

ANNUAL
REPORT



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TOM LANTOS INSTITUTE

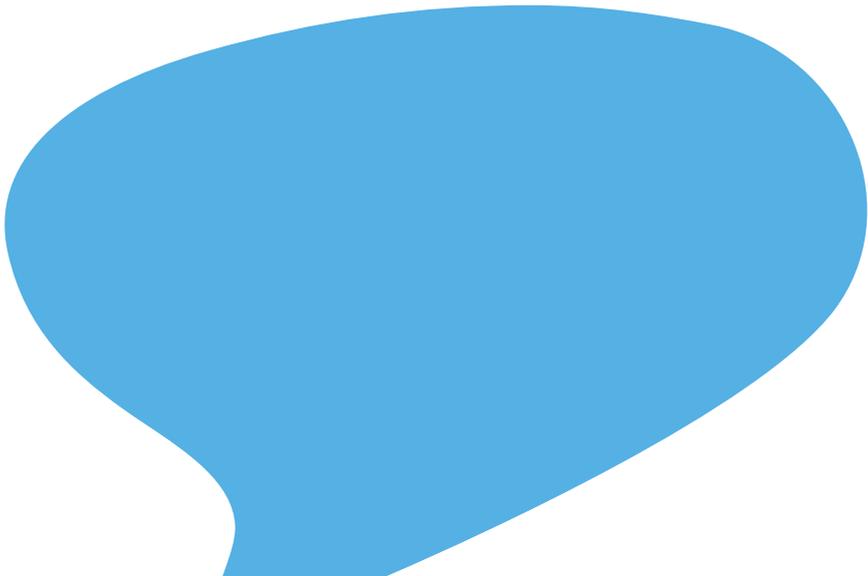
Learn, Educate, Act for Diversity & Human Rights

The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish and Roma communities, and on Hungarian and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. It is a Budapest-based organisation with a multi-party Board of Trustees, an international Executive Committee, and Advisory Board. TLI operates internationally in terms of scope, funding, staff and partners. As a research and

education platform, TLI aims to bridge the gaps between research and policy, norms and practice.

TLI focuses on human rights and identity issues in general, and also works on three specific issue areas. These include: Jewish life and antisemitism; Roma rights and citizenship; and Hungarian minorities.

2018 RESEARCH AND PROJECT AREAS



Human Rights and Identity

- International Studies in Human Rights and Identity
- Minority Rights Protection: Global Relations
- Assessing the UN Forum on Minority Issues
- Human Rights and Multicultural Education in Hungary
- Global Minority Rights Summer School

Roma Rights and Citizenship

- Roma Holocaust Education
- Capacity Building for Roma women
- Roma representation in public spaces in Budapest

Jewish Life and Antisemitism

- Modern antisemitism in the Visegrád Countries
- The Past, Present, and Future of Hungarian Jewry Outside the Capital
- Addressing Antisemitism through Education
- Research on conspirational antisemitism

Hungarian Minorities

- Education in Minority Languages
- Expert Advocacy Advice to Local Minority Organisations

WORKSHOPS

Is There a Momentum for Change?



TLI organised two-day expert meetings in Budapest. The first in March 2018, entitled *“Is There a Momentum for Change? Assessing International Minority Protection Regimes in Times of ‘Abnormal Justice’”* (in cooperation with the University of Liverpool) and another one in December 2018, entitled *“International Minority Rights in Jeopardy: Contemporary Normative Challenges and Perspectives”*, with provisional authors of our upcoming book series to discuss and decide upon the major questions

to be addressed and analysed. The primarily theoretical publications are anticipated to become a reference tool of great value for libraries, research institutes, civil society actors and all those interested in contemporary normative trends and debates in international minority protection.



We organized a preparatory expert meeting in Brussels with the **UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues**, European experts and minority representatives to discuss and decide on provisional topics for the 2019 European Regional Forum on minority issues held in the European Parliament.

WORKSHOPS

TLI organized the sixth Global Minority Rights Summer School in cooperation with the National University of Public Service and Middlesex University, London. The 2018 GMRSS entitled “*The Law and Politics of Global Minority Rights: Are Norms and Institutions Failing Us?*” addressed contemporary trends and developments in laws and politics concerning minority rights, examined the effectiveness of institutions at the regional and global levels, and discussed the role and efficacy of civil society in protecting minority rights.





