



**René Cassin - Anglo Jewish Association  
Fellowship Programme  
Budapest Study Tour  
24-28 May, 2018**

**Programme Booklet**

## Goals of the René Cassin – AJA Fellowship Program

### Programme objectives

1. To deepen and broaden participants' knowledge and understanding of human rights principles and Jewish visions of a just society – through the study of Jewish experience and values and contemporary international human rights issues
2. To galvanise a movement of Jewish social activists who will be equipped with the knowledge and skills to promote social justice and human rights in the UK
3. To create a group of deeply committed human rights advocates who are actively involved in René Cassin's campaigning and mobilisation work

### Our Budapest Study Tour

Our five-day study tour to Budapest will provide René Cassin-AJA Fellows with an unparalleled opportunity to look at a country of poignant contradictions. Located at the heart of what was once Nazi-occupied Europe, Budapest now boasts an exciting renaissance of Jewish life. In addition, Hungary is a country that was ruled by a Communist dictatorship from 1947-1989 under the influence of the Soviet Union. Yet in 1956 Hungarians rose up in a democratic revolution that caught the imagination of the world. Since 1989 Hungary has been a democratic republic but recent political trends have raised serious concerns about a move back towards repressive and anti-democratic policies.

During our study tour we will look at Hungary as a case study in the challenges of contemporary human rights. We will meet with and interact with a full range of people and institutions: political activists, NGOs, religious leaders, and Jewish activists. Our objective is to explore the challenges facing a country where civil liberties and human rights are at serious risk.

The fellowship programme is designed to push you to strengthen, examine and build a Jewish identity that is both meaningful and connected to the full breadth of the Jewish community, in its essence and grandeur, and especially in its aspiration and responsibility for building a better world.

We expect that we will have much to learn from the Hungarian activists as well as Jewish communal leaders.

Finally, we hope that during the course of our time together, each Fellow will become clearer about how s/he will make a contribution to our work of mobilising the Jewish community around human rights and/or social justice in the year ahead. We are excited to be able to go on this journey with you.

**Mia Hasenson-Gross, Director, René Cassin**  
**Tomi Buchler, RC – AJA Fellowship Programme**



The group will consist of 12 Fellows from the UK and five participants from Budapest.

The staff on the trip are Mia Hasenson-Gross and Tomi Buchler (Alumni fellow from cohort 1)

We will be staying at the **Maverick City Lodge which is in central Budapest and very close to the city's Jewish Quarter. (Address: Kazinczy u. 24. Phone: [36 1 793 1605](tel:3617931605))**

The Majority, but not all, programming will be taking place at the **Israeli Cultural Institute, Budapest, 1061 Paulay Ede street 1. Phone: (1) 889-3330**

**Morning Gatherings** (first thing in the morning) and **Group Reflections** (last thing at night) bookended each day. The morning gatherings are a 15-minute activity organised by a couple of the Fellows to wake the group up and get them ready for the day to come. The group reflection periods are facilitated by a staff member to gauge the mood and energy of the group as well as receive feedback and see if learning outcomes are being achieved.

Fellows will also be tasked with leading other parts of the trip such as, **social media, blogging**, leading on **group activities, Havdalah** and running a **Parahsat Shavua** session.

## Programme Itinerary

### Flight Arrival Times:

8.30am from Stanstead (Ryanair, FR8353) arrives at 11:55am in Budapest

### Day One: (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May) – 'Why here and why as Jews'?

11.55 Arrival to Liszt Ferenc Airport

13.45 The Jewish Reality of Hungary (working lunch)  
Speaker: **Dr. Gabor Balazs** at the **Israeli Cultural Institute** (Paulay Ede u.1)

15.15 Hotel check-in at Maverick

16.15 The rise of the extreme rights  
Speaker: **Anikó Félix** (Program Manager, Tom Lantos Institute); (at ICI)

18.00 Visit to Aurora Center (District 8th) - A cultural and community Jewish center offering religious programs and a place to pray and celebrate holidays, cultural events, and a hub for social activism.  
Speaker: **Eszter Susan** (Marom - Dor Chadash Budapest). (address: Aurora u. 11.)

