

Minister of State for Education
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ÖGGF Österreichische Gesellschaft
für Geschlechterforschung
Univ.-Doz. Dr. Maria Mesner (Obfrau)
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Vienna, 20th of August 2018

Re: Protest against the law to forbid the teaching of Gender Studies in Hungarian Universities

Dear Mr. Bódis,

we write to you today to protest the Hungarian government's recently proposed law which would cancel an accredited, well-performing Gender Studies MA program, with consistently high enrollments. We protest against this attempt to legislate the curriculum of universities without consultation with appropriate university institutions. Our understanding of the legal and real autonomy of higher education excludes such measures. Even if the intended regulations may be legal according to Hungarian legislation, they are a major attack against the autonomy of teaching and learning.

The proposed legislation also sets an alarming precedent for state intervention in university courses and curricula in general. By denying university faculty and administrators the academic freedom that guarantees the autonomy as well as the indispensable standards of higher education, the Hungarian government puts itself outside the community of democratic nations.

We call upon the Minister of Education to refuse this amendment.

We also call upon the European Union, of which Hungary is a member nation, to condemn this action as a violation of its principles.

Sincerely,



Maria Mesner, Chair



Alice Pechriggl, Co-Chair