TLI organised a workshop on combatting antisemitism through informal education in Hungary. The aim of the workshop was to facilitate discussion about current challenges and good practices, and to establish active cooperation amongst educational experts.

CONFERENCES



In January 2018, TLI held a conference in cooperation with the Romani Studies Program at Central European University, Budapest, Hungary. The event was the first occasion when the five researchers of our “*Roma Resistance during the Holocaust and in its Aftermath*” project presented their research findings to the public and the academic community. It was a very prestigious event with a number of experts, researchers and students from the area of Roma research who engaged in heated debates provoked by the results of the individual research projects.

In March 2018, we held a closing conference dedicated to our “*Roma Resistance during the Holocaust and in its Aftermath*” project. The conference was combined with an exhibition and a book launch. The five researchers had the opportunity to present their findings and discuss possible future research directions. The work of two Romani artists was displayed at the exhibition focusing on the Roma resistance and the

persecution of Roma during and after the Second World War. The works of Károly Bari (poet) and Katarzyna Pollok (painter) made it possible for the participants of the conference to approach the topic from a different angle through works of art. The exhibition also served as a commemoration and tribute to victims and survivors of the Roma Holocaust, and to those who resisted persecution.



In cooperation with Partnership 2gether, TLI organized the conference, “Women in a Multicultural Society”, which addressed intersecting issues of gender and multiculturalism. The conference offered a unique opportunity to examine the position and challenges of women in both traditional and multicultural societies, such as the Hungarian society.



TLI participated in the eleventh session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, which addressed the issue of statelessness. TLI and the Human Rights Consortium, University of London organised a side event to present Minority Forum Info, a new online tool for minority rights protection and documentation.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

TLI's research project focusing on "*Modern Antisemitism in Visegrád Countries*" (Czech Republic, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland) aims to investigate different subtypes of modern antisemitism from a regional perspective. In 2018, we completed the first phase of the project. In cooperation with local partners and researchers, we conducted focus-group research investigations into conspiratorial antisemitism in all four countries. The research project is co-funded by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, an intergovernmental platform.

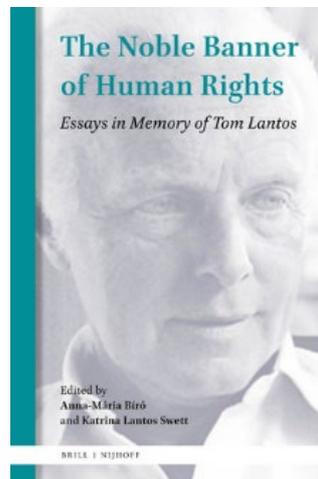
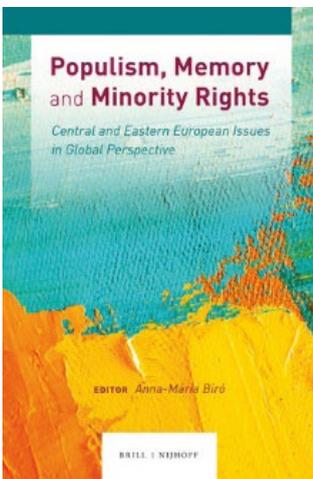
TLI commissioned empirical research focusing on Hungarian-language education in Romania. The research looks at the different dimensions of minority claim-making concerning education; analyses the relevant legal and policy frameworks; and investigates the effectiveness of the current system of minority education in Romania.



DATABASE AND PUBLICATIONS



TLI created the [Minority Forum Info](#) website in cooperation with the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London. The database compiles statements from the 2008-2016 sessions of the Forum on Minority Issues, as well as other Forum documents, reports of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, and key minority rights standards. The database is envisaged as a searchable, user-friendly resource for civil society actors including minorities, states, international organizations, academics, and other stakeholders working for the human rights of minorities. An introduction video about the website is available on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXofQgfHYvY&t=2s>



TLI released the first volume of the series *International Studies in Human Rights and Identity* published by the Brill Academic Publishers (Leiden, Boston). The book entitled [“Populism, Memory, and Minority Rights: Central and Eastern European Issues in a Global Perspective”](#) provides a forum for discussion on crucial themes of global and regional importance, on the accommodation of ethno-cultural diversity, and related normative developments. The publication introduces TLI’s work in terms of its mandated issue areas, including Roma rights and citizenship, Jewish life and antisemitism, and Hungarian and other national minorities.