19:30 Debrief at Aurora, group dynamics with Hungarians  
'why Budapest and why as Jews?' – Mia Hasenson-Gross and Tomi Buchler

20:00 Dinner next to Maverick

### Day Two: (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May) 'What's the situation in Hungary and what's it like for minorities'?

8.00 Breakfast

8.30 Morning group activity

9.00 Political Scapegoating in Contemporary Hungary  
Speaker: **Kapronczay Stefania** (Director, TASZ – Civil Liberties Union). ( Táttra utca 15/b)

11.30 The Refugee Crisis in Hungary  
Speaker: **Gabor Gyulai** (Director, Helsinki Committee). (address: Dohany u. 20)

13.00 lunch

14.00 Tour of the Jewish Quarter and the Living Memorial Project – **Tamas Buchler**

16.00 „**You are welcome**” Cultural event for refugees at Patyolat

19.00 Depart for Shabbat services at Milestones Institute with **Rabbi Ariel Pollak**  
**(Progressive service) (address: Bajza u. 44)**

20.30 Shabbat dinner together at Tomi's (address: Péterfy Sándor u. 5).

### **Day Three (Saturday 26th May) – 'Activism and campaigning in Hungary- what works'?**

Shabbat morning services (optional)  
(Teleki Shul, young modern orthodox)

09.30 Breakfast

10.00 Parashat Hashavua by fellow outdoors

11.00 LGBTQ issues: laws and policies; homophobia from the state and civil society Hatter  
Társaság a Melegekért, Hungarian LGBTQ+ Society, (address: Csanády u. 4/b  
Speaker: **Dombos Tamás**

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Haver Foundation: Combating anti-Semitism in Hungary  
Speaker: **Peter Neuman**

16.00 UCCU Foundation: Combating anti-Gypsism in Hungary, Tour in the Roma  
Neighborhood

Speaker: **Bettina Pocsai**

18.00 Panel of Roma activists, context/preparation for Sunday  
Speakers: **Marianna Jonas (CEU), Mate Dezső (MTA), Joci Marton (OSI)**

19.00 Dinner

20.00 Havdala led by fellows

## Day Four: (Sunday 27th May) 'Discrimination against minorities – spotlight: Roma'

- 7.00 Breakfast
- 8.00 **Adomanytaxi** – Charitytaxi Study Trip to Borsod County
- 17.00 Debrief
- 18.00 Meeting Jewish NGO young leaders
- 20.00 Dinner

## Day Five: (Monday 28th May) 'Activism, campaigning and what to do with them'

- 09.00 Visiting NGOs / activism case studies, „**We are open**”, „**Nyomtassteis**”, „**Open Doors**”  
(**address:** Bokréta u. 10)
- 13.00 Jewish organizations creating social change  
Speaker: **Mircea Cernov, Mozaik Hub**, (**address:** Ferenciek Tere 7)
- 14.00 Amnesty International, Hungary Section  
Speaker: **Aron Demeter**, Campaign coordinator, (**address:** AI Offices, Rozsa u. 44)
- 15.00 Closing and feedback
- 16.30 Free time
- 19.00 Shuttle to the airport (departing from ICI)

### Departure Flight

9.50pm from Budapest (Ryanair FR8369), Terminal Two arrives in London, Stansted at 11.25pm

## Biographies of speakers and guides

### Gabor Balazs

Gábor is an assistant professor of Jewish and Israeli Philosophy at the University of Jewish Studies, and he is active in numerous frameworks of Jewish adult education. Formerly Gábor worked as the advisor of Jewish and Israel Studies at Lauder School, Budapest, as the director of the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest and the headmaster of the school of the Orthodox Jewish Community of Hungary. As a community activity serves as the vice president of the Orthodox Community of Hungary.

Gábor received his PhD. at Bar Ilan University in Israel. His main interest is in the connection between morality and religion, in theories of contemporary Jewish communal identity and in Israel studies.

