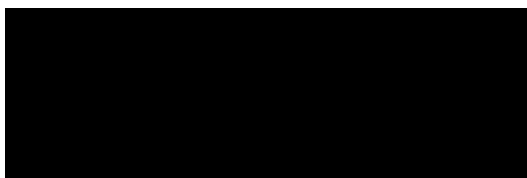


Slovensko sociološko društvo



March 9, 2019

Slovene Sociological Association



Dear prof. László Lovász,

We, the Slovene Sociological Association, are genuinely concerned for the future of academic freedom in Hungary amidst the current government's steps to assert its control of scholarly institutions in Hungary, endangering academic freedom and freedom of intellectual inquiry. Therefore, we would like to express the strongest of support for the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in their pursuit of maintaining the fundamental principles of academic and intellectual freedom.

We are firmly opposed to the proposed changes in governance of the world-renowned Hungarian Academy of Sciences, including the Social Science Research Institute in which many Hungarian sociologists are employed.

Putting academic research institutes under the direct control of political ministries, in any country, in any given context, compromises academic freedom and scholarly inquiry. The proposed requirement by the Hungarian government that researchers must apply for funding for the specific project from ministerial authorises threatens to create a situation in which the creating of scholarship may become subject to political approval. If the Hungarian government is allowed to dismantle the research network of the Academy by force, which seems to be its intention, Hungary will become the first member state of the European Union to reject, explicitly and unmistakably, the fundamental principle of the independence of scholarly research from political interest.

The Slovene Sociological Association firmly believes that we as colleagues, scholars and educators, share a commitment to fundamental principles of academic and research freedom. We share the belief that for the future of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Hungary's oldest and most prominent scholarly and scientific institution, it is essential that it be able to continue to pursue its work as an independent body.

Sincerely,

Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela,

President of Slovene Sociological Association