



August 17, 2018

Dr. József Bódis
State Secretary for Education
Ministry of Human Capacities
Jozsef.bodis@emmi.gov.hu

Dear Dr. Bódis,

On behalf of the American Sociological Association, a professional society representing more than 12,000 people around the world, I am writing to strongly encourage you to maintain Hungary's highly respected Gender Studies programs. Please reject the draft decree from the Ministry of Human Resources and the Ministry of Justice that calls for the abolishment of these programs. Banning Gender Studies has serious consequences for the education of all students and restricts knowledge production on inequality.

The study of gender has a long, empirically-based historical tradition. Gender studies is an important area of study with societal benefits that extend broadly to the Hungarian population and beyond. Understanding gender inequality allows us to better understand how to address many critical policy issues ranging from healthcare to crime to education and workforce development. Further, we are concerned that this decision is being taken out of the hands of the higher education community.

Again, I encourage you to reject this decree and to support the advancement of knowledge about gender.

Sincerely,

Mary Romero, President