

## MISCELLANEA

### APPEAL BY HUNGARIAN CHURCHES REGARDING THE ELECTIONS

and

#### **Election Appeal of the Presidium of the Higher Consistory of the Evangelical Church A.C. of Romania**

Hungarians turned out in large numbers to vote in the 2014 presidential elections. The turnout in Harghita, at 79.78% (higher than in Sibiu: 79.48%), and in Covasna, at 77.95%, were among the highest in the country. Hungarians voted heavily for Klaus Iohannis, the candidate belonging to the German minority, thus contributing to his election. For Iohannis' next run in 2019, after five years of disappointments from the President, voter turnout in the two counties was at the opposite end. Hungarians' turnout in the first round of the 2025 presidential elections was also at the bottom. These figures demonstrate the Hungarian community's ability to mobilize in Romania, but also the temptation to isolate itself when it feels betrayed.

Hungarians returned massively to the polls on May 18, 2025, in the second round of the elections for President of Romania, when the pro-European Nicușor Dan and the extremist George Simion had remained in the race for the highest position in the state. The latter had campaigned, among other things, for the banning of ethnic parties, described members of the UDMR as "ethnic terrorists" and had made his entry into politics "by desecrating the Hungarian military cemetery in Valea Uzului"<sup>1</sup>. This time, in Harghita, the turnout reached 59.84% and 90.75% of voters voted for Nicușor Dan. In Covasna, where turnout reached 56.92%, Nicușor Dan received 84.42% of the votes. Hungarians have once again helped to support democracy in Romania.

The mobilization of the Hungarian minority for the historically high-stakes elections on 18 May 2025 was made possible by the selflessness of community leaders and many other Hungarians. The involvement of the Hungarian Churches, which sent messages in favor of a pro-European vote throughout the presidential elections, deserves attention. Among the Churches, the Hungarian Unitarian Church stood out, as it did in the past. The presidency of the Church addressed the parishioners directly, indicating the names of those who deserved the trust of the Hungarian community: in the first round, Elena Lasconi, in the second, Nicușor Dan. This courage of making a choice is linked to the humanist ethos of the Hungarian Unitarian Church reflected in its Statute, which "Proclaims and practices freedom of conscience and confession, openness to the knowledge of the differences between religions and world views, as well as interfaith tolerance and social justice"<sup>2</sup>.

---

<sup>1</sup> The words of Kelemen Hunor: Oana Despa, "Kelemen Hunor, harsh attack on George Simion. Victor Ponta and Crin Antonescu do not reveal preferred candidate," *Free Europe*, May 11, 2025 - <https://romania.europalibera.org/a/kelemen-ponta-crin-pozitionare/33410690.html>.

<sup>2</sup> The Statute was published in Monitorul Oficial al României no. 74 of February 2, 2016 (see the Romanian version also here: <https://bit.ly/4mu8Gxa>). In the *New Journal of Human Rights*, links longer than one line (TNR 10 format) are shortened with the Bitly platform.

The stated principles meet the founding values of human rights. This is one of the reasons why *The New Journal of Human Rights* was keen to publish in Romanian the appeals of the Hungarian Churches regarding the presidential elections of 2025. The texts were obtained from the Unitarian Diocese through the kind permission of the Head of the Episcopal Administration, Mr. Szabó László.

Given the relevance of the attitude and the letter of the text, we publish after the appeals the Hungarian Churches also the Electoral Appeal of the Presidium of the Higher Consistory of the Evangelical Church A.C. of Romania.

NRDO

### **Communiqué of the Presidium of the Council of Representatives of the Hungarian Unitarian Church following the presidential elections in Romania<sup>3</sup>**

Dear brothers and sisters,

We thank God that the outcome of the presidential elections in Romania has dispelled the threatening clouds hanging over the country, the Hungarian community and our Churches. God's power works through us in every situation, be it personal or collective, and with faith and love for Him we have united, taking responsibility together for our future.

We thank the Unitarian brothers and sisters, the elders and believers of the other Hungarian confessions, the representatives of public and social life, as well as millions of Romanian citizens, for being able to stand together on the side of love, and not of hate.

We have gone through an election whose outcome has prevented our situation from deteriorating, but it does not suddenly solve the serious problems of society in general. In the years to come, we will constantly need love, solidarity, reconciliation and joint service to society, so that we can tear down the walls of hatred and enmity together - for a peaceful future for our Churches, for the Hungarian community and for Romanian society.

May God be our guide and help in this work!

