



# KNOWING WHO KNOWING WHY

MESSAGES OF HUNGARIAN RESCUERS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

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**Conference and Photo Installation**  
**Budapest, 30 October, 2014.**

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Institute for  
Foreign Affairs  
and Trade

*Tom Lantos*  
INSTITUTE





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## About the Conference

During the Holocaust the indifference or outright collaboration of the Hungarian state and parts of the society resulted in the extreme humiliation and annihilation of hundreds of thousands of Hungarian citizens. Under these circumstances the role of individuals who took the responsibility and risk to rescue their fellow citizens was of utmost importance. These rescuers represented the only chance for those persecuted to survive. Against the background of the genocide, this conference focuses on those exceptional individuals who had the moral strength and courage to stand against this injustice and save lives. The conference presents and examines the lives of Hungarians who received the Righteous Among the Nations Award from historical, sociological, social psychological, cultural and educational perspectives.

## About the Photo Installation

On an everyday level, the events of past centuries can be re-lived most directly as history enclosed in streets, spaces and buildings built by people. The city is the common and personal space of successive generations, millions of people. It exists as a memorial to the most shameful as well as the noblest events of human history. During the Second World War every single rescuer performed one of the greatest acts of Hungarian history. The scene of these acts is our immediate environment, our everyday surroundings, perhaps it is the street we live in or the house next door.

The selection of portraits in the installation shows the varied social backgrounds of the rescuers and the well known urban scenes where these events took place. This highlights the fact that the history of the rescuers, the rescued and the victims is also ours.

The Curator of the photo installation is Fanni Magyar, art historian. She studied history of art at the Budapest-based Eötvös Loránd University and the Humboldt University in Berlin. As an independent Curator, Fanni is the organizer of various contemporary fine art exhibitions in partnership with the Moholy-Nagy Gallery of the Collegium Hungaricum Berlin and the Austrian Gaudens Pedit Gallery. She is the member of the Studio of Young Artists' Association.

Contributing artist: Dávid Szauder

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## About the Organizers

### ***Tom Lantos Institute***

The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish and Roma communities and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. As an international research, education and advocacy platform, TLI aims to bridge the gap between research and policy, norms and practice.

The TLI was established in Hungary in May 2011 by the decision of the Hungarian Government and the U.S. Senate to honour and continue the legacy of Tom Lantos, a Hungarian-American and the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the United States Congress. A powerful voice for human rights and civil liberties throughout his life, he was the Co-Founder of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and rose to become the Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. After his death, Congress permanently established the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission.

Contact us:

[tomlantosinstitute.hu](http://tomlantosinstitute.hu)

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### ***Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade***

The Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade (formerly the Hungarian Institute of International Affairs) contributes to the professional work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade by monitoring and analysing relevant international events, conducting research and participating in international scientific cooperation as well as organizing educational and training activities in the field of foreign policy.

During the Hungarian Holocaust Memorial Year the Institute conducts four research and educational projects including study trips for secondary school students to develop a deeper understanding of the era of the Hungarian Holocaust. These programmes are subsidized by the Civil Fund – 2014.

Contact us:

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## Agenda

*The 40 minute lectures are followed by 20 minute discussions.*

### **9:00-9:15 Opening Remarks**

H.E. Mr. Ilan Mor, Ambassador of the State of Israel,  
Dr. Anna-Mária Bíró, Director of the Tom Lantos Institute and Dr. Erzsébet N. Rózsa, Academic Director of the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade

### **9:15-10:15 The Perspective of the Survivors: the Importance of Identifying and Acknowledging the Rescuers**

Dr. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska, Professor of Jagiellonian University of Krakow

### **10:15-10:45 Coffee break**

### **10:45-11:45 Rescuers in Historiography**

Dr. László Csősz, Historian at the Hungarian National Archives

*The lecture provides a historical and political analysis about the Rescuers and the age and context they operated in.*

### **11:45-12:45 Rescuers, Perpetrators, Bystanders and Collective Memory**

Dr. Mónika Kovács, Vice Dean of the Education and Psychology Faculty, Eötvös Loránd University

*This presentation examines the societal driving forces informing individual*

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*decisions and how these contributed to broader outcomes.*

**12:45-14:00 Lunch**

**14:00-15:00 Rescuing in Literature**

György Vári, Lecturer at the WERK Academia, Critic, Literary Historian and Publicist

*The presentation looks at the nature and extent of the theme of rescuing as used in Hungarian literature.*

**15:00-16:00 Rescuers in Education**

Andrea Szőnyi, director of the Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance, Chief Educational Advisor of the USC Shoah Foundation

*The lecture looks at how rescuing is used and should be used appropriately in educational materials and curricula.*

**16:00-16:15 Coffee break**

**16:15-17:15 The Role of the Church**

Annamária Buda, director of the Diaconal Department of the National Office of the Lutheran Church of Hungary

*The lecture presents the rescuing activity of individual members of the clergy with an emphasis on the ecclesiastic and social context in which they operated.*

**17:15-18:00 Forgotten Heroes in Education**

Educational Short Film „The Mayor of Hell” – Marcell Kenesei, Director of Centropa Foundation

*This short educational film tells the story of Captain Miksa Domonkos who despite his Jewish origins played a significant role in the rescues in Budapest and became a victim of a show trial after the war.*