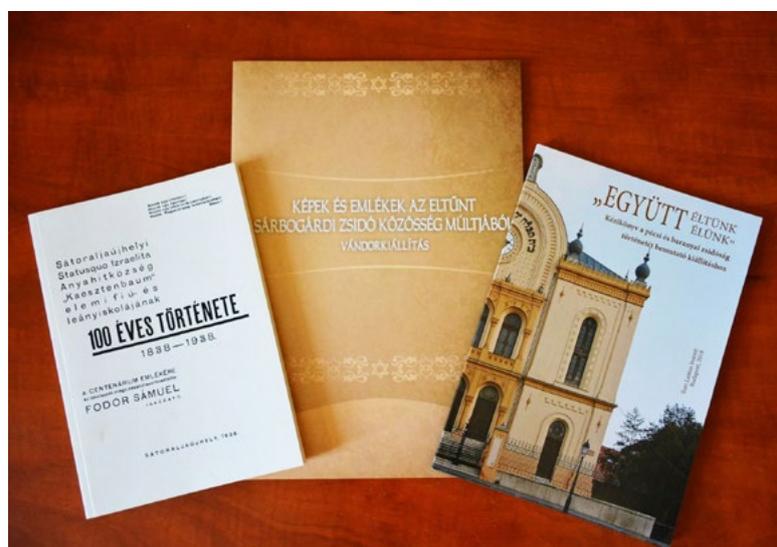
With the US-based Lantos Foundation for Human Rights and Justice, TLI co-edited a memorial book to honour the 90th anniversary of the birth of Hungarian-born American Congressman, Tom Lantos, the namesake of our institute. The book, [“The Noble Banner of Human Rights: Essays in Memory of Tom Lantos”](#), is a collection of essays written by leading academics who remember Tom Lantos’s extensive human rights activism on the human rights themes he was passionately involved with around the world.

TLI published a collection of working papers entitled “Roma Resistance during the Holocaust and in its Aftermath”. The volume aims to raise awareness, and promote remembrance activities in relation to Roma resistance during the Holocaust. Our focus was to initiate and promote a narrative that breaks from the prevailing discourse of victimization, enabling a shift from the image of the victim lacking agency to an actor that shapes history. This shift is crucial to foster respect towards Roma, which is essential for fighting the discrimination and inequality Roma currently face in Europe.



TLI, in cooperation with the organizers of the Day of Remembrance in Sátoraljaújhely, published a booklet that pays tribute to the victims of the Shoah from Sátoraljaújhely.

The exhibition entitled “We lived together, we live together” has been on display in the Synagogue of Pécs for 5 years. This year, TLI supported the creation of a teacher’s handbook to complement the content on display. The goal of the publication is to introduce new ways to teach about the Jewry of Pécs in schools of the region and also to help teachers prepare for viewing the exhibition with their students.



TRAININGS



TLI held a series of teacher training workshops on Roma Holocaust education throughout Hungary, including in Miskolc, Pécs, Szolnok, and Debrecen.



TLI organised a capacity building training series for Roma women to increase their participation in public life. An active group of Roma women was formed, with whom we will continue to work in 2019 to develop the skills needed for project planning, strategy building, and fundraising.



TLI's teacher training events at the Jewish Federation of Pécs took place at the end of September and the beginning of October. The trainings were linked to a teacher's handbook published by TLI, which provides guidance on taking students to visit the exhibition on the Jewry of Pécs and Baranya counties.



With the assistance of experts, we developed a training module aimed at strengthening the capacity of Roma students entering secondary school to respond to anti-Roma prejudice by using cooperative communication strategies. The module is being tested through a series of pilot training events in 2019.

The Isolated Realities Educational Programme combatting antisemitism aims at guiding groups of secondary grammar school students through a process of education and engagement in creative activities. With the contribution of contemporary artists, the students develop important skills such as critical thinking, cooperation, exercising tolerance and the ability to develop their own values and identity.

EVENTS



The Day of Remembrance

The Day of Remembrance took place in Sátoraljaújhely on the 16th of October, 2018. TLI has been supporting and participating in the series of Holocaust remembrance events held by local civil society for the past three years and this year was no exception.

Vanishing Points 3.0



The Vanishing Points 3.0 exhibition opened in December at the Jewish Museum and Archives. The third part of the series, using visual art as a tool, focused on antisemitism and Jewish life in the early, post-1956 Kádár era. Curator, Tamás Don and the six artists presented their artwork at the opening event. The presentations were followed by a roundtable discussion where invited experts elaborated on the themes of this era.

