

Tom Lantos

INSTITUTE

ANNUAL
REPORT
2014

LEARN, EDUCATE AND ACT FOR
ADVANCING HUMAN AND
MINORITY RIGHTS

ABOUT TLI

The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish, Roma and Hungarian 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.

In 2013-2016, TLI's principal strategic goal is human and minority rights education. TLI uses multidisciplinary approaches, focusing primarily on three issue areas:

Jewish Life and Anti-Semitism

- Countering anti-Semitism
- Promoting the identity and participation of Jewish communities

Roma Rights and Citizenship

- Combating anti-Tsiganism and political, social and economic exclusion and discrimination
- Promoting effective participation in social, economic and cultural life and in public affairs

Human and Minority Rights

- Promoting human and minority rights education
- Contributing to the effectiveness of the international regime of minority protection

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.

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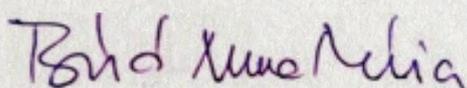
FOREWORD

The Tom Lantos Institute is a relatively new organisation in the field of human and minority rights. It locates itself at the intersection of human rights and identity politics, and investigates through multidisciplinary approaches the problem-solving capacity of existing national and international norms.

While appreciating the importance of legal approaches and remedies to violations, TLI is primarily interested in the broadest possible socialisation of human and minority rights. It is this individual and societal ownership of norms as standards of behaviour that we see as the most significant aspect of the realisation of human rights. As a result of this approach, in the first years of its existence, TLI's principle strategic goal is the education of human and minority rights.

TLI works both on local and international levels. As an organisation that prioritises cooperation with partners, we have co-organised workshops, summer schools, public lectures, conferences and trainings at national, European and global levels. In 2014 one of our major foci was the 70th anniversary of the Hungarian Holocaust. At our various events on the Hungarian Holocaust we were unambiguous and explicit about the responsibility of the Hungarian state and society in this crime against humanity and our compatriots. In our belief, facing our history and taking responsibility in shaping history contributes to reconciliation and social justice.

After a few years of hard work the staff of the Tom Lantos Institute is thankful to many actors who cooperated and supported us. Our Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Advisory Board as well as numerous TLI supporters have been critical as well as cooperative in driving forward our agenda. We hope that we can continue working together effectively in the coming years too.



Anna-Mária Bíró
Director

TRAININGS

As TLI's current strategic goal is human and minority rights education, we partnered with other institutions to organise trainings focusing on different aspects of this broad field.

In July 2014 we co-organised a **Global Minority Rights Summer School**, together with the National University of Public Service (Budapest) and the Middlesex University London. Taking an avowedly global approach, the Summer School provided overviews of the international minority protection regime (norms, institutions and mechanisms) and complemented this with analyses of diverse regional practices from around the world. The forum paid special attention to the role of civil society and political participation, drawing on a multi-disciplinary approach that combines law, political sciences, anthropology and sociology. 30 participants from all over the world had been selected from 462 applicants from 96 countries. They attended lectures delivered by the most prominent experts and practitioners in the field of ethnocultural diversity management and minority rights. This year the summer school focused on Africa and the Middle East, and it was combined with events highlighting minority issues in Hungary and Central and Eastern Europe. The programme included a study trip to Subotica, Serbia, where participants learned about the history and current situation of the Hungarian and the Hungarian Jewish minorities.



Our **European Summer School on Prejudice, Genocide and Remembrance**, co-organised with the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest) and the CEJI – A Jewish Contribution to an Inclusive Europe (Brussels), employed a multidisciplinary approach that complements Holocaust education with human rights training. In its methodology it combined collective memory workshops with the discussion of relevant cases of human rights violations and the teaching of skills to prevent and counter these violations. Selected from 275 applicants, the Summer School hosted around 25 participants and 10 observers from all over Europe who were civil servants, educators, journalists, and representatives of civil society. The principle goal of this training was to develop an understanding of the ways collective memories of traumatic past events shape inter-community relations in the present. Furthermore, the training situated prejudice and genocide in the context of human rights and democratic values. Apart from lectures and workshops, the programme included a discussion with Hungarian NGOs fighting anti-Semitism and discrimination against Roma; a film screening about a Sinto Holocaust survivor; guided walks in the Jewish neighbourhood with a visit to the Great Synagogue and to a memorial of the Hungarian Holocaust (the Shoe Memorial on the

Danube); and a visit to a district where participants could learn more about Roma institutions including a Roma art gallery exhibiting paintings by a Holocaust survivor Roma artist.

