

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

TOM LANTOS INSTITUTE

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 three specific issue areas. These are: Human Rights of Minorities; Roma Rights and Citizenship; and Jewish Life and Countering Antisemitism.



Research and Project Areas

HUMAN RIGHTS OF MINORITIES

- 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
- Roma Representation in Public Spaces in Budapest
- Training Course for Roma Pupils: Responding to Prejudice

JEWISH LIFE AND COUNTERING ANTISEMITISM

- Research on Modern Antisemitism in the Visegrád Countries
- The Past, Present, and Future of Hungarian Jewry Outside the Capital
- Addressing Antisemitism through Education
- Vanishing Points 4.0

Highlighted Projects

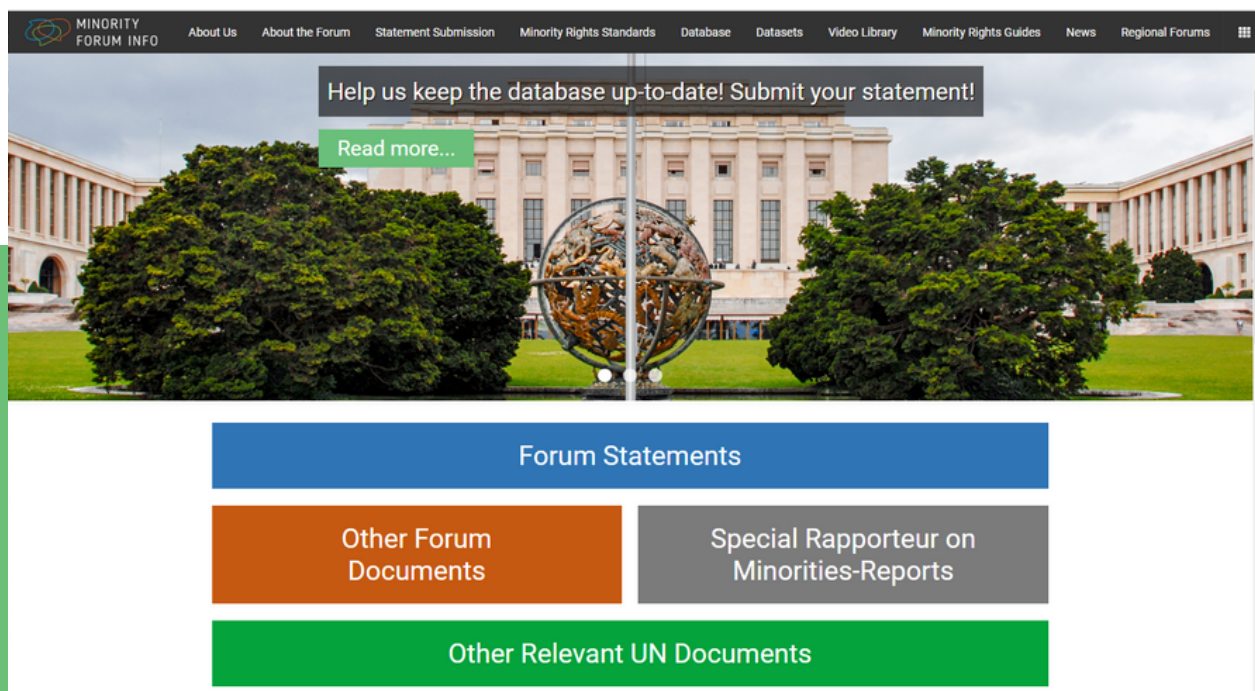
REGIONAL FORUMS ON MINORITY ISSUES



At the request of the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues, we organised four online regional forums on the topic of “Conflict Prevention and the Protection of the Human Rights of Minorities,” in partnership with regional and local organisations in four global regions. These regional events aim to make the UN Forum on Minority Issues more accessible for minorities and to provide region-specific responses to the problems affecting them. The Americas Regional Forum was held on 27-28 April; the Africa-Middle East Regional Forum took place on 15-16 June; the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum was held on 7-8 September, and the European Forum was organised on 12-13 October. The online format enabled the participation of a wide range of stakeholders. Altogether, 625 participants joined the four events, among them civil society organisations, members of minority communities, international and regional organisations, national human rights institutions and 46 state representatives. We further increased the reach of the Forums by live-streaming the events and providing simultaneous interpretation in several languages, including sign language. The four regional forums produced 229 recommendations in total, which served as a background document for the 14th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues.

