

# 25 YEARS OF TASZ



ANNUAL REPORT **2019**



TÁRSASÁG A  
SZABADSÁGJOGOKÉRT



# GREETINGS FROM THE LEADERSHIP

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*/ MÁTÉ SZABÓ /*

We are not beginners. The Hungarian Civil Liberties Union looks back on a quarter of a century. We have survived so far—in a rare accomplishment among Hungarian civil rights organizations—because we always take care to renew ourselves. The reality is that our constantly changing environment compels us to continuously aim to deal with those issues that people around us need us to deal with and in the way they need it. Further, we remain faithful to our original goal of promoting awareness of the fundamental human rights and empowering people against the encroachments and omissions of the various branches of power.

We are in a strange situation. Hungarian reality provides us with abundant fields for discussion and action. In a political environment that proclaims putting the interests of the current majority and of those representing them before the individual rights of all, there is plenty of work to do. Also, we have to deal with violations of law that would not happen in a liberal democracy.

Today, HCLU works in an environment where the violation of fundamental rights is caused not solely because of the malfunction of institutions. The institutions violate the equality of people due to systemic reasons and not as an exception. In our view, the powers that be do not care about all individual's lives, and the use and distribution of resources is not performed with the equality of rights in mind. They consider the life, lifestyle, and dignity of some people more valuable than that of others. Imposing someone's own set of values on others is considered acceptable both in the public and the private life, thereby putting many in a vulnerable position. Moreover, to be able to stay in power, those in positions of power do not facilitate their own accountability, nor do they ensure that everyone is included in making the most important decisions in public affairs. There is therefore plenty of work to do—and it is not enough to fix malfunctions, but we also need to address the more fundamental problems.

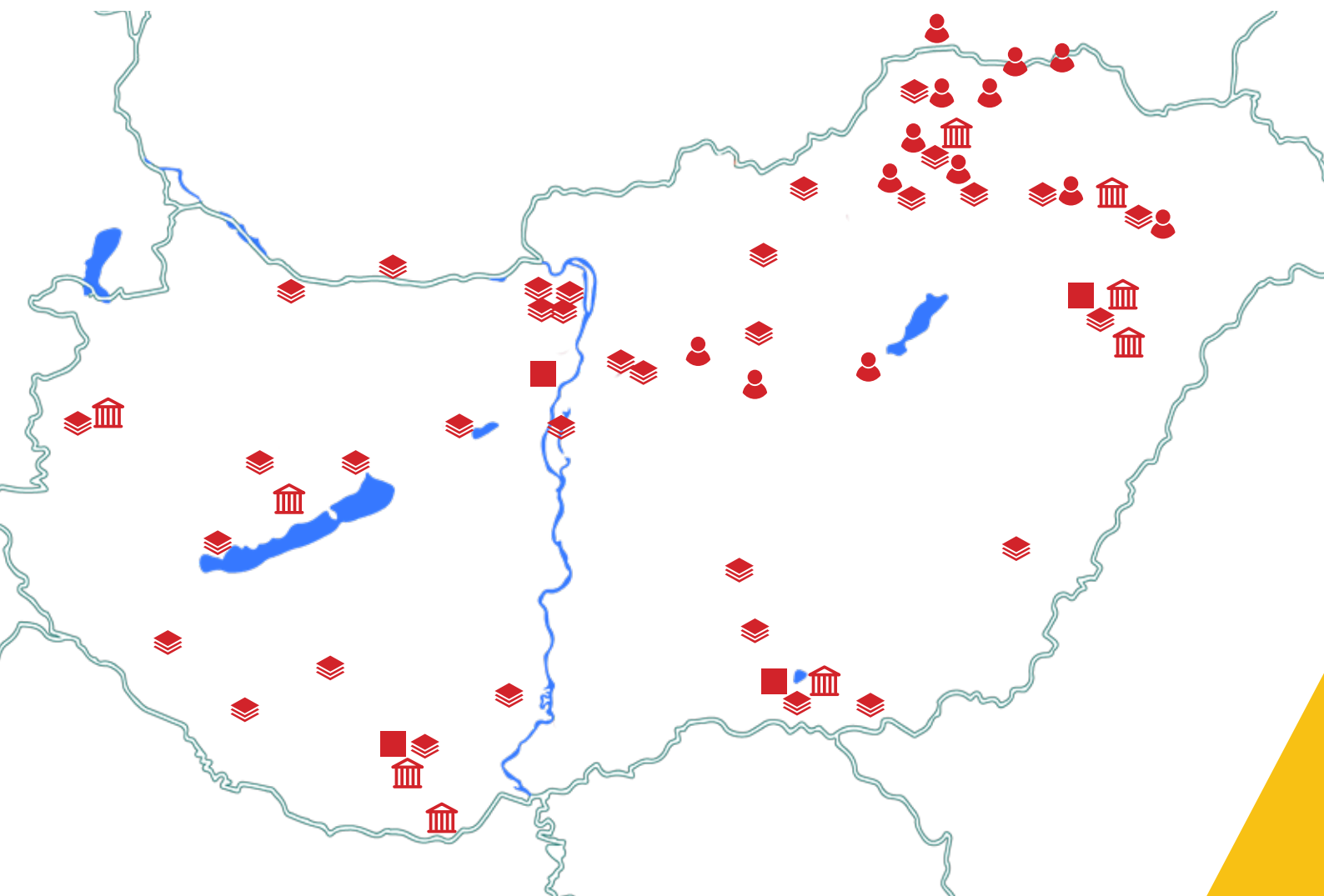
In the meantime, our options are very limited as the institutions available to those providing legal aid are also part of the system. This means that these institutions have no interest in promoting equality of dignity