Cluj-Napoca, May 19, 2025

On behalf of the Presidium of the Council of Representatives of the Hungarian Unitarian Church:

Kovács István, Bishop

---

<sup>3</sup> The original text in Hungarian was published on May 20, 2025 on the website of the Unitarian Church (<https://bit.ly/4k0fIYH>).

Farkas Emőd, first curator general

---

**Appeal to members of the Hungarian Unitarian Church  
regarding the presidential elections in Romania<sup>4</sup>**

Romania is on the brink of an historic turning point. The presidential elections will have an overwhelming long-term influence on the democratic framework of the rule of law, on the evolution of Romanian society as a whole, on the enjoyment of religious freedoms and community rights, and on Romania's international orientation.

We cannot remain indifferent to the situation created by the first round [of the elections]. We cannot expect social peace from an extremist, nationalist candidate like George Simion, who has demonstrated his violent ultras inclinations both in the Romanian Parliament and on the occasion of the many 'visits' he has made to the Heroes' Cemetery in Valea Uzului. In the unfortunate event of George Simion winning the elections, we will be faced with the gloomiest predictions, especially if, according to his declared intentions, he nominates as prime minister Călin Georgescu, who openly displays his sympathies for the legionnaires.

**In this crisis, we appeal to all our parishioners to go to the polls in the second round of the elections on May 18 and to support the independent candidate Nicușor Dan, whom we expect to ensure the much desired peaceful social coexistence of citizens and to keep the country on the European path.**

We kindly ask our parishioners to vote in as large a number as possible, given the vital importance of the election results for the future of the Hungarian community, including the unimpeded functioning of our Churches, as well as for the peaceful and equitable coexistence with our Romanian brothers and sisters and with all nationalities.

We respectfully ask you to spread this appeal through all means available among your acquaintances, friends, colleagues and relatives; please also talk to those in the diaspora. Let us spare no effort, every vote counts!

Cluj-Napoca, May 10, 2025

On behalf of the Presidium of the Council of Representatives of the Hungarian Unitarian Church:

Kovács István, Bishop  
Farkas Emőd, first curator general

---

<sup>4</sup> The original text, in Hungarian, was published on May 15, 2025 on the website of the Hungarian Unitarian Church (<https://bit.ly/3SHILEp>).

---

**Joint appeal of the Hungarian Churches of Romania regarding the presidential elections  
[May 18, 2025]<sup>5</sup>**

Romania is facing a crucial historical moment. The outcome of the presidential elections will have a long-term influence on the democratic rule of law and the evolution of social conditions, the respect for religious freedom and community rights, as well as the country's international orientation.

We cannot remain indifferent to the situation created by the first round of the presidential elections.

**We call upon the faithful of our Churches to participate in the second round of elections on May 18, 2025, and to support with our vote the presidential candidate who respects the rights and values of all citizens - including our community - and who contributes to peaceful coexistence. The one who is capable of countering extremist political forces, supporting the development of social life and the efficiency of public administration, and ensuring that Romania remains on its European path.**

Let us all participate in the second round of the presidential elections! This is essential for the future of the Hungarian community, for the unimpeded functioning of our Churches, and for a peaceful coexistence and equal rights with our Romanian brothers and sisters and with our fellow citizens of other nationalities.

May 8, 2025

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Alba Iulia: Archbishop KOVÁCS Gergely

Roman-Catholic Diocese of Oradea: Bishop László BÖCSKEI László

Roman-Catholic Diocese of Satu Mare: Bishop SCHÖNBERGER Jenő

Roman-Catholic Diocese of Timișoara: Bishop PÁL József Csaba

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Romania: Bishop ADORJÁNI Dezső Zoltán

Reformed Diocese of Transylvania: Bishop KOLUMBÁN Vilmos József

Reformed Diocese of Piatra Craiului: Bishop BOGDÁN Szabolcs János

Hungarian Unitarian Church: Bishop KOVÁCS István

---

<sup>5</sup> The original text, in Hungarian, was published on May 9, 2025 on the website of the Hungarian Unitarian Church ([bit.ly/4jP8vur](https://bit.ly/4jP8vur) ).

---

## **Joint Declaration of the Hungarian Churches of Romania regarding the presidential elections of December 8, 2024<sup>6</sup>**

The outcome of this year's Presidential elections will fundamentally influence the development of the rule of law, social conditions and the implementation of community rights. The future of our Churches and the opportunity to serve unhindered the community and individual life of believers urges us to unite in the second round of the presidential elections in support of the candidate who is able to counter extremist political forces and who is committed to promoting peaceful coexistence in society.