### Eszter Susan

I am a doctoral student in Education and Jewish Studies at NYU since September 2013. I studied Aesthetics and German Literature at the ELTE University in Budapest, and spent three years in Berlin researching Holocaust education, and artistic representations of the Holocaust. After returning to Budapest I was a key figure in creating Sirály, the alternative JCC in the heart of the Jewish district and its successor, Aurora. I worked for the JDC as a Community Projects Development Coordinator, and I am a founder of MAROM Europe and served as its director in 2009 and 2011. I established the Budapest Moishe House in 2009 where I was a resident until 2011. I am also founder and board member at Dor Chadash, a young egalitarian minyan in Budapest and a founding member of MAROM Hungary ([www.marom.hu](http://www.marom.hu)), which I have been active in for the past 15 years. In 2010 I became the academic assistant at the Center for Central European German-Jewish Culture at ELTE University. I have a great passion for the old Jewish quarter of Budapest. In 2009 I was the program organizer of MAROM 's Quarter6Quarter7 Festival which supports the preservation and revival of the Budapest Jewish Quarter ([www.quarter6quarter7.com](http://www.quarter6quarter7.com)). As part of the festival in 2012 I produced staged readings of three theatre plays written by American playwright Sarah Gancher reflecting on Budapest Jewish quarter and being Jewish today in Hungary. In 2013 I launched the Time Traveler Project, the development of a unique, interactive e-learning 2.0 program about the old Jewish quarter of Budapest, in co-operation with high-schools, university departments and NGOs. I am currently working on this project and will incorporate it in my dissertation research. The focus is on the connection between site specific and digital education, as well as the use of art pedagogy in processing historical traumas.

### Stefania Kapronczay

Stefánia Kapronczay currently serves as the Executive Director of the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (since July, 2013). Kapronczay graduated cum laude from the Faculty of Law at ELTE as lawyer, also

completed a five-year master program in sociology in 2010. Kapronczay started working at the HCLU in 2005 and she was the Head of the Patients' Rights Program from March 2008 to August 2012. As program director Kapronczay led HCLU's effort to stop restrictions on reproductive rights, criminalization of homelessness and to foster the rights of persons with disabilities. Between August 2012 and July 2013 she was a scholar at Stanford University, attending courses on human rights and public interest work and graduating as Master of the Science of Law. Stefania wrote her dissertation on the sexual and reproductive rights of people with disabilities. She was elected as the co-chair of the International Network of Civil Liberties Organisations in May, 2014. Stefania is an honorary member to The City For All, grassroots organisation of homeless people, member to the advisory board of the Rajk László College for Advanced Studies.

### **Gábor Gyulai**

Gábor has been working in the field of asylum since 2000. After working for two years at the UNHCR Representation in Hungary, he joined the Hungarian Helsinki Committee, where he currently works as the director of the Refugee Programme and as an international trainer. His main fields of research and professional interest are nationality and statelessness; evidence and credibility assessment in asylum procedures; intercultural, language, gender and other interdisciplinary issues in the forced migration context; communication and media work; as well as human rights and refugee law education, including innovative teaching methods. In recent years, he has trained several hundreds of lawyers, judges, professors, asylum officers, police staff and social workers on these issues in various countries throughout Europe, Latin America and North Africa. He is a listed expert with the European Judicial Training Network (EJTN), and has collaborated in various frameworks with the UNHCR and the Open Society Justice Initiative. He is a founding member and the President of ENS.

### **Anikó Félix**

Anikó Félix started working at the Tom Lantos Institute in September 2016 as the Programme Manager for Jewish Life and Antisemitism.

Anikó holds an MA in Minority Politics from the Eötvös Loránd University (Budapest), where she is currently a PhD Candidate in the Sociology Department. Her research considered far-right extremism from a gender perspective. She has been a member of the MTA-ELTE Peripato Research Group, where she participated in various research projects, published articles, and presented the results at international conferences and in interviews with the media. Anikó has worked at Maven Seven Network Research Company and also at the political research institute Policy Solutions. She has been involved in several education programs, and has developed a digital education curriculum based on testimonies of Holocaust survivors for the Zachor Foundation. Currently she is a member of the alternative education program called 'Living Library' which aims to combat stereotyping and the discrimination of different social groups among school children. She participates in programs related to the Jewish community,

currently via Minyanim: an international leadership and community-building program for young Jewish people. Anikó speaks English, Romani language and Hungarian and has a basic understanding of German.