and freedom. Nevertheless, we utilize these institutions and initiate the appropriate procedures, but we don't do this on the pretense of living under the rule of law. We do not only seek redress for wrong decisions violating fundamental rights or only work for the development of the legal system, because we need to do even more than that. In each case, we are considering several additional factors: what we can expect from an institution in the current political environment, how sensitive the case is politically, what influence might the public have on the institution, and how success or failure will affect the public or the system of the institutions for the protection of human rights. Today, the HCLU doesn't work to protect the system created by the Fundamental Law against its malfunctions, shortcomings, and excesses. Instead, we work for the protection of fundamental rights in opposition to a system that denies modern constitutional norms.

But we don't want to be lonely fighters. It wouldn't make much sense in this battle. Our aims cannot be achieved by putting forth our arguments solely in the courtrooms or legal submissions. We can only succeed if many of the citizens want the same things that we want. That is why we support individuals and groups who are conscientiously and actively participating in public life. We want to make this group of people grow. We do not only protect those who suffer disadvantages because of their public actions, but we also provide them with the knowledge to make their participation more effective. We want more people to believe that freedoms have a direct impact on the lives of individuals and that human rights protect not only the minorities but every single citizen. For the first time this year, we have paid attention to recognizing the work of citizens active in public life. This is how the 25-year-old HCLU can be successful—together with citizens who are fighting for freedom.



# PRESENT WHERE NEEDED



## TRAININGS

Ajka, Békés, Budakalász, Debrecen, Edelény, Girincs, Gyál, Gyöngyös, Győr, Jászberény, Kaposvár, Keszthely, Kiskunfélegyháza, Kiskunmajsa, Komárom, Makó, Miskolc, Nagyatád, Nagykanizsa, Nyíregyháza, Pécs, Piliscsaba, Pomáz, Ráckeve, Sály, Szajla, Szeged, Székesfehérvár, Szekszárd, Szentendre, Szombathely, Tiszavasvári, Üllő, Veszprém



## FIELDWORKERS

Edelény, Hernádvécse, Miskolc, Lyukóvölgy, Nagykálló, Nyíregyháza, Tápiószecső, Tápiószéle, Telkibánya, Tetemvár, Tiszaroff, Tömör, Tornanádaska



## EXHIBITION

Bánk, Debrecen, Kapolcs, Miskolc, Nagyarsány, Nyíregyháza, Pécs, Szeged, Szombathely



## OTHER

(ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS, PROFESSIONAL COORDINATION, DEBATES BETWEEN MAYOR CANDIDATES)

Debrecen, Érd, Pécs, Szeged

# 2019

RECEIVED  
**19 597 062**  
HUF FROM  
**2642**  
PEOPLE'S 1% TAX PLEDGES.

**29 131 878 HUF**  
FROM MORE THAN 800 INDIVIDUALS AS DOMESTIC FINANCIAL SUPPORT UNTIL  
NOVEMBER 2019.

**0 HUF**  
PUBLIC FUNDS ACCEPTED  
FROM THE HUNGARIAN STATE.

**3**  
FUND RAISING EVENTS  
ORGANIZED THROUGHOUT  
THE YEAR.

EQUALITY PROJECT:  
**13**  
NEW CASES IN 2019

POLITICAL FREEDOM PROJECT:  
**45**  
NEW CASES IN 2019

PRIVACY PROJECT:  
**15**  
NEW CASES IN 2019

**2789**  
VOLUNTARY WORKING HOURS

RESPONDED TO  
**1420**  
REQUESTS FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE  
RECEIVED IN EMAIL

**167**  
CASES IN PROGRESS ON  
DECEMBER 1ST 2019.

# FREE PRIZE

## YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Those who stand up for freedom in Hungary today often make serious sacrifices. People working for their own or others' rights and our common interests face many obstacles, and even if they become role models in their own community, their efforts and commitment are often recognized only years later. Unfortunately it is no exaggeration to say that there have been few periods in the last 25 years when it was more relevant to introduce and reward people who work for a freer Hungary every day.