The genocide of the Roma and Sinti during the Second World War is still largely unknown and untaught. It is estimated that 500 000 European Roma and Sinti were murdered during the Holocaust. In order to facilitate the discourse on the subject and promote its education, TLI co-organised with Phiren Amencia a **Roundtable and Training Session on the Roma Genocide**, entitled *Recognition – Remembrance – Education*. The roundtable gathered eight international and local experts who have been working on the Roma genocide with various approaches. The training session on *Remembering the Roma Genocide* introduced theoretical approaches, presented and analysed the objectives, tools and methods of the Council of Europe's *COMPASS - Manual on Human Rights Education for Young People* and *Education for Remembrance: The Roma Genocide*. Participants learned about the manual and discussed ways in which this could be adopted to and applied in their own contexts.



Partnering with the National Democratic Institute (NDI), TLI has also joined a regional project to develop and carry out the local part of the **Training Session** titled ***Breaking Down Barriers – Combating Violence and Discrimination against Roma through Targeted Advocacy and Regional Cooperation***. The project aims to equip Roma and pro-Roma activists with the capacity to conduct targeted issue-based advocacy. The program works with community members and trains them to engage in local activism around issues of common interest; teaches them skills in information and communication technology; and gives national and regional level opportunities for select participants to promote their advocacy initiatives and connect with their peers from neighbouring countries. The project was launched in Hungary in September 2014 and runs until January 2016.



COMMENTS

The summer university is a great idea, because I think it creates a platform to bring people who are interested in these issues from all around the world together. I think that to the extent that it facilitates dialogue and discussion one of the great things about it is that you learn not only from the speakers who are speaking, but you learn from each other. (Dr. Joshua Castellino, lecturer at the Global Minority Rights Summer School 2014)

The profile of the participants, the profile of the presenters is very good, so you develop not only on an academic level, but also on a personal and professional level. I think it has been magnificent, I really liked it. (Chimdessa Tsega, Ethiopia, participant at the Global Minority Rights Summer School 2014)

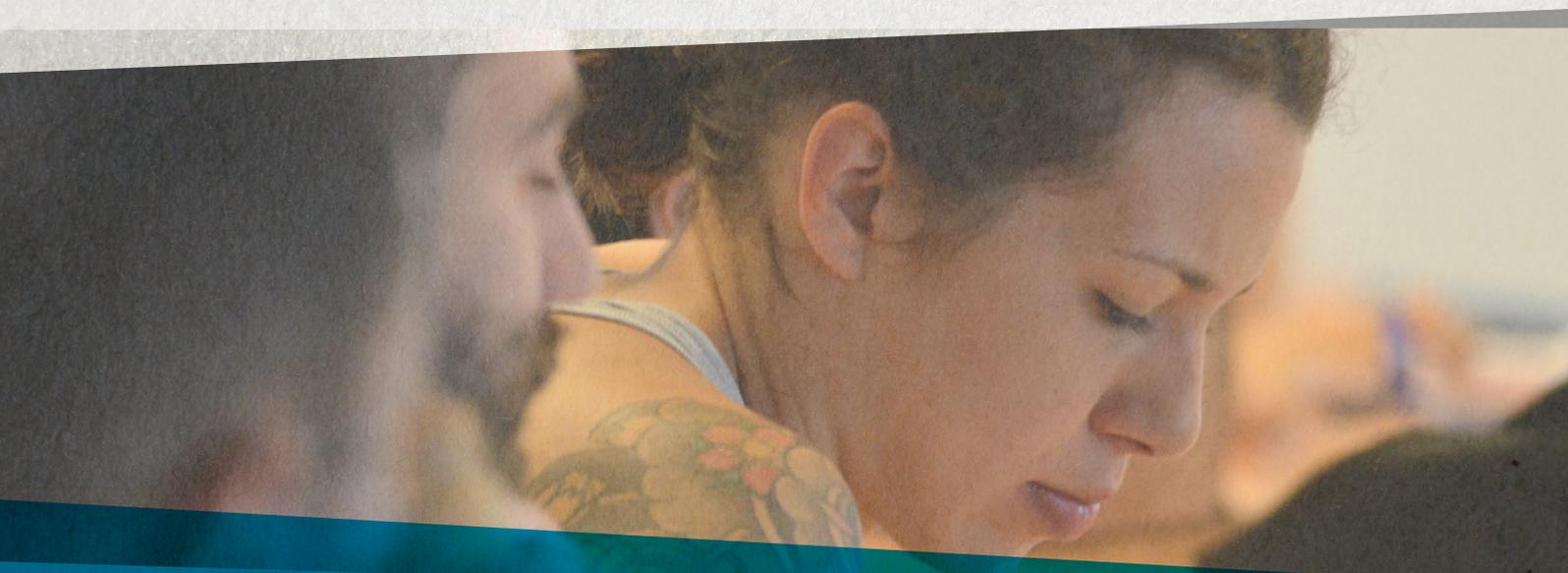
The European Summer School on "Prejudice, Genocide, Remembrance" gave me essential theoretical background for my work as a journalist and brought a lot of new ideas and inspirations for new topics. It also reminded me of my responsibilities as a journalist in terms of avoiding stereotypes and promoting human rights. All the participants, lecturers and staff of organising institutions made this event both a great experience and entertainment and gave me a chance to establish very valuable contacts. (Paulina Pacula, Poland, participant at the European Summer School on Prejudice, Genocide, Remembrance 2014)