We appeal to our faithful to participate in the December 8 elections in large numbers, aware of the importance of defending fundamental European values and of the crucial impact that these elections can have on our common future.

Cluj-Napoca, December 5, 2024

Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Alba Iulia: Archbishop KOVÁCS Gergely  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Oradea: Bishop László BÖCSKEI László  
Roman-Catholic Diocese of Satu Mare: Bishop SCHÖNBERGER Jenő  
Roman-Catholic Diocese of Timișoara: Bishop PÁL József Csaba  
Evangelical Lutheran Church of Romania: Bishop ADORJÁNI Dezső Zoltán  
Reformed Diocese of Transylvania: Bishop KATÓ Béla  
Reformed Diocese of Piatra Craiului: Bishop BOGDÁN Szabolcs János  
Hungarian Unitarian Church: Bishop KOVACS István

---

## **Appeal to the members of the Hungarian Unitarian Church regarding the presidential elections in Romania [December 8, 2024]<sup>7</sup>**

The unfavorable outcome of the presidential elections in Romania could have serious and unpredictable consequences on our individual and community life. There is a risk of extremely negative changes if the position of president of Romania is occupied by a person who sympathizes with leaders associated with legionary ideologies, responsible for atrocities and mass murders.

---

<sup>6</sup> The original text, in Hungarian, was published on December 6, 2024, on the website of the Hungarian Unitarian Church ([bit.ly/43eZq7n](https://bit.ly/43eZq7n)).

<sup>7</sup> The original text, in Hungarian, was published on December 5, 2025 on the website of the Hungarian Unitarian Church (<https://bit.ly/4k81DIQ>).

To ensure the future of the church and of the community, it is imperative to preserve freedom and the democratic framework based on the rule of law - values which could be seriously threatened after December 8. We therefore believe that at this time neutrality is not an option.

**Although the political program of candidate Elena Lasconi may contain questionable aspects, we are convinced that her election is, in the current circumstances, the only real possibility to counterbalance the influence of extremist political forces.**

As leaders of the Hungarian Unitarian Church, we strongly urge all believers with the right to vote to participate in the elections and to exercise their right responsibly, considering the long-term consequences for our community.

Cluj-Napoca, December 5, 2024

On behalf of the Presidium of the Council of Representatives of the Hungarian Unitarian Church:

Kovács István Kovács, bishop s. s.  
Farkas Emőd, first curator general s. s.

---

**Election Appeal of the Presidium of the Higher Consistory of the Evangelical Church A.C. of Romania<sup>8</sup>**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ!

With trust in God and out of responsibility for the Church and our community we ask You to pray with us for the good and future of our country and its citizens and to go to the polls.

It's almost 12 o'clock!

After the result of the first round of the Romanian presidential elections, a catastrophe is looming for our country and all its citizens and friends abroad. A nationalist, minority-threatening, anti-EU and anti-NATO candidate wants to take Romania into Russia's sphere of influence and into a new 'Golden Age' of isolation. The latter brought untold misfortunes to our community and country in the 20th century, the consequences of which can still be felt today.

God be praised, but there is an alternative: an independent candidate advocates for a free, tolerant, economically stable Romania, open to minorities and explicitly oriented towards the EU and NATO. He is the correct option for the second round.

---

<sup>8</sup> The appeal is published in Romanian here: <https://www.evangel.ro/stiri/>.

On May 18, we must use our fundamental right to vote and decide between the two options.

The biblical motto of 2025 in 1 Thessalonians 5:21 urges us to act responsibly: "but test all things. Hold on to what is good". Therefore, whether we live in the country or in the city, at home or abroad, it is imperative that we go to the polls and choose the good for ourselves and future generations.

If You want a good future in a democratic, prosperous and united Europe, make your choice by voting for the independent candidate.

For us and our families, our Church, our community and our country, we want a future in freedom and peace, not a return to the dark times of sad memory. So let us vote accordingly!

Get out and vote! And convince others to vote for the future! Only together can we prevent an impending catastrophe. So help us God! He will help us if we do our part by voting for what is good and for the future!

Presidium of the Higher Consistory

Bishop Reinhart Guib

General Curator Dr. Carmen Schuster

Vicar Bishop Dr. Daniel Zikeli

Chancellery of the Superior Consistory

Secretary-General Friedrich Gunesch