

2024

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.

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

Research and Project Highlights

- **ASSESSING THE UN FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES**
- **GLOBAL MINORITY RIGHTS SUMMER SCHOOL**
- **MINORITY FORUM INFO**
- **ROMA REPRESENTATION IN PUBLIC SPACES: RESEARCH AND DATABASE**
- **THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE OF HUNGARIAN JEWRY OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL**
- **SHALOMEDU DATABASE**

Databases

The [MinorityForum.Info](https://www.minorityforum.info) website is a searchable and user-friendly database of documents related to the UN Forum on Minority Issues that aims to increase access to information on minority rights standards and implementation, and to improve interaction with the UN Forum. Through this database, 2,012 statements made at the Forum are accessible, in addition to documents related to the Regional Forums on Minority Issues (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), other relevant UN documents that focus on minority issues, 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. In 2024, we continued updating the database with new documents, and shared weekly minority rights-related news items in the “News” subpage.

Now includes the statements of the 2023 UN Forum on Minority Issues!

MINORITY FORUM INFO

- Statements and documentation from the UN Forum on Minority Issues
- Reports of the UN Special Rapporteur on minority issues
- Database of minority and human rights standards and minority rights guides
- and more!

A key web resource for anyone working in the field of **minority rights**

TLI HAS PUBLISHED A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON THE UN MINORITY PROTECTION REGIME!

UN FORUM STATEMENTS
OTHER UN FORUM DOCUMENTS
SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON MINORITIES REPORTS
OTHER RELEVANT UN DOCUMENTS

VISIT [WWW.MINORITYFORUM.INFO](https://www.minorityforum.info)

Romaköztér is an online map and searchable database where the results of TLI's research on Roma representations in Hungary's public spaces can be accessed. The database aims to increase awareness of these representations and enhance understanding of Roma culture and history as well as their contribution to Hungarian society. In 2024, the database was further updated with 28 new entries. Also we created a short video to raise awareness about the database among the Roma youth community.

Shalomedu is an online database where non-formal educational initiatives on antisemitism, the Holocaust and Jewish life in Hungary are accessible and searchable. The goal of the platform is to facilitate the use of these initiatives in schools and their integration into the national curriculum.

Educational Initiatives

The twelfth **Global Minority Rights Summer School**, co-organised with the Ludovika University of Public Service, and the Human Rights Consortium, School of Advanced Study, University of London, took place in Budapest from July 7-12, 2024. This year's Summer School had a special focus on "Environmental Justice and Minority Rights." Nine experts and prominent academics were invited from all over the world to lead the discussions for the selected 21 applicants, who came from 19 countries and four global regions to participate in the week-long workshop. Among the expert speakers was Professor Nicolas Levrat, UN Special Rapporteur on Minority Issues. In addition to theoretical knowledge, participants gained practical skills for engaging with the global governance structures of minority rights, including engagement with relevant UN Treaty Bodies and the formulation and presentation of interventions at the UN Forum on Minority Issues.



12 July 2024, Budapest

Several educational projects were organised as part of our ongoing work to focus on Jewish Life outside the capital. All three city projects shared the common goal of raising awareness of Jewish culture and history.

In the "Kőről Kőre" project, students from **Pápa** learned about Jewish religious traditions through cemetery visits, lectures, and student presentations.

In **Nagykanizsa**, two thematic walking routes were created for adults: one based on the locations of recently placed *Botlatókövek* (stumbling stones), and the other highlighting key sites related to the Charitable Israelite Women's Association.

In **Sopron**, students researched buildings linked to Jewish heritage, interviewed a Holocaust survivor, and plan to present their findings through guided walks and short films.

In 2024, we launched a research project in collaboration with MAROM Association, to preserve the memory of the Holocaust, with a special focus on involving young people. As part of the project, a 90-minute, interactive theatrical performance was created, titled "**Dobozaink**" ("Our Boxes"), which was presented to three groups of students: on 12 September at the Raoul Wallenberg Health Vocational School, on 3 October at Arany János High School and on 18 December at the Eötvös József High School in Szeged.

Events

TLI staff attended the 17th session of the UN Forum on Minority Issues held in Geneva on 28-29 November 2024. The thematic focus of the session was “Minority Representation and Self-Representation in Public Spaces and Discourses.” TLI’s Program Manager for Roma Rights and Citizenship, Ildikó Török, was invited to give an expert presentation under item 1: “Minority Representation in Public Spaces.” Her presentation highlighted the work of TLI in this area, in particular its research on Roma representation in public spaces in Hungary. The video recording of the Forum can be viewed on [UN WebTV](#). TLI was also pleased to meet alumni of the Global Minority Rights Summer School at the Forum, and congratulates them on their contributions to the session.



