

ANNUAL
REPORT



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RESEARCH AND PROJECT AREAS

Human Rights and Identity

- Regional Forums on Minority Issues
- Assessing the UN Forum on Minority Issues
- Global Minority Rights Summer School
- Minority Forum Info
- Global Minority Rights Newsletter

Roma Rights and Citizenship

- Roma Holocaust Education
- Capacity Building for Roma women
- Roma Representation in Public Spaces in Budapest
- Training Course for Roma pupils: Responding to Prejudice

Jewish Life and Antisemitism

- Research on Holocaust Distortion and Denial in the Visegrad Countries
- The Past, Present, and Future of Hungarian Jewry Outside the Capital
- Addressing Antisemitism through Education

Learn, Educate, Act for Advancing Human & Minority Rights

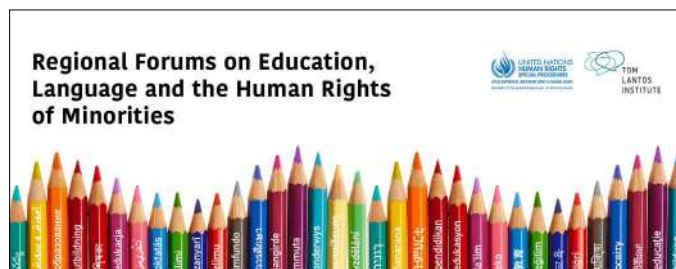
The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI) is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish and Roma communities, and on Hungarian and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. It is a Budapest-based organisation with a multi-party Board of Trustees, 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.

HIGHLIGHTED PROJECTS

Regional Forums on Minority Issues



In 2019, the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues convened a series of thematic regional forums in order to make the UN Forum on Minority Issues more accessible for minorities, and to provide regionally-specific responses to the problems affecting them. Three regional forums were organised by TLI, in partnership with regional and local organisations: the European Regional Forum was held at the European Parliament in Brussels (6-7 May), the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum took place in Bangkok at Mahidol University (21-22 September), and the Africa-Middle East Forum was organised in Tunis (28-29 October). The theme for both the 2019 UN Forum on Minority Issues and the regional forums was “education, language and the human rights of minorities.” With a wide range of stakeholders present, the regional forums resulted in 132 recommendations, providing regional insights for the thematic work of the Special Rapporteur.



European Regional Forum, Brussels, 7 May



Asia and Pacific Regional Forum, Bangkok, 21 September



Africa-Middle East Regional Forum, Tunis, 28 October

Minority Forum Info

In 2018, we launched the MinorityForum.Info website to provide a searchable and user-friendly resource for documents related to the UN Forum on Minority Issues. The database now includes all the statements made at the UN Forum on Minority Issues between 2006 and 2018, including their original UN language versions, and statements from 2019 in English. The database was expanded to feature the documents of the 2019 Regional Forums on Minority Issues as well relevant UN and other documents related to minority issues. This project is implemented in partnership with the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London.



GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

January-March 2019



Global Minority Rights Newsletter

We launched a Global Minority Rights Newsletter, a quarterly publication aimed at providing regional and global minority rights news, including information about normative developments, institutional frameworks and mechanisms related to the human rights of minorities, as well as news about relevant events and participatory opportunities. In 2019, the four issues were published in April, July, October, and December, and can be accessed on the MinorityForum.Info website.

Newsletter covers 2019



GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

April-June 2019



GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

July-September 2019



GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

October-December 2019





Global Minority Rights Summer School

We organised the seventh Global Minority Rights Summer School in cooperation with the National University of Public Service and Middlesex University, London. The 2019 Summer School examined the economic and social rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Topics such as land and labour rights, and development policies in the context of minority protection were explored. In addition, the participants had the opportunity to meet the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues and learn about his work and mandate, as well as present the situation of minorities in their own countries and learn about current issues and different methods of minority protection in other parts of the world.

