

Letter to Mr. Viktor Orbán, Prime Minister of
Hungary,

The WCAA is concerned with Hungary's government decree ordering the closure of university gender studies programs in Hungary as well as the suspension of postsecondary education programs destined for refugees and asylum seekers. We fear that such measures will be detrimental to the latter as it will counter the efforts being invested to ensure their long-term well-being whether in Hungary or elsewhere once their status is adjudicated.

The World Council of Anthropological Associations (WCAA) bring together more than 50 anthropological organizations from around the globe. Our goal is to facilitate the work being done by professionals in the fields of anthropology, but notably ethnography and sociocultural anthropology. As our work touches upon communities, we are certainly committed to promoting greater social and cultural understanding around the world.

Even if such measures conform to Hungarian laws, such decrees undermine the autonomy of scholars and universities to pursue research and thus adversely affects the scientific production of knowledge in Hungarian universities. As the decrees threaten well-known and established programs of study, specifically in the social sciences, the decrees are also an attack on the ideas and research shared by highly qualified scientific institutions all over the world.

The WCAA firmly believes that scholarship and teaching should not be silenced by democratically elected governments, and that all must have an opportunity to pursue their education whether citizens, immigrants, refugees or asylum seekers. These are the values which ensure a rich diversity both in knowledge but in states.

Respectfully,

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