

LETTER OF SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, professors at Departments/Faculties of Social Work from seven universities from Central and Eastern Europe (Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje, Carinthia University, University of Ljubljana, University of Belgrade, University of Zagreb, University of Sarajevo and University of Banja Luka) **STRONGLY** support the Department of Social Work at Charles University to continue its academic and research work as a constitutive part of the Faculty of Arts. The Department of Social Work at Charles University is the first-ever Czech university-level facility in the field of social work after 1989. Discontinuing this tradition will be detrimental to the overall academic image of the Faculty of Arts, given the highly valued international representation of the Department of Social Work in different academic networks and research consortiums. Social work is an academic discipline that is well integrated internationally and transformative in its contribution to the well-being and human rights of citizens. The study of social work was suppressed by the communist regimes in many Eastern European countries, and in your case we are witnessing the same practice but this time coming from the Academy itself.

As members of the CEEPUS academic network “Central European Social Policy and Social Work Network”, to which the Department of Social Work at Charles University is a valued partner, we are astonished by the intention of the current faculty management to discontinue the accreditation of the study programs that are thought at the Department of Social Work. This imminent threat is not only distressing for the university social work students and the employees at the Department of Social Work, but it is also damaging and destructive for social work practice in the Czech Republic, and ambitions of the future students to become social workers.

In the context of ongoing multiple crises, the social work education is immanent in providing solutions to new and covariate risks. The consequence of disrupting the academic degrees in social work provided by the Department of Social Work at Charles University will not be only academic. This will significantly impact the secular provision of social services, which offer a much more comprehensive set of services compared to the faith-based organizations.



University of Ljubljana



University of Zagreb

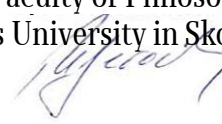


We are hopeful that this support letter will be 'heard' by the current management of the Faculty of Arts at the Charles University and will contribute to reconsidering their position.

We call other Departments at the Faculty of Arts to support the struggle of the Department of Social Work to continue their educational and research work under the current institutional setup. Solidarity in this struggle is also a voice for a just educational system, where important university decisions are based on sound arguments and negotiated with the wider academic community.

Sincerely,

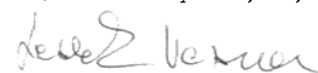
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2. Andrea Rakanović Radonjić, ass.prof. dr.sc.
Department of Social Work, Faculty of Political Science, University of Banja Luka



3. Vesna Leskošek, prof. dr. sc.
Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana



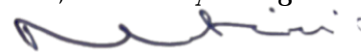
4. Sanela Basic, prof. dr. sc.
Professor of Social Work, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Sarajevo



5. Natalija Perisic, Prof. Dr. Sc.
Professor of Social Policy, Faculty of Political Science, University of Belgrade



6. Jelena Matančević, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sc.
Social Work Study Centre, Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb



7. Prof. Mag. Dr. Hubert Höllmüller
Carinthia University of Applied Sciences

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