By founding the Free Prize and by introducing the nominees' stories, we support ordinary heroes who stand up for freedom, who do not tolerate if others' rights are violated, and who work for a freer and more courageous Hungary day after day. We hope that if we promote their stories, then others, too, will be inspired by their work and successes. While the increasing number of requests for legal aid that we receive each year makes us realize how much our work is needed, by establishing the Prize we wanted to express that without the citizens' active involvement our work cannot be successful.

### **ANETT CSORDÁS AWARDED THE FREE JURY PRIZE**

Thanks to the many years of devoted work done by the Lépünk, hogy léphessenek („Let's take action so

that they can take one step forward”) association and Anett Csordás, life became easier for lots of families with chronically ill or disabled children in 2018. One of the most important civil initiatives in recent years has succeeded in engaging the whole of society in the previously invisible problem of home-care families, hitherto swept under the rug. Backed by society, they even managed to put pressure on the government, which previously seemed impossible.

### **NORBERT FARKAS IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE FREE AUDIENCE AWARD**

Norbi's example shows us that if you really want to, you can make it! Despite his difficult living conditions he was able to fulfil his dream. In spite of growing up in a children's home, he successfully graduated and now works as a social worker. He wants to work for young people living in poverty and the young Roma, and to help children growing up in child protection institutions.

### **FIRST FREE SPECIAL AWARD GOES TO NOÁR**

Actor, rapper, the embodiment of conscious freedom. With his work and songs he tackles important social issues such as education or climate protection. Since becoming more and more well-known, he has encouraged everyone to actively exercise their rights.



# OUR BOARD MEMBERS SHARE WHY THEY THINK HCLU IS IMPORTANT

## ÁDÁM FÖLDES

The indictment in the abuse case in the social service home in Mozsgó and the victory in the segregation lawsuit in Miskolc are both examples of HCLU's ability to effectively stand up for the rights of the most vulnerable and protect their dignity. I hope that our Give a day off to every family! campaign will soon become another success story.

Another important project is HCLU's election and assembly hotline. No other NGO offers support in exercising one's political rights, even though this is how we can protect the foundations of our democracy.



## FERENC HAMMER

I believe that HCLU's work to assure the lawfulness of Hungarian elections is very important. This is how we can learn to be a proper democracy, even when the stakes are very high. People can acquire first-hand experience in how the willingness and ability to work for a community - and for themselves - can make a great difference.



## FANNY HIDVÉGI

HCLU turned 25 in 2019 and this is already a great achievement in the life of an NGO. It is a source of great pride that against all odds HCLU not only exists and is able to stand up to the reigning authority for the protection of human rights but also can reach more and more people and achieve success in various fields like healthcare, education or judicial enforcement of rights.





# OUR 25

# YEARS

**W**hen TASZ was founded in the mid-nineties, everyone still remembered the change of regime vividly. We thought that we had left the period of oppression behind us once and for all; this was an era of growing liberal democracy. Parliament adopted acts protecting freedom, applied by the courts. This was the time when ombudsmen, who had never before existed in the history of Hungary, started their operations as rights protection institutions. The Constitutional Court protecting constitutional norms

soon prided itself on being equal to the constitutional courts of European constitutional democracies with much bigger traditions. The European Convention on Human Rights and its judicial practice became binding for Hungary. From that point on, the Hungarian legal system had a set of international concepts, and was objectively ready to enter discourse. Even at the time, there were serious public debates. The media system was seriously attacked; still, the colourful and free press was flourishing.



Of course, the young Republic of Hungary was not perfect. Political leaders tried to misuse their power from time to time. They often violated citizens' rights, and compromised the independence of institutions. TASZ started to perfect the imperfect rule of law, at first by protecting patients' and drug users' rights, stepping up against permits and courses of action of the authorities which limited freedom, as well as protection of personal data and sharing public data. It provided free legal counseling to patients and drug users whose fundamental rights had been violated, and gave information about data protection issues. In precedent cases, it provided free legal representation to patients, drug users, and people whose data protection rights had been violated. It initiated the creation and amendment of laws, the change of practice, and called attention to the enforcement of human rights aspects in the course of professional preparation of laws. It informed the public about its significant legal cases, made publications about legal political issues and organised debate forums about issues in the areas of data protection, patients' rights, and drug politics.

