



HUNOR KELEMEN

*Washington, D.C. Visit by Elected Representatives
of the Hungarian Minority in Romania,
November 27 – December 1, 2023*

Hunor Kelemen has been the president of the Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romania (Hungarian acronym: RMDSZ) since 2011.

He started his political career in 1997 as **State Secretary of Culture**, and since 2000 has been a **member of the Romanian Parliament**. Over the years, he has served several terms as **Minister of Culture and Deputy Prime Minister**.

Formed in 1989, **RMDSZ represents the interests of the 1.2 million-strong ethnic Hungarian minority in Romania**. The party plays a pivotal role behind the scenes and on six occasions since 1996 has partnered with both left and right-leaning governing coalitions.

In December 2020, RMDSZ became part of the Romanian government, first as a member of the PNL-USR-RMDSZ coalition and then of the PSD-PNL-RMDSZ governing coalition. During this period Kelemen, as both Deputy Prime Minister and RMDSZ president, successfully spearheaded efforts to address the initial challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic and the subsequent war in Ukraine, working to mitigate the crises and foster economic growth.

Kelemen considers dialogue the cornerstone of advocacy and politics. An East European success story, for over 30 years RMDSZ has advanced the cultural and linguistic values of the Hungarian community, championed the rule of law and created corresponding institutions, all the while engaging representatives of the Romanian majority to further the economic, environmental and foreign policy interests of the country.

He ran as the RMDSZ candidate for president of Romania in the 2009, 2014 and 2019 elections to heighten visibility of the party's pro-equality, tolerance, and moderate platform.

BACKGROUND

- Kelemen graduated from the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine in Cluj (Kolozsvár) and later from the Faculty of Philosophy at the Babeş-Bolyai University.
- After the fall of communism, he founded a cultural journal and was a cultural and political radio editor. His literary works have been published in numerous Romanian and Hungarian publications.