CONFERENCES WORKSHOPS EVENTS

In June 2019, we organised the international conference “The post-1989 Springtime of National Minorities? Minority Mobilisation, Human Rights Activism and the Accommodation of Ethno-cultural Diversity in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe.” Arie Nadler, a world-renowned professor at Tel Aviv University, presented the opening lecture, and more than 40 experts discussed the effectiveness of minority mobilisation strategies and existing minority laws and policy regimes in the region during the two days of the conference.



THE POST-1989 SPRINGTIME OF NATIONAL MINORITIES? MINORITY MOBILISATION, HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISM AND THE ACCOMMODATION OF ETHNOCULTURAL DIVERSITY IN CENTRAL, EASTERN AND SOUTHEAST EUROPE

conference organized by the Nationalism Studies Program at Central European University / CEU / and the Tom Lantos Institute / TLI /

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY 6-7 JUNE, 2019

The conference *The post-1989 Springtime of National Minorities? Minority Mobilisation, Human Rights Activism and the Accommodation of Ethnocultural Diversity in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe* aims to explore and evaluate the evolution of minority agency and its effectiveness in these regions. It investigates the success of the accommodation of ethnocultural diversity since the end of the Cold War.

More information and online application <https://nationalism.ceu.edu/conference-2019>
Application deadline:
February 28, 2019



As part of our project focusing on rural Hungarian Jewish culture and history, a travelling exhibition titled ‘Pictures and memories from the past of the disappeared Jewish community of Sárobgárd’ was displayed at the Synagogue of Óbuda in Budapest. We also supported the local Jewish community of Sátoraljaújhely in organising its annual event, the ‘Day of Remembrance’.



TLI participated in the twelfth session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues, which addressed the issue of education in and teaching of minority languages. At a side-event, we presented the new regional forums on minority issues, its outcomes and the lessons learnt.

RESEARCH

In partnership with the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London, TLI continued its research project on the assessment of the UN Forum on Minority Issues. By analysing the discourses and strategies used by the principal actors of the Forum, the research helps understand identity politics in international relations and the role of global governance in securing the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

We carried on with our research on Modern Antisemitism in the Visegrád Countries exploring the different forms of contemporary antisemitism in Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. In 2019, in cooperation with local partners and researchers, we conducted focus-group research investigations into different manifestations of Holocaust distortion and denial in all four countries. The research project is co-funded by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, an intergovernmental organisation.



With the involvement of Roma researchers, we mapped Roma representation in Budapest and investigated what prevents it from becoming more prominent in public spaces of Budapest. The preliminary results of the research were presented at a workshop and published in a working paper.

PUBLICATIONS AND LAUNCH EVENTS

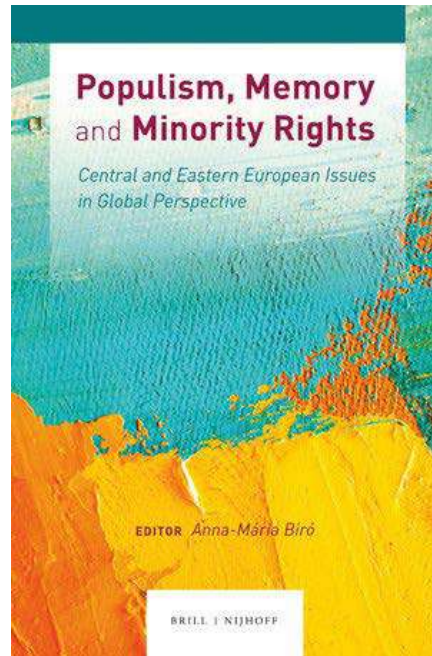


The book *Noble Banner of Human Rights: Essays in Memory of Tom Lantos* was launched on January 31, 2019 at the Gala Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. More than one hundred and fifty guests attended the event, including the family and friends of Tom Lantos, ambassadors, representatives of diplomatic corps, members of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, international human and minority rights experts, and many representatives of Hungarian and American public life.