WORKSHOPS

As an introduction to the Global Minority Rights Summer School, in partnership with the National University for Public Service and the Institute for Minority Studies of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, TLI organised a **workshop** on "**Hungarian Minorities in a European Context: Achievements and Challenges**". In the workshop an overview of the situation of Hungarian minorities was presented highlighting demographic, economic, political and cultural issues. This was complemented by progress reports delivered by representatives of Hungarian minorities in the neighbouring countries. The presentations were followed by an international expert panel, whose objective was to discuss critically the major questions identified by presenters. The workshop was attended by the most distinguished international and Hungarian experts on minority protection. TLI is publishing a report about the workshop in early 2015.

In October, as a side event of our public lecture delivered by Dr. David Gillborn, professor of Critical Race Studies, TLI organised a half-day **workshop** on **Critical Race Theory (CRT)** with Dr. Gillborn as a guest speaker. The aim was to better understand the Critical Race Theory, the way it adapted to the British context, its challenges, and most importantly to discuss its potential relevance in the Hungarian context in order to address anti-Roma discrimination and exclusion more effectively. The workshop gathered around 25 Roma and non-Roma scholars, educators, civil servants and representatives of NGOs working in Hungary in the field of Roma rights.

In December, TLI organised a workshop on pro-Roma activism gathering about thirty Roma and non-Roma scholars, activists, advocates, representatives of NGOs and donor organisations. The **workshop**, entitled **“Who Can Act for Roma? Reconsidering the Position and Role of Human Rights Actors in Romani Activism”** looked at the actors involved in fighting for the Roma cause, their legitimacy, goals, strategies and tools. With the aim to discuss the pro-Roma civil society at the intersection of human rights activism grounded in values and principles on the one hand, and political mobilisation and representation on the other hand, the participants discussed a series of questions proposed by TLI, and identified new ones: Who are the actors of the pro-Roma civil society? What is a “Roma NGO”? What is pro-Roma civil society standing up for? Why do non-Roma fight for the Roma cause? Does the Romani civil society have other objectives than representing the interests of Roma in the public space? Which are the issue areas in which pro-Roma actors can be involved legitimately? Where do pro-Roma actors gain their legitimacy from? What are their strategies and tactical repertoires? The ultimate aim of the workshop was to look into responses that could serve as a basis for an improved cooperation within the pro-Roma civil society and define the possible boundaries of Roma and non-Roma cooperation.



LECTURES AND CONFERENCES

TLI launched its **Human Rights Public Lecture Series** titled ***From the Courtroom to the Street – Creating a Popular Culture of Human Rights*** in June, 2013. The lectures are designed to engage a range of people – including students and teachers, public officials, civil society and the media – and are delivered by a number of recognised international experts in the field. The lectures are hosted at universities or institutions of higher education in Budapest and other Hungarian cities. The videos of the lectures are available on the TLI website. In 2014, three lectures were delivered on the topics of: human rights education; global economic justice and international human rights law; and race, rights and education from a critical race theory perspective.

As 2014 was the 70th anniversary and thus the memorial year of the Hungarian Holocaust, many of our programs revolved around this topic.



In partnership with the Central European University (Hungary) and the University of Victoria (Canada), we organised a **Conference and Workshop: The Future of Holocaust Memorialisation: Confronting Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Homophobia through Memory Work**. Among others, participants (scholars and practitioners) looked at how and to what extent Holocaust memorial sites help us understand the past and guide the future. Participants examined the effectiveness of existing Holocaust education methodologies and methods, and identified ways to further develop them in their substance and outreach.