**18:00-18:30 Opening the Photo Installation on Hungarian Rescuers**

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## About the Lecturers

### ***Dr. Annamaria Orla-Bukowska***

Annamaria Orla-Bukowska is a social anthropologist in the Institute of Sociology at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow. Her specialization is Polish Christian-Polish Jewish relations. She teaches extensively not only for various departments of the Jagiellonian but also for the postgraduate programs at the State Museum Auschwitz-Birkenau and The Graduate School for Social Research in Warsaw. Among other places, she was a guest lecturer in the USA, the Czech Republic, Belgium, Greece, Australia, and Israel. Dr. Orla-Bukowska was a Koerner Holocaust Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies (1999), a Yad Vashem Fellow in Jerusalem (2004), and a Skalny Center Fellow at the University of Rochester (2009). She is the author of a chapter on Polish collective memory in the volume *The Politics of Memory in Postwar Europe*, and the co-editor (with Robert Cherry) of *Rethinking Poles and Jews: Troubled Past, Brighter Future*.

### ***Dr. László Csősz***

László Csősz is historian and chief archivist at the Hungarian National Archives in Budapest, Hungary. He earned MA degrees at the University of Szeged (History, Hungarian Studies, Ethnology) and at the Budapest-based Central European University (Central European History). He received a PhD in History from the University of Szeged in 2011. He was the recipient of several research scholarships and grants, most recently a Tziporah Wiesel Fellowship at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (2013-14). He was a contributor to the Hungarian National Museum's permanent Holocaust exhibition as well as to on-line research and educational materials. His main fields of research interest include the social history of the Jews in Hungary as well as Antisemitic social and economic policies and the Holocaust in Hungary. His latest publication (co-authored with Gábor Kádár and Zoltán Vági) is *The Holocaust in Hungary. Evolution of a Genocide*.

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## ***Dr. Mónika Kovács***

Monika Kovács is a social psychologist, associate professor of ELTE, and the vice dean for external relations and academic affairs at the Faculty of Education and Psychology. Her research fields include collective memory, Holocaust education, and the social psychology of sexism. She is funding member and president of the Hannah Arendt Association, and she was an expert member of the Hungarian delegation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance in the Educational Working Group between 2010 and 2014.

## ***György Vári***

György Vári is a literary historian and a journalist with the leading Hungarian daily newspaper (Népszabadság). He studied at the University of Pécs. His PhD-thesis, published in 2003, was a monography on Imre Kertész. He did Jewish studies in the Paid-eiai Institute in Stockholm in 2004-2005. He was assistant professor at the Pannon University in 2007-2008 and worked as a lecturer at Eötvös Loránd University and the University of Fine Arts in Budapest. He has published two books of essays about Hungarian literature in the 20th century and about contemporary Hungarian writers. He was awarded the Hungarian Government's Márciusi Ifjak Prize in 2010 and the Cultural Ministry's Balassa Péter Prize in 2011.

## ***Andrea Szőnyi***

Andrea Szőnyi is Senior International Training Consultant and representative in Hungary of the USC Shoah Foundation – the Institute for Visual History and Education. She is also head of Hungarian educational NGO Zachor Foundation for Social Remembrance, which she founded in 2007. She holds an MA in English and Russian Languages and Literature, and a Degree in Cultural Management from Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. Her professional portfolio includes teaching English and Judaic Studies, educational programs in teaching about the Holocaust and development of educational materials. She is an Imperial War Museum London Fellow in Holocaust Education. She has a background as a classroom teacher at Lauder Javne Jewish Community School in Budapest. She is the author of several educational materials and runs educational programs including professional development programs for teachers in Hungary and abroad. She is an expert member of the Museums and Memorials Working Group of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA).

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## ***Annamária Buda***

Annamaria Buda is a sociologist, director of the Diaconal Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hungary and PhD student at the Social Policy doctoral school of the Eötvös Loránd University. Her field of research is the operation of the Hungarian Lutheran Church Diaconal Service from the Second World War until the 1980's, focusing on the diaconal organising work of Gábor Sztehlo.

She was born in 1973, and graduated as an elementary school teacher at the Kőrösi Csoma Sándor Teacher Training College, in Békéscsaba in 1994. In 1997 she graduated in Szeged at the Juhász Gyula Teacher Training College as a mental health professional. She earned her sociologist degree in 2001 at the Eötvös Loránd University.

She taught in elementary school and worked in the National Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology. She has professional experience in the field of psycho-social support for people living with epilepsy. She participated in various research programs at the Béthel Foundation in Békéscsaba. Since 2008, she is leading the diaconal work of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary.

## ***Kenesei Marcell***

Marcell Kenesei graduated as a political scientist at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest. During his university years he specialized in international political relations and the history of the Middle-East in the twentieth century. Since 2002 he has worked with the Haver Foundation as a volunteer, teacher and advisor. In 2007-2008 he was a fellow at the Paideia Institute in Sweden. From 2008 on Marcell took part in the establishment of the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest. He was responsible for resource development. In 2011 Marcell served as the Deputy Director of the Israeli Cultural Institute until he joined the team of Centropa in June 2011. At Centropa Marcell runs the educational programs in Hungary. He is also director of the Centropa Network for European Schools (CJN).

*The project is supported by the Civil Fund – 2014.*

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