28 November 2024, Geneva

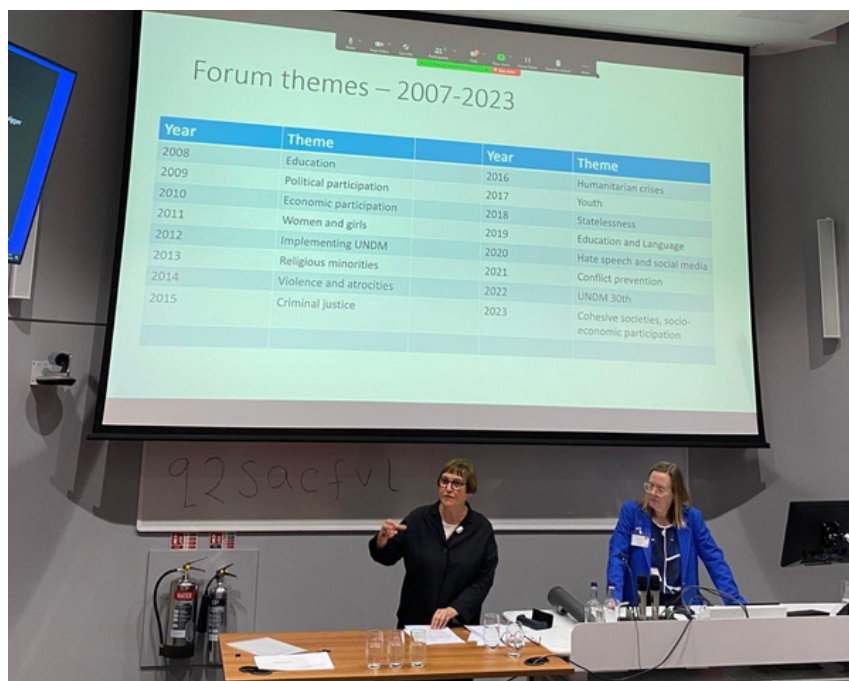


28 November 2024, Geneva



29 November 2024, Geneva

In June, TLI Director, Anna-Mária Bíró, and Corinne Lennox, TLI Advisory Board member and Senior Lecturer at the School of Advanced Study - University of London, **delivered a presentation** at the „**DIVERCITY @ CityLawSchool WORKSHOP 2024.**” Co-organized by the City University of London, and the Minority Rights Solidarity Network (MRSN), the aim of the workshop was to critique and improve minority stakeholder accessibility to UN platforms for advocating minority rights, drawing on the knowledge and experience of minority civil society stakeholders, UN personnel, and academics.



12 June 2024, London

On 10 July, Marcus Oda, TLI's Programme Manager for the human rights of minorities, **gave two lectures at the Hrant Dink Minority Rights Academy in Istanbul, Turkey**, a programme for Turkish minority rights defenders aimed at discussing minority rights and strengthening minority rights advocacy. His lectures focused on minority rights, advocacy, and the UN system of minority protection.



10 July 2024, Istanbul

On 7 July 2024, **we organised a workshop** on the topic of "**Decolonisation and Minority Rights**". The participating academics and minority rights experts discussed the various ways in which critical perspectives of decolonisation can enrich the interpretation of international minority rights standards and contribute to the creation of new norms.

The **European Practitioners Network Against Antisemitism (EPNA)** held a workshop in Belgrade on 13 - 15 November. The theme of the event was "Examining Antisemitism and Disinformation in the Digital Space." In addition to attending a number of interesting presentations, TLI staff members participated in the development of several projects, and had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with many organizations with similar profiles.



14 November 2024, Belgrade

As part of our project on Jewish Life outside the capital, TLI continued to support the organisation of an **annual event commemorating Jewish life in Sátorajújhely**, which took place on 30 October 2024.

In October, TLI presented the Institute's work on the Roma Representation in Public Spaces Project at the **Department of Interdisciplinary Historical Studies of ELTE University**, then in November, at the **Identity and Cultural Heritage Conference**, organized by **Romano Kher Budapest Cultural Center**.

Publications

Highlighting the groundbreaking work and lasting impact of two Roma women, short videos were published about Mária László and Göngyi Rácz as part of our Roma Rights and Citizenship programme.

TLI also supported the publication of a book titled **“The Memory of the Jews of Bia-Torbágy”**, which documents the history of the rural Jewish communities of Biatorbágy. The book launch event took place on 17 November 2024, featuring a commemorative walk organized by the local government and a roundtable discussion with the authors.