At the time, all this was effective: political decision makers were influenceable by publicity and by professional materials. The recommendations of the publications TASZ Álláspont (HCLU Standpoint) were reflected in the adopted laws. Articles written by TASZ members published in periodicals were able to generate public debates reaching the response threshold of politicians. Therefore, it was worth focusing our resources on decision-makers, as this led to great results.

In the 2000s, deficiencies of the system and imperfection of the institutions started to show. The quality of legislation and constitutional arbitration was not the same as before. The state became increasingly secretive. Corruption appeared. The state was idly watching hate groups hurting others (mostly the Roma and gay people) verbally and attacking Roma families. The third Republic of Hun-

gary fell into a moral crisis due to its undue and very aggressive actions against the malcontent. During this period, TASZ started working with new topics and new methods. Protection of the freedom of speech, press, and assembly became a priority, and TASZ filed many lawsuits for the publicity of public data. By the end of the decade, it became obvious that it had to launch a separate programme for the Roma due to discrimination and racist violence against this population. By then, it was not enough for TASZ to target decision-makers. The lack of prevalence of abstract fundamental norms had to be made understandable and concrete for the pay audience, as well. It undertook more individual cases and filed them with courts or other right protection institutions, because it realised that no well-written study or publication can show what the lack of freedom means as well as a lawsuit of the legal remedy for an individual grievance and the reports about the case. TASZ had more and more publicly appearing clients, whose stories made the violence of right itself, and the goal of right protectors understandable and realistic for many people.\*

TASZ did not only want to improve law; it wanted to transform legal mind-sets; it wanted to show what fundamental rights claims citizens can have, and what options they have to satisfy them. TASZ was focusing more and more on making the question of fundamental rights not just the privilege of the legal elite, on the contrary: making constitutionality more popular.

However, unfortunately these efforts were not enough for the citizens to let go of the constitutional rule of law which respects rights after 2010. In a few years' time, instead of an ill-functioning legal state came an autocracy seemingly respecting the legal framework, using legislation as a tool. Independent institutions, which used to be TASZ's allies, were operating in an increasingly dysfunctional way; only the courts were able to maintain their independence and fulfil their original function. In Hungary, series of hate campaigns were custom-



ary, exclusion of opinions opposing the government's and those who represented them from public discourse became normal, the state's violence monopoly was privatised, corruption became the essence of the system; the majority of the press became part of the state's propaganda machine; elections were not free and fair political races anymore. Protectors of rights find it hard that this autocracy is hiding behind the facade of legalism, and the government tries to make unlawful actions lawful by changing the legislation. Therefore, TASZ cannot always rely on laws; in the course of its debates, it often has to contradict laws, and even the Fundamental Law; it has to contrast these with universal and constant norms, and human rights for all. We have to get used to the fact that laws are often unlawful, and this requires more thorough professional work than ever before. Meanwhile, the work from before needs to be finished: as many

people should be won for political activism and the cause of human rights as possible. The rule of law does not have to be protected anymore; it has to be reinstated; and for that, many people are needed. Therefore, TASZ must address people who can be activated more professionally.

In the meantime, the autocratic government has started to attack right protectors in a way never seen before. TASZ's reaction to this was showing why its activity is useful for communities of citizens in an even more conscious way. A supportive environment had to be created, which can protect against the regime. This is how, despite attacks by the government, TASZ is better-known and more supported than ever.

*We had many memorable cases in the 2000s. We represented Paizs Miklós aka. Sickratman, when he was reported for a song bad-mouthing politicians. We protected Juhász Péter, who later became a politician, when he reported himself for growing marijuana for his own use. We represented the staff of Matula Magazin, reported by the extreme right political party Jobbik for its "IzsDB" fake Jewish database. We represented Orbán Viktor, whom the Ministry of justice and Law Enforcement accused at court of defamation. We represented the victims of the attack against the Pride March. We represented the protestors of 2006, one of whom had their eye shot out by a rubber bullet. We represented the survivors of the murders of Roma in Galgagyörk, Tatárszentgyörgy, and Alsózsolca. We represented the journalists suing for the details of the Gripen acquisition and the motorway construction in Sávoly.*



TÁRSASÁG A  
SZABADSÁGJOGOKÉRT

# WE HAVE YOUR BACK IN COURT!

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2019 was a year when we witnessed many brave clients choosing to fight against injustice. Their victories stand as examples that we do not need to bow to authority or bargain in the background.

## **A FIGHT FOR THE CHILDREN**

For some parents guardian duties continue even when their children grow up. For years on end they care for their disabled children and one day they realize that they are not capable of attending to their needs anymore. The problem arises: with the lack of appropriate institutional framework, there is nobody to take over this demanding task.

