Minister of State for Education
Hungary
Dr. Jozsef Bodis
jozsef.bodis@emmi.gov.hu

Copy to the Embassy of Hungary in Switzerland
Dr. Nagy István
mission.brn@mfa.gov.hu

7th of September 2018

Letter of Protest against the Ban of Gender Studies in Hungary

Dear Minister of State for Education Dr. Jozsef Bodis

With great concern, we have learned of the Hungarian Government’s plan to abolish the accredited master programs of Gender Studies at the Central European University and ELTE Faculty of Social Sciences.

With this letter, we would like to express our solidarity and support with our Hungarian colleagues in Gender Studies. They have become the latest target of what is a concerted effort by right-wing advocates to undermine the academic work and scientific achievements of teachers and researchers in Gender Studies. We firmly believe that this plan will jeopardize the scientific exploration of gender as a fundamental category of human societies and of science itself. Moreover, it will inhibit the development and dissemination of urgently needed knowledges on social justice and equality in a globalized world – knowledges that are vital for women, men and people of other genders.

Furthermore, such a ban of Gender Studies constitutes a state intervention into the field of education and research. This prompts us to express our deep concern about this violation of academic freedom. Indeed, such an attack on the universities’ autonomy undermines the very foundations of scientific work.

We urgently ask the Ministry of Education to withdraw the plan to ban Gender Studies in Hungary, and to keep respecting the principles of academic freedom of research.

For the Swiss Association for Gender Studies
Prof. Dr. Michèle Amacker, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern
Prof. Dr. Nathalie Amstutz, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
B.A. Sebastian Funke, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern
Dr. Dominique Grisard, University of Basel and Swiss Center for Social Research
M.A. Matthias Lutterbach, Center for Gender Studies, University of Basel
Prof. Dr. Andrea Maihofer, Center for Gender Studies, University of Basel
em. Prof. Dr. Regina Wecker, Department of History, University of Basel
M.A. Fleur Weibel, Center for Gender Studies, University of Basel

For the Swiss Network for Gender Studies
Prof. Dr. Anne Lavanchy, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland
Prof. Dr. Marylène Lieber, Institute of Gender Studies, University of Geneva
Prof. Dr. Patricia Purtschert, Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies, University of Bern