



Canadian Association of University Teachers
Association canadienne des professeurs et professeurs d'université

www.caut.ca
acppu@caut.ca

16. (b)(ii)
2705, promenade Queensview Drive
Ottawa (Ontario) K2B 8K2

(2018-11)
Tel. 613-820-2700
Fax 613-820-2707



DELIVERED BY E-MAIL: miniszterelnok@mk.gov.hu

November 7, 2018

Viktor Orbán
Prime Minister of Hungary
1357 Budapest, Pf. 6.

Dear Honourable Prime Minister Orbán,

On behalf of the 70,000 academic staff members of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), I am writing to express our utmost concern over the decision to revoke accreditation and funding for gender studies programmes at universities in Hungary.

This move is a major infringement on academic freedom and university autonomy and discredits gender research and education for political goals.

Gender studies is offered at hundreds of universities and has contributed significant research and knowledge into the ways in which differences are used to legitimize structures of power. Gender studies contributes to the efforts to address inequality and end discrimination. We are deeply troubled by disparaging statements that have been issued about the perceived limited value of these programmes.

Institutional autonomy and academic freedom are essential components for a strong higher education sector and robust democracies. Institutions of higher education must be given the freedom to pursue new knowledge without government interference.

I urge you to return accreditation and funding for gender studies programmes and commit to upholding academic freedom.

Sincerely,

David Robinson
Executive Director

cc. Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Canada