Six mothers from Budapest spent years trying to persuade the city council, the Hungarian Social and Child Protection Directorate and any other available insti-

tutions and organizations to provide housing, care and development facilities for their children. Hungary is bound by national and international laws to provide supported housing where disabled individuals have the opportunity to learn to live independently in the close vicinity of their parents. This is why HCLU became the legal representative of these families. We sincerely hope that by doing so we are not only helping these six families but also those in the invisible crowds who need to live their lives every day as social outcasts.

'Feri is 36 years old with multiple disabilities. He and his brother were around 5 or 6 when my partner left us. Feri started attending daycare when he was 4 so that I could go back to work. This, for many years led to a never-ending routine of daycare, work and home duties. I never had any extra help. Daycare is considered as a type of government-provided care and this means we are not eligible for any more support. Feri cannot





...speak so when I can sense something is not right with him he is unable to say what he wants or if he is hurting. We are not welcome in healthcare either. Nurses and doctors don't know how to handle him, how he is going to react to certain things. I have to take him to regular check-ups and hand in paperwork all the time even though his condition will never change. The Care and Development Centre takes Feri on a 5-day vacation each year. This is the only time of the year when I can go to the doctor and take care of my own health. Evening entertainment, vacations or hobbies are out of the question, though I would really need some of it now. I am both physically and mentally tired.' - one of our clients, Magdi

### **JOURNALISTS CANNOT BE BANNED FROM REFUGEE CAMPS**

In the European Court of Human Rights, we successfully represented Hungarian journalist Illés Szurovecz. In 2015, the Hungarian government infringed his basic rights during the peak of the refugee crisis by not letting him in any of the refugee camps.

'We wanted our readers to have a realistic picture of how the tax-payer money funded refugee camps are operating. The government made our job impossible so we could only provide information from intermediary sources. This is why I believe that the Court's decision is not only significant for the refugee camps. I hope that this verdict can serve as an example that no government should obstruct citizens by arbitrarily selecting between sympathetic and "persona non grata" media from knowing what is really happening in government-funded institutions, - how people are treated in these facilities whether they are staying there for shorter or longer term.'

### **THE ETHICAL HACKER WANTED TO HELP, ALMOST WENT TO JAIL**

We protected a young IT expert from going to jail for drawing Hungarian Telekom's attention to a bug in their system. Even though his intention was to help he still got into serious trouble. He spotted the problem accidentally and could not have predicted that after a promising meeting with the company, during the night the police will come to search his house. He was taken



into custody, and the prosecutor asked for 30 days of pre-trial detention. Luckily, the judge was right in his evaluation of the situation, and decided against the detention. It is important to note that the defendant's essential work tools are still in the police's possession.

'The whole case and especially the attitude of the prosecution made me unsure if I want to keep on doing these activities in the future' - said the ethical hacker whose case was taken over by HCLU during the trial. The prosecution asked for two years in jail with a four year suspended sentence. 'I was very happy when HCLU became my legal representative. Their professional and mental preparedness was always evident. My attorney, Mr. Tivadar Hütti had a clear understanding of my case and did an exceptional job in representing me' - our client shared his thoughts about our work. He hopes that in the end, it will be clear that he did not cause any harm and his intention to help came from an honest place.



## **AN OATH FORCING INTO LIES OR IDOLATRY**

Angelika Mihalik was thinking about reopening her law firm when she came across the newly phrased attorney oath. It starts: 'I do solemnly swear that I will be loyal to Hungary and its Constitution'. As a practicing Christian, she turned to HCLU for help because the wording of the oath is an infringement to her right to religious freedom. 'If I swear to be loyal to anything or anyone other than Jesus Christ my Saviour, I am either committing idolatry or lying. None of those things are right' - she explained.

'I started the admission procedure to be a member of the Hungarian legal bar, and I was accepted, but if I wanted to stay, I would have had to swear the oath. I asked them to make an exception so that I could swear the oath without all the 'solemnly swearing to be loyal' part. Obviously, the bar declined my request and I got denied membership - said Angelika Mihalik, adding: 'the trial is just about to start, and I am sure we are going to lose my case in all national forums, maybe even in Europe.'

We asked her why she still decided to fight for her rights: 'I want to do this so that people can see that Hungary is a religious state where a Christian person who wants to be loyal to their faith cannot serve as a lawyer or a civil servant. We cannot do any jobs that requires to swear an oath.'

