

# verband feministischer wissenschaftler:innen

Verein zur Förderung freier feministischer Wissenschaftler\*innen  
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To  
Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Viktor Orbán  
Minister of Education, Mr. Bodis  
Embassy of Hungary in Austria  
Embassy of Austria in Hungary  
European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA)  
European University Association (EUA)

Dear Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Viktor Orbán!  
Dear Minister of Education Mr. Bodis!

We have been notified about the Hungarian government's proposed law to abolish the accredited MA program in gender studies in Hungary. This seems to us a major attack on social science in general. Gender studies is an integral part of an up to date concept of science. As Association of Feminist Scholars in Austria and as individual scientists working amongst others in the field of Gender Studies, we would like to express our deep concern and protest this proposal. We also want to show our solidarity with our Hungarian colleagues. Gender studies are well established as a scientific discipline and Hungary enjoys an excellent reputation in the field. This discipline, which is taught in the most prestigious institutions of higher education in the world, has significantly contributed to the advancement of science and the improvement of society. Perspectives from gender studies on questions of human wellbeing, equality, identity, difference, and diversity today are also recognized within many other scientific disciplines, from medicine, law, political sciences, economics, sociology to cultural, literary studies and history. Furthermore, gender studies embraces a plurality of theoretical perspectives and methodologies that cannot be reduced to one single framework or paradigm. Therefore, research, studies and graduates with the skills and expertise to tackle both global, but also specific local challenges relating to societal progress, rights and dignity remain important for future generations. This field is both intellectually and politically crucial, across Europe and within Hungary.

This measure also sets a dangerous precedent for state intervention in all other university courses. By denying to faculty and administrators the academic freedom that is the guarantee of the autonomy of higher education, the Hungarian government puts itself outside the community of democratic nations.

We call therefore upon the Prime Minister of Hungary, Mr. Orban and the Minister of Education Mr. Bodis to refuse this amendment and to guarantee the academic freedom in Hungary!

Best regards

Mag.a Dr.in Esther Hutfless

Board of the Association  
of Feminist Scholars in Austria

Diana Sadounig, BA BA

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of Feminist Scholars in Austria