



Cornell University

Hunter R. Rawlings III
Interim President

April 5, 2017

Dr. Michael Ignatieff
President and Rector
Central European University
Budapest, Hungary
president@ceu.edu

Dear Dr. Ignatieff:

I am writing to express Cornell University's solidarity with Central European University and our deep concern over efforts by the government of Hungary to undermine CEU's ability to continue to function as a world-leading institution of higher education.

Cornell has enjoyed a productive relationship with CEU over the years, including a partnership with the Cornell Law School that sent up to two students to CEU'S Department of Legal Studies each year in the fall and spring. In addition, Cornell maintains a robust student and faculty exchange. CEU has a solid reputation as an internationally recognized institution of post-graduate education in the social sciences and the humanities, operating pursuant to a charter from the Board of Regents of the State of New York and accredited by the US Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The legislation recently adopted by the Hungarian parliament is nothing short of a direct assault on academic freedom that all universities rely upon to disseminate knowledge and to enhance the human condition. It sets a dangerous precedent that could have a negative impact on the pursuit of higher education around the world.

Please know that the Cornell community stands with you as you seek legal redress against this legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hunter R. Rawlings III". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Hunter R. Rawlings III