## **SPOKESMAN IS TO APOLOGIZE TO THE HUNGARIAN ASSOCIATION FOR MIGRANTS**

Menedék - Hungarian Association for Migrants got accused of untruthful facts by the Association of Young Christian Democrats and the state media was helping them in doing so. HCLU represented Menedék during the trial. The verdict obliged the spokesperson of the Young Christian Democrats to publicly admit to propagating untruthful facts as part of a press

Among others, the Young Christian Democrats stated that Menedék worked to 'bring migrants to Hungary'. In reality, Menedék is helping foreigners with a legal status to adapt to the Hungarian social system. The false accusations were covered by both the state media and the ruling party Fidesz without an opportunity for Menedék to react to them.

'We are happy to see this verdict serving as an example that no false accusations or propagandistic intrigue against NGOs can go unpunished, and if the media wants to cover our work it has to stick to the facts without utilizing fake, politically-driven fabrications' - said András Kováts, CEO of Menedék after the trial.



# WE'RE CHANGING PROBLEMS ON SYSTEM LEVEL!

## THOSE WHO ATTACKED THE GOVERNMENT-RUN MEDIA CONGLOMERATE

It took only one day last year, that hundreds of media owners siding with the ruling party “offered” their portals, newspapers, television and radio stations to the KESMA [CEPMF - Central European Press and Media Foundation]. This act altered neither the nature of the government-driven propaganda nor the ruling party’s centralized, firm hand leadership style, but rather, enabled a more effective and coordinated operation to commence. The government justified this unparalleled merger by declaring the foundation to be of national strategic significance, thus resulting in the Hungarian Competition Authority waiving its investigation.

The foundation’s competitors have the right to appeal the Hungarian Competition Authority’s decision in court. Therefore, a local independent public portal, the Free Pécs, partnered with us to start a procedure against this merger. The editorial staff of Free Pécs believes that one of the most significant basic rights is the freedom of expression, which can serve as the main channel to obtain other basic human rights and freedom.

With the fusion of nearly 500 media platforms under one government-run foundation, CEPMF, the structure of the entire Hungarian media market and the publicity, especially that in rural areas, gets massively distorted.

A few rural independent press agencies remain, swimming against the current, risking existential threat and excluded from all government advertising. Furthermore, they must remain objective, since unlike the propaganda media, they are bound to their profession’s written and non-written rules. One of these courageous, local online press agencies, the Free Pécs, founded in March of 2017 by Attila Babos, has published innumerable local stories since. The public of the whole country can be grateful.





## **12,000 SIGNATURES FOR FREE FAMILIES**

In families where either a member living with disabilities or an elderly relative is cared for at home, just one day off can mean an enormous relief for the caregiver[s]. Similarly, flexible, round-the-clock available assistance is also essential for those adults with disabilities preferring an independent life. Currently, more than 500,000 Hungarian citizens require daily assistance to be able to live independently. We started a campaign, A free day for all families!, for them and for their families. 17 other civil organizations joined our combined petition with the Step by Step! Association, and together we collected 12,000 signa-

tures in 4 months, organized forums, where, present were affected families as well as the representative candidates for the municipal elections, of whom many promised to expand the assistance services.

## **DIVERSITY WITHOUT BARRIERS**

During this year's Pride Parade, the police planned to enforce extreme measures, such as clearing out the procession premises and barricading it off, allowing all participants to join the movement at three designated access points only. The parade organizers appealed these planned measures in court with our help. "The 24th annual Budapest Pride Parade was unbar-







ricaded: it could be joined at anyplace and at anytime with the assistance of the police and nearly 300 of our volunteers. Many years of hard preparation paid off, there were no serious atrocities during the procession. Only the few dozen counter-demonstrators were blockaded. The peaceful and unbarricaded completion of this annual's Pride Parade proved strict security measures unnecessary. Further down the line, our aim is not to segregate the Pride's peaceful community, but rather those groups who intimidate and bully." Statement given by Mariann Filó, the event planner.

### **CITIZENS PREPARED TO VOTE**

In the framework of our [The Right to Vote Program], our electoral legal aid services provided legal aid to hundreds of citizens running in or observing the last municipal elections, by responding to 291 Emails and answering 233 telephone calls. Our instruction manuals and video clips reached tens of thousands of citizens.

We even held trainings for hundreds of participants, focusing on mainly those without a legal background as well as the Roma community. Based on the extensive feedback, we ascertained that our actions pre-

pared them for the elections. Our collaboration with the [Count Votes Together Movement] allowed us to offer professional know-how for hundreds of members of the voting committee.

We've experienced along the way, that very limited support is sufficient for the existing civil communities, active in public affairs at the most elementary level, to then be able to have a meaningful say in local public matters. Without active citizens, there are no checks and balances to the existing power. Outrage alone is not enough, professional know-how is inevitable.

