



**René Cassin - Anglo Jewish Association  
Fellowship Programme  
Budapest Study Tour  
23-26 May 2019**

**Programme Booklet**

## Goals of the René Cassin – AJA Fellowship Programme

### 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, Executive Director, René Cassin**  
**Tomi Buchler, RC – AJA Fellowship Programme**



The group will consist of six Fellows from the UK. The staff on the trip are Mia Hasenson-Gross and Tomi Buchler (Alumni fellow from cohort 1)

We will be staying at the **ARCadia Hotel Budapest | H-1075 Budapest, Madách Imre tér 4.**  
**Tel.: +36-1-796-2070; Fax: +36-1-796-2071**

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 fellow 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 23<sup>rd</sup> May) – ‘Why here and why as Jews?’

11.55 Arrival to Liszt Ferenc Airport

13.30 Hotel check-in at Arcadia Hotel

13.35 Lunch

15.00 – ‘Why Budapest and why as Jews?’ – group activity (Discussion on individual texts) facilitated by Luca Elek

16.30 – UCCU Budapest Walking tour – Bettina Pocsai

17.30 – Meeting with Szilvia Szenasi, CEO of UCCU Foundation

19:00 Dinner next to hotel

### Day Two: (Friday 24<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

9.30 The Refugee Crisis in Hungary – MiraDoor Project

11.00 Meeting with the Hungarian Helsinki (address: Dohany u.20) Committee – Andras Lederer, Information and advocacy officer, Refugee Programme, Helsinki Committee

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Roma-LGBT intersectionality panel - Open Society Foundations

18.00 Visit at the Aurora Center – Adam Schonberger, MAROM Hungary

## Day Three (Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May) - Jewish life and social action in Hungary

8:45 Breakfast

9.30 Shabbat service at Dohany Street Great Synagogue followed by tour -

10.30 Parashat Hashavua by fellow

11.00 Tour of old Jewish district and the living memorial project – Tamas Buchler

13.00 Lunch

14.30 Jewish organizations creating social change - Borbala Pal, Haver Foundation / Mozaik – combating anti-Semitism in Hungary; social action in Hungary (

16.30 The Jewish Community and extremism in Hungary – Aniko Felix

19.00 Dinner

20.30 Havdala led by fellows

Prep for Roma village visit – set own group's boundaries and expectations

## Day Four: (Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May) Empowerment and social action – spotlight: Roma'

7.00 Leave hotel (including check out)

8.00 **Adomanytaxi** – Charitytaxi Study Trip Sajókaza

15.30 Debrief, closing and feedback

17.30 Free time

19.00 Bus 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**

### **Luca Elek** Program Coordinator / Tarbut

Luca graduated from Minority Studies and Ethnic Relations from Eötvös Lóránd Science University, Budapest in 2012. Her field of interest is human rights education, specifically how to fight discrimination and extremism. She has been active in the field of youth work for over twelve years, participating and organizing different international youth projects, mostly focusing on minority issues and social activism. She works as a freelance trainer involving young activists from different ethnic and religious communities. At the moment, she is a board member of the Hungarian branch of Service Civil International, 'Útilapu' and the informal network of Youth Peace Ambassadors. Currently, she is the coordinator of the Tarbut Fellowship, working on planning and implementing the educational content of the program.

### **Szénási Szilvia**, CEO / UCCU Foundation

I joined the team of Uccu Roma Informal Educational Foundation in 2013, as a volunteer, and since 2016 I am working as the CEO of the organization. I believe that it is important for us Roma people to get our voice heard, show our way of thinking and speak about Roma society, culture and about our identity. The walks can be a primary tool for supporting the social dialogue between Roma and non-Roma people, as with the Uccu Budapest Roma City Walks entrepreneurship everybody can have the opportunity for meeting and discussion with us. I like to lead Uccu Walks, because it is a special experience for me to meet and get to know new people, new groups, tell the story of the 8th district, and because during the walk my identity and way of thinking becomes important part of the guiding. This is why I still guide groups, because I learn at least as much as the group during the walks, as I am guiding them.

### **Bettina Pocsai**, Coordinator / UCCU City Walks

Uccu volunteer in Budapest since 3 years. I grew up in a small village in Pest county, called Csobánka, and now I am student in a master program of sociology and social anthropology. I like to be an Uccu volunteer, as I can be thankful for Uccu in a lot of things. Uccu helped me to get to know myself and the world we are living in better. It emerges all of the things I like to do, and still I know it is not only for my use. I meet with awesome people every day, and I think it is great to be a member of such community. Uccu gives an opportunity in everyday life to help creating a better and more liveable future. I like the walks that much also because of this, I have the chance to get to know new people and through them also develop myself.



**András Léderer** - Information and advocacy officer, Refugee Programme, Helsinki Committee

He earned his MSc (in violence, conflict and development) at SOAS, London and his BSc (terrorism, conflict and security) in Aberystwyth and joined the Hungarian Helsinki Committee in September 2015. He writes the Hungarian Helsinki Committee's regular information updates on asylum for domestic and international audiences and is also working and managing projects of the refugee programme. András is also conducting human rights monitoring visits to reception centres and detention facilities. His PhD research focuses on the relationship of trauma caused by intractable conflicts and speech.

### **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.

### **Adam Schönberger – MAROM**

Adam Schönberger was born in Budapest, Hungary. He majored in theatre studies, comparative literature and linguistics at the University of Pécs. After a year of studying at Bar Ilan University in Israel and Paideia Institute in Stockholm, he returned to Hungary and became involved in the Masorti young adult organization called MAROM Budapest ([www.marom.hu/en](http://www.marom.hu/en)). The organization has more than 800 members focusing on Jewish culture, Jewish identity, religion, Israel and social justice. The main focus of the organization is to create a flourishing and dynamic young Jewish community in Budapest. One of its main projects include *Lake Bánk Festival* ([www.tekerjatora.hu/en](http://www.tekerjatora.hu/en)) that brings together Roma's, Slovaks, Jews, immigrants and other civic groups. Another project is the *Quarter6Quarter7 Festival* ([www.quarter6quarter7.com](http://www.quarter6quarter7.com)), which focuses on the protection of Jewish urban heritage. This festival incorporates more than 40 venues and organizations in the old Jewish Quarter and it aims to



establish a joint civil action in order to protect and revitalize the district and its Jewish cultural life. Adam has also been the director of MAROM Budapest since 2003 and is also the founder and director of *Sirály Cultural and Community Center*. Adam is currently working in the new community center called Aurora.

## **Organisations**

### **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.

## **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.