in one of our esteemed member institutions.

Recalling that in 2016, the Association of Human Rights Institutes (AHRI) adopted the [Utrecht Declaration on Academic Freedom](#). That declaration highlighted the unacceptability of the threats of actions of an increasing number of States to restrain and even foreclose academic freedom, in the name of security, public order, counter-terrorism, counter-crime or counter-extremism, through a variety of measures, including disciplinary actions, dismissals, criminal prosecutions, physical violence, travel restrictions and widespread intimidation of numerous scholars, teachers, students and academic institutions.

At the time of adoption, the Hungarian Government had begun its assault on the academic freedom of the Central European University in an effort to intimidate and repress scholars, teachers and students in violation of their individual freedoms of expression and opinion as well as their right and freedom of education, guaranteed under both universal and regional human rights instruments, including the two United Nations Covenants. Despite the best efforts of our CEU colleagues over these past 20 months to comply with the barrage of legislation designed to close down academic space, they have been forced out of Budapest by the Hungarian Government.

As an international network of human rights research institutions, we deplore the actions of the Hungarian government and unanimously condemn its growing intolerance of individual rights and academic freedom. Today, on International Human Rights Day, we express our full solidarity with our CEU colleagues in their struggles for knowledge, truth, peace, human rights, freedom and tolerance as they relocate future activities to Vienna.

10 December 2018