As part of the **“Roma representation in public spaces in Budapest”** project, researchers mapped and analysed Roma representation in Budapest, focusing on UNESCO World Heritage sites. They presented and discussed their preliminary research findings with experts at a public workshop held in December.

INTERNSHIPS

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
JOIN TLI AS AN INTERN OR
FELLOW, PLEASE SEND US
YOUR CV AND LETTER OF
MOTIVATION (in English).

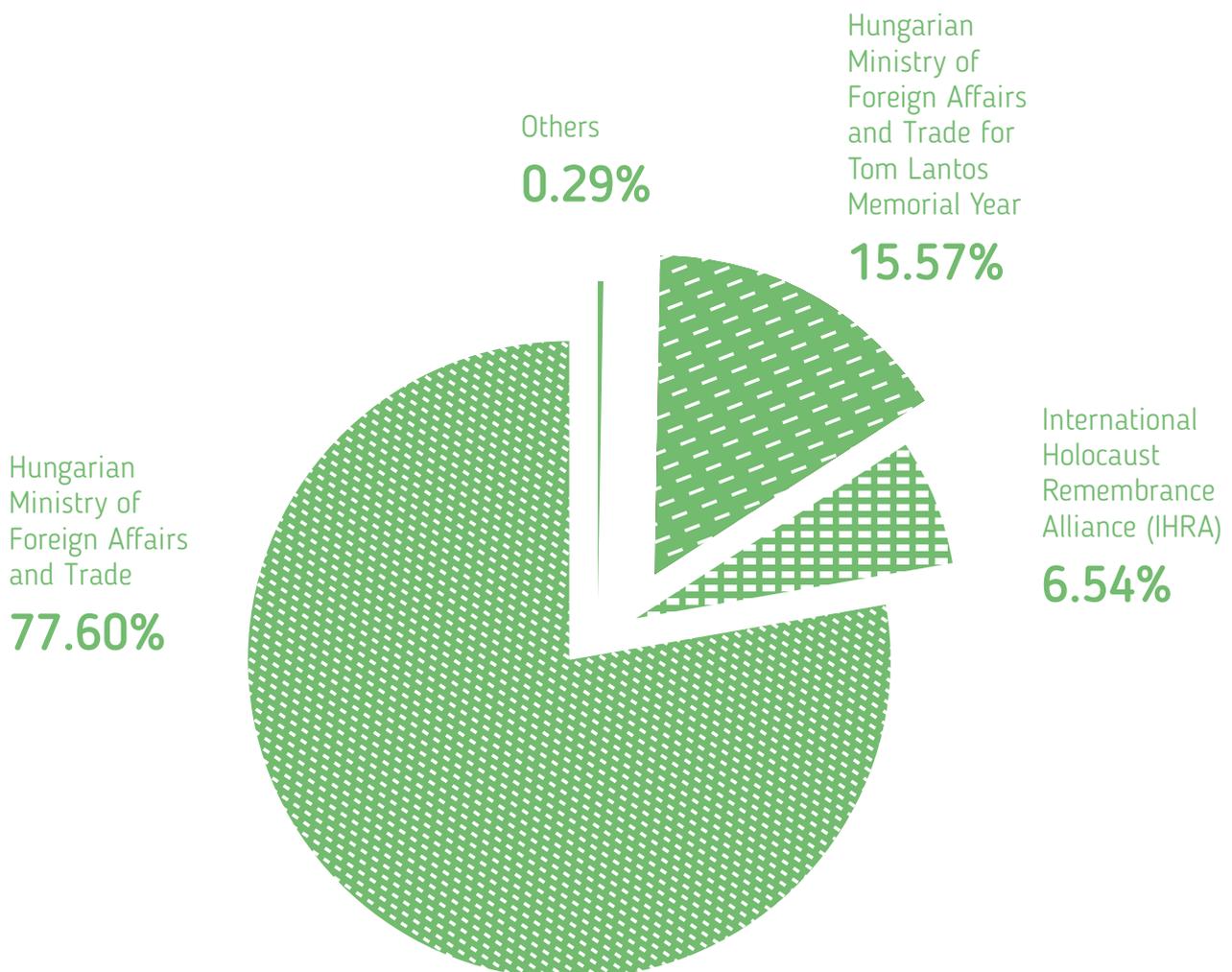
To complement the work of permanent staff, TLI was able to offer internships to young professionals willing to gain knowledge and skills relevant to an international human and minority rights organisation.

