



21 June, 2020

The International Society of Political Psychology ISPP has learned about legislation which was passed by the Romanian parliament earlier this month that bans gender studies programs at the country's schools and universities. We respectfully call on Romanian President, Klaus Iohannis to reconsider the proposal.

Two years ago, a similar ban was implemented in Hungary, and we stand by our opinion that such laws threaten the academic freedom of students, teachers, and scholars, and question the academic autonomy of universities in Romania. The ISPP is an international scientific association with members across the world, including Romania. Our members include psychologists, political scientists, psychiatrists, historians, sociologists, economists, anthropologists, many of whom contribute to gender studies. Indeed, gender issues inform the work many of us do. Scientific analysis of social differences and structural inequalities from a gender perspective is crucial for the understanding of societies, historically and in the contemporary context. By banning gender studies, understanding these fundamental dynamics is hampered. ISPP appeals to the Romanian president to uphold the principle of academic freedom for researchers, teachers and students, irrespective of scholarly discipline.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Scholars Under Threat committee,

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President, International Society of Political Psychology  
Professor of Political Science  
Research Professor, CPS, Institute for Social Research

Anna Kende, PhD  
Chair, ISPP Scholars Under Threat  
Associate Professor at Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest

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