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TRANSYLVANIAN REFORMED CHURCH DISTRICT – THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

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Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Kolozsvár/Klausenburg 01.02.2018.

At the beginning of 2018, please receive our most cordial greetings in the name of our common Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! We are grateful for the unimaginable spiritual communion of our churches experienced last year when the great Reformed Family was all together in thoughts and prayers during the numerous heartwarming celebration events of half a millennium of Reformation.

The fact that, for the past 500 years, we could have church services held in our native tongues is one of the greatest achievements of the Reformation. Sadly, Europe as a whole does not follow this good example. Use of the mother tongue is still not a given in all areas of life for all the minority communities in Europe. It is still not guaranteed in all of Europe in education, healthcare, media, administration and the justice system. The situation is even worse in Eastern Europe, where we can witness discrimination on any given day, where minority rights are far too often infringed upon. The concept of reformation in this predicament is as valid as ever, crucial to the mindset that must govern the process of amending laymen laws.

In this regard we would like to appeal again for your generous solidarity proven by you in so many occasions in the hard times of our life.

Please consider and support this initiative, which is very important for the Hungarian community in Transylvania. The so called **Minority SafePack European Citizen's Initiative** is the hope of over 50 million European citizens belonging to a national minority or language group. It is the only way to a European level protection of minority rights for communities discriminated against in their own homelands, communities that cannot exercise their rights.

The Minority SafePack European Citizen's Initiative was launched by the Federal Union of European Nationalities, the largest umbrella organisation for autochthonous minorities on the continent. For success of this endeavour, till the 2nd of April 2018, the petition needs to be signed by at least one million European Citizens. This way the European


Union will be constrained to care about adopting measures for the protection of minorities. More information about the initiative is available on the www.minority-safepack.eu website, in several languages. The petition campaign can also be signed online, on this website.

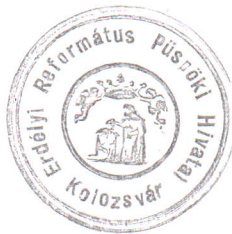
We believe the preservation of minority and regional languages, of the culture and identity of these communities is a common value we share. Thus, we humbly ask our partner congregations to protect and support the parishes of minority communities by signing the petition and encouraging other members to sign it as well, so that every church member can experience faith in their own language, whatever the region God has intended them to live in.

We humbly turn to all our Christian Sisters and Brothers, asking them to show kindness and compassion toward their Transylvanian fellow Christians, **by signing the petition <https://ec.europa.eu/citizens-initiative/32/public/#/>**, in order that our mother tongue may be kept alive for a long time to come, so that our schools, our churches and our communities, through God's grace, may persist.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all!

Yours sincerely in Christ,


Béla Kató,
Bishop



János Fekete,
First Elder