In 2018, TLI took on 3 interns of different national and educational backgrounds.

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 2018.

TLI PROJECT GRANTS 2018



TLI STAFF

Director	Dr. Anna-Mária Bíró
Deputy Director	Máté Fischer
Financial Manage	Mary Fischer
Head of Programmes	Evelin Verhás
Programme Manager for Human Rights and Identity	Marcus Oda
Programme Manager for Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Anikó Félix
Programme Manager for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Ildikó Török
Programme Officer for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Lukács Hayes (until August, 2018)
Programme Officer for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Áron Balogh (from August, 2018)
Programme Officer for Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Anna Kalmár
Administrative and Financial Officer	Renáta Rontó
Programme Co-ordinator	Dániel Nagy

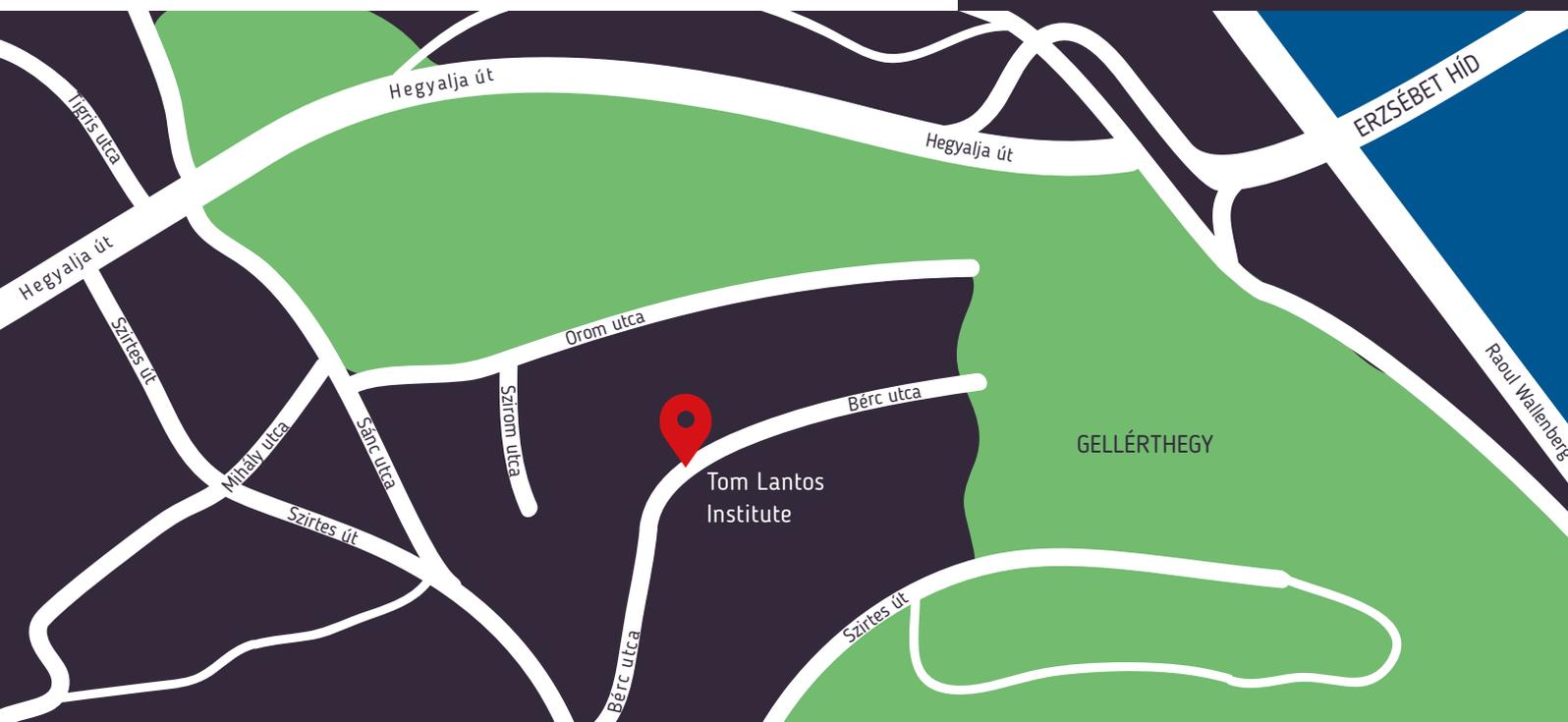
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