### **Peter Neumann.**

I'm Péter Neumann, from Budapest, Hungary. I studied sociology and became active in Jewish community organisations and projects since I finished my studies. My volunteer work - when not about Jewish youth engagement or informal education - was focused on housing poverty and dialogue between distant socio-economic groups. For the past 2 years I've been the program manager at Haver Foundation. Haver aims to overcome intolerance in Hungary, by bringing together Jewish youth with non-Jewish students in an informal educational framework.

### **Tamás Dombos**

Board member, project coordinator, staff member of the Legal Program

Economist, sociologist, anthropologist. Formerly researcher at the Center for Policy Studies at Central European University conducting research on equal opportunity policies. He has been working for Háttér Society since 2007, first as a volunteer then as a paid staff member. He coordinates the advocacy and research activities of the organisation, supports the work of the Legal Aid Service and is responsible for the international relations of the Society. Since 2012 he serves on the board of the Hungarian LGBT Alliance, a national umbrella organisation.

### **Mircea Cernov**

As lead professional of the Mozaik Jewish Community Hub, Mircea Cernov is responsible for building a professional knowledge community for social entrepreneurs, nonprofit professionals, lay leaders and community activist. As a catalyst he is responsible for enabling the transformation and change for a more active, effective, cooperative, sustainable and resilient Jewish community in Hungary.

Mircea has worked for international organizations and social entrepreneurial startups in different parts of Europe. He was deputy director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's activities in Hungary and Romania, where he was responsible for promoting community development, cultural and educational programming, he served as the CEO of Haver Foundation and strategic adviser for GeoGebra. He also served as the Hungary Representative-Director of World ORT.

He is one of the founders of Limmud Hungary Foundation and he was one of the founders of the Israeli Cultural Institute in Budapest. Previous to his appointment as Hub Director he served as board member at a number of local and community organizations.

Mircea has a B.A. in social work. Mircea has participated in an array of educational and post gradual programs including: nonprofit management at Columbia University's Picker Center, social diversity at

Oriel College, Oxford University and new technologies and the civil society at Columbia University's Arden House.

## Organisations

### **(TASZ), Hungarian Civil Liberties Union (HCLU)**

For over two decades, the Hungarian Civil Liberties Union has been active in protecting the rights of citizens against undue interference by those in position of public power. The HCLU monitors legislation, pursues strategic litigation, conducts public education and launches awareness raising media campaigns. It stands by citizens unable to defend themselves, assisting them in protecting their basic rights. Our lawyers provide free legal aid service in about 2000 cases per year and this number is increasing. The HCLU, with headquarters in Budapest, litigates across the country and all the way to the Hungarian Supreme Court. The HCLU is present in the courtrooms, in the ministries, at international events, at universities and in small villages. Its many partners include domestic and foreign individuals and institutions, as well as international organisations. It works in cooperation with volunteers to ensure that fundamental rights and principles may indeed prevail in Hungary. The HCLU's activities cover two major areas: the protection of civil liberties and the safeguarding equality for the most disadvantaged groups.

### **The Tom Lantos Institute (TLI)**

TLI is an independent human and minority rights organisation with a particular focus on Jewish and Roma communities, Hungarian minorities, and other ethnic or national, linguistic and religious minorities. It is a Budapest-based organisation with a multi-party board, an international Executive Committee and Advisory Board. It operates internationally in terms of staff, partners, scope, and funds. As a research and education platform, TLI aims to bridge the gaps 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.

Core funding of the organisation is provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade through the Centre for Democracy Public Foundation. The organisation also receives project funding from a variety of intergovernmental and private sources.

## Haver Foundation

A non-profit organisation established in 2002, Haver Foundation stands with individuals and educational organisations and institutions – mostly high schools and universities – to promote a diverse and inclusive society in Hungary. Haver works to combat prejudice and discrimination and to promote social cohesion through dialogue, training, education and advocacy. We aim to start an open and honest discussion and dialog between Jews and non-Jews that leads to tolerance and common understanding. It is essential to give special attention to the colorful modern Jewish life of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

We reach five thousand high school students, university students and educators yearly, and provide them a wide range of educational activities and programs.