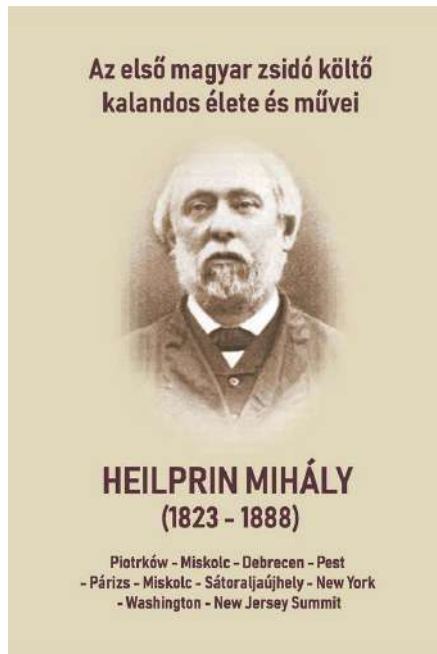


January 31, 2019 MTA

The first volume of TLI's book series *Populism, Memory, and Minority Rights: Central and Eastern European Issues in a Global Perspective* was launched during the spring of 2019. The book examines important global and regional themes on the accommodation of ethno-cultural diversity and related normative developments, while also presenting the work of the Institute through theoretical and empirical studies, commentaries, interviews, and reports.



TLI supported the publication of the book 'Mihály Heilprin- The Adventurous Life and Works of the First Hungarian Jewish Poet,' and the translation of the book by Tibor Schatteles, 'The Jews of Timișoara: A Historical Perspective', into Hungarian.



A teachers' guide to the permanent exhibition at the Synagogue of Pécs, titled 'Living Together Then and Now' was launched at the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest in 2019.



TRAININGS



October 5,
2019 Szeged

We continued our training programme to provide teachers with tools to present the concepts of freedom, fundamental rights, community responsibility and solidarity through the history of the Roma Holocaust. We held training sessions in Budapest, in Košice/Kassa and in Szeged. The programme was accredited by the Hungarian Educational Authority in May 2019.

We worked with a group of experts to develop a training course to support Roma pupils in responding to prejudice they experience, using various verbal communication tools. We piloted the course involving secondary school students in three different locations: Pécs, Tomor, and Budapest. At the training events, the experiences and knowledge of participants were used to model biased situations.



May 12 2019, Budapest



TLI continued its training series for Roma women's organisations to strengthen the existing initiatives and advance the Roma women's participation in public affairs. The trainings focused on organisational development, strategy building, project planning and fundraising. After the trainings, the participants planned and implemented their own projects with support from TLI through a professional mentor programme.

