

I hope that many of you have already the chance to visit the beautiful capital. That is the Danube in between, on the left side, that is the Buda side, with the castle, that is the seat of the president and on the right side you can see our parliament building. Thank you Henk Jan. This is another shot, from the Buda side. This is the famous Fisherman's Bastion and there is the parliament. And behind me are the most famous touristic sites of Hungary, with a famous lake and tens of thousands tourists are visiting them. Henk Jan, Jolanda, dear friends, welcome at our Embassy. I am very happy to see you this morning. As a matter of fact I am familiar with many of you. We have met before at Urk -óp Urk-. This was a great occasion for me to visit for the first time the Biblebelt in the Netherlands and if I may start with a personal note: We have a lot in common with Henk Jan. Both of us worked and served in Africa. I as a diplomat at the Embassy in Kenia and of course as you all know, Henk Jan in his capacity as policy advisor at the Netherlands Institute for Multiparty Democracy and we have just found out that for two years we were staying in Kenia in our carrier in 2007 and 2009. And have been serving as an ambassador for quite some time now in the Netherlands, but it was Henk Jan who introduced me to the Biblebelt and who invited me to Urk to meet you and to meet the locals and to talk about Hungary's conservative policies and Hungary's family policy. And that I cherished a lot and that I always appreciate. Because, for the first time, I felt like really at home in the Netherlands, because, I didn't have to explain what conservatism means, what the pro-family policy means, what patriotism means and what it means to stand up for your values. I think that is very important. Especially nowadays. Although it might seem a bit more difficult, I don't think it is. When you have a clear vision, then you know what you stand up fore and when you know what you represent. And that is what Henk Jan has been doing about his professional carrier. And as you know, when Henk Jan found the Christian Council, no, first Transatlantic Christian Council, which became the Christian Council International if I am not mistaken and from the beginning now it has become a worldwide franchise, if I can say so. Because you have affiliates in various countries. You have been very busy throughout the years. I wish I had your stamina. This afternoon you are going to travel to the United States if I am not mistaken and in the States you will visit several conferences and events, so I think this job that could intentioned of my government and this job that you have been doing for promoting family policies in general, pro-life policies and of course patriotism in particular. I think we shouldn't forget the importance of this. It is not a sexy topic nowadays, you know, it very against the liberal mainstream, but as I mentioned before, if you stand up for your rights, if you have your guiding principles, it shouldn't be that difficult. It might seem difficult and honestly, in some cases it is, but you shouldn't be afraid when so to say, when the Lord is with you and guide you. Then it is a job that you are doing with an easing heart. I also want to acknowledge the role of family and especially the role of Jolanda's in Henk Jan's work. As we all know, without a stable family background, without a supporting wife, it would extremely difficult to do our jobs properly. And I think it is never enough to emphasize this role what play in our lives, what our spouses play in our lives, so, Jolanda, I wished to thank you, also for support that you gave throughout the years to Henk Jan. And having said that, may I now present this decoration to Henk Jan and first, if you allow me, I would read out the statement of our president, madam Katalin Novák. Als erkenning voor zijn steun aan Hongarije, evenals zijn onvermoeibare werk om het Hongaarse gezinsbeleid in Nederland te promoten en het

Joods-Christelijke erfgoed van Europa te beschermen, onderscheid ik Henk Jan van Schothorst, directeur van de Christian Council International, met het gouden kruis van verdienste van Hongarije. Budapest, 8 augustus 2022. Handtekening, Katalin Novák.  
Gefeliciteerd Henk Jan.

Geweldig, een grote eer. I am deeply honoured and humbled to receive this Golden Cross of Merit of Hungary and I will wear it with pride. Thank you so much.

Congratulations.