MINORITY FORUM INFO

The [MinorityForum.Info](#) website is a searchable and user-friendly database of documents related to the UN Forum on Minority Issues. It aims to increase access to information on minority rights standards and implementation, and to improve interaction with the UN Forum. The online database compiles statements made at the UN Forum between 2006 and 2020, documents related to the Regional Forums on Minority Issues (2019, 2020, 2021), and other relevant UN documents that focus on minority issues. This project is implemented in partnership with the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London. Since its launch in 2018, the database has been continuously updated. It also contains a video library, a subpage of datasets relevant to the human rights of minorities, and a database of minority rights guides developed by international and civil society organisations.

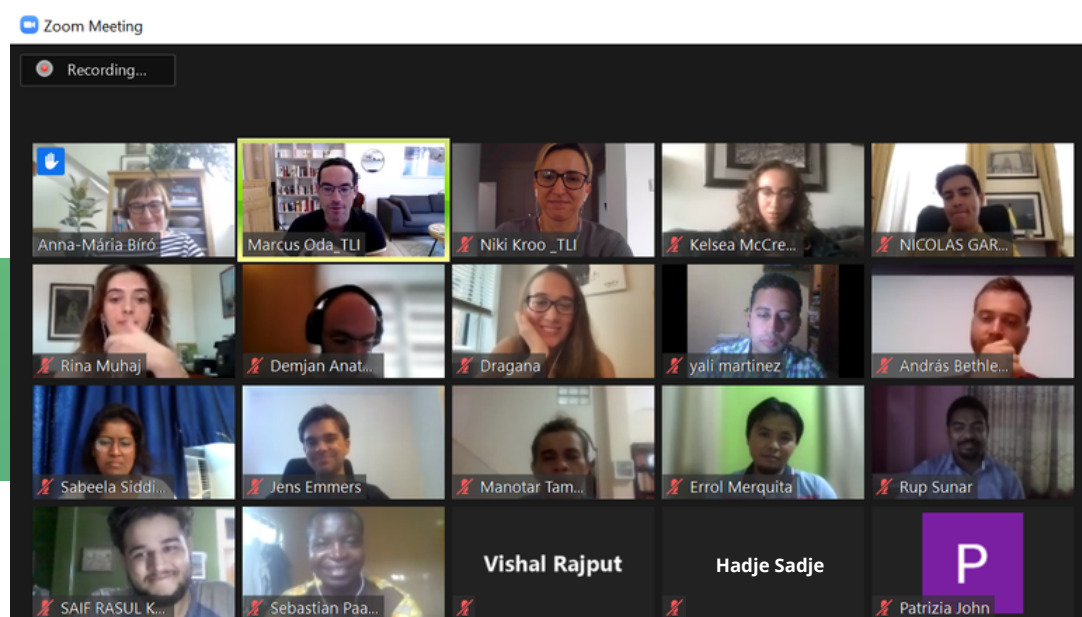


GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS NEWSLETTER

The newsletter provides information on regional and global normative developments, institutional frameworks and mechanisms related to the human rights of minorities, relevant events and other participatory opportunities. In 2021, we changed the newsletter format based on feedback received through a wide-scale assessment. Relevant new items are regularly posted in the “News” section of Minority Forum Info. They are also collated into an email newsletter at the end of each month.

GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL

We organised the ninth Global Minority Rights Summer School in cooperation with the National University of Public Service, Minority Rights Group International, and the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London. In 2021, the summer school was held online for over two weeks in July. Renowned experts and prominent academics joined minority and civil society representatives from around the world to examine the relationship between ethnocultural diversity, conflict, and the human rights of minorities. Theoretical lectures were complemented by practical sessions about making an intervention at the UN Forum on Minority Issues and using other available advocacy opportunities.