In October, together with the Institute for Foreign Affairs and Trade, TLI organised **the Conference and Photo Installation: Knowing Who Knowing Why - Messages of Hungarian Rescuers in the 21st Century**. 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. Against the background of the genocide, this conference focused on those exceptional individuals who had the moral strength and courage to stand against this injustice and save lives. The conference presented and examined the lives of Hungarians who received the Righteous Among the Nations Award, from historical, sociological, social psychological, cultural and educational perspectives. The photo installation consisted of a selection of portraits, which indicated the varied social backgrounds of the rescuers and showed the well-known urban scenes where these events took place. The installation highlighted the fact that the history of the rescuers, the rescued and the victims is also ours.



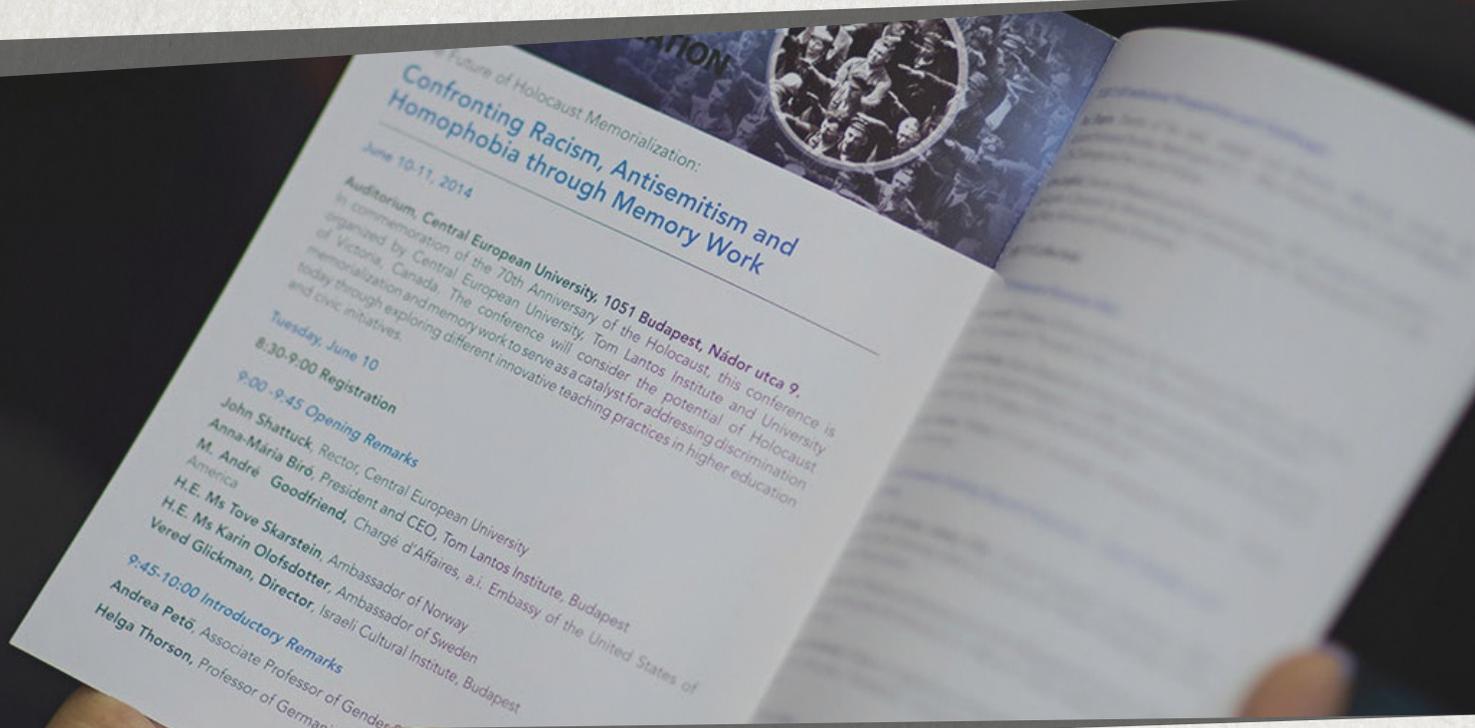
COMMEMORATIONS

To mark the memorial year of the Hungarian Holocaust, TLI (co-)organised a number of commemorative events. On the 70th anniversary of the day the Jewish population of Budapest was forced to move into so-called yellow-star houses, TLI organised a commemoration at the former yellow-star house Tom Lantos stayed at. In September 2014, a new Holocaust memorial was inaugurated in Siófok, as well as a plaque for Tom Lantos, Miklós Radnóti, Snr. József Antall, and Henryk Sławik in Vác. Additionally, TLI helped organise a very successful Holocaust Memorial concert in Győr, which was then repeated in New York in November. These US concerts took place at the Dimenna Center for Classical Music and at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, and were co-organised by the Balassi Institute in New York. TLI also commemorated the Roma victims of the Holocaust specifically. Besides the roundtable on the Roma Genocide, we also participated in the commemoration in Auschwitz/Birkenau, which took place on the memorial day of the Roma Genocide, on 2nd August. This event was part of a broader initiative organised by the ternYpe youth network, which brought together 1000 young Roma and non-Roma from all over Europe for a 2-day intensive programme in Cracow, preceding the visit to Auschwitz/Birkenau.



