

Dear Mr. President,

We address this appeal to you on behalf of the here undersigned non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and in a spirit of profound discontent, as manifested on the streets in reaction to the crisis of the state. There is a common denominator between the claims made by the protesters and those made by NGOs: the fight against corruption and the reform of the political class. As a first step on the road towards a new type of politics, we demand that, **with respect to the future candidates for the position of prime minister and for members of his or her cabinet, the following criteria for integrity and competence are respected:**

Integrity:

- He/she is not, and has not in the past, been implicated in any criminal activity or corruption scandal and has not been found guilty nor prosecuted for any activity of this kind;
- He/she is not, and has not in the past, been implicated either in attempts to obtain any unjustified financial advantage, or in any cases of conflict of interest;
- He/she is not, and has not in the past, been involved in any 'party switching', nor in any unethical behaviour, while holding public office;
- He/she is not, and has not in the past, been involved in promoting values, opinions or projects which are contrary to the rule of law;
- He/she has held no leadership position in the former Romanian Communist Party, and has been neither an informer for, nor an employee of, the former Securitate or the current secret services;
- He/she has not and does not promote discriminatory speech or hate speech.

Competence:

He/she requires the capacity:

- to inspire respect on the account of his/her professionalism;
- to demonstrate thorough knowledge in a given professional field;
- to formulate a long term plan, on the basis of analysis and synthesis of information as provided by staff which he/she coordinates;
- to supervise and coordinate teams of people and decision-making processes;
- to communicate and negotiate efficiently, both within his/her team and with the general public.

The structure of any Romanian Government should ensure a gender balance.

We also request a similar vetting process to be carried out within the Presidential Administration so that, by 31 December 2015, your entire team fulfils the same criteria. It is essential that the Presidential Administration sets an example for the reform of State institutions and of the political class.

In addition to the application of the criteria for integrity and competence, we wish the Romanian President to **initiate a broad consultation process with citizens and with NGOs**. This should include the use of participative instruments which have successfully served other democratic states, thus capitalizing on the initiatives already launched in the online space in respect of current civic protests in Romania. We expect the President, using his prerogatives of mediation between the institutions of state and between state and society, to obtain a political commitment which can ensure that all these principles be applied and upheld by all the main state institutions (notably Parliament and Government). We expect this process to result in legislative and institutional changes which will effectively address the concerns of citizens. We further emphasize the need for this large scale consultation process to be accepted by all the political parties and public institutions as a valid and perfectly normal practice, and to do so in a positive spirit seeking to strengthen participatory democracy in Romania, rather than as a mere maneuver to take control of the street protests.

We wish to reaffirm that, in general, NGOs do not have a vocation of public representation; instead, they seek to bring people together in support of certain ideas, principles and rights. The signatory organizations, in particular, do not claim to be speaking in the name of the civil society in its entirety, but only by virtue of their specific missions and their expertise. Though well-intentioned, the way in which the President's consultation with citizens and organized civil society was prepared left much to be desired. Instead of raising the public's trust in state institutions and in civil society organizations, it caused additional confusion, suspicions and divisions at the level of civil society. We expect that those responsible to be accountable in this respect.

We request furthermore that the specific proposals for reform put forward by civil society organizations in recent years are no longer ignored by the political decision-makers. What trust NGOs still have for most political institutions is fast disappearing.

Signatory organizations:

Academia de Advocacy

ActiveWatch

Agentia de Dezvoltare Comunitara Impreuna

Asociatia ACCEPT

Asociatia Nationala a Birourilor de Consiliere pentru Cetateni (ANBCC)

Asociatia pentru Relatii Comunitare (ARC)

Asociatia pro Democratia (APD)

Asociatia Romana pentru Cultura, Educatie si Normalitate (ARCEN)

Asociatia Tura in Natura

Centrul de Asistenta pentru Organizatii Neguvernamentale (CENTRAS)

Centrul de Resurse pentru participare publica (CeRe)

Centrul Parteneriat petru Egalitate (CPE)

Centrul pentru Jurnalism Independent (CJI)

Centrul pentru Legislatie Nonprofit

Centrul Roman de Politici Europene (CRPE)

Civitas'99

Confederatia CARITAS Romania

Expert Forum

Federatia Dizabnet – Reteaua Organizatiilor Furnizoare de Servicii in Domeniul Dizabilitatii

Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Servicii Sociale (FONSS)

Federatia VOLUM

Freedom House

Fundatia Alaturi de Voi

Fundatia Comunitara Bucuresti

Fundatia EstuarFundatia pentru Parteneriat

Fundatia PACT - Parteneriat pentru Actiune Comunitara si Transformare

Fundatia pentru Dezvoltarea Societatii Civile (FDSC)

Funky Citizens

Grupul pentru Democratie Participativa Plenum

Initiativa Romania

Institutul pentru Politici Publice (IPP)

Militia Spirituala

Romani Criss – Centrul Romilor pentru Interventie Sociala si Studii

Salvati Copiii Romania

Societatea Academica din Romania (SAR)

TERRA Mileniul III

Organizations supporting the appeal:

APDRP - Asociatia pentru Dezvoltare Regionala si Parteneriat

ARAS - Asociatia Romana Anti SIDA

ASOCIATIA ELEISON

Asociația "Institutul Verde"

Asociatia Ador Copiii

Asociația Călan 1387

Asociatia Casa Ioana

Asociatia Education & Support Sphere (ES-SPHERE)

Asociatia Generation Europe

Asociatia GRADO - Grupul Roman pentru Apararea Drepturilor Omului

Asociatia Habitat for Humanity Romania

Asociatia KGSC Community

Asociația LaBomba Studios

Asociatia ORICUM

Asociatia pentru Cetatenie Culturala-ARCA

asociatia pentru dezvoltare comunitara nehoiu

Asociatia pentru Dezvoltare Durabila DAKIA

Asociatia pentru Educatia Permanenta a Adultilor EDUCADULT

Asociatia pentru Initiative de Dezvoltare a Comunitatilor din Oltenia de Nord (As. IDCON)
Arcani

Asociatia Persoanelor cu Handicap Sporting Club Galati

Asociatia Pro ACT Suport

Asociatia Pro Natura Galati

Asociatia Profesionala PMI Romania Chapter

Asociatia Romania Civica

Asociația SPICC (Solidaritate, Participare, Incluziune, Comunicare, Cooperare)

Asociația Tottoro

Asociatia Traditie Educatie Familie Galati

Asociatia TRANSform

Centrul de Analiza, Resurse si Solutii

Centrul de Studii în Idei Politice (CeSIP)

Federatia Organizatiilor Neguvernamentale pentru Copil - FONPC

FEDERATIA PENTRU DREPTURI SI RESURSE PENTRU PERSOANELE CU
TULBURARI IN SPECTRUL AUTIST

Forumul Tinerilor din România

Fundatia CAESAR

Fundația Comunitară Sibiu

Fundatia Romanian Angel Appeal

Fundatia Timisoara '89

Fundatia Umanitara Clopot

GRASP (Asociatia Societatea Globala a Studentilor si Tinerilor Profesioniști Romani)

Grupul pentru Dialog Social

Hope and Homes for Children Romania

HUMAN CATALYST Asociatia pentru Educație și Justiție Socială

Mozaiq

ONG CONTJUR

Romanian Youth Movement for Democracy

United Way Romania

