



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

**“Voices of Victims of Human Trafficking: Readings from River of Flesh and Other  
Stories”**

**3 May 2016, Conference Room 1 UNHQ**

**Remarks by  
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay  
Permanent Representative**

Good afternoon, Excellencies, distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very honoured to be invited to speak here today, at this event that aims to give a voice to the victims of modern slavery and human trafficking through the help of art and literature.

Modern slavery is one of our greatest challenges that affects an estimated 36 million people of all nationalities, among them many Hungarians. As many of you heard from me in recent months, fighting modern slavery is one of my personal priorities.

I have three key messages for today:

First, the human element must be at the center. If we want to stop slavery, we can only do that by focusing on helping the victims and listening to the needs of the survivors.

Second, this is a fight that we can only win together, so effective cooperation among states, international organizations, civil society, religious group and business actors is a must. Hungary aims to encourage dialogue on this issue among key actors. In cooperation with the US, Liechtenstein and other states, we organized and co-hosted several moderns slavery related events and we are determined to continue this fight, of course, in close cooperation with others.

Third, raising global awareness is also crucial. And this is where the power of art could be utilized most effectively. Art not only educates us, but it is also able to engage and mobilize people. Art can also have a preventive function and be utilized to help heal trauma.

Hungary will continue to play an active role and it is great to see that more and more States are ready to join this important fight.