On 1 December, we presented two short documentaries at the Budapest Jewish and Israeli Film Festival. The short films focused on three towns in Transdanubia where civil volunteers work to preserve and make accessible the heritage of rural Jewry and the local memory of Jews. The screening was followed by a roundtable discussion.



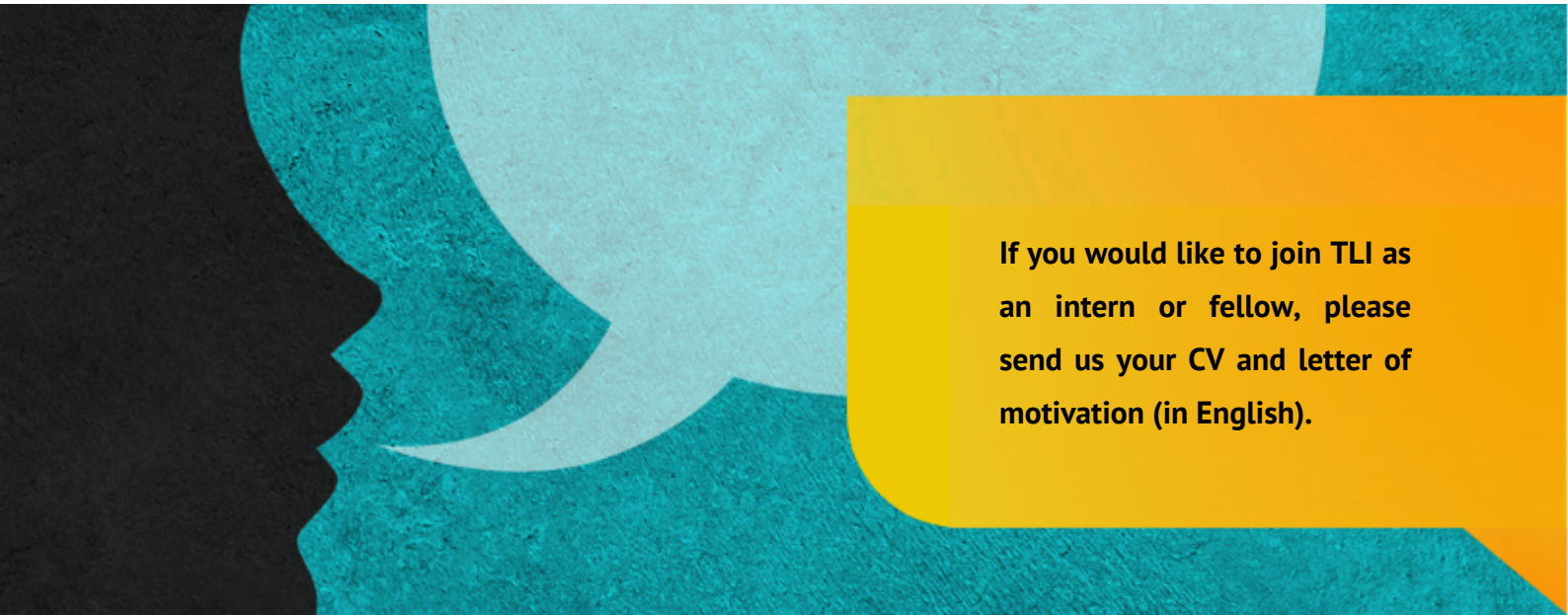
1 December 2024, Budapest

TLI's Jewish Life Programme Manager, Eszter Susan's article, titled “The Social Memory of Rural Jews in Hungary Since the Turn of the Millennium,” was published in the scientific journal **REGIO: Minorities, Culture, Politics, Society**.

In December, two articles were published about the Shalomedu network and database: one in **Kibic Magazine**, another in **Szombat Magazine**.

TLI Staff

Director	Anna-Mária Bíró
Deputy Director	Máté Fischer
Financial Manager	Judit Vas
Head of Programmes	Evelin Verhás (until January 2025) Dávid Gáspár (from July 2025)
Programme Manager for the Human Rights of Minorities	Marcus Oda
Programme Manager for Jewish Life	Eszter Susán
Programme Manager for Roma Rights and Citizenship	Ildikó Török
Programme Assistant for Roma Rights and Citizenship, and Jewish Life	Natália Pados
Programme Co-ordinator	Nikoletta Kroó
Administrative and Financial Assistant	Nóra Szentkuti



**If you would like to join TLI as
an intern or fellow, please
send us your CV and letter of
motivation (in English).**