The educational sessions and activities, which includes subject-specific modules on Shoa, anti-Semitism and Jewish identity forms, is designed in the spirit of anti-prejudice and diversity education: to facilitate dialog and sharing of experiences in the area of religion and culture; to recognize, respect and understand religious, cultural and identity diversity; to confront prejudice and discrimination and to develop individual skills and institutional strategies for creating inclusive inter-cultural environments.

The Haver Informal Jewish Educational Public Benefit Foundation's mission is to foster dialog and spread tolerance through informal education. The foundation fulfills its mission through educational activities, seminars, publications, exhibitions, and exchange programs targeted at youth and teachers. Haver Foundation is working towards a democratic, diverse, inclusive Hungary to guarantee the peaceful coexistence of its people and citizens. With a Jewish population of over 100,000, Hungary is a major center of Jewish life in the world.

The Founders of the Haver Informal Jewish Educational Public Benefit Foundation are young Hungarians both Jews and non-Jews who wish to reach out to young people in the spirit of the name they chose: friendship and open dialog. We believe that by organizing and conducting open discussions, lectures and educational activities around the subject of Jews and Judaism, we can successfully fight prejudice and misconceptions and promote increased levels of understanding and tolerance.

## Mozaik Hub

The Mozaik Jewish Community Hub is an operating program of [JDC](#). The Mozaik Hub is a professional platform, which provides infrastructure, co-working space, customized professional support, learning opportunities and financial support for Jewish community NGOs and initiatives in Hungary.

A mosaic consists of numerous small pieces of different size, color and shape. The mosaic of the Jewish community in Hungary is also made up of various pieces – number of small communities, groups and individuals with different needs and often differing questions and answers. Institutions, organisations,

initiatives and projects concentrating on specific areas of community life, nonetheless which are part of a greater whole. This greater whole can mean a jointly defined vision or the willingness for thinking or acting together.

Recognizing the plurality and the various questions and challenges today in the Jewish community, we at the Mozaik Hub find it especially important to look at ourselves and our partners as one piece of the mosaic, but at the same time as elements of the greater whole. We invite our partners and each member of the community to share a vision of a more effective, cooperative and sustainable Jewish community.

#### Primary goals of the Mozaik Jewish Community Hub

- To encourage, support and incubate NGOs working to advance Jewish life, community and values
- To create a more networked ecosystem of NGOs, with better access to resources and a more collaborative, positive environment for them to operate within
- To increase the capacity new and existing NGOs and initiatives based on best practices in the field
- To encourage entrepreneurship among members of the Jewish community

The Mozaik Jewish Community Hub is planned as a pilot initiative of JDC with potential replication in other European cities. JDC sees this initiative as a crucial next step in its work in Hungary and beyond, and will be focusing a great deal of attention and energy into this project in the coming years.

#### **Teleki Tér**

Teleki Tér is a unique synagogue in the Hungarian Jewish scene. It is the last remaining synagogue following the Hassidic/Sfard pray liturgy. It was founded by the Chartkov Chassidim (today: [Chortkiv](#), Ukraine) and legend has it that it was the Saintly Rebbe himself who established it. Many themes and facets of the original style remains. It has remained a “shtiebel” – a small prayer house favored by the Chassidic community for its “hominess” over the more formal setup of the typical synagogues. Renovations have begun and the community room has been expanded.

Although it is an Orthodox synagogue, it attracts a wide spectrum of people: Chassidic, non-Chassidic, Orthodox, Modern Orthodox, Neolog as well as non-affiliated and post-denominational Jews. The Synagogue was in operation throughout the communist era and had a few prominent personalities in Hungarian Jewish life, such as the late Jakab Gláser (1912 – 2006) and Tamás Raj (1940 – 2010).

Currently we meet for services on Shabbat mornings and on Jewish festivals. As the number of members grows and the commitment by the community increases, we plan to have Friday night services in the near future. We organize community events on Jewish festivals, Rosh Hashana, Pesach, Shavuot, Chanuka and Purim.

