

Minister of State for Education  
Hungary  
Dr. Jozsef Bodis  
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Copy to the Embassy of Hungary in Switzerland  
Dr. Nagy István  
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7<sup>th</sup> 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  
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*For the Swiss Network for Gender Studies*

Prof. Dr. Anne Lavanchy, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Western Switzerland  
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