PUBLICATIONS

TLI gathered various actors from the academia, civil society, international organisations, European institutions and the Hungarian public administration at an international workshop in Budapest in order to discuss the issue of evaluation of public policies targeting the Roma in Europe. From this workshop our publication, ***Do Evaluations Matter?*** was born. It addresses the controversial issue of the evaluation of public policies and programmes aiming at improving the situation of the Roma in Europe. In the past decade, the amount of reports on the situation of the Roma has increased dramatically. Nevertheless, policies or programmes targeting the Roma remain only marginally monitored and evaluated. The publication aims at providing a set of recommendations to all actors involved in the monitoring and evaluation process.



In order to advance discussions and debates on the inclusion and political mobilisation of the Roma in Hungary, TLI had the book ***From Victimhood to Citizenship – The path of Roma Integration*** by András Bíró, Nicolae Gheorghe, Martin Kovats, and Željko Jovanović translated into Hungarian. The Hungarian version of this exceptional book summarising the often forthright and conflicting views of its pre-eminent contributors was published by Kossuth Kiadó and it was launched at a debate event gathering around 60 participants. The book was intended as an invitation to all those concerned with the situation of Roma to discuss crucial issues, clarify key concepts and challenge conventional thinking as a starting point of a series of public debates among Roma and pro-Roma activists as well as decision-makers. It is believed that, in due course, such critical reflection will help the formulation of more effective equality policies for Roma.

As a follow-up to our conference ***The Future of Holocaust Memorialization: Confronting Racism, Anti-Semitism, and Homophobia through Memory Work*** in June 2014, TLI has published a book gathering the contributions of the conference speakers. The aim of the publication is to instigate further discussion on this important issue when anti-Semitism has been on the rise in Europe and beyond.

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS

To complement the work of regular staff, TLI has been able to offer fellowships and internships to experts and young professionals willing to gain knowledge and skills relevant in an international human and minority rights organisation.

In 2014 TLI worked with 7 fellows and interns of different national and educational backgrounds. Fellows provide expert contribution to one or more programme areas or projects, and the length and frequency of their work at TLI varies. Interns usually work part time (4-5 hours a day, 3 days a week for 3 to 6 months) and their tasks are not only determined by the organisation's needs but also by their own interests. Interns helped with various tasks including organising events, carrying out background research, proof-reading etc. TLI also offers benefits to interns and fellows depending on their interests and requests, such as setting up professional meetings and support in professional networking, a possibility of attending events (conferences, lectures, meetings), and other opportunities that contribute to professional growth.

If you would like to join TLI as an intern or fellow, please send us your CV and letter of motivation (in English).

My experience as an intern at TLI has taught me an immeasurable amount of insight on human rights. I will carry this knowledge with me for the rest of my educational and professional career. (Brittany Gallagher, USA, Intern)

I could not possibly imagine a better workplace for young professionals than the Tom Lantos Institute, where the atmosphere is warm, but fully professional at the same time. I do believe that the skills that I learnt at the Institute will be beneficial in so many ways for my career, which I cannot even foresee at this point. (András Molnár, Hungary, Research Fellow)



PARTNERS

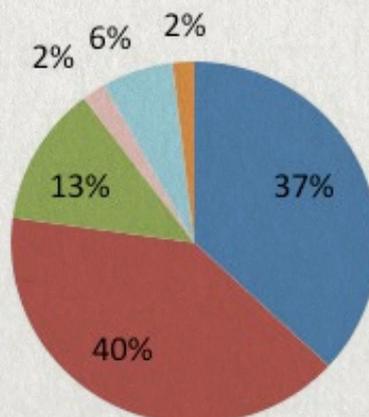
American Chamber of Commerce in Hungary
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National University of Public Service
Phiren Aménca
TernYpe
University of Victoria

FUNDING

The operational expenses of TLI were covered by the annual grant of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. We received project grants from various sources. The pie chart indicates the extent to which each source contributed to the total of our project expenses in 2014.

TLI project grants 2014

- Civil Fund 2014
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance
- National Cultural Fund
- Open Society Foundations
- EPP Group, European Parliament



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