Research

In 2021, TLI continued its research project **assessing the UN Forum on Minority Issues**. The research is carried out in partnership with the Human Rights Consortium of the School of Advanced Study, University of London. It aims to better understand identity politics in international relations and the role of global governance in securing the rights of national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

We concluded our **survey-based regional research** to gain a more in-depth understanding of modern antisemitism in the Visegrád countries and its regional specificities. The research focused on exploring the prevalence, intensity, and causes of anti-Jewish prejudice in the region. The findings were published in a [research report](#) and presented at an online academic conference in January 2022 with the participation of 32 experts from the region. Key research results were also presented in a short [infographic video](#).



Publications and Launch Events

The launch event of our publication **“Az Emberi Jogok Lobogója Alatt”** (“The Noble Banner of Human Rights”) was held online on 7 December 2021. Authored by Robert R. King, former Chief of Staff of Tom Lantos and distinguished American diplomat, the book offers a rare and personal insight into the life and career of Tom Lantos, as well as reflections on Robert R. King’s connections to Hungary including the 1978 return of the Holy Crown by the United States.



The online launch event of our publication presenting the key results of our multi-year research on **Roma representation in public spaces of Hungary** was held on 16 December. In addition to mapping Roma representations, the research also explored how Roma were able to participate in creating their self-representations in the public space. The publication, authored by Roma researchers, also contains a collection of photographs taken during the field research.



As part of our project focusing on rural Hungarian Jewish culture and history, TLI supported the publication of the book titled **“Zempléni Csodarabbik”** (“Wonder-rabbis of Zemplén”). The book authored by Bence Illyés provides an insight into Hasidic culture, the pilgrimages, and the life of the region’s wonder-rabbis. The book launch took place on 28 October in Sátoraljaújhely during an annual event remembering Jewish life in this locality. As part of the programme, an **interactive online map** of local Jewish monuments and memorials was also launched.

Educational Initiatives and Training Programmes

In 2021, we developed an online database of non-formal educational projects implemented in Hungary that focus on the Holocaust, antisemitism, and Jewish history and culture. [Shalomedu](#) is a user-friendly, searchable resource for educators, civil society actors and other stakeholders. It makes relevant educational programmes easily accessible for primary and secondary school teachers and aims to facilitate their use and integration into lesson-plans.

The screenshot displays the Shalomedu website's search interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Tom Lantos Institute logo and several menu items in Hungarian: KÉPZÉSKERESŐ, RÓLUNK / ABOUT US, AZ ADATBÁZISRÓL, ÚTMUTATÓ, KÉPZÉSEK, KAPCSOLAT, and KÉPZÉS BEKÜLDÉS. Below the navigation bar, a large text box explains the purpose of Shalomedu: it is a database of non-formal educational projects related to antisemitism, the Holocaust, and Jewish history in Hungary. It states that the goal is to make these projects accessible to primary and secondary school teachers by summarizing and making them searchable. A link is provided for more detailed information: [részletesebb információkat itt találhat](#), and another link for the user manual: [használati útmutatóját itt érheti el](#).

Below the text box, there is a search form titled KÉPZÉSKERESŐ. The form contains several input fields for filtering results:

- Képzés típusa (Type of training): A dropdown menu with a plus sign.
- Korosztály (Age group): A dropdown menu with a plus sign.
- Szervező (Organizer): A dropdown menu with a plus sign.
- Helyszín (Location): A dropdown menu with a plus sign.
- Illeszkedés a kerettantervbe (Fit into the curriculum): A dropdown menu with a plus sign.
- Kulcsszó (Keyword): A text input field.

At the bottom right of the search form, there are three buttons: Részletes keresés (Detailed search), Szűrő törlése (Clear filters), and Szűrés (Filter).

Working with a group of experts, we developed, implemented and evaluated a pilot educational project **"Antisemitic prejudice in schools: methods, teaching materials, approaches"** aimed at providing educators with tools to identify and address antisemitic prejudice. Teachers and students from seven secondary schools across Hungary participated in the project.

In 2021, TLI continued its accredited **teacher training programme on the Roma Holocaust**. The training took place on 2-3 August in Budapest commemorating the International Roma Holocaust Day.



We also continued with our **training project for Roma pupils on responding to prejudice** using various verbal communication tools. The first training took place in Teplý Vrch/Meleghegy, Slovakia on 5-6 July at the invitation of Ternipe Association. The second training was held on 5-6 November in Budapest for Roma secondary school students from Ózd.



