



Sociologists for Women in Society

23 August 2018

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

Dear Dr. Bódis,

I write to you in my capacity as President of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), a professional organization devoted to promoting and advancing feminist sociological research. We recently learned of the proposal to end Hungary's Gender Studies programs, and respectfully request that you reject this draft decree. Since 1971, SWS has served as the main professional organization for gender scholars in the US; however, our membership includes scholars in several other countries. Part of our effort is directed towards mentoring emerging scholars; as a result, we are very active in supporting future scholars and their academic endeavors. Our flagship academic journal, *Gender & Society* has been consistently ranked among the top journals in Sociology and Women's Studies. Our citation longevity counts are very significant, a testimony to the cutting-edge research that is published in the journal.

Research and scholarship on gender is absolutely critical to understanding the modern world, shaping policy, and developing robust social institutions. Gender studies research informs a wide range of social policy, including that which touches on some of the most important issues of today—development, poverty, immigration, crime, work, and many others. It is essential to protect this important area of research, particularly in the modern world where gender disparities persist in so many nations around the world.

We urge you to reject this draft decree and promote the study of gender in Hungary.

Sincerely,

Adia Harvey Wingfield, Ph.D., SWS President