

SCHOLARS AT RISK

N E T W O R K

15 July 2008

Esteemed colleagues:

On behalf of the Scholars at Risk Network and its partners, I call your attention to the attached resolution in support of the European Humanities University (EHU). We respectfully urge you join us in taking all reasonable activity in support of EHU and its continuing struggle for intellectual liberty in Europe.

As you may know, the European Humanities University is a university-in-exile, established for and by Belarusians in Lithuania following its forced closure in Belarus in 2004. Before and especially after its exile, EHU remains an important model of a new generation of higher education institutions, bridging the gap between past and future by promoting dialogue between Eastern and Western cultures, dialogue built around a liberal model of education and healthy respect for civil society. Scholars at Risk (SAR) is an international network of scholars and universities committed to defending threatened universities and to promoting respect for academic freedom and related core higher education values. SAR is proud to support EHU in its pursuit of its goals and in its resistance to efforts to restrict or eliminate these values.

The resolution expresses the support of those assembled at a symposium celebrating EHU's 15th Anniversary, held this past 20-21 June 2008 in Vilnius, Lithuania on the theme of "*Defending the University: Academic Freedom in Central and Eastern Europe.*" It recognizes that without international support, EHU would never have reached their 15th anniversary. It further recognizes that the example of EHU remains so important, that it is necessary to disseminate the story of EHU widely and to invite higher education institutions everywhere, through their leadership, faculties and students; political leaders; donor organizations; members of the media; and the public generally to support EHU through all appropriate social, political and economic measures. We therefore share the resolution with you.

We invite your support for this important institution in whatever form you might be able to assist. We invite your response to this letter by writing to Scholars at Risk at scholarsatrisk@nyu.edu or faxing +1-212-994-4402, or by contacting EHU directly at office @ ehu.lt.

Sincerely,



Robert Quinn
Director
Scholars at Risk Network

Resolution in support of the European Humanities University

adopted by those assembled at the symposium “Defending the University: Academic Freedom in Central and Eastern Europe”, June 20-21, 2008, Vilnius, Lithuania, on the occasion of the 15th Anniversary of the European Humanities University and the 2008 Annual Meeting of the Scholars at Risk (SAR) Network

IN RECOGNITION of the 15th Anniversary of the European Humanities University (EHU); first established in 1992 in Minsk; forced into exile in 2004; and reestablished in Vilnius in 2005;

IN RECOGNITION of EHU’s goal of educating a new generation of professionals in the field of social sciences and humanities able to promote dialogue between Western and Eastern cultures, and to contribute to civil society in Belarus based on the values of European civilization;

IN RECOGNITION of EHU’s strong commitment to liberal education, and to fundamental higher education values including academic freedom, institutional autonomy, accountability, quality and transparency;

IN RECOGNITION of EHU’s importance as a model for university communities everywhere of an effective resistance to efforts to undermine liberal education and to restrict or eliminate these higher education values; including as a host for many threatened scholars;

IN RECOGNITION of the leadership of EHU, including its Governing Board and Senate and Rector Anatoli Mikhailov, and their dedication to keeping EHU not only operating but thriving as a model of quality higher education;

IN RECOGNITION of the faculty and students of EHU, for their commitment to the mission of the university and the sacrifices they have made to maintain their teaching, research and studies; and

IN RECOGNITION of the donors whose support has been invaluable in allowing EHU to maintain its operations and present a model for other institutions and societies;

IT IS RESOLVED, by those assembled today that the international higher education community, and its constituent institutions, leadership, faculties and students; political leaders and institutions; donor organizations; and the public generally, should be encouraged to recognize EHU and support it through appropriate social, political and economic measures, as they may individually or collectively determine; and

It is further RESOLVED that those assembled today, when returning to their respective countries and institutions, should disseminate the story of EHU, and this resolution, as a model of commitment to higher education, including throughout the international membership of the Scholars at Risk Network, and encourage further actions in support of EHU and fundamental higher education values.

Presented and approved for circulation, 21 June 2008

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