For the fourth time since 2016, we resumed our Vanishing Points project, which examines antisemitism and questions concerning Jewish identity in different periods of the twentieth century through the works of contemporary artists. In 2021, participating artists explored the period of the regime change. The exhibition **“A Slower Dawn! Vanishing Points 4.0 – Contemporary reflections on antisemitism and Jewish identity after the fall of the Iron Curtain”** was held in the Trafó Gallery, a contemporary art centre in Budapest.



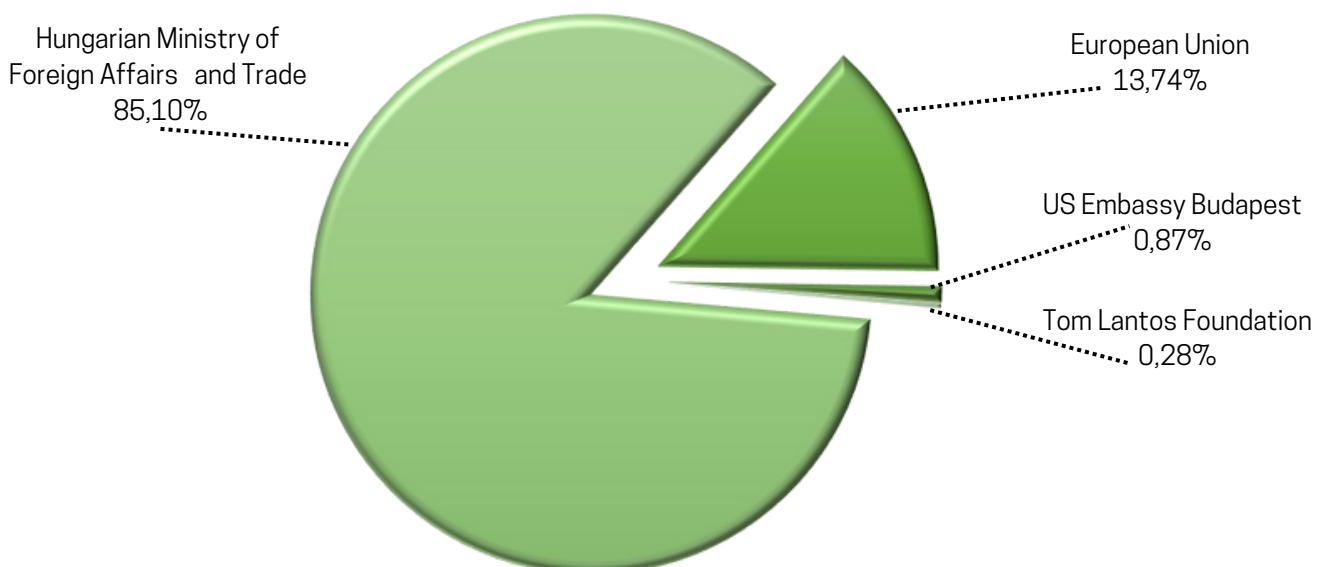
Fellowships and Internships

In 2021, an Austrian Service Abroad fellow contributed to the work of TLI by assisting permanent staff, while gaining knowledge, skills and valuable experience in international human and minority rights.

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, as well as project grants from various sources. The pie chart indicates the extent to which each source contributed to the total of our project expenses in 2021.



TLI Staff

Director	Anna-Mária Bíró
Deputy Director	Máté Fischer
Financial Manager	Mary Fischer (until May 2021)
Financial Manager	Judit Vas (from June 2021)
Head of Programmes	Evelin Verhás
Programme Manager for the Human Rights of Minorities	Marcus Oda
International Programme Co-ordinator	Sean Waller
Programme Officer for Jewish Life and Countering Antisemitism	Orsolya Plesz
Programme Manager for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Ildikó Török (on maternity leave from September 2019)
Programme Officer for Roma Rights and Citizenship	László Fejős
Implementation Officer	Vanda Pózner
Programme Co-ordinator	Nikoletta Kroó
Administrative and Financial Assistant	Katalin Kápolnai