An outstanding positive development is that thanks to the collaboration of the TASZ (HCLU) and the NVI [the National Election Office], the eligible voting citizens were mailed our simplified and coherent voting manuals for the 2019 local elections. This action enabled those voters who had difficulties understanding the complicated voting instructions to be equally informed of the election process.



TEGYÉL AZ  
ÖNKORMÁNYZATI  
PROPAGANDA  
ELLEN!





**valasztasz.hu**

#önkormányzativálasztások

**162** forródrót hívás   
**182** e-mail-es jogesély

**227** áttekintett választási döntés   
**5** ügyvállalás

**18** képzés, **16** vidéken  
**220** aktív állampolgár 

VÁLASZTÓJOGI PROGRAM  
Önkormányzati választás  
2019

Miskolc  
Budapest Szekszárd  
Baja Pécs  
Szeged  
Eger





# WE HELP YOU TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS!

## WE INCREASE THE STAKE OF THE ELECTION WITH OUR TRAININGS

Our trainings on elective franchise reached all regions in the country and attracted some 300 attendees. The participants gained knowledge about the electoral system, the electoral procedure, the nomination of candidates and the campaign.

We advised on what citizens can do when witnessing an unlawful campaign or facing not an unlawful, but unfair campaign activity. We explicitly touched upon the specifics regarding the election of ethnic local governments.

It created real competition at the local elections in several municipalities that candidates with moderate resources received help enabling them to effectively participate in public matters and they learned on our trainings how to exercise their rights.



## VLOG-SERIES

Our 8-episode-long vlog-series also contributed to raising rights awareness prior to the municipal elections. We showed through the example of civilians and NGOs – such as Eleven Gyál/Lively Gyál and the Változást Akarunk Gyöngyösön Egyesület/We Want Change in Gyöngyös Association – how communities can stand up for their rights and how they can take ac-

tions against the most common infringements. Renáta Faragó, Máté Podlussány and Kristóf Horváth contributed to the professional realization of our ideas.

## WE STOOD UP FOR THE RIGHTS OF PARENTS

Standing up for free education, we have been from the beginning against the rights-limiting amendment of the Public Education Act that made many families' situation difficult. Our private sector project watches the developments closely so that we can offer help for the parents who worry for their children.

We compiled handouts containing the most important changes, we analyzed the effects of the law in blog posts and we are providing legal help for the numerous parents who reach out to us in connection with the new regulation on private education and compulsory schooling.

## PACKET IN THE POCKET – GUIDELINES AGAINST VULNERABILITY

What to do if caught with a small amount of drugs? – this is what our leaflet "Pakk a zsebben/ Packet in the pocket" is about. We distribute them on festivals and they are also available online. Our goal is to ensure that if you get into similar situations, you can make the right decisions for the best possible outcome. These guidelines inform you about what the police has the right to do from identity checking through charged with crime to a trial and what you can do not to be de-





# WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

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Our volunteers have spent 2789 hours helping us in 2019. These fantastic people translated, organized “Megafon” evenings, established and searched databases (sometimes from their own home if it was needed), edited different publications and lead games at festivals. We could also count on them when it came to serve drinks outside under the pouring rain or the scorching sun.

Thank you for being with us! The HCLU team is only complete with you.

“2019 was a very exciting year for me at the HCLU. I collected signatures twice and both occasions are unforgettable. By stepping up for a transparent healthcare system and participating in the campaign “Day off for every family [caring for disabled family members - tr.]” I managed to raise awareness in my own circles, too. It felt really good to see how open my friends and acquaintances were to these issues and that even unknown people reacted with curiosity. I participated in the review of the electronic press of South Western Hungary and then I collected inciting and hateful comments in certain media products. This has been my hardest task so far: I had never seen so much swearing and hatred in my life. My favorite task at the HCLU is when I am the back up of the office manager. I love being at the office and the colleagues are always delighted to see me.”

Marianna Rébi

“One of the most interesting aspects of my volunteer work at the HCLU was the organization of “Megafon” evenings. Volunteers did everything, from brainstorming to the actual events. We organized a discussion on the new bill on the right to assembly, and another one in spring, on the stigmas related to psychiatric illnesses. At both occasions we had an almost full house in the smaller room of “Három Holló” [a cultural centre in central Budapest - tr.] and I think we managed to communicate on these issues in an approachable way. My other favourite task was representing the HCLU at different festivals over the summer. For the Bánkitó Fesztivál, we prepared a game on fake news and an awareness raising board game called “Itt is, ott is élet” [Life here and there - tr.]. We also collected signatures for the “Day off for every family” campaign there and at the Valley of Arts.”