## **Hattér Foundation**

Hattér Foundation is one of the largest and most active LGBTQI organisations in Hungary. Founded in 1995, its aims are to protect the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBTQI) people and to reduce the fear and ignorance about homosexuality through better integration of LGBTQI people into society at large.

Hattér works towards these aims by calling attention to the problems faced by LGBTQI people; lobbying against discriminative laws and promoting legislation protecting LGBTQI people; providing support services; encouraging the self-organisation of LGBTQI communities; and preserving and spreading LGBTQI heritage and culture.

## **Open Doors Hungary**

Open Doors Hungary provides a program for unaccompanied minor asylum seekers and refugees in Hungary with the tools of visual communication, community architecture and social design. Being an asylum seeker means you've lost your home and community and you need to adapt to a new culture, whose language you don't know. This leads to an identity crisis, a lack of tools for expression and a lack of motivation. The Open Doors project tries to provide solutions for these issues. Our goal is to set up a complex program for the young refugees who live in the Károlyi István Child-center, in Fót. Within the confines of this program can grow up their vision of their future via direct action, creativity, intercultural training and community.

## **The Hungarian Helsinki Committee**

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee is a non-governmental watchdog organisation that protects human dignity and the rule of law through legal and public advocacy methods.

We often feel vulnerable in the face of the giant state. Many individuals are even more vulnerable, like those living with disabilities, Roma people, foreigners, to name a few. They are usually discriminated against or are simply unable to protect their interests because, for example, they cannot afford attorneys when aggrieved.

The Hungarian Helsinki Committee helps those whose human rights the state violated. Our clients are refugees, detainees and discriminated people.

With only a handful of members at the time of founding, the Hungarian Helsinki Committee has grown to an organisation of more than twenty professionals by 2015. Our colleagues include lawyers, attorneys, medical doctors, economists, sociologists and journalists as well. In the early years we only focused on free legal assistance and representation while today our portfolio also includes research and professional training activities spanning through a wide range of fields.

Our main areas:

- Protection of the rule of law
- Protection of the rights of refugees
- Monitoring law enforcement activities
- Protection of the rights of detainees

## Uccu Foundation

Providing a platform for dialogue between Roma and Non-Roma

Uccu Roma Informal Educational Foundation is a Hungarian Roma civil society organization. The main mission of Uccu is to combat prejudices and negative stereotypes related to Roma, so we can all live in a more tolerant and open society. The lack of acceptance often derives from the lack of knowledge about other cultures and people. In Hungary those who reflect anti-Gypsyist attitudes are typically those who know the least about the group they reject. Our Foundation provides an opportunity for primary and secondary school students from all over Hungary to meet and engage in a meaningful conversation with their young Roma peers.

## We Are Open

WeAreOpen is a nonprofit that creates campaigns with a coalition of businesses to promote diversity and inclusion for millions. It does so because being open is not only the right thing to do, but it is also necessary for businesses to succeed, and it makes people feel safe and happy at their workplaces. WeAreOpen's mission is to raise public awareness about the fact that diversity is a value for organizations, and to give companies tools to become more open workplaces.

WeAreOpen was founded as an initiative in 2013 by Prezi, espell, and Google. It grew from a volunteer project to an emerging nonprofit social enterprise. To fulfill its mission, WeAreOpen partners with the world's most acknowledged brands, large employers in Hungary, hundreds of Hungarian SMEs, dozens of local influencers and volunteers. WeAreOpen consults with a wide range of acknowledged scholars and nonprofits from Europe and beyond.

WeAreOpen believes that visible gestures make a difference. So, it designed campaigns that resulted in 1,000+ companies and organizations publicly joining WeAreOpen's manifesto about openness; 150+ public commitments from companies about improving gender equality at their workplace in a given year; 100+ CEOs, and many company groups, attending Budapest Pride march to support LGBTQ inclusion; and dozens of publicly shared stories from influencers about why it is worthwhile to be open. Moreover, WeAreOpen created OPEN Conference, the first international diversity conference for business leaders in Central Eastern Europe, attracting top global speakers; and it commissioned representative research to better understand the needs and wishes of Hungarian employees.

We are proud to be able to achieve all of these in cooperation with the community of open companies and organizations, with our sponsors, partners, supporters, advisors and friends.



## NOTES