FELLOWSHIPS AND INTERNSHIPS AT TLI



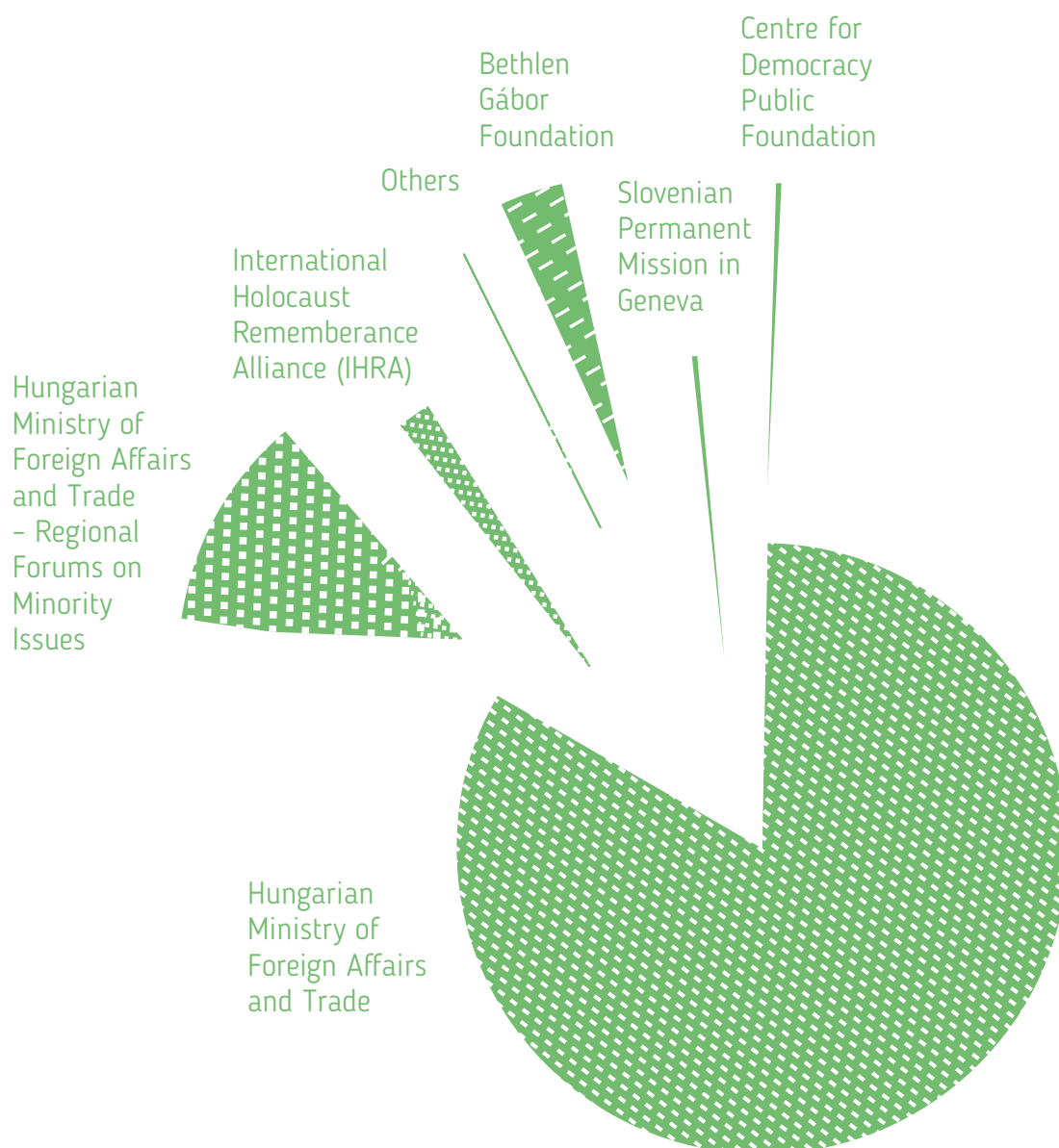
In 2019, in addition to a research fellow from the Austrian Service Abroad, TLI took on 4 interns to complement the work of the permanent staff. These young professionals of different national and educational backgrounds, joined the Institute to gain knowledge and skills relevant to the field of international human and minority rights.

David Troyer, Research Fellow from the Austrian Service Abroad

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

FUNDING

The operational expenses of TLI were covered by the annual grant of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and 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 2019.



TLI STAFF

Director	Dr. Anna-Mária Bíró
Deputy Director	Máté Fischer
Financial Manager	Mary Fischer
Head of Programmes	Evelin Verhás
Programme Manager for Human Rights and Identity	Marcus Oda
International Programme Co-ordinator	Sean Waller
Programme Manager for Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Anikó Félix (until May 2019)
Programme Officer for Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Orsolya Plesz (from September 2019)
Programme Assistant for Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Anna Kálmár (until March 2019)
Programme Manager for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Ildikó Török (on maternity leave from September 2019)
Programme Officer for Roma Rights and Citizenship	László Fejős (from September 2019)
Programme Assistant for Roma Rights and Citizenship, Jewish Life and Antisemitism	Áron Balogh
Administrative and Financial Assistant	Renáta Rontó
Programme Co-ordinator	Dániel Nagy (until September 2019)
Programme Co-ordinator	Nikoletta Kroó (from September 2019)

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