Zsuzsi Kunos

“I am a fourth year law student at the Faculty of Law of the University of ELTE and I have been volunteering for the HCLU for almost two years. Last year I participated in the monitoring of the elections by analyzing the decisions of different electoral organs and letting the HCLU’s colleague know the most significant ones from the legal practice’s point of view. I have learnt a lot during this past year, this was a subject that is especially interesting to me and I hope to have contributed to the successes of the HCLU.”

László Kührner



# WHAT'S ON



## WALK AND CELEBRATE WITH US.

Over the past 25 years, our human rights activities have left numerous marks on the streets of Budapest. On the occasion of our birthday, we organized alternative city walks to roam the emblematic places. The participants learned about, among others, the history of the needle exchange programme that had been rendered impossible, our work against the discrimination of Roma people in front of the Kúria, the classified files of hospital-acquired infections. They could also meet Magdi and Feri, who talked about the hardships of caregivers who care for their disabled loved ones at home. Next year we continue our work, so please follow our facebook page so as not to miss this unique journey in our past and present.



## OUR FREE. T-SHIRTS

FREE people move the world. They dream, they act. They help those in need, defy the authority, and never give up. They cannot be closed out or ignored, as for them, there is no such thing as „whatever”. We and the whole society are in need of such people. Wear your FREE. T-shirt proudly, and be the ambassador of freedom.

*The T-shirts can be purchased in the Nos [23/a, Hunyadi János str.] and Judás [8, Madách str.] shops or online at [tasz.hu](http://tasz.hu).*







## WE CAN'T REALLY STAND EACH OTHER WITH THE WALLS.

We don't know their world and their everyday lives. We only get to recognize their presence when they struggle using the escalator, or when their wheelchairs get stuck on the bus ramp. However, based on a microcensus carried out by the KSH (Hungarian Central Statistical Office) in 2016, nearly 200,000 disabled people live in Hungary. Our exhibition entitled „We can't really stand each other with the walls” is a brave, provocative and sensitive reflection of their world, feelings, happiness and everyday struggles.



## MONDO

We presented our multi-professional award-winning cardplay in 37 schools across the country in order to help as many teachers as possible talk about the rights of disabled children. The lovable characters on the popular cards make the abstract and heavy legal topics more understandable, and our supplementary materials help professionals in deciding where to start collective thinking about protecting our rights.

*The MONDO cards can be purchased at BOOKR's webpage, as well as at the Pagony bookstore.*



# IN 2019

always keeping their eyes on TASZ's mission:

**STEFÁNIA KAPRONCZAY, MÁTÉ DÁNIEL SZABÓ**  
executive and professional directors

protecting political freedoms:

**BEA BODROGI, DALMA DOJCSÁK, DÁNIEL DÖBRENTEY, SZABOLCS HEGYI,  
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ÁGOTA SIMON, MILÁN MÉSZÁROS, BALÁZS CSONKA, ESZTER KOVÁCS, DÁVID DEÁK, LINDA SZILLER**  
colleagues giving legal assistance, our lawyers

supervising our transparency:

**BALÁZS BARTAKOVICS, GABI HARMAT**  
colleagues working on finances

without whom the day cannot start:

**RÉKA VÁRKONYI**  
our head of office

organizing events, gathered donations and encouraged our donors:

**ESZTER MÁRTA BALÁZS, ZOLTÁN BOGNÁR, RÉKA VELÉNYI**  
colleagues working on fundraising

never stopped talking and kept writing, editing, shooting:

**FLÓRA BENKŐ, RÓBERT BORDÁS, ANNA KERTÉSZ, ANNA MÁRFFY, GÁBOR MEDVEGY,  
PETRA JÚLIA NAGY, ANNA RUBI, ANDRÁS SZELES, KATA TASNÁDI**  
colleagues working on communication

helping us with professional guidance:

**ÁGOTA BÍRÓ, ÁDÁM FÖLDES, FERENC HAMMER, FANNY HIDVÉGHI,  
ERNŐ KÁLLAI, ANGÉLA KOCZÉ, JUDIT SÁNDOR, GERGELY ZAJKÁS**  
previous and present members of the board

supervising our work:

**BARNA BARÁTH, GÁBOR BÉKÉS, MÁRTA NAGY**  
members of the supervisory committee

Firms, partners

**BUDAPEST BAGEL, CONCORDE, DÍJNET.HU, DRIVE ONLINE MARKETING, ERSTE FOUNDATION,  
FRENCH INSTITUTE, IMEDIA, LUSH, MAGNET BANK, POLGÁR ALAPÍTVÁNY, SIMPACT**



**THANK YOU**  
**FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE**  
**TO WORK FOR A**  
**FREER**  
**HUNGARY!**



